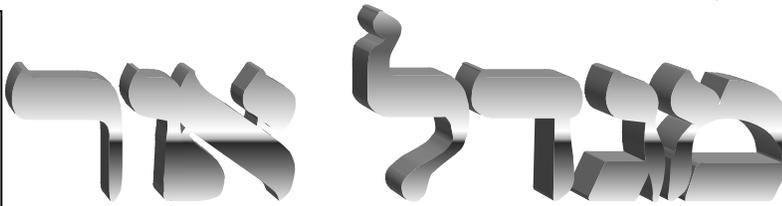


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This issue sponsored I'llui nishmas חנה פרידה בת הרב ישע"ע"ה
Chana Frieda Lazarus obm
of Staten Island, NY
Who leaves behind a large family dedicated to following her example of living as a Jew. - *Yehi zichra baruch.*

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A publication dedicated to Harbotzas Torah

Zmanim for שבת

Wesley Hills, NY

- 4:09 - הדלקת נרות
- 4:27 - שקיעה
- 8:47 - זק"ש מ"א
- 9:31 - זק"ש גר"א
- 10:17 - סוף זמן תפילה
- 4:28 - שקיעה
- 5:14* - צאת הכוכבים
- 5:41 - צאת 72

* Based on Emergence of 3 Stars
Times courtesy of MyZmanim.com

Did You Know?

Yosef was famously thrown into a pit that had no water. As Rashi tells us, not only was the pit devoid of life-giving water, but it was populated with animals whose bites and stings cause pain and death.

There is an expression, "Nature abhors a vacuum." This verse could be a source for that axiom.

The Vilna Gaon says that this posuk should serve as a warning for parents. Water is a common parable for Torah. Both are essential for life, one for physical existence, the other also necessary for spiritual and eternal life.

When there is no Torah, says the Gaon, the mind will, as a matter of course, be filled with other things; distractions that are not only worthless, but harmful!

Therefore, parents should make sure to fill their children's minds with Torah so they do not succumb to the poison of the world around them.

The Greeks knew this. On Chanuka we celebrate salvation, but the Greeks didn't try to murder us. Instead, they tried to make us forget the holy Torah, knowing that if we did that, destruction would come on its own.

We can also see this as a lesson for positivity. When we do not constantly fill our mouths and minds with positive words and thoughts, we will become overwhelmed with the poison of negativity. This, too, is a valuable lesson for children and adults alike.

Always be involved with good things in life, or you run the risk that the inevitable bad will fill the void and poison every moment.

Thought of the week:

A fool learns from his mistakes. The wise man learns from the mistakes of others.

"וישב יעקב בארץ מגורי אביו בארץ כנען... וישראל אהב את יוסף מכל בניו..." (בראשית לז:א-ג)

"And Yaakov dwelled in the land of his father's sojournings, in the land of Canaan... And Yisrael loved Yosef more than all his sons..." (Beraishis 37:1-3)

Despite the fact that Avraham lived in a tent, not a house, and that Yitzchak treated this world as a place he was just passing through, Yaakov sought to "live" and be settled in the land of Canaan. Chazal say this desire for physical permanence was the source of the troubles Yaakov had with Yosef being sold. Somehow, the lesson of his father, that this world is so transitory that one should not invest much effort in it, was lost.

However, there was a lesson that Yaakov DID learn from his father very well. He learned how to favor one child over another. While Yitzchak undoubtedly had his reasons for showing favoritism to Esav, it is not a good parenting idea and can lead to disastrous results. Yaakov became so used to it that to him it seemed to be normal and expected.

In the case of Yaakov and his children, the favoritism shown to Yosef elicited hatred, discord, and irreconcilable differences. Even when Yaakov tried to backtrack later when Yosef had his dreams of rising to power, and Yaakov dismissed them for the benefit of the brothers, it was too late. He had put his children through what he had gone through, but missed a very key step.

Though Yaakov had gone through the same favoritism and was able to shape and mold his character by recognizing that Yitzchak truly loved him but was doing what he felt Esav needed, his children were not able to do the same. What Yaakov failed to teach his children was how to deal with the situation themselves and how to respond to their feelings.

Because it came naturally to him, he assumed it would come naturally to his children. It did not, and Yaakov suffered twenty-two years of anguish because of it. His children suffered even more. Yaakov should have seen that the shvatim were different than he and guided them in dealing with their feelings. The lessons he taught them were the ones that had a powerful impact on him, but not necessarily the ones they needed to learn.

For Yitzchak, living a life detached from physicality may have worked and come naturally, but it did not come as naturally to Yaakov. That's why he sought to "live" in the place his father was merely "passing through." Once again, we see that a father who felt the knowledge he had would come to his children automatically failed to convey important ideas and skills to his child, and this led to pain and anguish.

As parents, one of the greatest gifts we can give our kids is the benefit of our knowledge of how to view life and cope with adversity. We do our children a disservice by subjecting them to the same challenges that we faced without giving them the tools to deal with those challenges. We must set a good example of how we deal with trying times properly, so they do not falter and succumb to hatred, anger, and other detrimental feelings.

By teaching them what "comes naturally" to us, we allow them to stand on our shoulders and reach great heights. If we only teach them what we went through, they can end up even more lost than we were, without the proper moral compass to guide them.

When R' Dovid Liebowitz z"l, Rosh Yeshiva of Yeshivas R' Yisrael Meir HaKohen, had to fundraise in the 1930's, he took a close pupil, young Abba Zalka Gewirtz, with him to Miami. There, they visited a wealthy man who basically threw them out like a couple of bums. R' Abba Zalka was incensed. "Rebbi!" he exclaimed. "Is this kavod haTorah (respect for Torah)?"

R' Dovid smiled and said, "There was a great Navi called Yechezkel ben Buzi. Buzi was not his family name, but an expression linked to the word 'bizayon,' embarrassment. When we accept embarrassment in the course of our efforts for the glory of Torah, we join that exalted family of ben Buzi, those willing and able to put the honor of HaShem first. And THAT is great kavod haTorah."

This is a lesson R' Abba Zalka put to good use as he raised tens of millions of dollars for Torah the next 75+ years, always putting the mission of raising the banner of Torah before his own honor.