

TORAH WEEKLY



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The Last Nap

By: Rabbi Dovid Gertz (Originally Published 2008)

We are all searching for wisdom.

The Sages tell us, "Who is wise? He who learns from every person."

Sounds simple, right? Somehow, though, people who are willing to learn from everyone are few and far between.

The Tchebiner Rav, Rabbi Dov Berish Weidenfeld (1879-1965), was one such person.

One Shabbos afternoon he went to rest in order to rejuvenate himself for the remainder of Shabbos. Shortly after he went to bed, he heard a loud knocking at the door.

At first he tried to ignore it, but the knocking persisted. He thought that perhaps there was an emergency, so he got out of bed and answered the door. A young boy stood there, Gemara in hand.

When the Tchebiner Rav asked if everything was all right, the boy responded that he wanted to know if the Rav could test him on the tractate he had just completed.

The Rav smiled and replied, "I would be delighted to, but I would like to explain something to you first. If you come to a rabbi's house and knock at the door and there is no answer, you must think to yourself that, perhaps, the rabbi is tired and has gone to rest for a while."

"You mean the Rav sleeps on Shabbos?" the boy asked incredulously.

As a result of this conversation, the Tchebiner Rav never again slept on Shabbos afternoon.

In this week's Parsha, Hashem tells Moshe with regard to the builders of the Tabernacle, "Every wise-hearted person among you shall come and make everything that Hashem has commanded" (Exodus 35:10).

Who were these wise-hearted people, who went from being slaves and working with bricks and mortar, to designing and fashioning the vessels and clothing of the Tabernacle in all their intricacies?

Rabbi Chaim Shmuelevitz (1902-1978), the Rosh Yeshiva of Mir Yeshiva in Shanghai and Jerusalem, explains that these people had a desire for wisdom; in fact, their only desire was to acquire wisdom, even if it meant learning from a child. These are the people whom Hashem called "wise-hearted," and it was to them that He granted wisdom.

May Hashem bless us that we all come to acquire this title of a wise-hearted person, through our sincere desire for wisdom.

Alumni Focus

Rabbi Dovid Gertz



Rabbi Gertz, teaching, 2007

2007-2009

Years as a Denver
Kollel Scholar



Rabbi Gertz, teaching, 2023

Child and Family Therapist

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