

A Taste of Torah Out With the New, In With the Old

By Rabbi Mordechai E. Fleisher

New look! New size! New flavor! Take a trip down your local supermarket aisle, and you will doubtless be inundated by banners screaming NEW! NEW! NEW! Apparently, advertisers have figured out that humanity has an infatuation with new things. But, as always, the Torah had it figured it out long before mankind did.

In this week's parsha, we read about the covenant forged between the Jewish People and Hashem as they are about to enter the Land of Israel. A covenant that we would be His People, that we would keep His Torah, that we would stay faithful to Him.

Imagine the excitement. Imagine the eagerness. This was it! They were about to enter the Promised Land as G-d's People. But Moshe realized that time would wear away the freshness of the nation's commitment, leaving it in tattered shreds. And so he tells Bnai Yisroel to make sure that they regard every day as if it was the very day that they entered into the covenant. Keep the enthusiasm! Maintain the excitement! Don't let your relationship with G-d grow stale!

Sage council, indeed. But a bit of a tall order, don't you think? How is one expected to maintain the freshness and newness of something as time passes?

I believe the answer can be found in the aforementioned supermarket aisle. Advertisers are trying to convince you to do one thing: Indulge your physical senses. And physical pleasure grows stale over time. A thick, juicy steak may be enjoyable for dinner, but what if you were to have it every night? Odds are, you would grow tired of it, even disgusted by it, after a while. Sure, it might take a few weeks, but sooner or later, you won't be able to look at a piece of meat. To keep you shelling out the bucks for their products, companies are constantly offering some new twist on their product. It's the only way you'll keep coming back.

Spiritual enjoyment is quite the opposite. The more spiritual pleasure one experiences, the more one enjoys it. While physical pleasure is finite and grows stale, spiritual pleasure is infinite and increases over time. And that is the secret to keeping one's enthusiasm as fresh as it was on day one: Make sure your experience is a spiritual one. If your enjoyment remains in the physical realm, it will fade with time. But if it's spiritual, it will grow.

So before you go looking for the latest recipe for your Shabbos table, consider focusing more on the spiritual side of things. You might discover that chicken soup and potato kugel aren't as boring as you thought.

Ask the Rabbi Loving Shabbos

Robert Fairhurst from Fruitvale, BC, Canada wrote:

Dear Rabbi,

Do you have any ideas on how to get the children to love the Sabbath? Such as activities that are in accordance with proper Sabbath observance.

Continued on back

Stories For The Soul

Real Wonders

A group of geography students was once studying the Seven Wonders of the World.

At the end of that section, the teacher asked her students to list what they considered to be the Seven Wonders of the World.

Though there was some disagreement, the following got the most votes:

1. Egypt's Great Pyramids,
2. Taj Mahal,
3. Grand Canyon,
4. Panama Canal,
5. Empire State Building,
6. St. Peter's Basilica,
- and 7. China's Great Wall.

While gathering the votes, the teacher noted that one student, a quiet girl, hadn't turned in her paper yet. So she asked the girl if she was having trouble with her list.

The quiet girl replied, "Yes, a little. I couldn't quite make up my mind because there were so many."

The teacher said, "Well, tell us what you have, and maybe we can help."

The girl hesitated, then read, "I think the Seven Wonders of the World are: 1. to touch, 2. to taste, 3. to see, 4. to hear."

She hesitated a little, and then added, "5. to run, 6. to laugh, and 7. to love."

In this week's Parsha, the Torah tells us in vivid detail of the blessings and curses that can and will befall us.

Sometimes, we have great blessings and don't even realize their magnitude.

Adapted with permission from ShulWeek by Rabbi Boruch Lederman.

Continued on back

Kollel Happenings

PRE-ROSH HASHANA ADDRESS BY LAKEWOOD DEAN RABBI YERUCHIM OLSHIN

Rabbi Yeruchim Olshin, dean of Beth Medrash Govoha in Lakewood, NJ, the largest yeshiva in America, is making an historic visit to Denver. He will be delivering a special community-wide pre-Rosh Hashana address on Sunday, September 18th, 8 p.m. @ Aish Denver. Come and be inspired by one of the preeminent Torah leaders of our generation. Suggested Donation to support Torah: \$18/\$36/\$72/\$180. For information call 303-820-2855 or email rmf@denverkollel.org



KNOW THY ENEMY TUES. AT AISH

Join Kollel Dean Rabbi Shachne Sommers in studying the tactics and strategies of the Yetzer Hora, and develop your own battle plan for the greatest challenge of your life - the war against the Evil Inclination. Based on the classic work Chovos Halvevos. Tuesday mornings 7:55-8:25 at Aish. For information, please contact Rabbi Moshe Heyman at rmh@denverkollel.org or 303-820-2855.



THE LATE SHOW: THURS. NIGHT SEDER AT AISH

Join the Chevra for learning and cholent at Aish. Maariv is at 9:00 p.m. followed by learning and refreshments. For chavrusas or other information, contact Rabbi Moshe Heyman at rmh@denverkollel.org or 303-820-2855

Interpersonal Issues Bal Tolin with Regular Payments

If there was a previous agreement for the wages to be paid on a specific day, such as every Friday, or every first of the month, then the worker needn't request his payment every payday. The original agreement is sufficient grounds

to obligate the employer to pay him on time or else transgress bal tolin.

Adapted with permission from "The Halachos of Other People's Money" by Rabbi Pinchas Bodner (Feldheim Publishers)

Ask the Rabbi

continued from front

Dear Robert Fairhurst,

Love of Shabbos can be instilled in children (and adults) through a gradual process of experiencing and appreciating the physical and the spiritual beauty of Shabbos. I think the most important point is that the children must have a role model who really enjoys Shabbos. Seeing you enjoying Shabbos will serve as a magnet for their own enjoyment of Shabbos.

You can do many things to enhance the special quality of the day and foster a feeling of togetherness: Leisurely meals, singing Shabbos songs, and discussing the weekly Torah portion are excellent, as are going on family walks or playing games. Telling stories with Jewish content is a proven method of sparking children's interest and instilling love and appreciation of Shabbos.

Robert Fairhurst responds:

Thank you for your reply to my question. I thought your answer was a good one. I would like to know where I could get a copy of the Torah readings. I would also like to know what kind of traditions you follow with your family in keeping the Shabbos? Thank you so much for taking the time to answer my questions.

Dear Robert Fairhurst,

The Stone Chumash published

by Artscroll is probably the best copy of the Torah readings for you. It has a modern translation and wonderful commentaries. It's available in Jewish bookstores.

Regarding customs, one custom I practice is blessing our children Friday night before the meal. I place both hands on each child's head and say "May Hashem make you like Ephraim and Menashe" for the boys and "May Hashem make you like Sara, Rivka, Rachel, and Leah" for the girls. We bless our sons to be like Ephraim and Menashe because they were the first two children to be born in exile; nevertheless, they retained their Jewish identity, grew to great spiritual heights, and even reached the stature of the previous generation; thus forging an unbreakable link in the chain of Jewish continuity.

The customs for Shabbos are many and diverse, so I'm sending you a list of some books about Shabbos.

-The Sabbath, Dayan Grunfeld (Feldheim)

-Sabbath: Day of Eternity, Aryeh Kaplan (NCSY),

-Menuchah VeSimchah, Mordechai Katz (Feldheim, JEP)

-Book of Our Heritage, Eliyahu Kitov, (Feldheim)

-Shemirath Shabbosh, Yehoshua Neuwirth, (Feldheim)

-Zemiroth: Sabbath Songs, (Artscroll)

Reprinted with permission of Ohr Somayach, Jerusalem, www.ohr.edu

The Torah Weekly is made possible through a generous grant from the

Harry H. Beren Foundation of Lakewood, NJ, in memory of Harry H. Beren, z"l.

Denver Community Kollel: 1516 Xavier Street, Denver, CO 80204 Tel: 303-820-2855 Fax: 303-820-2806

Email: info@denverkollel.org Web: www.denverkollel.org

To receive Torah Weekly by email, send an email to torah-subscribe@denverkollel.org