



Parshas Devarim

August 5, 2022

A Taste of Torah

Retrospect and Respect

by Rabbi Yitzy Melamed

Chaim Yankel saunters into class and sits in his seat. He knows he never did the homework he was assigned yesterday. Sure enough, the teacher asks the students to submit their work. “Chaim Yankel,” the teacher calls, “please hand in your homework.” “Ummm, er, you see,” sputters Chaim Yankel. “The homework, yes, well... I never got around to it,” he finally admits sheepishly.

He knew he shouldn't have spent his entire night finishing that book he just couldn't put down, and that the homework left undone would come back to haunt him. And thus ensues an onslaught from his teacher. “You irresponsible boy, this is the tenth time this month that you didn't hand in your work! Where is your responsibility?” On and on goes the teacher with his tirade, and he finally concludes by sending Chaim Yankel to the principal, who proceeds to repeat the degrading process all over again.

You may have heard the expression, “Don't be right, be effective.” Well, I imagine you would agree that the approach taken by the teacher will probably fail at motivating Chaim Yankel to get his work done. After all, Chaim Yankel already felt guilty staying up reading all those hours, and was told off by more than one person. Most of all, such a condescending approach would probably just result in resentment on Chaim Yankel's part. The teacher may be right - but he wasn't terribly effective.

At the beginning of this week's parsha, Moshe recounts some of the travels the Bnai Yisrael had experienced up until that point. Rashi notes that the places

mentioned by Moshe don't seem to exist, and he explains that the names of these places are actually allusions to particular incidents wherein the Jewish People had erred and angered Hashem. Moshe wished to recall these events, discuss them and focus on the mistakes and the lessons learned from them. Why did Moshe only indirectly refer to those wrongdoings instead of mentioning them outright? The Klei Yakar (Rabbi Shlomo Efraim Luntschitz; 1550-1619) explains that if one wishes that his criticism be accepted by the recipient, then it must be delivered in a manner that won't cause resentment. Instead, the rebuke should be delivered in a calm and gentle way, in order for the desired effect to be achieved.

Rashi, however, says that Moshe critiqued Bnai Yisrael in an indirect fashion for the sake of maintaining their honor. Why doesn't Rashi merely explain that if Moshe would have been more direct, his criticism would have potentially engendered resentment and ill feelings by Bnai Yisrael, defeating the entire purpose of his rebuke?

We can extrapolate an important idea from Rashi. Even if one's criticism in a direct or harsh way were to be accepted by the one being criticized, one is still required to maintain and uphold the other's honor. This idea is expressed by the mishna in Avos (2:10) that states, “Let the honor of your friend be as dear to you as your own.”

Let us take heed of Moshe's example and, indeed, strive to accord others the respect that they deserve. And may we, in turn, merit the respect of others.

Stories for the Soul

It's Not the Principle, It's the Money

Based on a story by Sara Yoheved Rigler on Aish.com

Marcia's husband Barry had lent \$5,000 to an old college friend of his, Neil. Marcia didn't trust Neil, money was tight, and she was horrified that Barry had lent him such a sum. Barry hadn't consulted her, however, so she could only hope that Neil would pay the money back.

About a year later, Marcia, who was a writer, got an advance on her next book. She was thrilled to be able to deposit \$5,000 into the family vacation fund. That very night, Barry broached what was clearly a painful subject for him. Their car and home insurance were due and he had hoped to pay it with the repayment of the money he had loaned to Neil, but Neil, after several reminders, had finally confessed that he didn't have any way to pay back the money. They would have to use Marcia's \$5,000 for the insurance.

Marcia was very upset, as she saw her fears being realized due to her husband's carelessness. “If you so much as touch my \$5,000, I'll never speak to you again!” she cried as she stalked off.

She took a walk around the block, fuming over her husband's egregious mistake. By her third time around the block, though, it suddenly occurred to her: If someone had approached her and said, “I'll pay you \$5,000 to turn your home into a battleground,” she would have scoffed at the

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Kollel Happenings

KOLLEL ANNUAL MOTZOEI SHABBOS NACHAMU KUMZITZ ON AUGUST 13

Join the Kollel for its annual Motzoei Shabbos Nachamu kumzitz on August 13th at 9:45 pm pm at the Kaplan home, 4750 S. Xanthia St. Live music, inspirational singing, divrei Torah and refreshments make this an event you don't want to miss. For men and women.

PROJECT SEED IS COMING TO DENVER!

A group of yeshiva students will be in Denver from August 8-18 to enrich and enliven the Denver Jewish community. These budding Torah scholars will be teaching Torah throughout the Jewish community. If you are interested in arranging a learning program for your shul, please contact Rabbi Moshe Heyman at 323-333-0953.

SPRING-SUMMER AVOS UBANIM CONTINUES THIS SHABBOS

The Kollel's spring-summer Avos Ubanim program continues this Shabbos afternoon at the Kollel Torah Centers in West Denver and Southeast Denver. Learning begins one hour before mincha, followed by nosh and prizes. Program ends 15 minutes before mincha in Southeast Denver, at mincha in West Denver. For sponsorships and more info, email info@denverkollel.org.

Halacha Riddles

Last week we asked: How would one's intent for cleanliness affect his haughtiness?

Answer: If one washes his hands before eating fruit that is not wet, something which is not strictly required, it is considered haughtiness. However, if one is washing his hands to clean them - even if he is doing so specifically to show honor for the blessing he is about

to make - there is no issue.

This week's question: How is it possible for a person to wash *netilas yadayim* (as is done for bread) twice in a short period of time without making a *bracha*? (Nothing happened to ruin the first *netilas yadayim*, and he is eating the requisite amount that would require a *bracha*.)

Lives of Our Torah Leaders

Rabbi Meir Shapiro - Part LVIII

While Rabbi Shapiro died young and without biological children, his impact is enormous and felt until this day. His *daf yomi* program attracts more and more people to study a folio of Talmud every day, with hundreds of thousands of Jews worldwide participating.

Many of Rabbi Shapiro's students who survived or escaped from the Holocaust went on to become great Torah leaders. One of his most prominent students was Rabbi Shmuel Wosner (1913-2015), one of the greatest halachic authorities of his era, who opened a yeshiva in Bnai Brak and named it Yeshivas Chachmei Lublin after his alma mater. Another famed student was Rabbi Pinchus Hirschprung (1912-1998), a major Torah leader and builder of the Torah community of Montreal from his arrival there in 1941, where he founded

Bais Yaakov of Montreal and served as Montreal's chief rabbi from 1969. Rabbi Chaim Kreiswirth (1918-2001), another student, served as the Chief Rabbi and Av Beis Din of the Antwerp Jewish community for many decades, helping to rebuild the Belgian Jewish community following the Holocaust.

The combination of talents and abilities Rabbi Shapiro possessed - brilliance, scholarship, leadership, vision, warmth, charisma, fundraising acumen - are rarely found together in one individual. Despite his short life, Rabbi Shapiro utilized these talents to sanctify Hashem's Name and glorify and build Torah among the Jewish People. The statement of our Sages, "The primary offspring of a person are his good deeds," is truly applicable to Rabbi Meir Shapiro.

Stories for the Soul

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offer. But here she was, sacrificing her marital harmony for \$5,000.

"Yes, my husband's a lousy judge of character," Marcia thought to herself. "And he was wrong to lend money without consulting me. But if \$5,000 would drop out of the sky right now, I'd be big enough to forgive all his

faults."

In this week's parsha, Moshe discusses the appointment of judges to adjudicate monetary cases. In all areas of money, one must do his utmost to see past the money and stick to his principles.

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