

Chitas for Monday, Parshas Shoftim

Chof-Zayin Menachem Av, 5783 - Shnas Hakhel

לעילוי נשמת ר' יוסף בנימין בן ר' מנשה קאלטמאן
~ by Rabbi Aryeh & Esther Kaltmann ~

מוקדש לחיזוק ההתקשרות לכ"ק אדמו"ר זי"ע נשיא דורנו ~ ע"י ברוך בן רחל ומשפחתו
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Mazel Tov **General Shmully Gutnick** (Boca Raton, Florida)
~ Bar Mitzvah Chof-Zayin Av ~
May he grow to be a Chossid, Yerei Shomayim, and Lamdan and bring much nachas to the Rebbe and to his family!

CHUMASH :: Parshas Shoftim - Sheini with Rashi

Moshe tells the Yidden about choosing a *Yiddishe* King when they come into Eretz Yisroel.

When you come into Eretz Yisroel, and you're settled safe and sound
You'll say "We want to have a KING like everyone else around!"

A Jewish king needs to be special, there are *mitzvos* he must do
(Along with ALL the *mitzvos* kept by every single Jew).

A king needs a lot of horses, but TOO many is not okay —
The best horses are in Mitzrayim, and we need to stay away!

He can't marry too many wives, no more than eighteen
Or he'll be too busy to be king — taking care of each queen!

He can't get too much money, more than he needs for everything.
— And if he follows these rules, Hashem will let him stay the King!

He also has an extra *mitzva*, to remind him of his role
He has to carry around with him a special Torah scroll!

He needs to always learn the *mitzvos*, and remember them

He's there to help the Yidden, he's just a servant of Hashem!

TEHILLIM :: 120 - 134

Today's *Tehillim* is the 15 "*Shir Hamaalos*," *kapitelach* *Kuf-Chof* to *Kuf-Lamed-Daled*. All of these *kapitelach* start with the words "*Shir Hamaalos*" or "*Shir Lamaalos*."

Kapitel Kuf-Chof-Vov is the *Shir Hamaalos* we say before *bentching* on Shabbos and *Yom Tov*, or a day with no *Tachanun*. It talks about when *Moshiach* will come, and it says that *Golus* is like planting a field — a person puts seeds in the ground and cries that Hashem should make it rain. Then he is so happy when his plants grow!

Golus is like that too, we "plant" lots of *mitzvos* and cry to Hashem that they should "grow." When *Moshiach* comes, we see all that our *mitzvos* did, and we are so happy!

That's the *posuk* "**Az Yemalei Sechok Pinu**" — "then our mouths will be full of laughing" — because we will be so happy that *Moshiach* came!

The Rebbe tells us that we need to have lots of *simcha* now, to practice since *Moshiach* is almost here!

TANYA :: Igeres Hakodesh Siman Ches

When we are davening, we sometimes suddenly start to think special things about Torah and Yiddishkeit!

Where does that come from? The same Ruchnius that Neshamos feel in Gan Eden, and that Malachim can feel all the time, can sometimes shine into our Neshama when we daven!

But Hashem wants us to DESERVE that, so we give Tzedakah before davening and we earn that special zechus!

Is feeling that Ruchnius, and feeling so close to Hashem only worth a nickel? How can we "buy" it for so cheap?

Of course it is worth more than all the money in the whole world! But Hashem gives it to us anyway just because we gave a little bit of tzedakah. Today the Alter Rebbe gives us a mashal to explain it.

How do we plant a big, beautiful tree?

We take a teeny tiny seed and put it into the ground. In the ground, it gets rotten and mushy and isn't even a seed anymore! There is a special *koach* in the ground to make things grow, and we just need to do SOMETHING that will get that *koach* started! Our putting the seed into the ground makes that *koach* start to work. That's how even our little seed can grow into such a humongous tree.

Tomorrow we will IY"H see how everything we just said in the mashal happens in Ruchnius when we give Tzedakah!

HAYOM YOM :: Chof-Zayin Menachem Av

The month of *Elul* is called *Chodesh HaCheshbon*, the month where we make a calculation, like businesses do at the end of the year. We figure out what things we did well in our *Avodas Hashem*, and where we will do better next year!

On every Shabbos Mevorchim, we say the whole Tehillim in the morning, and make a farbrengen.

Every *Yiddishe Neshama* that is born in the world was brought here to do a special *Shlichus*: Our job is like a business, where we buy things and sell them, so we can have money to buy what we need. Our *neshama's* job is to "buy" *Gashmius*, and "sell it" to Hashem by using it for *mitzvos*! Then Hashem "pays us" by giving us *brachos*

to have what we need, and brings *Moshiach* closer!

In a business, every day, the owner writes down what he bought and how much he sold. At the end of the year, he looks over his papers to see what he did right and what didn't work, what he should keep doing and what he needs to do differently to make sure his business runs well.

We also need to do that with our “business” of being a Yid: Every day at the end of the day we may take a few minutes by *Kriyas Shema She'al Hamitah* at night and think about what we did that day (some people will even write down a few lines!). At the end of the whole year, we think about what happened during the whole year — which things were good and we should keep doing (and even make it better), and what wasn't so good and need to be changed.

Figuring out how to do better is a perfect way to get ready for *Rosh Hashana*, and for Hashem to give us a *Shana Tova Umesuka!* This is done in the month of *Elul*.

SEFER HAMITZVOS :: Shiur #114 - Mitzvas Lo Saasei #202, #203, and #204

Today, we learn 3 *mitzvos* about a *Nazir*:

1) (*Mitzvas Lo Saasei #202*) A *Nazir* can't drink wine or any other drink that was made with grapes. He can't even have wine vinegar!

We learn this *mitzvah* from a *posuk* in *Parshas Naso*: וְכֹל מְשֵׁרֶת עֲנָבִים לֹא יִשְׁתֶּה

2) (*Mitzvas Lo Saasei #203*) A *Nazir* can't eat grapes

We learn this *mitzvah* from other words in the same *posuk*: וְעֲנָבִים לֶחֶם ... לֹא יֹאכֵל

3) (*Mitzvas Lo Saasei #204*) A *Nazir* can't eat raisins (because they are dried grapes!)

We also learn this *mitzvah* from the same *posuk*: וַיִּבְשִׂים לֹא יֹאכֵל

RAMBAM :: Hilchos Nezirus

In today's Rambam, we learn more *halachos* about the *Nazir*.

Perek Gimmel: How long is a person a *Nazir* for? It depends — he is allowed to decide how long he wants to be a *Nazir* for. But if he doesn't say how long, he is a *Nazir* for 30 days.

Perek Daled: At the end of being a *Nazir*, the *Nazir* needs to shave all of his hair and bring certain *korbanos*. When does he do these things if he made a promise to be a *Nazir* more than one time in a row? In this *perek*, the Rambam answers this question too!

Perek Hey: In this *perek* we learn about the three things that are *Asur* for a *Nazir*:

- 1) He is not allowed to eat anything that comes from grapes
- 2) He is not allowed to cut his hair
- 3) He is not allowed to make himself *Tamei* from a dead person

RAMBAM- PEREK ECHAD :: Hilchos Shabbos - Perek Vov

In this *perek*, we learn that the *Chachomim* made it *asur* to tell a *goy* to do something for us on Shabbos, so that we won't treat Shabbos lightly and come to do the *melacha* ourselves. There are some times we are allowed to ask a *goy* to do something, like if someone is even a little bit sick or if it is important for another *mitzvah*.

We are not allowed to have any benefit from *melacha* that was done on Shabbos when it is *asur*, even if it was done by a *goy*.

INYANA D'YOMA :: Cheshbon Hanfesh

In today's *Hayom Yom*, we learned that *Elul* is called the *Chodesh Hacheshbon*, the month where we make a *Cheshbon Hanefesh*. Why do we make this *cheshbon* specifically in *Elul*?

Imagine that your parents come over to you one day, and their faces are very serious. "Your room is a terrible mess!" they tell you. "We are having guests, and we expect you to clean it up by tonight!"

You get up and walk into your bedroom. Your heart sinks as you look around. Your parents are right — the room is a complete disaster! The garbage can is overflowing, there is dirty laundry all over the place, books and papers and toys are scattered around, and the drawers are so messy they can't even close!

You are so overwhelmed you don't know where to start! You start by picking up a sefer that fell on the floor, but you can't even find room on the desk to put it away! You start to feel hopeless, that there is no way you can ever get this done. You just stand there, not sure what to do.

But then you hear the door open. Your mother walks in, and puts her hand on your shoulder. She gives you a warm smile and says, "Come, let's do this together!" All of a sudden, you feel much better! You smile too, and start to work together with your mother to make your room clean and organized.

It is important to take some time to see how we are doing in our *shlichus* in the world, and figure out how to do it better. We can't do this every day, because we are too busy actually DOING the *shlichus*! Instead, once a year, we stop and make a *cheshbon* of how we are doing.

But there can be problem with making a *cheshbon*. When we take a look at our behavior, we might see that it is very messy! There are so many things that we aren't doing right, we might get overwhelmed and feel hopeless!

That's why our *Chachomim* told us that the right time for this *Cheshbon* is in *Chodesh Elul*. In *Elul*, Hashem is right here with us, *Melech Basodeh*! When we know that Hashem is right here with us, helping us, we won't feel hopeless anymore. We will be able to make our *Cheshbon Hanefesh* with *simcha*, and figure out how to do our *shlichus* in the world in the best way!

Then, Hashem will *bentch* us with a *Shana Tova Umesukah*!

See farbrengen of Shabbos Mevorchim Elul Tof-Shin-Yud-Alef

TEFILLAH :: Yud-Beis Pesukim - Yismach

The 12th of the *Yud-Beis Pesukim* and *Maamorei Razal* is "*Yismach*." These words come from *Tanya*, where the Alter Rebbe teaches us the importance of *simcha*.

Yismach Yisroel Be'osav — "Yidden should be happy with Hashem Who created them." (these words are from *Tehillim*)

Peirush — This is what it means:

Shekol Mi Shehu Mizera Yisroel — That everyone who has the *neschama* of a Yid

Yeish Lo Lismoach — Should be happy

Besimchas Hashem — With the joy of Hashem!

Asher Sas Vesameiach — Because Hashem is happy and joyful

Bediraso Besachtonim — That the world is being made into Hashem's home — a *Dira Betachtonim*!

This teaches us that whatever we are doing, we should do it in a happy way: When we think about how much *nachas* our *Avodah* brings Hashem, we will feel a special joy and *chayus*! Not only do we have a *neshama* which is a part of Hashem and Hashem is always with us, but we are making the world more of a home for Hashem, a home that will be ready when *Moshiach* comes. We can feel Hashem's joy in our *neshama*, and that should make us DOUBLY happy!

This is the twelfth and last of the *Yud-Beis Pesukim*, which makes sure that everything we learned about in the other *pesukim* will be done with *simcha*! Our learning Torah, doing *mitzvos*, and helping another Yid with *Ahavas Yisroel* should all be done with *simcha*!

When what we are doing is with a feeling of *simcha*, it will be done in the most beautiful and best possible way, and we will also have the most *hatzlacha*!

HALACHOS HATZRICHOS :: Birchos Hanehenin

Since the whole world belongs to Hashem, we say a *bracha* before we eat or drink, to ask Hashem's permission before enjoying part of His world.

Chassidus teaches us a deeper meaning of a *bracha*:

The word “*bracha*” is connected to the word “*mavrich*,” which means to bring down. When we say a *bracha*, we are bringing down *Elokus* into the world. Through the words of the *bracha*, we bring down *kedusha* into the *Gashmius* thing we are about to enjoy!

GEULAH U'MOSHIACH :: The Brachos Will Flow!

The last two *perakim* of Yoel are about the *Geulah*!

In this *posuk*, the *Navi* Yoel tells us about some of the many *brachos* that the world will have when *Moshiach* comes. This *posuk* is also a very famous one in *Chassidus* — the *maamar Kuntres Umaayan* is based on it!

וְהָיָה בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא יִטְפוּ הַהַרְרִים עֲסִים וְהַגְּבְעוֹת תִּלְכְּנָה חֶלֶב וְכָל אֶפְרַיִם יְהוּדָה יִלְכוּ מִיָּם וּמֵעֵין מַבְיַת ה' יֵצֵא וְהִשְׁקָה אֶת נַחַל הַשְּׁטִיִּים

Vehaya Vayom Hahu — This is something that will happen in the days of the *Geulah*:

Yitfu Heharim Asis — The mountains will be so full of ripe grapes, it will be as if they are dripping wine!

Vehag'vaos Teilachna Chalav — And the hills will grow so much rich grass (which helps animals make milk), it will be like the hills themselves are flowing with milk!

Vechol Afikei Yehuda Yeilchu Mayim — All of the springs of Yehudah (a part of Eretz Yisroel) will again flow with water!

Umaayan Mibeis Hashem Yeitzei — And a spring will flow from the *Beis Hamikdash* (the *Navi* Yechezkel speaks about it in his *nevuah* about the *Beis Hamikdash Hashlishi*!)

Vehishkeh Es Nachal Hashitim — And it will make the valley of *Shitim* into a river!

Chassidus explains that the end of this *posuk* has an important *hora'ah* for us:

The “*Maayan Mibeis Hashem*,” the spring that flows from the *Beis Hamikdash*, is talking about the deepest part of a Yid’s *neshama*, the “spring” that flows from deep inside of us. This is what gives us *koach* to do what Hashem wants no matter what, even in a way of *Shtus D’Kedusha*!

This “spring” gives water to Nachal Hashitim, from the word “*shtus*,” like it says in the end of the *posuk*. When our spring gives water to Nachal Hashitim, it changes the *shtus* of *Kelipah* (the foolishness of the *Yetzer Hara*) into *Shtus D’Kedusha*!

This is something we can do in ourselves now, making a personal *Geulah* in our own lives!

See Yoel perek Daled *posuk* Yud-Ches, *Kuntres Umaayan*, and the Rebbe’s *maamarim* of Bosi Legani

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