

Youth Minyan

OHEL SARA NEWSLETTER

Parshat Chayei Sara 24-25 Cheshvan 5776 Nov 6-7

This issue is dedicated to the
refuah shelema of

Yigal ben Yocheved

Shabbat Schedule

Candlelighting— 4:28 PM

MIncha & Arvit—4:30 PM

Shaharit – 8:30 AM-11:15 AM

Minha & Seudat Shlishi – 3:50 PM

Arvit & Motzei Shabbat - 5:28PM

Rabbeinu Tam— 5: 57 PM

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Joke of The Week

Moishe and Miriam were late for their shul dinner. Moishe was pacing back and forth, glancing at his watch, he yelled upstairs to his wife, "Honey, are you ready yet?" Shouting back, Miriam replies, "Moishe, enough already! I've been telling you for the last half hour... I'll be ready in a minute!"

Abe Kleinman was looking for a salesman at his tailor shop – Abe's Tailor's – so he put an ad in the local paper. One day a fellow named Chaim Yankel came in to interview for the job.

Abe looked at Chaim Yankel's resume and noticed that Chaim Yankel had never worked in retail before.

Abe said to Chaim Yankel, "What chutzpah, if you don't mind me saying. For someone with no retail experience, you are certainly asking for a high salary."

"Well, I suppose I am," Chaim Yankel replied, "but you must understand that the work is so much harder when you don't know what you're doing."

"It's Good Enough For Me!"

[Avraham says to Eliezer] "And I will have you swear by Hashem, God of heaven and God of earth, that you not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell." (Gen. 24:3)

After the Akeida, Avraham resolved to seek a wife for Yitzchak. He sent Eliezer on the mission but told him that he did not want to take a wife for Yitzchak from the Canaanites, nor from the seven nations. Avraham did not trust Eliezer and therefore had him swear. The difficulty with this is that the previous verse mentions that Eliezer was in charge of all of Avraham's assets. Avraham had complete trust in him. Why then does Avraham not trust him when it comes to finding his son a wife?

When it comes to spiritual matters, people generally trust one another. If one sees a man with a beard eating in a restaurant, he'll eat there without further inquiry. If someone tells him, "I think it's okay to do such and such," he'll do it in a second without asking further. However, when it comes to the mundane, people will research and seek many opinions before finalizing their purchase. Just because a car dealer says "Trust me..." it won't satisfy them.

We see from Avraham the exact opposite. When it came to his money, he put Eliezer fully in charge and trusted all his decisions. However, in spiritual matters, where Yitzchak's mate had to be the next Sarah - a woman who would not only be a wife but also a matriarch - for that he did not trust Eliezer.(1)

Rabbi Yisrael Salanter was once traveling to a distant city. On the way, he passed a small town and decided to rest in one of the inns. The innkeeper, sensing that his guest was a devout Jew, approached Rabbi Salanter and asked: "Excuse me, but would you happen to be ashochet (a ritual slaughterer)? I have a cow in the barn that needs to be slaughtered. I usually go to our neighboring town to have it slaughtered. If you are a shochet then you can save me a big trip."

Rabbi Salanter responded, "I am not a shochet."

About an hour later, Rabbi Salanter approached the innkeeper and asked, "Perhaps you would be kind enough to lend me some money?"

"Give you a loan?" replied the innkeeper in surprise., "Bbut I don't even know you! How can I trust you to pay me back?"

"Listen to what you just said," said Rabbi Salanter. "When it came to loaning me money - even a small amount - you would not trust me as I am a stranger to you. Yet when you wanted to slaughter your cow, you were prepared to rely on me though you have absolutely no idea who I am! Shechita (kosher slaughter) involves many intricate Jewish laws. Why were you so sure that I possess enough fear of heaven to be a proper shochet...?!" BY Rabbi Eli Scheller

NOTES

1. Darkei Mussar.

(turn the page)

Parsha In a Nutshell

Sarah dies at age 127 and is buried in the Machpelah Cave in Hebron, which Abraham purchases from Ephron the Hittite for four hundred shekels of silver. Abraham's servant Eliezer is sent, laden with gifts, to Charan, to find a wife for Isaac. At the village well, Eliezer asks G-d for a sign: when the maidens come to the well, he will ask for some water to drink; the woman who will offer to give his camels to drink as well shall be the one destined for his master's son. Rebecca, the daughter of Abraham's nephew Bethuel, appears at the well and passes the "test." Eliezer is invited to their home, where he repeats the story of the day's events. Rebecca returns with Eliezer to the land of Canaan, where they encounter Isaac praying in the field. Isaac marries Rebecca, loves her, and is comforted over the loss of his mother. Abraham takes a new wife, Keturah (Hagar), and fathers six additional sons, but Isaac is designated as his only heir. Abraham dies at age 175 and is buried beside Sarah by his two eldest sons, Isaac and Ishmael.
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"It's Good Enough For Me!"

I have given you the field, and as for the cave that is in it, I have given it to you; in the view of the children of my people have I given it to you. (Gen. 23:11,15)

Avraham set out to buy the Cave of Machpela and the field surrounding it from Efron Hachiti. Efron said to Avraham "Don't bother paying for it. I'll give you both the field and the cave as a gift!" Shortly after, Efron changed his mind and set the price at 400 silver shekels. What happened?! Why did he suddenly change from being overly generous to being a greedy man?

Many years ago the Rambam had a debate with philosophers. The philosophers claimed that a cat's nature could be altered to be like that of a human being. The Rambam said, "An animal will always remain an animal." The philosophers went about proving their theory. They took a cat and spent weeks training it, and were finally ready to present their case. Everyone gathered to see what would happen. In walked a cat dressed as a waiter, carrying a tray with wine and glasses. Everyone was amazed. The Rambam, on the other side of the room, took a bag out of his pocket, opened it, and a mouse came out. The cat saw it, dropped the tray and dashed across the room to catch the mouse! Everyone then agreed with the Rambam; you can definitely train a cat, but you can't change a cat's nature.

Efron was the same. When Avraham asked him for the cave, they were in front of all the B'nei Cheis. Therefore Efron said that it was free, thinking, "Why not let everyone think that I am a nice guy?" When Avraham wanted to pay for it and was holding a wad of bills, Efron saw the money and forgot about everything he had said. He just wanted the cash, so he charged Avraham an enormous amount.(1)

Some people appear very pleasant and friendly, but if someone steps on their toe or spills something on them they go berserk. These people never truly changed their nature. When things are calm and going their way they are able to act nicely, but inside they are capable of exploding at the slightest infraction. By contrast, a person who truly changes his nature - through self-introspection, examination and work - will be in total control of his attitude in every single situation. He won't be affected by external circumstances. By Rabbi Eli Scheller

NOTES

1. The Alter of Kelm (Lekach Tov).

A HALACHA A DAY

- 1) May one use a restroom in which Kaddish is easily heard from Shull?
A. Yes, just try to think about another subject.
- 2) May one enter restroom with a Torah book in his pocket?
A. Technically yes, but it is better not to.
- 3) May one sit on a couch if a Torah book is sitting on the couch also?
A. Yes
- 4) May one change his child's soiled diapers in the living room where there are Torah books in the shelf?
A. No
- 5) May one think about building a Sukkah, buying Shabbat foods, Synagogue finances, or even giving Tzdaka in the restroom?
A. Yes
- 6) One should use a wet napkin when wiping oneself to ensure proper cleanliness of all dirt particles after using the restroom.
- 7) When urinating one should not directly hold onto his organ. However holding from the glans (head) is permitted. Married men may be lenient in this regard when their wives are permitted to them, but it is better to handle the male organ as little as possible.

Недельная глава Хаей Сара

Кроме того, что три праотца укрепили в народе Исраэля силу веры, они укоренили также на поколения качества, которые были присущи только каждому из них, и потому «три признака у этого народа: милосердные, стыдливые и творящие добрые дела». Совершение добрых дел — это наследие нашего праотца Авраама, и милосердие распространилось в мире ради него (Мидраш Берешит раба, 60). Стыдливость — наследие Ицхака, как сказано (Трактат Недарим, 20) «Чтобы был страх на лицах ваших, дабы не грешили» — это стыд. Милосердие — наследие Яакова, который был самым милосердным из праотцев (Мидраш Берешит раба, 75), как сказали наши мудрецы, благословенна память праведников. И еще сказали (Трактат Бейца, 32), что тот, кто милосерден к творениям — из потомков нашего праотца Авраама, а тот, кто не милосерден — не из потомков нашего праотца Авраама. И установлена алаха: каждый, кто нагл, или не жалеет творения, или не милосерден к ним, подозревают, что он не из Исраэля (Рамбам, Исурей бия, 19:17).

Пришел человек и рассказал раву из Бриска, благословенна память праведника, что его маленький сын издевался над бездомной кошкой. Запрет «причинять страдания животным — из Торы», и не хорошо поступать так сыну рава. Потемнело лицо рава, и он сказал твердо: «Ложь! Мой сын не издевался над животными. Ты видел это своими глазами?»

«Да, но издали. Однако я уверен, что это был сын рава!»

Тогда выясни. Это клевета. Когда ему исполнится тринадцать лет, попроси у него прощение».

Стал тот человек разузнавать об этом случае, и выяснилось, что рав прав. Другой мальчик бросал камни. Вернулся он к раву и сказал ему об этом.

Рав не удивился: «Ведь я сказал тебе об этом».

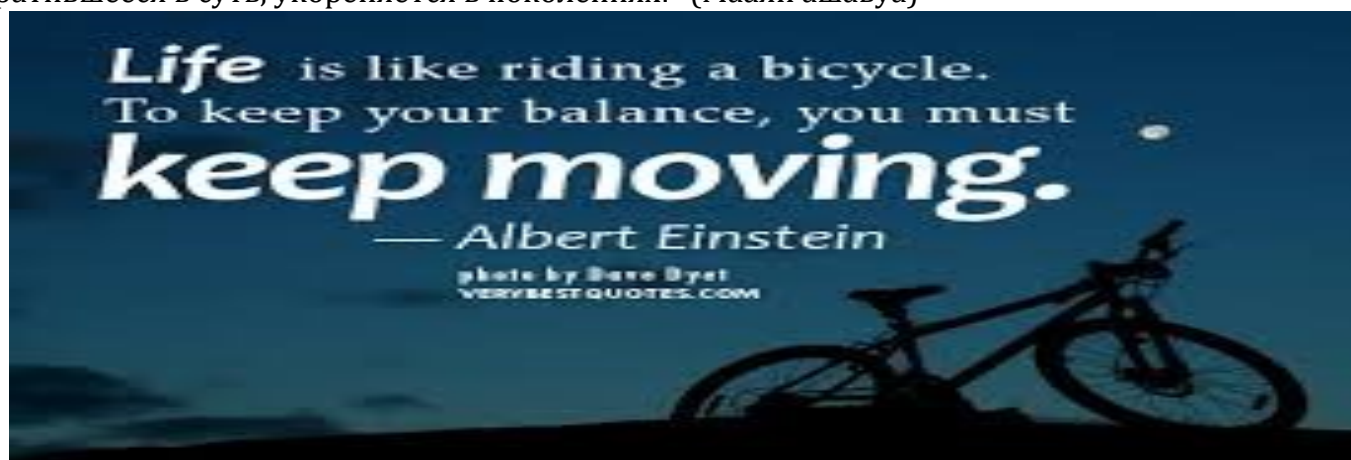
Не понял человек: «Как рав узнал это?»

«Пожалуйста, скажу тебе. Мой папа был гаон, раби Хаим из Бриска, благословенна память праведника, и, как известно, он был человеком милосердным. Что это значит? Он никогда не запирал двери нашего дома, ни днем, ни ночью. Каждый человек, которому нечего было делать, мог найти что делать в доме рава. Придти, выпить горячего чаю, поболтать и посмеяться, задать вопросы по алахе, побеседовать на темы Торы, попросить совета и наставления.

Женщины в трудном положении, которые не хотели растить своих малых детей, подбрасывали их на порог дома моего отца, и мой папа их растил. Платил кормилицам, усыновлял, воспитывал, женил — десятками. Вдова, запоздавшая с платой за квартиру, была выселена из нее, и поселилась в доме рава со своими шестью детьми.

Как-то в шутку спросили рава, для чего он поставил в доме дверь. Ответил он, что, по мнению Рамбама, только на входе, где есть дверь, обязаны установить мезузу, поэтому нужна дверь.

“Теперь ты понимаешь, — сказал рав из Бриска, — папа был безгранично милосердным, и милосердие превратилось в его суть. И поэтому не может быть, чтобы его внук был жесток! Качество, превратившееся в суть, укореняется в поколениях!” (Мааян ашавуа)



Присоединяйтесь к нам каждый вторник в 8:30 вечера
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Happy Birthday

To:

Nathan Katanov (Oct 31)



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Art Class Children 5-8:
10AM-11AM

Sunday Program Ages 5-12:
11:00AM-12:30 PM

Hebrew Class for Adults
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Wednesday

Torah&MeWith Rabbi B

Shabbat

Prayers-Arvit, Mincha, Shacharit, Musaf
(Change Weekly)

Lecture before and during Seudat Shlishi
(Changes Weekly)

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