



July 1, 1994  
פרשת פינחס



WELCOME TO CAMP

Welcome to Camp Morasha. We look forward to an exciting and fun-filled 1994 camp season. We are delighted to see many old-time and devoted staff members back again this summer and we're happy to meet all the new staff members who have joined us too. We're especially excited to see all the new faces on the Ed Staff and look forward to many inspiring sheurim from them.

Welcome to the new Assistant Head Counselor for Boys - Sandi Feld. Greetings to all new Division Heads and all Division Heads in new positions. Kudos to Vivian Rosenberg, the new head of Day Camp for starting off the Day Camp season with such enthusiasm and energy. We're sure our Day Campers will have a great summer. Welcome to all counselors and Machon. Most importantly, welcome to all our campers. We hope everyone has a great summer.

REMINDER TO STAFF AND MACHON:

Oneg Shabbat Friday night at the Pargod - 10:15 PM. Guest speaker will be Dr. Bernard Weinstein, husband of our Ed staff member, Sora Weinstein, who will speak on psychotherapy and the Chofetz Chaim.

MINI ROVING REPORTER

Question: What do you like most about camp before the season begins?

Rabbi Dovid Wadler: Zush's full attention.

Anonymous: Being able to go on girls' campus.

Chani Schwartz, G-8: Being able to spend the day with my parents.

Amir Shavitzky: No campers.

Alex Razumovskiy: Laying down all day.

Alan Pelikow: The ability to communicate with Roving Reporters without being interrupted by campers.

Elisheva Wadler: Being able to go shopping.

TANACH TRIVIAL PURSUIT

RULES: Answers should be returned in writing to the library by Tuesday. Please include your name, bunk or position in camp. All weekly winners will be published in next week's SHALHEVET and included in a drawing at the end of the summer for a prize.

- 1) Name 3 warriors in Sefer Shoftim whose downfall came at the hands of a woman.
- 2) Who was the only nation that made peace with Yehoshua?
- 3) Who was the 2nd king of Israel?
- 4) How old was Yosef when he died?
- 5) Which book of Tanach has only 1 chapter?
- 6) What is the longest perek in all of Tanach?
- 7) Which Navi saw Eliyahu disappear into the heavens?
- 8) Which 3 seforim did Shlomo Hamelech write?
- 9) When Elimelech and Naomi left Israel in a famine with their sons, which country did they head for?
- 10) Who was the last king of Israel?



TORAH THOUGHTS  
By: Rabbi Allen Schwartz

Sefer Bamidbar is replete with stories of Bnei Yisrael's rebelliousness. They complained about water, about the manna, about Israel, about Moshe and Aharon. Each of these acts of rebelliousness was met with swift punishment from Hashem. Yet, through it all, in Parshat Balak, Hashem makes it clear that we are nonetheless a blessed nation. Yet, our rebelliousness continued with the daughters of Midian and even a prince of Israel committed an act of indecency in front of the Ohel Moed. Hashem's anger would have been too much to bear if this latest rebellion had not been staved off by the young Pinchas, son of the Kohen Gadol. Pinchas pierced both Zimri, prince of the tribe of Shimon, and Kosbi, a princess of Midian and killed them both, and a devastating plague was avoided.

The role of the Kohen is to be a vehicle for the blessing of peace to the world. "V'Yasem Lecha Shalom." His special blessing concludes. This blessing of peace required an inner harmony in the Kohen. If the Kohen cannot muster up this inner harmony he may not "duchen." This applies to a mourner or to one who killed inadvertently. (Some poskim allow in the latter case for a Kohen to duchen if he repents from his negligence.) They would not be in the proper frame of mind to serve as a vehicle for G-d's beneficence.

It is for this reason, says the Netziv, that after performing his act, Pinchas was bestowed a covenant of peace from Hashem. Even though Pinchas acted with good intentions, his inner sense of harmony was bound to be jarred by his actions. Only Hashem's intervention would allow him to continue to function as a Kohen.

The Netziv makes a similar point in Parshat Re'eh regarding the Ir Hanidachat, a city given over to idolatry which must be destroyed. After fulfilling this command, the destroyers are granted a blessing of mercy by the Torah. This blessing, too, is meant to be a guarantee that the Israelites performing Hashem's will in such a difficult Mitzvah, would not lose their sense of inner harmony.

Yaakov Avinu also expressed this sentiment when meeting his brother in Parshat Vayishlach. The Torah says "Vayira, Vayetzer Lo." He was afraid and troubled. Chazal explain this double expression as follows and Rashi records it in his Perush: Vayira - lest he be killed, Vayetzer Lo- lest he kill.

The same sentiment was eloquently presented before the UN by Golda Meir when she said: "If I can forgive the Arabs for killing my boys, I can't forgive them for making my boys kill."

The Netziv's comments point us in the same direction of a higher sensitivity to peace and mercy in the performance of Hashem's will and in our pursuit of inner harmony to be better able to continue serving Hashem's will.



# SHALHEVET SPECIAL FOR THE

## THREE WEEKS

During the summer months of *Tamuz* and *Av*, we remember the greatness enjoyed by our people when the *Bais Hamikdosh* still stood . . . and we remember the cruelty of the bloodthirsty people who destroyed the *Bais Hamikdosh*, murdered countless thousands of Jews, and exiled our people. Let's look back to those days.

### THE CHILDREN OF YERUSHALAYIM

Of all the splendors of ancient Yerushalayim, none was more remarkable than its children. Their knowledge and quick wits were world famous.

Once a citizen of Athens, Greece arrived in Yerushalayim. He met a child, gave him a few coins and said, "With this money, buy me something to eat, but it must be enough for a meal with some left over to take back to my hotel room."

In a few minutes the child returned with some salt.

Surprised, the Greek asked, "Did I ask you for salt?"

The child answered, "You wanted to be content and have some left over. I am sure there is more salt here than you can eat — so you are certain to have some left over."



### FOR THESE I WEEP

Aspasianus, the Roman general, sent three shiploads of Jewish captives to Rome. They were great sages and Aspasianus wanted them to become slaves to the pleasure-seeking people of Rome.

The sages said to one another, "Is it not enough that we angered Hashem in the

Holy Land? Must we be forced to sin in foreign lands as well?"

They decided to jump overboard into the sea and drown rather than go to Rome. They wondered, however, "Will we have a share in the world to come if we kill ourselves?"

A heavenly voice answered, "I will even bring you back to Me from the shadowy depths of the sea."



The sages on the first ship said, "It is bad enough that we did not serve Hashem properly; we will not allow the Romans to force us to serve their false gods." Saying that, they jumped into the sea. Those on the second ship said, "Hashem, we allow ourselves to be killed for Your sake." Then, they too jumped overboard. The third group jumped, saying, "Hashem will find out our reasons for doing this because He knows the secrets of the heart."

Then a voice was heard from heaven. It said, "It is for these people that I weep."

### THE FEAST OF THE WICKED

After the *Churban* (destruction of the Temple), many Jews managed to escape with their lives and go into hiding in the mountains of Yehudah. Andarianus, the Roman governor, ordered his troops to find them. The soldiers travelled up and down Judea calling out, "Wherever there is a Jew, let him come out of hiding; and the king will personally make a promise to him."

Many Jews were foolish enough to believe them, and they came out of hiding. The emerging Jews were taken prisoners

and marched off to headquarters where they found vicious Andarianus busily eating a meal. The governor showed why he was one of the most hated people who ever lived.

"By the time I finish eating the wing of this dove and a piece of cake, I want every one of these prisoners to be dead."

Immediately, the soldiers began the slaughter.

Meanwhile, a heavenly voice called out, "It is for these that I cry."

### NO SALE

During the siege of Yerushalayim, the Romans surrounded the Holy City and allowed no one to go in or out. Only for a very high price did they agree to sell food to the besieged Jews. From inside the walls of the city, the people would lower a basket full of gold. The greedy Romans would take the gold and fill the baskets with wheat. As time went by, the Romans stopped giving wheat and gave barley instead.

After this went on for a while, the Romans decided to starve the Jews into defeat. The next morning, the basket full of gold was lowered. The gold was removed, and the basket was filled and pulled up over the wall. The hungry Jews looked inside and found that their enemies had filled it with straw! Unable to find any food, the unfortunate Jews cooked the straw and drank the water. Before long, the baskets were pulled up and found to be completely empty. Soon the defenders of the city were too weak to fight and the final attack was about to begin.

