

שבת

Vol. IV No. 2 Shabbat Parshat Pinchas



In Parshat Pinchas we read about the counting of the Jewish people in preparation for the division of Eretz Yisrael.

The Torah relates to us the story of the בנות צלפחד had died leaving no sons and his daughters wanted to be entitled to a portion of the land. They came to Moshe who didn't know the halacha and asked "וְיִצְרָח" what to do.

משה אה מעטשו לפני ה' "Rashi is bothered by the fact that Moshe didn't know the halacha. Didn't he learn all the halachot at Mt. Sinai? To answer this question, Rashi quotes a Gemara in Sanhedrin: "בְּתַעֲלֵמָה הִלְכָה מִמֶּנּוּ וְכֵן נִפְרַע עַל שֹׁטֵטל עֲטָרוֹ לְיוֹמָיו (דבריו א) וְהַדְבָר אֲשֶׁר יִקְרָא מִכֶּם תִּקְרִיבוּן אֵלַי."

The halacha was kept from him because he took honor for himself. When he was speaking to the judges and told them that they should ask him any question that they found too difficult to answer.

Reading this gemara we are faced with an obvious question. Was Moshe boasting when he said that they should ask him anything that was too difficult? Surely Moshe, the most humble person ever to live didn't seek to prove his superiority by telling the judges to ask him. But he shouldn't have even said those words, since they could be taken out of context as a boast.

We can learn two important lessons from this. The first is that no matter how good you are at something there is always room for improvement. Even Moshe, the most humble of all people was punished by G-d for not being humble enough. The same thing applies in many areas. Even the best ballplayers must constantly try to improve themselves in order to stay on top. It applies to learning as well. One can never say that he has learned enough. The wisest person is called a talmid Chacham, a wise student.

The other lesson to be learned is that a person should always be careful in what he says even if he thinks that he isn't saying anything wrong. We must be very careful not to speak Lashon Hara because the consequences may be very great. If we all try to do this it will help us have a nicer summer.

This is the first in a series of profiles of the Morasha kitchen personalities - the rest will be brought to you in the following weeks.

The Commander-in-Chief of our kitchen crew is Eli Benzaken (Ben Zak, Dr. Eli) is a vet of many years in the kitchen service. After leaving the caves of Morocco Ben Zak spent numerous years in Torah study at Gateshead in Jolly Old England (where he met his lovely wife, Leah, of the Machon kitchen) during which time he mastered painting and carpentry. Upon receiving his degree he came over to the U.S. of A. to develop his culinary skills. Dr. Eli has developed the theoretical principles of "from the bottom" (your waiter will explain) and southern fried salami. Benzaken's entire philosophy can be expressed in the phrase "I teach - you learn!"

Upcoming events will feature an Eggroll/Knish rolling contest for some divisions, the details of which will be forthcoming - Hold Tight!

---V.S., D.G., M.M., R.T.

A Thought for the Day: There are some people who make a bracha to eat and some people who eat to make a Bracha. In which category are you?

Yerushalaim -- Yael Schuck, Michelle Repp, and Lisa Preiss

Yerushalaim - What a beautiful city Because the city is so pretty When the Arabs take it, it's a real pity

In Yerushalaim there are many holy places. One very holy place is the Kotel. At the Kotel many people daven to Hashem. They especially go there to be closer to Hashem.

ירושלים -- Michelle Engelman

ירושלים עיר של אהבה

ירושלים עיר של קרובים

מפני שח' בוך אותה,

היא תמיד בנו את בית המקדש הרגוע

והמבליים אחריבו אותה, / הוהודים בנו

את בית המקדש השני בירושלים והרומאים

אחריבו אותה.

עכשו אנו מחכים שמעיד יבא ונלבונו נבא

לירושלים ונבנה את בית המקדש השלישי

The Power of Lashon Hara

---Suri Goldstein

The Chafetz Chaim used to travel from vil-
lage to village in Europe with his cart of
wares. When he arrived in the center of
the village he would attract the attention
of the entire town by shouting that he was
selling the magic potion for long life.
When the people flocked around him, begging
eagerly for the potion, he would give them
a slip of paper on which he had written:
"Who is the man that desires life? ...
'Guard your tongue from evil!'" Lashon
Hara kills three people - the speaker, the
listener, and the subject.

The subject of Lashon Hara is one which
people tend to avoid. It is a rare person
who is not guilty of this sin. One might
say that it is better for a person to sin
without realizing it, than to sin and know
that he is sinning (Shabbat 148b). However,
this principle does not apply to mitzvot
that are explicitly mentioned in the Torah.
How can we forget the punishment Miriam
received for speaking Lashon Hara? Lashon
Hara and שנאת חינם destroyed the
Second Bet HaMikdash. Evil speech is the
cause of hatred, disputes, and even blood-
shed. Until we correct the evil, we will
not be worthy of redemption.

Before speaking Lashon Hara we should con-
sider the consequences. When in doubt (if
its gossip) leave it out. Remember, if we
listen to Lashon Hara we are just as guilty
as the one speaking it. We should not re-
sent someone who informs us that we are
talking Lashon Hara - they are really doing
us a favor. Especially now, since its the
Three Weeks, at time to look back on our
actions and do Tshuva, we should make a
resolution to watch what we say.

I highly recommend the book Guard Your
Tongue, a practical guide to the laws of
Lashon Hara, based on the סמירת הלשון
of the Chafetz Chaim, and in turn, the
basis for this article. It is a book
everyone should read and constantly review.

Some Common Excuses of a Lashon Hara Addict

- 1. "But it's true" (The fact that it's true
defines it as Lashon Hara. Otherwise it
would be classified as Motzi Shem Ra).
- 2. "I didn't actually say anything bad
about the fellow" (when you have hinted at
a fault).

- 3. "I did the same thing myself."
- 4. "Everybody knows it."
- 5. "I'd say it even if he (she) were here."
- 6. "I was only joking."
- 7. "He'll never know about it."
- 8. "I wouldn't mind if someone said that
about me."
- 9. "We're close friends so he won't mind."

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The Three Weeks

---Suri Goldstein

The twenty-one days between the seventeenth
of Tamuz and the ninth of Av are called
בין המצרים - "Between the Fences,"
as it is written in Eichah, "All her pursuers
caught her between the fences." The חמשים
say these are the days of affliction (a
play of words מצרים - צרה)
On these days many tragedies occurred to the
Jewish people. Both the first and the second
Bet HaMikdash were destroyed. During these
weeks, one does not recite the blessing of
ברכה on a new fruit or on new clothes.
(except on Shabbat). Marriages are not held,
rejoicing is limited, and we refrain from
hair cutting. On the Shabbatot of the
Three Weeks, we read פסוקי שבת
In these, the prophet predicts destruction
if the Jewish people do not improve their
ways and do Tshuva.

(Based on the Book of our Heritage by Kitov)
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ירושלים
---גיסה גלמן

כאשר אני באתי לירושלים העיר היתה
מלאה אור. אני בטעתי לירושלים לבר
מצוה ואני חשבתי שבר מצוה זה בר מצוה
אבל כאשר הבן דוד שלי חבט את התפילין
זה היל' עם אור, וזה היל' בר מצוה
צבוינ].

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Kibbutz Galuyot

On Tuesday, July 5th, the LTP had a one day
Kibbutz Galuyot. The four teams, Mizrach,
Kadmon, Dovid, and Shalom represented four
different time periods and aspects in the
history of Yerushalaim. You'll notice that
the initials of the four teams spell out the
word MiKDaSh, the central focal point of the
city and of our history. Turn the page for
two of the team songs. Mizrach Team were
the grand winners.

LTP Kibbutz Galuyot - Team Dovid
To the tune of: "לא עליך"

ממלכת דוד מטלה על יהודה
לפני אלפי שנים
כבוד, אחדות, יראה, ואמונה
היו עקרי החיים
באו אויבים וטרפו ציון ומקדשנו
פזרו אותנו בגלות
אסור, בבל, אדום, רומא, עינו את
נפשותינו
עטוננוכה בהתרגשות

שיבנה בית המקדש שיבנה
במהרה בימינו שיבנה

We fought for our homeland throughout the
years

Israel is now in our hands *

ביאת משיח בן דוד היא תקותינו
מקצות תבל נגאל

* Blood was spilled, we shed our tears
To regain our promised land.

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Baseball Standings

(As of Tuesday, July 5, 1977)

American League

Eastern Division

	W.	L.	%	GB
New York	45	35	.563	-
Boston	42	34	.553	1
Baltimore	44	36	.550	1
Cleveland	37	38	.493	5½
Milwaukee	38	40	.487	6
Detroit	36	42	.462	8
Toronto	30	48	.385	14

Western Division

Chicago	45	32	.584	-
Minnesota	43	36	.544	3
Kansas City	41	36	.532	4
California	38	37	.507	6
Texas	37	40	.481	8
Oakland	34	43	.442	11
Seattle	35	48	.422	13

National League

Eastern Division

Chicago	48	29	.623	-
Philadelphia	44	32	.579	3½
St. Louis	43	36	.544	6
Pittsburgh	41	37	.526	7½
Montreal	37	32	.468	12
New York	31	47	.397	17½

(continued)

LTP Kibbutz Galuyot - Team Mizrach
To the tune of: "Blowin in the Wind"

How many years must the Jews be dispersed
In every country and land
And for how many years must we be insecure
Until as a people we stand
Yes, and how many times must we fight with
our foes
Before we can put down our guns

The answer my friend lies BaMizrach
The answer lies BaMizrach

How many wars must Israel fight
'Till the Arabs leave her alone
And how many years must we give her support
Until she can stand on her own
How many young men must we lose
And how many widows must cry

The answer...

How many times must we look to the East
Although we remain in the West
Through how many wars must we anxiously wait
To hear that our land is at rest

איכה אטלם נדרי ואטרי
אם ציון בחבל אדום

The answer...

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(continued)

Western Division

Los Angeles	54	26	.675	-
Cincinnati	42	35	.545	10½
Houston	36	44	.450	18
San Francisco	34	47	.420	20½
San Diego	33	49	.402	22
Atlanta	30	49	.380	23½

These baseball standings were taken from
the New York Times.

We're much more interested, however, in
the sports at Camp Morasha. Please write
for the Shalhevet and let us know what's
happening on your campus or in your divi-
sion. We'd like to be able to devote the
back page of every issue to Sports News.

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Classified

GIRLS WATERFRONT BEATS BOYS WATERFRONT TO
THE DELEWARE!

Brain Tickler

This is a quiz to test your knowledge of some interesting subjects. Please submit your answers to the Shalhevet office or your counselor by midnight Monday. Prizes will be awarded to all who receive perfect scores. Answers will be published in next week's issue.

1. Brass is composed of:
 - a. copper and iron
 - b. copper and zinc
 - c. iron and tin
2. Lucy Stone became famous for advocating that:
 - a. women retain their maiden names
 - b. women go into business
 - c. women propose to men
3. "The Star Spangled Banner" was written in:
 - a. 1776
 - b. 1812
 - c. 1814
4. G.I., an American soldier, is short for:
 - a. General Issue
 - b. Grand Infantryman
 - c. Government Institution
5. The earth's surface is covered with what percentage of water?
 - a. 20%
 - b. 40%
 - c. 70%
6. The president shown on the \$20 bill is:
 - a. Thomas Jefferson
 - b. Andrew Jackson
 - c. Abraham Lincoln
7. The first man to invent a thermometer:
 - a. Galileo
 - b. Farenheit
 - c. Lister
8. A Portugese man-of-war is:
 - a. a boastful commander
 - b. a stinging jellyfish
 - c. an Iberian destroyer
9. Ann Rutledge is famous as:
 - a. a famous nurse
 - b. the first suffragette
 - c. Lincoln's sweethart
10. Stars and Bars is:
 - a. candy bar
 - b. 19th century operetta
 - c. Confederate Flag

Morasha Mystery by A.T.

Readers - Contrary to common belief, all previous stories I have written have been original. If I would have taken any ideas from other sources I would have stated so as I am doing now. This is my version of a story by Alfred Hitchcock.

The battered figure lay stretched out on the hospital bed. Detective Howell asked again and again, "Who did it? Who did it?" But all the man could say was, "Law..., Law..." obviously trying to name the attacker. The man was Ira Marshall, partner of a large business corporation. He was hosting a business meeting at his home. His business partner, Lawrence Waulk found Marshall beaten badly in the hallway of his home and brought him to the hospital.

Howell arrived at Marshall's home and consulted the sergeant. "Who else besides Marshall was at the meeting and where were they at the time of the attack?" asked Howell. The sergeant answered: "Besides the maid and the butler who were both in the room with Waulk at the time of the assault, there was a Sarah Davis who was Marshall's secretary, who said she was upstairs at the time. Besides Johnny Rhoades, Marshall's attorney, who said he was in the kitchen at the time, there were Bert Lawrenson, Marshall's accountant, Steven D. Klein and Jaque E. Fadnt who are top executives in Marshall's firm. Out of those only Bert Lawrenson is accounted for," Howell concluded.

"Thank you, Sergeant. With your information I have just ruled out my two primary suspects. I don't think we have too much of a problem here. The assailant, obviously, is _____?"

Put on your Sherlock Holmes hats and submit your answer to the Shalhevet office. The mystery will be solved in our next issue.

Useful Information

תלמידי תורה
 הדלקת נרות: 7:20
 סוף זמן קריאת שמע: 8:20
 הבדלה: 8:28