



MESSAGE FROM THE RAV

Dear Chevra

Welcome to our minyan. We hope that you had a successful week and wish you a spiritually rejuvenating Shabbat.

An essential character trait (מדה) to be acquired is that of humility. The Mishna in Avoda Zara 20b, upon which מסילת ישרים is based, lists ענוה as the very trait that directly precedes the acquiring of רוח הקודש:

מכאן אמר רבי פנחס בן יאיר: תורה מביאה לידי זהירות, זהירות מביאה לידי זריזות, זריזות מביאה לידי נקיות, נקיות מביאה לידי פרישות, פרישות מביאה לידי טהרה, טהרה מביאה לידי חסידות, חסידות מביאה לידי ענוה, ענוה מביאה לידי רוח הקדש, רוח הקדש מביאה לידי תחיית המתים.

Being given the opportunity to become a leader can easily lead to גאווה – pride. In addition, after being in a position for a long period of time, we know that we become worn down and used to the situation that we find ourselves in. This includes rising to spiritual greatness and therefore the Mishna warns us not to let our situation “get to our heads” and fill ourselves with pride. Rather, we have to maintain humility at all costs.

Our parsha teaches of Aharon’s being commanded to light the Menorah and his fulfilling his commandment. Why do we have to be told that Aharon fulfilled the commandment? Isn’t it obvious that one of the greatest people who ever existed obviously would have fulfilled the commandment of Hashem? To complicate matters further, Rashi says: יעש כן אהרן - להגיד שבחו של אהרן

שלא שינה – This is to tell Aharon’s praise in that he didn’t change (anything from what he was commanded). Is there any reason to think that Aharon would have deviated from Hashem’s commandment even in the slightest? What is Rashi coming to teach us?

Rabbi Eliezer Chysler brings Rebbi Meir from Premishlan who explains that, when Aharon performed the Avoda, no external change could be seen on his exterior. Any such signs of ecstasy might have been rooted in pride (at his exalted position), or at least in others perceiving it to be rooted in pride. So Aharon made a point of serving Hashem with his פנימיות aflame, but with no sign of this fire visible on the outside. He also brings the Sfat Emet who explains that, in addition, Aharon’s excitement at lighting the Menorah never wore down, not even after many years. It was as fresh and invigorating as the first day he lit it.

How do we attain this level? How do we maintain the excitement of our Judaism at every moment? A suggested answer has been: Fake it till you make it. I would like to suggest a better solution based on the separate sefer that appears in our parsha - וַיְהִי בִּנְסֹעַ הָאָרֶן - וַיֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁה, קוּמָה הַ יְיָ וְיִפְצוּ אֹיְבֵיךָ, וְיִגְסוּ מִשְׁנֵאֵיךָ מִפְּנֵיךָ. When the Aron went in front of the Jewish People, Moshe called on Hashem to arise and destroy His enemies, and those that hate Him will flee. When we have the Aron and Sefer Torah as the guiding light that goes out in front of us and keeps us in the situation and mindset of לנגדי תמיד then we are guaranteed to not only succeed in all our endeavours, but more so – to instill our every moment with קדושה.

שבת שלום
רב שמואל וטליה

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"NO ONE CAN MAKE YOU FEEL INFERIOR WITHOUT YOUR CONSENT."
ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

KIDDUSH IS IN HONOR OF
MICHAEL SIMONS AND
MICHAL OPPENHEIM'S
UPCOMING WEDDING.
THE LATE MINYAN IS WISHING
MICHAEL, MICHAL
AND THEIR FAMILIES
MAZAL TOV AND MANY
YEARS OF HAPPINESS





QUESTION OF THE WEEK

I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHAT THE DEGREE OF KNOWLEDGE OF THE HEBREW LANGUAGE ONE MUST HAVE IS IN ORDER TO DAVEN IN HEBREW. I UNDERSTAND THAT ONE CAN DAVEN IF ONE CAN READ HEBREW, BUT IS IT ENOUGH IF ONE KNOWS ALL THE LETTERS, BUT IS UNSURE OF WHETHER THEY ARE PRONOUNCING THE WORDS CORRECTLY AND READS THEM SLOWLY? ALSO, WHAT ABOUT THE CASE WHEN ONE READS CERTAIN WORDS WITH ASHKENAZI AND OTHERS WITH SEPHARDIC PRONUNCIATION?

TEFILLA IN HEBREW IS HALACHIKLY VALID EVEN IF YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND A WORD YOU SAY; ACCORDING TO SOME AUTHORITIES IT IS EVEN BETTER (SHULCHAN ARUCH OC 101:4; YABIA OMER 5 OC 12). THOUGH, IT IS OBVIOUSLY BETTER TO UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU ARE SAYING. TO THAT DEGREE, ONE SHOULD STRIVE TO LEARN THE MEANING OF THE TEFILLA BY MAKING USE OF A TRANSLATION UNTIL ONE IS FLUENT IN THE HEBREW WORDS AND THEIR MEANING. THE MISHNA BRURA (OC 101:4:15) STIPULATES THAT ACCORDING TO THE OPINION THAT WHEN DAVENING ALONE (WITHOUT A MINYAN) ONE SHOULD SPECIFICALLY DAVEN IN HEBREW – THE REASON IS BECAUSE THE מלאכי השרת DO NOT UNDERSTAND FOREIGN LANGUAGES AND THEREFORE DO NOT KNOW WHAT TO BRING IN FRONT OF THE כסא הכבוד. HOWEVER, WHEN DAVENING IN A MINYAN, הקב"ה HIMSELF ACCEPTS THE תפילות WITHOUT THE INTERVENTION OF THE מלאכי השרת AND UNDERSTANDS ALL LANGUAGES. IN ADDITION, THERE IS A GREAT KABBALISTIC IMPLICATION AND EFFECT CAUSED BY DAVENING IN HEBREW AND LOOKING AT AND FOCUSING ON THE HEBREW LETTERS AS ONE DAVENS; THAT CANNOT BE ACHIEVED BY DAVENING IN ANY OTHER LANGUAGE. AS FOR THE PRONUNCIATION, IT IS BETTER TO HAVE ONE PRONUNCIATION AND NOT TO MIX (IGROT MOSHE OC 3, 5). NONETHELESS, HASHEM CAN UNDERSTAND YOUR PRAYERS EITHER WAY AND TRULY DESIRES YOU TO BE PRAYING FROM YOUR HEART → רחמנא ליבא בעי !

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

*WE WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME ALL THE NEW FACES TO OUR MINYAN. IF YOU ARE NEW IN THE AREA, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO INTRODUCE YOURSELF TO EITHER RAV SHMUEL OR TALI AFTER SHUL. IF YOU NEED A PLACE FOR LUNCH, WE WILL DO OUR BEST TO ORGANISE ONE FOR YOU.

*FOR COMMENTS ON THE PARSHA PAGE OR QUESTIONS FOR RAV BLOOM PLEASE E-MAIL: RABBI@LATEMINYAN.COM

*IF ANYONE WOULD LIKE TO SPONSOR THIS WEEKLY PARSHA PAGE IN MEMORY OF A CLOSE ONE OR IN HONOUR OF AN UP-COMING SIMCHA, PLEASE CONTACT TAMMY WILSON AT: CHAIR@LATEMINYAN.COM

*IF ANYONE WOULD LIKE TO SPONSOR A KIDDUSH IN HONOUR OF AN UP-COMING SIMCHA, PLEASE CONTACT GALI DORN AT: EVENTS@LATEMINYAN.COM

SHABBAT SHALOM

FROM THE LATE MINYAN

GOLDEN MENORAH

CONSTRUCTED BY THE TEMPLE INSTITUTE AND BASED ON EXTENSIVE RESEARCH, THIS GOLDEN MENORAH IS APPROPRIATE FOR USE IN THE THIRD TEMPLE. OVER TWO METERS IN HEIGHT AND PLATED WITH 43 KG (95 LBS) OF GOLD, THIS MENORAH IS THE FIRST SUCH CONSTRUCTED SINCE THE DESTRUCTION OF THE TEMPLE. THIS MENORAH IS ON DISPLAY IN THE JEWISH QUARTER.



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