

Chitas for Wednesday, Parshas Vayechi Tes-Vov Teves, 5784

**For the safety and security of the Yidden in Eretz Yisrael
and the success of the soldiers fighting for its protection**

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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לזכות שיינדל מלכה בת היצל, אסתר בת שיינדל מלכה, אהבה בת אסתר, אלול בת אסתר
And the safe return of all our soldiers and hostages!

*This week is dedicated in Gratitude to Hashem
for the miraculous recovery of the Chayal in Tzivos Hashem*

Shmuel Ben Mushka

and for a continued Refuah Sheleimah.

*May he and all his siblings grow in Middos Tovos with Ahavas and Yiras Hashem as Chayolim of the Rebbe, bringing Moshiach Now!
And Lizchus the safety of Yidden in Eretz Yisroel and around the world!*

L'ilui Nishmas

Tova Gittel bas Yosef Tzvi

*Mazel Tov **Sergeant Mendel Haller** (Brooklyn, NY)*

~ 6th birthday Tes-Vov Teves ~

Shnas Bracha Vehatzlacha!

CHUMASH :: Parshas Vayechi - Revi'i with Rashi

In today's *Chumash*, we start to learn the words Yaakov says to the *Shevatim* before he passes away.

Yaakov called his sons together to tell them when the final *Geulah* will come. But Hashem didn't want the Yidden to know, so Hashem took away his *Ruach Hakodesh* about this. But Yaakov still had his *Ruach Hakodesh* in other things, and he decided to say something else to each one of the *Shevatim*:

“**Reuven**, even though you are the firstborn, some of the things that are supposed to be given to the oldest will not be given to you, because of a certain thing you did with anger. Yosef will become the *shevet* which will be counted as two *shevatim*, the *Kehunah* will go to *Shevet Levi*, and the *Yiddishe* kings will come from *Shevet Yehuda*.

“**Shimon and Levi**, you worked together for not good things — like killing the people of Shechem, and selling Yosef. Fighting is for Esav, not for children of Yaakov! So you will be separated and spread out: Levi will not be counted together with the other *Shevatim*, and he won't get a piece of Eretz Yisroel. *Shevet Shimon* will be spread out in different places, being beggars, *sofrim* and teachers in many different parts of the land. The *Kohanim* and *Leviim* will have to live in different places around the country, and go to collect the presents given to them by Yidden all over.”

Yehuda was afraid Yaakov would also say what he did wrong, but Yaakov said, “Yehuda, your brothers will

all talk about how special you are! The *Yiddishe* kings (like Dovid Hamelech and Shlomo Hamelech) will come from your family, and later the people who lead the Yidden in *Golus*, like the *Sanhedrin*, and even *Moshiach*!

“This is because you had a lot of *Ahavas Yisroel*, saving Yosef and Tamar from being killed!

“**Zevulun** will live near the water, and their ships will buy and sell things. Part of the money they get will pay for the *Talmidei Chachomim* of *Shevet Yissachar* to be able to learn Torah!

“**Yissachar** will be strong and able to learn a lot of Torah! They will work hard in their learning and it will help all of the Yidden.

“**Dan** will take revenge on the enemies of the Yidden!” Yaakov was speaking with *Ruach Hakodesh* about Shimshon who in the future will knock down a building and kill many *Pelishtim* who were making trouble for the Yidden. Yaakov knew that Shimshon would need Hashem’s help, so he asked for it now! “*Lishuas’cha Kivisi Hashem*” — “Hashem, I am waiting for your *yeshuah*!”

TEHILLIM :: 77 - 78

Today’s *shiur Tehillim* is *kapitelach Ayin-Zayin and Ayin-Ches*.

In *Kapitel Ayin-Ches*, which is in today’s *Tehillim*, there is a *posuk* that says “**Vayakem Eidus BeYaakov, VeSora Sam BeYisroel**” — “Hashem set up the Torah and *mitzvos* for Yaakov and Yisroel.” The *kapitel* continues that this was in order to pass it on to the next generations.

Chassidus teaches that each one of the *Avos* has something different and special about them, which they passed on to every single *Yid*. (For example, Avraham *Avinu* passed on his *koach* of *chesed* and *Hachnosas Orchim*, being kind to others and teaching them about Hashem.) In this *posuk*, which speaks about Torah, we mention the name of Yaakov and Yisroel, the third of the *Avos*.

Yaakov *Avinu*’s special *koach* was in learning Torah day and night. Yaakov is called a “*Yoshev Ohalim*,” someone who sits in the tent of Torah! The Torah tells us how Yaakov *Avinu* spent many years working very hard for his *parnasa* and to raise a family. Still, he made sure to use his time whenever he could to say *Shir Hamaalos* and to learn Torah! When things were easier too, like his last seventeen years in *Mitzrayim*, Yaakov *Avinu* also used that time in the best way, learning Torah with his children and grandchildren. He passed on this *koach* of being dedicated to learning Torah to each and every one of us.

TANYA :: Likutei Amarim Perek Yud

In the first twelve *Perakim* of *Tanya*, the *Alter Rebbe* will explain what a *beinoni* is, so we’ll understand how a *beinoni* needs to act! First we need to understand what is a *tzaddik* and a *rasha*, and then we’ll understand what is a *beinoni*.

In this *perek* we are going to learn about a *tzaddik*.

A *tzaddik* is someone who is born with two *nefashos*, like everyone, but Hashem gives him a special *koach* to work very hard making his *Nefesh Elohis* strong. It becomes SO strong that the *Nefesh Habehamis* has no *koach* to be active in the *guf*!

Because he loves Hashem so much, the *tzaddik* is only interested in things that help with Hashem’s *shlichus*. Just enjoying *gashmius* with no purpose makes him disgusted.

Because the *tzaddik* loves Hashem so much, he hates anything that goes against what Hashem wants, like the *Yetzer Hara*! The more he loves Hashem, the more he hates the *Yetzer Hara*.

HAYOM YOM :: Tes-Vov Teves

The Rebbe points out a correction in a maamar from Torah Ohr for Parshas Vayechi.

The Frierdiker Rebbe said: “Yidden, listen carefully! Now is the time for *Moshiach* to come! All of the sad things happening in the world are because *Moshiach* is so close. Remember that only Hashem will save us — and it is only because we will do *teshuva*! Let us do *teshuva* and prepare ourselves and our families to be *Mekabel Pnei Moshiach Tzidkeinu*, who will come *bekarov mamosh!*”

SEFER HAMITZVOS :: Shiur #249 - Mitzvas Lo Saasei #246, #243

Today we learn the last two *mitzvos* about not stealing.

The first *mitzvah* (*Mitzvas Lo Saasei #246*) we learn today is a *mitzvah* for Eretz Yisroel: That we're not allowed to move a fence so that people will think that part of another person's field belongs to us. But wait a second! Does that mean that I **CAN** do that outside of Eretz Yisroel?! No, of course not! We are not allowed to steal anywhere! But it gets its own special *mitzvah* only in Eretz Yisroel.

This *mitzvah* comes from a *posuk* in *Parshas Shoftim*: לא תסיג גבול רֵעֶךָ

The second *mitzvah* (*Mitzvas Lo Saasei #243*) is one of the *Aseres Hadibros* — don't kidnap. The words in the Torah sound just like regular stealing, but the *Chachomim* tell us that here it means that we can't steal a PERSON, by kidnaping someone and selling them as a slave.

This *mitzvah* comes from a *posuk* in *Parshas Yisro*: לא תגנוב

The details of the *mitzvah* are explained in *Perek Yud-Alef* of *Mesechta Sanhedrin*.

RAMBAM :: Hilchos Geneivah

In today's Rambam, we learn about having kosher scales, which was yesterday's *mitzvos*. We also learn about kidnaping, today's second *mitzvah*. Now we finish *Hilchos Geneivah!*

Perek Zayin teaches us about making sure that the weights we use to measure things to sell should be exactly right.

Years ago, they used a kind of scale that is called a balance scale. On one side of the scale, they would put a weight marked, for example, one *maneh*. On the other side of the scale, they would put enough figs to make the scale balance exactly, which is one *maneh* of figs.

If the weights are even just a drop too small, the person who sells the food will be stealing from the person who paid him for the full amount!

We also learn the halacha of today's first mitzvah.

Perek Ches explains the *halachos* of how a scale should be made, and how often it should be cleaned.

Perek Tes teaches us when someone who kidnaps is punished by the *Beis Din*.

RAMBAM- PEREK ECHAD :: Hilchos Yibum V'Chalitzah - Perek Hey

This *perek* teaches us more *halachos* about *Yibum* and *Chalitzah*. One *halacha* is that if one of the brothers tells the woman he will marry her, if he changes his mind he needs to give her a *get*. Still, he would need to do

Chalitzah before she is allowed to get married to anyone else.

INYANA D'YOMA :: Hachana L'Yud Shevat

After a week of celebration following *Hey Teves* in 5747, the Rebbe told us that we need to start getting ready for *Yud Shevat*, with the help of a *mashpia* — *Asei Lecha Rav!* But what's a *mashpia*?

A *mashpia* is someone who has more *Yiras Shomayim* and more experience in life than we do. We can report to our *mashpia* how we are doing in *Avodas Hashem* so that we will know that someone knows what we are doing, which will help us feel a push to do more.

A *mashpia* can also help us if we're not sure about something. Should I take on a *hachlata* to learn extra *Tanya*, or to give extra *tzedakah*? Is it okay to read a book about non-kosher animals? Should I be *Maavir Sedra* after I clean my room, or offer to help my mother set the table?

The Rebbe said that children should also have a *mashpia* — *mashpios* for girls, and *mashpiim* for boys.

See *Likutei Sichos* vol. 29 p. 247

TEFILLAH :: Adon Olam

As a general introduction to *davening*, we remind ourselves WHO we are about to *daven* to!

Adon Olam is a beautiful song written by the *Chachomim* who lived after the times of the *Gemara*, Rabbeinu Yehuda Hachassid, Rabbeinu Hai Gaon, and Rabbeinu Sherira Gaon.

It is brought in the *Shaloh* and other *sefarim* that saying this *tefillah* before *davening* is a *segulah* that a person's *tefillah* should be answered.

Adon Olam speaks about the greatness of Hashem. When we pay attention to what these words mean, we will feel how special it is to *daven*!

See *Shaar Hakolel*, perek *Gimmel*, se'if *Daled*

HALACHOS HATZRICHS :: Right Hand First

When we wash *Netilas Yodayim*, we first pour water over our right hand. To do this, we need to hold the *kvort* with our left hand.

Based on *Kabbalah*, we are ALWAYS careful to start with our right. So even with HOLDING the *kvort*, we first pick it up with our right hand, before passing it to our left.

That's why we hold the kvort with our right hand when we fill it up with water. We only pass it to our left hand when we are ready to start washing our right hand first!

See *Seder Netilas Yodayim L'Seudah*, se'if *hey*

GEULAH U'MOSHIACH :: The Time Moshiach Will Come

In today's *Chumash*, we learn how Yaakov *Avinu* wanted to tell his children when *Moshiach* will come, but it was hidden from him.

Even though in the end Hashem didn't let Yaakov tell, it is still written in the Torah, so it must be important for us to know about it even today. We also know that Yaakov *Avinu* was a *tzadik* and everything he did was according to Hashem's *ratzon*, so it must be that wanting to tell was actually a good thing!

The Rebbe explains that telling people when *Moshiach* will come is something that not only Yaakov *Avinu* wanted to do. Throughout the generations, many *tzadikim* have told us about a *keitz*, a time for *Moshiach* to come. This isn't something that regular people are able to do, but *tzadikim* do show us what times are extra-special times that *Moshiach* can come!

Why do they do this?

When a Yid hears that *Moshiach* will come very soon, it helps us serve Hashem with more *chayus*! We see clearly that when you tell a Yid that *Moshiach* is almost here, it makes them excited to do everything possible to bring *Moshiach* now!

The *Gemara* actually says that all of the set times for *Moshiach* to come have already passed, and all that is left is to do *Teshuvah*. The Rambam says that as soon as the Yidden do *Teshuvah*, right away *Moshiach* will come — all we will need to do is a drop of coming closer to Hashem, with one little *mitzvah* or one minute of thinking about Hashem, and right away Hashem will take us out of *Golus*!

See *sicha Likutei Sichos chelek Chof, Vayechi sicha alef (Asara B'Teves 5741)*

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