



THE BAIS YISROEL SHABBOS OBSERVER

PARSHAS SHEMINI
28 NISSAN 5785 | 4.26.2025

Dvar Torah from the Rav

Harav Yechezkel Greenberg

“GMAIL.COM” OR “GMAILCOM”: WHO CARES?

This week the Torah teaches the laws pertaining to kosher food. The **Kli Yakar**, in a discussion about the bad Middos (character traits) that non-kosher animals display, concludes by noting that even though the concept of bad Middos doesn't really apply to animals, even so, those Middos can be acquired by one who eats those animals.

In fact, this is one explanation of the prohibition against eating non-kosher food. The **Sefer Hachinuch** (Mitzva 73 & 147) writes that the Guf (physical body) is a vessel for the Neshama (soul), with which it (the Neshama) achieves the fulfillment of its purpose in this world. Depending on the level of purity and good nature of the body, the Guf can understand (through the Neshama) the wisdom that it has acquired and follow its directives. Therefore, it is of paramount importance to keep one's physical body healthy, and the body is affected by the food one eats, which in turn will influence the Neshama. That is why the Torah warned us to keep away from any food that will be harmful to the Guf.

One must take pause and think: If this is true for the Gashmiyus (physicality) that we intake, certainly the Mitzvos (actions) that we do greatly impact us. **Nefesh Hachaim** is an entire Sefer written by R' Chaim Volozhiner devoted to explaining how our every action affects the goings-on in this mundane world and in the spiritual upper worlds. We are approaching Rosh Chodesh Nissan, the day on which (back in the year 2448, when Klal Yisrael were on the verge of leaving Mitzrayim) Hashem changed the entire direction of the world to be governed by our actions. The **Chofetz Chaim** (Sefer Shmiras Halashon, Sha'ar HaTorah Perek 7) writes strongly about those who feel that since they won't become big Talmidei Chachamim (Torah scholars) anyway, there's no purpose in bothering to learn to the best of their ability. This is a terrible mistake. Torah is not just the tool to become a Rov or Rosh Yeshiva. Torah is the guidebook by which we live. There are myriad details to the many Mitzvos that we do, and one who doesn't endeavor to learn and master all the Mitzvos that he must fulfill will most certainly make mistakes and not do things correctly. The positive effect that his actions *can* have on the world may be lost forever because he was lax in mastering the details.

The following circulated story brings out this point very poignantly:

During a Q&A session at a campus J-Soc meeting with the student chaplain an undergraduate asked the Rabbi, "Why does the Jewish religion seem to obsess over insignificant details? For example - how much matza do we have to eat, or which spoon did I use for milk and which for meat or what is the right way to tie my shoelaces? It seems to me that this misses the bigger picture by focusing on minutiae. Is this nitpicking what Jews call spirituality?"

Getting a round of applause for his questions, the student pressed home his attack. "Actually, I already emailed you this question over a week ago and didn't receive a reply. Could it be that you have finally been asked a question that you can't answer?"

However, the young student chaplain seemed unfazed by these questions. "I never claimed to have all the answers. There are many questions that are beyond me. But it happens to be that I did answer your question, and you did get the answer. I sent a reply immediately. The fact that you didn't

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APRIL 27TH • IN THE BAIS MEDRASH @ BAIS YISROEL

10:30 am Session 1
Refresher | Review of Halachos

12:00 pm Light Lunch
With Mrs. Miriam Jaffe

12:30 pm Session 2
Shalom Bayis | Living Happily Ever After

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Zmanim

Fri, Erev Shabbos, Parshas Shemini, April 25

Shacharis 6:30, **7:25** & 8:30 AM

Early Mincha 6:30 PM, CL 6:44-7:00 PM

Reg Mincha 7:55 PM, CL 7:53 PM

Shabbos Mevarchim, April 26

Shacharis 8:30 AM

Latest Shema (MG"A/GR"A) 9:04/ 9:40

Latest Shemona Esrei (GR"A) 10:50

Bnos resumes! 3:00-4:00 PM

Avos Ubanim resumes! 5:45 PM

1st Mincha 6:45 PM

Pirkei Avos, Rabbi Chaim S. Gibber 7:10 PM

Learning for 7th grade with Rabbi Stoll 7:10 PM

Mincha 7:45 PM

Shabbos Over 9:04 PM

Sunday, April 27

Shacharis 7:00 & 8:30 AM

1st Mincha 2:00 PM

Mincha/Maariv 8:00 PM

2nd Maariv 9:15 PM

Mon-Tues, April 28-29

Rosh Chodesh Iyar

Shacharis 6:30 & 8:30 AM

Mincha/Maariv 8:00 PM

2nd Maariv 9:15 PM

Wed-Thurs, April 30-May 1

1st Shacharis 6:30 AM

NEW! Starting Wed. Daily M-F:

2nd Shacharis (in the Bais Medrash) **7:20 AM**

3rd Shacharis 8:30 AM

Mincha/Maariv 8:00 PM

2nd Maariv 9:15 PM

Fri, Erev Shabbos, Parshas Tazria-Metzora, May 2

Shacharis 6:30, **7:20** & 8:30 AM

Early Mincha 6:35 PM, CL 6:50-7:05 PM

Reg Mincha 8:05 PM, CL 8:02 PM

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receive it is itself the answer to your question.”

The students all looked bewildered, so the Rabbi continued, “You see, I sent you a reply, but I wrote your email address leaving out the ‘dot’ before the ‘com.’ I figured that you should still receive the email, because after all, it is only one little dot missing. I mean, come on; it’s not as if I wrote the wrong name or something drastic like that! Would anyone be so nitpicky as to differentiate between ‘gmailcom’ and ‘gmail.com?’ Isn’t it a bit ridiculous that you didn’t get my email just because of a little dot?”

“No, it’s not ridiculous, because the dot is not just a dot. It represents something. That dot has meaning far beyond the pixels on the screen that form it. To me it may seem insignificant, but that is simply due to my ignorance of the ways of the web. All I know is that with the dot, the message gets to the right destination; without it, the message is lost to oblivion.

“Jewish practices have infinite depth. Each detail contains a world of symbolism. Every dot counts. When Mitzvos are performed with precision, a spiritual vibration is emailed throughout the universe, all the way to G-d’s inbox.

“If you want to understand the symbolism of the dot, study I.T. If you want to understand the symbolism of Judaism, study it.”

Let us focus on perfecting all the details of our actions and in this way, we will certainly make our world a better place.

News

Mazel Tov to **Rabbi & Mrs. Michael & Esti Atias** on the birth of a baby boy.

Mazel Tov to **Mr. & Mrs. Eli & Abby Hirsch** on the birth of twins, a boy & girl. Mazel Tov to the grandparents **Mr. & Mrs. Alex & Alina Portnoy**.

Mazel Tov to **Mr. & Mrs. Naftali & Faigy Weinberg** on the birth of a baby boy, and to the grandparents **Mr. & Mrs. Chaim Eliyahu & Tzippy Weinberg** and to the great-grandmother **Mrs. Debbie Weinberg**.

Mazel Tov to **Rabbi & Mrs. Simcha & Faigy Borenstein** on the birth of a baby boy, and to the grandparents **Rabbi & Mrs. Yehoshua & Racheli Borenstein**.

Mazel Tov to **Rabbi & Mrs. Yossi & Fraidy Cohen** on the birth of a baby boy, and to the grandparents **Rabbi & Mrs. Aryeh & Adina Cohen**.

Mazel Tov to **Rabbi & Mrs. Dovid & Gitty Fredman** on **Moshe’s** engagement to **Liba Garfinkel** of Atlanta/Eretz Yisrael.

Mazel Tov to **Rabbi & Mrs. Dovid & Chaya Miriam Weinberg** on the Bar Mitzva of their son, **Chaim Yaakov**. Mazel Tov to the grandparents **Rabbi & Mrs. Moshe & Chaya Rena Weinberg** and to the great-grandmother **Mrs. Debbie Weinberg**.

Please save your Pesach Halacha book as it also contains Halachos of Sefiras Ha’omer.

Please note: There is a link to the post-Pesach shopping guide provided by AKO in the weekly Shul email.

The women’s Summer Shabbos Shiurim will be starting next Shabbos May 3.

Camp Achim Jr

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 thru
AUGUST 08

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 thru
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CONGREGATION
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THURSDAY NIGHT MISHMAR

8:15 - 9:00 PM

Bring a chavrusa or join a shiur
Chumash Shiur: Rabbi Idstein
Hilchos Muktza: R' Eli Markowitz
Daf Yomi: Rabbi Spiro
Daf Hashavua Chazara Group

BAIS YISROEL WISHES YOU A GOOD SHABBOS!