

Chitas for Monday, Parshas Vayechi Yud-Gimmel 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

Chitas for the month of Teves is made possible in part

לעילוי נשמת הרה"ח הרה"ת הר"ר משה פינחס בן הר"ר אברהם מרדכי הכהן כ"ץ • הרה"ח הרה"ת הר"ר מרדכי בן הר"ר פינחס מענטליק ולזכות רפואה שלימה וקרובה לזאב יחזקאל הכהן בן מינדל

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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!*

Mazel Tov **Suri Greenwald** (proud 1 Star General in Tzivos Hashem)

~ Bas Mitzvah Yud-Beis Teves ~

May she grow as a Bas Chabad and bring much nachas to the Rebbe and her family!

Mazel Tov **Leah Shusterman** (Shlucha in Mt Olive, NJ)

~ 4th birthday Yud-Gimmel Teves ~

Shnas Bracha Vehatzlacha!

Mazel Tov **Shevy** (proud soldier in Tzivos Hashem)

~ birthday Yud-Gimmel Teves ~

Shnas Bracha Vehatzlacha!

Mazel Tov **Miriam Gittel Stein** (Shlucha to Southfield, MI)

~ 3rd birthday Yud-Gimmel Teves ~

Shnas Bracha Vehatzlacha!

Mazel Tov **Colonel Menachem Nassy** (Coral Springs, Florida)

~ 11th birthday Yud-Gimmel Teves ~

Shnas Bracha Vehatzlacha!

CHUMASH :: Parshas Vayechi - Sheini with Rashi

In today's *Chumash*, Yaakov begins to give the *bracha* to Efrayim and Menasheh.

Yaakov couldn't see so well anymore because of his old age, so Yosef brought his sons in and brought them close to Yaakov. Yaakov hugged and kissed them! He said to Yosef, "I didn't even think I would be able to see YOU, and Hashem even showed me now your children!"

After Yaakov kissed them, Yosef had his sons move away a little, and bowed to the ground before his father. Yosef then put Efrayim and Menasheh in the proper place to be *bentched* by Yaakov. He put Menasheh, who was older, near Yaakov's right hand, and Efrayim near Yaakov's left hand. This way, the older son would receive

a *bracha* from Yaakov's right hand.

But Yaakov purposely switched his hands, and put his right hand on Efrayim!

Yaakov *bentched* Yosef about the children. "May Hashem, Who Avraham and Yitzchak followed, and Who has always taken care of me and sent me a *malach* to take care of me, give these boys a *bracha*. They should be known with my name and the names of the rest of the *Avos*, and they should have many children like fish do, without being afraid of an *Ayin Hara*."

The Rebbe tells us another reason why Yaakov bentched them that they should be like fish. Fish can't be separated from the water, where they get their chayus. Yaakov was giving a bracha for Menashe and Efrayim that they should also be one with the source of their chayus, Hashem. By always being connected to Hashem's Ratzon and avodah, they will always be a good keili to get brachos from Hashem. (Likutei Sichos chelek Chof-Hey p. 11)

TEHILLIM :: 69 - 71

Today's *kapitelach* are *Samach-Tes*, *Ayin*, and *Ayin-Alef*.

One of the *pesukim* in *Kapitel Samech-Tes* is "**Va'ani Seflosi Lecha Hashem Eis Ratzon.**" We say this *posuk* every day in (can you guess?) *Mah Tov*.

There is another place we say this *posuk* as well — before we take the Torah out on Shabbos at *Mincha* time. The *posuk* means that when we *daven* it's a very special time. The reason why we say it by *Mincha* on Shabbos is because that's ALSO a very special time, the most special time of the whole Shabbos!

TANYA :: Likutei Amarim Perek Tes

Now we know where the nefashos are in our bodies, but how does it work if they are both in one body, and they both want different things?

The Alter Rebbe says that the body is like a city which two kings are fighting over. Each one wants to be in charge, so everyone will say that THEY are the king and everyone needs to listen to whatever they say!

The two kings are the two *nefashos*. The *Nefesh Elohis* wants to be the only one in charge, so that the whole body will listen to it and only do *mitzvos* and good things — and that even the *Nefesh Habehamis* should listen to it!

The *Nefesh Habehamis* wants the same thing! He wants to be the only one in charge of the body, so the body will only listen to it, and only do things that are comfortable and fun!

So they are always fighting.

Can you think of some things that your nefashos fight about?

HAYOM YOM :: Yud-Gimmel Teves

When we act the way *Chassidus* teaches, sometimes we don't even need to work very hard to bring Yidden closer to *Yiddishkeit*!

If you put a lantern outside in the dark, people will gather around, because they like to be around light. If you are a "lantern" shining with Torah and *Chassidus*, people will want to come closer to you too! They will want to become closer to *Yiddishkeit* when they see how you act.

SEFER HAMITZVOS :: Shiur #247 - Mitzvas Lo Saasei #244, Asei #239

Today we learn two *mitzvos* about stealing:

1) (*Mitzvas Lo Saasei #244*) is that we are not allowed to steal!

We learn this from a *posuk* in *Parshas Kedoshim*, that says: לא תגבוי

The *mitzvah* is explained in *Perek Zayin* of *Mesechta Bava Kama*.

2) (*Mitzvas Asei #239*) is that we need to follow the *halachos* about how to judge and punish a thief. Sometimes the thief needs to pay back double what he stole, or even four or five times what he stole! If a thief doesn't have enough money to pay back what he stole, he is sold as a slave.

The *halachos* of this *mitzvah* are explained in *Perek Zayin* of *Mesechta Bava Kama*, *Perek Ches* of *Mesechta Sanhedrin*, *Perek Gimmel* of *Bava Metziah*, and a few places in *Kesubos*, *Kiddushin*, and *Shevuos*.

RAMBAM :: Hilchos Geneivah

In today's Rambam, we start learning a new set of *halachos*, about *Geneivah* — stealing. There are going to be 9 *perakim* (so we will be learning this for the next 3 days) and they will teach us about not **stealing** (the first 6 *perakim*), **cheating** (the next 2 *perakim*), or **kidnaping** (the last *perek*). There are 7 *mitzvos* that *Hilchos Geneivah* will teach us about.

Perek Alef talks about what it means to steal. We are not allowed to steal ANYTHING, not even a tiny thing, and not from anyone — not from even a little kid! We aren't allowed to take their things for a joke, or even if we are planning on giving them back later!

Perek Beis explains the *halachos* of when someone does or doesn't need to pay the “*knas*” — double (like if he didn't tell the truth that he stole) or 5 times as much (like if he stole an animal and killed it).

In **Perek Gimmel** we learn *halachos* for the *Beis Din*, about when a person does something that might make him not have to pay the “*knas*” — like if he did an even bigger *aveira*, and needs to be punished for that instead; or if he admitted that he stole, so he doesn't need to pay back extra; or if he doesn't have money to pay.

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

Today we learn the *halachos* of when a witness is needed to decide if a woman needs to do *yibum* or *chalitzah* or not. For example, if a man says that he has no brothers, do we trust what he said?

INYANA D'YOMA :: Giving Tzedakah Like a Chossid

There is a story told about the Baal Shem Tov, that he used to give a lot of *tzedakah* — more than he could afford.

In Usha (one of the places where there was a big *yeshiva*), there was a *takana* made that you shouldn't be *mevazvez* (spend freely) more than 1/5th of your wealth on *tzedakah*.

The Baal Shem Tov was asked, how can you give more than the amount the *Chachomim* told you to?

The Baal Shem Tov answered, “*Mevazvez* comes from the word ‘*biza*,’ the spoils of a war. With a person who has to fight with himself to give, he shouldn't give more than a *chomeish*, 1/5th.

“But if someone enjoys giving, why is *tzedakah* different than any other pleasure, where a person can spend as much as he wants or needs?”

The Rebbe adds to this story, that this is even more true when we remember Hashem’s promise, that we can test Him with *tzedakah*. This will bring even more *simcha* and *taanug* into our giving, and we can give as much *tzedakah* as we want!

See *Likutei Sichos chelek Alef*, p. 169

TEFILLAH :: Hareini Mekabel

The *Chachomim* tell us that this long, long *Golus* came because of our *aveiros*, especially because of *Sinas Chinam*, hating another Jew for no reason.

While we fight the darkness of *Golus* by bringing light to the world, we also need to fight the *Golus* by taking away the reason for it! That way, the *Golus* will have no more reason to be there. We do this by strengthening our *Ahavas Yisroel*, loving every Jew just because he is a Jew!

In *davening*, we are going to ask Hashem to bring us the *Geulah*. We start off our *davening* by telling Hashem that the reason for the *Golus* is gone! We say *Hareini*, telling Hashem that we love every single Jew. This way, the reason for the *Golus* will go away, and Hashem will give us what we’re asking for — the *Geulah* for all of the Yidden!

See *Igros Kodesh chodesh Menachem Av 5724*

HALACHOS HATZRICHOS :: Netilas Yodayim

Over the next few days, we will learn some of the *halachos* of how to wash our hands properly before *Hamotzi*:

One *halacha* is that we need to use A LOT of water for *Netilas Yodayim*, to make sure that it reaches every part of our hands. R’ Chisda said that he used a lot of water, and because of this he received a lot of *bracha*!

(There are also *halachos* about exactly how to hold our hands, to make sure the water can reach every part of our hands properly.)

GEULAH U'MOSHIACH :: Tzedakah

The *Chachomim* tell us, “*Gedolah Tzedakah Shemekareves Es HaGeulah*.” “Great is *tzedakah*, which brings the *Geulah* closer.”

Why do the *Chachomim* say this only about the *mitzvah* of *tzedakah*, and not about other *mitzvos*? Don’t ALL *mitzvos* bring *Moshiach*?

The way to bring the *Geulah* is to take all of the pieces of *kedusha* that are hiding in *Gashmius’dike* things, and bring them to Hashem. We do this by using all of the *Gashmius’dike* things the way Hashem wants us to use them! When all of the Yidden take their part of *Gashmius* and use it for *kedusha*, that brings the *Geulah*!

Tzedakah does this better than any other *mitzvah*! With all other *mitzvos*, we only bring up the *kedusha* hiding in that specific body part, or that specific *Gashmius* thing we used for the *mitzvah*. For example, we use our hand to shake the *lulav* and *esrog*, or our nose to smell *besamim* on *Motzei Shabbos*.

But in order to earn the money to give *tzedakah*, we need to use SO many *kochos*, and SO many *Gashmius’dike*

things — and ALL of them become elevated to *kedusha* when we take from our hard-earned money and give it to *tzedakah*! That's why especially the *mitzvah* of *tzedakah* brings the *Geulah* faster, because it elevates more *Gashmius* to *kedusha* than any other *mitzvah* can!

See Tanya Perek Lamed-Zayin

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