Chitas for Wednesday, Parshas Vezos Habracha Erev Sukkos Yud-Daled Tishrei, 5785

ב״ה

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Mazel Tov Sima Raices (Shlucha in Scranton, PA) ~ 10th birthday Yud-Daled Tishrei ~ Shnas Bracha Vehatzlacha!

<u>CHUMASH</u> :: Parshas Vezos Habracha - Revi'i with Rashi

Moshe is giving the last brachos to the Yidden before he passes away:

Yissachar and **Zevulun** work together — Zevulun earns money so that Yissachar can learn Torah. Because Yissachar wouldn't be able to learn without Zevulun, Moshe gives Zevulun the *bracha* first!

Shevet Zevulun should be happy when they go out to work, and *Shevet Yissachar* should be happy when they sit and learn Torah. *Talmidei Chachomim* from *Shevet Yissachar* will learn all about the moon, and they will be the ones to decide when it's *Rosh Chodesh*, so all of the *korbanos* will be at the right times!

Zevulun will earn money by sailing big ships on the ocean and doing business with people from other lands. They will be the ones to get the Chilazon from the sea to dye the *Techeiles* (blue) strings of the *Tzitzis*! They will also make a *Kiddush Hashem* with the people they do business with, and many of them will come to the *Beis Hamikdash* and become Yidden. **Shevet Gad** lives on the other side of the Yarden, with non-Jews living right near them. Hashem should help them to be able to have even more land, and to be able to guard the border of Eretz Yisroel so that nobody can come in to fight with the Yidden. Moshe Rabbeinu will be buried in *Shevet Gad* (nobody knows EXACTLY where), so it will be a *zechus* for them.

Of course, Gad will do what they promised and fight in front of the other Yidden to get Eretz Yisroel!

<u>TEHILLIM</u> :: 72 - 76

In *Kapitel Ayin-Gimmel*, Dovid Hamelech says "**Beheimos Hayisi Imach**" — "I am like an animal with You," and in the next *posuk* "**Va'ani Tomid Imach**" — "I am always with You."

The Alter Rebbe explains in *Perek Mem-Vov* of *Tanya* that Dovid Hamelech put this in *Tehillim* with *Ruach Hakodesh* on behalf of the Yidden in *Golus*.

Tzadikim are able to feel and appreciate the *Ruchnius* that comes down when they do a *mitzvah*. But compared to them, we are like animals who have no idea what is happening!

Still, just because we don't appreciate it doesn't mean it isn't there! Hashem really IS with us when we do a *mitzvah*! Even if we don't understand or see the *Ruchnius* things that are happening, they still are there.

This is especially true now, as we go into the *Yom Tov* of *Sukkos*. We are told that every day of *Sukkos* we have special guests, both the regular *Ushpizin* and the *Chassidishe Ushpizin*. Even though we may not feel that they are coming to visit, it doesn't take away from the fact that these *tzadikim* are really here and celebrating *Sukkos* together with us.

See Igeres Hakodesh of the Frierdiker Rebbe, letter #3246

TANYA :: Igeres Hakodesh Siman Chof-Beis

Yesterday the Alter Rebbe told *Chassidim* not to come to him for *eitzos* in *Gashmiyus*. Today he explains why.

The *Goyim* get *chayus* from Hashem only because Hashem needs to give *chayus* to EVERYTHING in the world. But Yidden get *chayus* because Hashem loves Yidden and WANTS to give them *chayus*!

Hashem loves Yidden so much that if a Yid gets "dirty" from *aveiros*, Hashem will "clean" him. Sometimes this can hurt (like it can hurt if you need to scrub off dirt)!

Also, sometimes we might need to learn a lesson, and we learn it from something that happens that we don't like. But it is only from Hashem, and it's because Hashem loves us so much!

When something in *Gashmius* happens to us that we don't like, we shouldn't run to the Rebbe to save us! We should remember that it is from Hashem, and it is only happening because Hashem loves us.

So what should we do then? We will see the answer to this *IY*"H tomorrow!

HAYOM YOM :: Yud-Daled Tishrei

In today's Hayom Yom, we learn some of the Minhagei Chabad of how to prepare the Lulav and Esrog:

Our *Minhagim*: We only use 2 *Aravos*, but we can use many extra *Hadassim*! (There were many years when Rebbe used 36!)

Here's how we tie the *Lulav* and *Esrog*: We use five rings — two just on the *Lulav*, hiding a little bit from the *Hadassim* and *Aravos*, and 3 close together (within one *tefach* — about 3 inches) around the 3 *minim*.

It is a *hiddur mitzvah* to put the *Lulav* together on *Erev Yom Tov*, and in the *sukkah*!

SEFER HAMITZVOS :: Shiur #204 - Mitzvas Asei #113

Today's mitzvah is the same as yesterday's:

2) (*Mitzvas Asei #113*) It is a *mitzvah* to prepare the *Parah Adumah* so its ashes can be used to make Yidden *Tahor* from *Tumas Meis*.

We learn this mitzvah from a posuk in Parshas Chukas: וְהָיְהָה לַעֲדַת בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל לְמִשְׁמֶרֶת

There is a whole *mesechta* of *Mishnayos* that deals with the *dinim* of *Parah Adumah*, called *Mesechta Parah*.

RAMBAM :: Hilchos Parah Adumah

In today's Rambam, we learn more about getting the *Parah Adumah* ready:

Perek Hey: We learn who becomes *tomei* from working on burning the *Parah Adumah*. (They don't get *Tumas Meis*, but they are *tomei* for a day and need to go to the *mikvah* before they can go back into the *Beis Hamikdash*.)

Perek Vov: This *perek* explains where we can get the water to mix with the ashes of the *Parah Adumah*.

Perek Zayin: The Rambam teaches us things that can make the water *posul* while it is being filled up, like if someone is doing something else while the water is being filled.

RAMBAM- PEREK ECHAD :: Hilchos Korban Pesach - Perek Ches

We eat the *Korban Pesach* together with *matzah* and *maror*. We are only allowed to prepare it by roasting, and we can eat it only at night.

INYANA D'YOMA :: Mivtzoyim

Once in the city of Rostov, they couldn't get very many *Esrogim* for *Sukkos*. They only had one or two *Esrogim* for the whole town!

One person who was lucky enough to have an *Esrog*, shared it with everyone so that everyone could do the *mitzvah*. Of course, when a lot of people touch an *Esrog*, especially if they have wet hands (like if they went to the *Mikvah* before!) it makes the *Esrog* turn brown!

Someone came over to that Yid, and asked him why he was letting everyone use his *Esrog*. "Don't you know that the *mitzvah* is to have a beautiful *Esrog*? Why are you letting everyone use it and turn it brown?"

The Yid answered, "The most beautiful *Esrog* is one that is used by so many Yidden!"

Many people spend a lot of money on *Esrogim*, to buy one that is very beautiful. That is very nice and is certainly a *hiddur mitzvah*, but the REAL beauty of an *Esrog* is when we bring it on *mivtzoyim* and help so many Yidden who don't even know they need a *Lulav* and *Esrog*, so that they could do the *mitzvah*! THAT is when we have a real beautiful *Esrog*!

Are you ready for your mivtzoyim this Sukkos? How many Yidden are you planning on helping this year to do this special mitzvah?

TEFILLAH :: Amidah for Shalosh Regalim

On the *Shalosh Regalim*, including *Sukkos*, we don't say the regular *Shemoneh Esrei*. There is a special *Amidah* for the *Shalosh Regalim*.

The way it is set up is similar to Shabbos. There are three *brachos* at the beginning mentioning the praises of Hashem and the *zechus* of the *Avos*, three *brachos* at the end thanking and praising Hashem, and one *bracha* in the middle about the *inyan* of the *Yom Tov*.

We start the middle *bracha* with *Ata Vechartanu*. Before speaking about the special *Yom Tov*, we first speak about how Hashem chose US to give it to! We say that Hashem picked us to be His nation. Hashem loves us and wanted us specifically. Hashem raised us up above the other nations, made us holy with His *mitzvos*, and gave us the *zechus* to carry Hashem's name — to be HASHEM's nation.

We will IY"H see the rest of the middle bracha over the next two shiurim.

HALACHOS HATZRICHOS :: Erev Sukkos

On *Erev Sukkos*, there is an *inyan* to give a lot of *tzedakah*.

The Mitteler Rebbe writes in a *maamar*, "*Tzorich Lefazer Maos L'aniyim B'Erev Sukkos*" — "You should generously give money to the poor on *Erev Sukkos*."

There were many years when the Rebbe encouraged us to keep this special *minhag* of adding in giving extra *tzedakah* on *Erev Sukkos*, and also on *Chol Hamoed*.

See Shevach Hamoadim, Kitzur Hilchos Sukkos

GEULAH U'MOSHIACH :: Shabbos

The days before Shabbos are a preparation for Shabbos, and the *Zohar* says that Shabbos gives a *bracha* to all of the days of the week.

When we prepare so we can celebrate Shabbos properly, then the *kedusha* of Shabbos helps us in our *avodah* the rest of the week: We'll remember what the *gashmius* is really there for — to help us act the way Hashem wants! We'll be able to find Hashem in all of the *gashmius* things!

Golus is like the days of the week, and *Geulah* is like Shabbos. The times of the *Geulah* will be like one long Shabbos, and every Shabbos is a taste of the *Geulah*! When we celebrate Shabbos properly, we can also take the *chayus* of the *Geulah* and bring it with us into the rest of the week!

See Sefer Hasichos 5749 and 5751

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