

MESIVTA'S MESSAGE

A COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER FROM MISSOURI TORAH INSTITUTE

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 8

FEATURED TORAH *Message*

Rabbi Dovid Lintz

We find ourselves in the days of sefira, during which we mourn the loss of 24,000 students of Rabbi Akiva. The Gemara tells us that the reason for which Hashem decided to plague the talmidim was because they didn't show each other the proper respect. Although their lack of respect for each other was obviously so infinitesimal, that only Hashem, the Bochen Levavos, could detect it, it has become a custom of Klal Yisrael to introspect and attempt to improve our bein adam lechaveiro during this period.

Rav Isaac Sher, the Rosh Yeshiva of the Slabodka Yeshiva, offers an explanation as to the source of this lack of love: The Gemara in Yevamos states that the second Beis Hamikdash was destroyed due to sinas chinam - baseless hatred. The Me'iri cryptically explains that it was because there was no longer nevuah during the time of the second Beis Hamikdash.

What does the end of prophecy have to do with baseless hatred?

Rav Sher explains that true love comes from an appreciation of one another. Love stems from a recognition of what

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THOUGHTS *on the* PARSHA

Calev Kornblum, 11th grade

In this week's Parsha, the Torah describes the different types of צרעת a person can get. The Torah delineates first the צרעת of the body, then the צרעת of clothing, and finally צרעת of the house. However, חז"ל tell us that this was not actually the sequence of events. First, a person's home would be stricken with צרעת, then his clothing, and finally, his body. This begs the question: Why didn't the Torah say it in the proper order?

The עץ יוסף explains that the Torah is teaching us a valuable lesson. Really, a person who is worthy of צרעת should get it on his body alone; therefore, the Torah puts the body first. But out of the kindness of Hashem, it affects the clothing first, and even before that, the house, to give the person time to do תשובה. This understanding can also be used to explain why the Torah uses the לשון of ונתתי, which implies a gift, when describing the צרעת of the house. Hashem is giving us the gift of a warning. This also fits beautifully with the way that רש"י explains what would happen when a person went through this. Hashem would ensure that there was no monetary loss from the צרעת of the house, because when they went to remove the affected stones, they would find treasures previously

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SPARKS *of* MUSSAR

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Rav Yisroel Meir HaCohen - The Chofetz Chaim

R' Eliezer Shulevitz asked the Chofetz Chaim to recommend someone as a Mashgiach and dean of the Lomza Yeshiva. The Chofetz Chaim named a person whom

he warmly recommended for the position.

A short while later, R' Eliezer received a second letter from the Chofetz Chaim instructing him not to accept the candidate. R' Eliezer decided to go in person to clarify the matter. When he came to Radun, the Chofetz Chaim explained that after the

first letter had been written, the candidate had come to his home. We the Chofetz Chaim had inquired as to how he was doing, the man complained bitterly about his situation. "As soon as I heard that he was a complainer," said R' Yisroel Meir, "I rushed you the second letter, for a complainer is not fit to influence talmidim."

RECENT *Happenings*

Ezra Koenig, 11th grade

Alumni Yarchei Kallah

Before Pesach break, we had our first annual Alumni Yarchei Kallah! Many of our mesivta graduates and bais medrash alumni came back to reconnect with the yeshiva, be inspired, and inspire us, too! We had three days with them, and their impact on the yeshiva was tremendous. Whether they were learning in the bais medrash or catching up with friends and rebbeim, they brought an air of simcha and Torah wherever they were.

Current 11th grader, Aidan Kornblum, commented, "It was an amazing experience to reconnect with the alumni and to learn over Shabbos with them!" The way they walked in the hallways with a constant smile and greeting everybody brought a new

sense of achdus into our yeshiva.

The alumni didn't just come for fun and to reconnect; they had a packed schedule full of learning and inspiration for three days. On the first day, right after Shacharis, they had a nice breakfast with the rebbeim, followed by hachana and shiur with Rosh Yeshiva, Rabbi Dovid Fromowitz. They had lunch with Rabbi Wachsmann, the menahel, followed by an inspirational mussar vaad with Rosh Yeshiva, Rabbi Goldman. The schedule continued like this, with shiurim, vaadim, and sedarim for all three days, although they also enjoyed an outing to TopGolf! We all enjoyed their company, and we can't wait to have them back for next year's yarchei kallah!

*Save
THE
Date*

18TH ANNUAL DINNER
SUNDAY, JUNE 22, 2025

FEATURED TORAH *Message continued*

each human being is - a Tzelem Elokim - and that we, Klal Yisrael, are children of Hashem. When we truly appreciate that we are all His children, then we will feel like and relate to one another as brothers.

However, with the end of nevuah, we lost our emunah chushis—a tangible, felt sense of Hashem's presence in our daily lives. As that awareness faded, so too did our collective sense of achdus. It became increasingly difficult to feel like we shared the same Father, resulting in a distancing from one another.

This is the challenge and the opportunity

of sefira. The more we attach ourselves to Hashem—through learning His Torah, fulfilling His mitzvos, and deepening our emunah—the more we reignite that sense of shared identity. When we strengthen our relationship with Hashem, we will inevitably strengthen our relationship with each other. Our actions, our words, and even our inner thoughts toward one another can be uplifted and refined.

May these days of sefira inspire us to draw closer to both Hashem and our fellow Jews. And may we be Zoche to witness "Chaverim Kol Yisrael" in our lifetime, Bimheira Biyameinu.

MAZEL TOV

- Dr. & Mrs. Sammy Reiss on the birth of their daughter!
- Yosef Glassman on his recent marriage to Ms. Miriam Romanoff of Chicago, IL!

THOUGHTS *on the* PARSHA *continued*

hidden by the כנענים as a compensation from Hashem for the stones they removed. Hashem's kindness goes even further. The מדרש תנחומא explains that the kindness of the צרעת affecting the house and clothing before the person is not afforded to non-jews. We see by פרעה that the פסוק says, וינגע ה' את פרעה - Hashem afflicted Pharaoh, and only later does it say He struck his house. According to the מדרת הדין, our bodies should be affected first, just like it was with פרעה. Yet, due to Hashem's overflowing אהבה for כלל ישראל, He reversed the order for us.

When we look into this, we find something truly astounding. This was all done for someone deserving of צרעת, someone who had sinned! Hashem goes to great lengths to be kind to him and cause him to do תשובה, afflicting first his house, compensating him, then his clothes, and only after that does He let the affliction reach his body. All of this was for a sinner. Hashem loves each and every one of us so dearly that He will spare no expense to help us return to Him. This week's parsha shows us that even when we sin, Hashem still desperately wants to have a relationship with us, so he sends us signs to help us to repent. They are there, and all we have to do is make sure to look.

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