



Thoughts on the Shavuos

Rabbi Pesach Eskenazi

”וַיְסַעו מִרְפִּידִים וַיֵּלְכוּ מִדְּבַר סִינִי וַיַּחֲנוּ
 בַּמִּדְבָּר וַיַּחֲנוּ שָׁם יִשְׂרָאֵל נֶגֶד הָהָר”

שמות י"ט, ב תורה tells us that בני ישראל traveled from רפידים and camped at the mountain and בני ישראל brings down the famous של חז"ל. Amazingly, everyone got along with each other with absolutely no מחלוקת as they were completely united in preparation for מתן תורה. Is בני ישראל just giving תורה a compliment with this incredible almost unimaginable level of אחדות being described, or is this point an integral prerequisite for קבלת התורה?

תורה teach us that each year we experience a new התורה for the upcoming year. Of course, a matter of such magnitude requires much preparation. As we approach שבועות, we are also approaching the culmination of העומר. We have had 49 days (corresponding to the 48 תורה פרקים in קניני אבות which we should acquire, one per day, plus one day for חזרה) to get ready for התורה. Reb Aharon Kotler זצ"ל explains further that these 48 קנינים are not merely “nice ideas” or “coaching tips” to maximize our תורה learning. Rather, explains Reb Aharon, just as specific קנינים are needed to acquire objects, these 49 ways are our vehicle to acquiring the תורה. Without them it is impossible for the Torah to be truly ours!

MTI Recent Happenings

Yosef Chaim Weil
 10th Grade

MTI LAG BAOMER

MTI pulled off the ultimate Lag Baomer this year. We had a bonfire together with a BBQ, baseball games as well as a fun & entertaining melava malka. On Thursday night we began with a mouth-watering BBQ followed by an amazing bonfire built by some talmidim. We sang and danced around the fire as night fell; I really felt the love and warmth of MTI encircling me. We got up Friday morning, had an early shiur, and headed to Chesterfield Sports Complex to play some baseball! Everyone, including the rebbeim, had a great time playing together. Shabbos, which was amazing, flew by so fast. On Motzei Shabbos, we enjoyed a melava malka that was delicious, fun, and competitive at the same time. We played “minute-to-win-it” challenges, arranged by a few bais medrash bochrim, and this was the perfect way to end off this exceptional Lag Baomer.

Featured Torah Message

Aron Mazer
 9th Grade

“HASHEM LOVES US”

HaRav Akiva Grunblatt visited the yeshiva this past week. This dvar Torah is based on a shmues he gave while at MTI.

”וְאֵיךְ הִנֵּה לְקַחְתִּי אֶת־הַלְוִיִּם מִתּוֹךְ
 בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל תַּחַת כָּל־בְּכוֹר פֶּטֶר
 רַחֵם מִבְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וְהָיוּ לִי הַלְוִיִּם”

The לויים describes that the place of the first-borns to do the עבודה in the משכן because the first-borns participated in the חטא העגל. Originally, the first-borns were to receive no portion in ארץ ישראל (and just מעשרות.) This was so that they would focus on their service of ה' and not on their properties. The חזקוני explains that after the לויים took the place of the first-borns, the first-borns got a portion of ארץ ישראל just like everyone else, and also the portion that had been destined for the לויים, (and the מעשרות got the לויים.)

So the first-borns ended up with a double portion. Why did they get a double portion? They originally got none because they were supposed to focus on the service of ה'. Once they lost the service

Sparks of Mussar

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 “Sparks of Mussar” by Rabbi Chaim
 Ephraim Zaitchik, Feldheim Publishers

Rav Yisroel Meir HaCohen - The Chofetz Chaim

While the Chofetz Chaim was speaking with a well known philanthropist, the Chofetz Chaim's son-in-law R' Zvi was composing an urgent telegram. Sensing that the talk might turn to loshon hora, the Chofetz Chaim observed, “See how careful people are with the wording of a telegram! They count every word. Why? Because they know that every word costs them money. How much more careful should we be with every word that might involve not a few pennies but serious prohibitions, and that might cause loss of money and even of life.”

That being the case, many of us are seemingly in serious trouble! While there are certainly special יחידים who have been working diligently perfecting themselves for 49 days, many of us are not quite there yet. What can we do NOW, to make those essential קנינים and maximize our קבלת התורה? Let's make it just a bit more meaningful than simply indulging in various cheesecake varieties!

The מנת חיים brings a beautiful insight from the Vilna Gaon, which I believe is the key to a successful קבלת התורה. Let's call it the "49 Flavor Jelly Belly Jar." While there are many flavors in the container, and most agree that black licorice is the worst tasting (apologies if you like it), the best flavor is still up for debate. In a recent poll of national rankings, cinnamon earned the top spot, followed by buttered popcorn and in New York, people apparently prefer the sour flavors. Each flavor has its own unique taste and distinct identity. Some tart, others sweet, fruity, bold, sharp... Trying to produce all of these "preferred" distinct flavors into ONE jellybean would certainly be difficult. However, if you take all 49 variations and place them into one jar, each jellybean respects and compliments the other, moving aside to make space for his friends with all 49 completely different flavors together under one lid.

The גר"א explains since the גמטריה of the word חיל is 48, אשת חיל מי ימצא means that one who has acquired all 48 קנינים - can we find him? מי ימצא, does he exist? How can one person be so great? שלמה המלך gives us the solution - רבות בנות עשו חיל - Each of us has our own individuality and unique "flavor" and together we can עשו חיל - achieve the 48 = חיל.

By joining together כלל ישראל as a whole, כאיש אחד בלב אחד, we are infused with all 48 קנינים. Working on אחדות this שבועות will allow us to achieve the authentic קבלת התורה which is only possible when we work together. So enjoy your cheesecake, remembering to save some for your friend!

to 'ה, why did they get double?

Rav Akiva Grunblatt, shlita, explained, based on the חזקוני, that the extra portion was to make up for the feeling of sadness about losing the service to 'ה that they previously had. They experienced this major loss and 'ה gave them the double portion to help cushion the blow - even though they lost it because of their own fault, by participating in the הטא העגל.

We see from here how much הקדוש ברוך הוא loves us - that even when we sin and even when we are suffering the consequences of our sin, הוא הקדוש ברוך הוא goes out of his way to make us feel a little better, to do something extra for us.



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in memory of
SHLOMO & MARSHA FREDMAN A"H

- 3:30 LETTER WRITING CEREMONY | כתיבת האותיות
- 4:15 SEFER TORAH PROCESSION
- 5:00 TRIBUTE & REMARKS
- 5:30 COMPLIMENTARY REFRESHMENTS & HORS D'OEUVRES
- 6:00 VIP DINNER | סעודת מצוה

*Appropriate COVID protocols will be communicated closer to the event.

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