

FROM THE KOTZKER REBBE

GUEST CONTRIBUTOR
RABBI AVROHOM WEINRIB

With You

When you lend money to My people, to the poor person who is with you, don't act toward him like a creditor—don't pile interest upon him. (22:24).

When a person dies, neither his silver nor his gold, nor his precious stones, nor his pearls, will accompany him—only his Torah and good deeds will accompany him... (Avos 6:9)

THE VERB AT THE BEGINNING OF OUR VERSE is *talveh*, "you will lend."

Perhaps, based on the quote from Avos, we can make a *d'rasha* (interpret the verse homiletically) and change the vowels in that Hebrew word, so that it reads *tilaveh*, "it will escort."

Now let us reread the pasuk with this new pronunciation: *Im kesef tilaveh es ami*—if any money will escort My people [to the afterlife]—*es he'ani imach*—[it will be the money you have given] to the poor person who is with you...

Ten, Plus...

V'eileh hamishpatim—and these are the laws... (21:1)

Wherever the Torah uses the term "*V'eileh* [preceded by the letter *vav*], and these are," ...it is adding something to the preceding [material]. [In our case,] just as the previous [laws—the Ten Commandments] were given at Sinai, so were these. (Rashi, quoting Mechilta)

The Wrong Shabbos...

ALTER RAUBVOGEL

Do your work for six days; rest on the seventh day, so that your ox and your donkey will be idle and your maidservant's son and the stranger will be refreshed. Observe all that I've told you—don't mention the name of other gods; it must not be heard from your mouth. (23:12–13)

BEFORE THE SECOND WORLD WAR, RABBI Zalman Sorotzkin served as the head of the Beis Din (religious court) in Lutsk, Ukraine. Once, Rabbi Sorotzkin was invited to speak on *Parashas Mishpatim* in a synagogue with many members who had begun working on Shabbos.

When he arrived on Shabbos morn-

ing, he was surprised to see that the synagogue was packed! One of the congregants explained that this Shabbos coincided with a Ukrainian religious festival, and that the government was enforcing a business holiday—so everyone had gone to shul.

At the signal, the rabbi stepped up to the podium and turned to the congregation.

"I'm sure some of you have been asking, 'Why is this Shabbos more special than usual?' And you've had to answer, 'Well, because this Shabbos is the "birth-day" of a certain idol...'

"Is there any greater desecration of Hashem's name?"

THIS IS CERTAINLY NOT A NOVEL IDEA. Among the basic principles of our faith is the doctrine that the entire Torah was given to Moshe at Har Sinai! Why must the Torah add an extra letter to prove this point? To whom could the Torah possibly be speaking, that it must go out of its way to add an extra letter?

Rabbi Nissan Alpert, of blessed memory, in his *Sefer Limudei Nissan*, clarifies this issue: Unfortunately, many seemingly observant Jews limit their practice of Judaism to when they are in shul and the *beis hamidrash* (the study hall). They just do not comprehend how the Torah and its laws are involved in every aspect of their lives!

The Torah goes out of its way to oppose this crooked idea. Just as we understand and accept that the Ten Commandments were from Sinai—and

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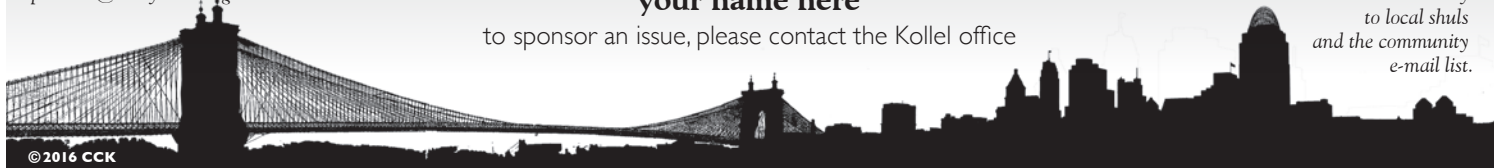
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Chavrusos are available

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weekdays: noon–1

Sunday–Thursday: 8–9:45

Minyanim for Standard Time

Shacharis

Sunday8:15 AM

Monday–Friday7:20 AM

Mincha

Sunday *thru January*1:15 PM

Mon.–Thurs. *thru January*2:35 PM

Sunday–Thurs., *Feb.–Mar.*5:45 PM

Shabbos2:45 PM

Ma'ariv

In the Beis Midrash:

Sunday–Wednesday9:45 PM

Thursday10 PM

Ten, Plus... CONTINUED

that Hashem commanded us to keep Shabbos, not to murder, and so on—so did Hashem command us regarding the mitzvos that affect every other aspect of our lives. The way someone treats a slave in the privacy of his home, and the way someone conducts business in the confines of his office, are also regulated by the Torah from Sinai.

We need to realize that there is no area of one's life, no matter how minor, that is not governed by *halacha* (Torah law) in the same manner as the “major” parts of life are governed.

Perhaps this idea is what the Mishnah refers to:

Rabban Gamliel, the son of Rabbi Yehuda haNassi, says, “Torah study is good with an occupation (*derech erez*)...” (Avos 2:2)

In other words, every aspect of a person's way of life needs to be in lockstep with the Torah, governed by *halacha*. 🍷

The Wrong Shabbos... CONTINUED

“This is exactly what the Torah warns us *not* to do, in this week's *parasha*: ‘Rest on the seventh day... and don't mention the name of other gods!’

“You must rest on the Shabbos because ‘I've told you,’ not because of the commemoration of some other god!” 🍷

Every Day

👤👤 “Dirshu” Gemara Shiur

(Maseches Y'vamos)

Rabbi Yitzchok Preis.....

Sunday 7:15–8:15 AM

Monday–Friday 5:50–6:45 AM

👤👤 Kollel Yisgaber K'ari

(amud-a-day of Mishnah B'rurah)

Rabbi Chaim Heinemann.....

Monday–Friday 6:55–7:20 AM

👤👤 Kitzur Shuchan Aruch

Live video conference!

Rabbi Dani Schon.....

Monday–Friday 12:05–12:20 PM

👤 Daf Yomi

Rabbi Meir Minster.....

Sunday–Thursday 8–8:45 PM

Shabbos (at CZE) 1:00 pre-mincha

👤👤 Nightly Halacha Chabura

Rabbi Dani Schon

& Binyamin Teitelbaum.....

Monday–Thursday 9–9:45 PM

Sunday *Free brunch!*

👤👤 America Runs on Torah

(Jewish Law & Parasha)

Rabbi Dani Schon

and Yisroel Kaufman..... 10 AM

Grand Deluxe breakfast served

👤 Shivti

(Self-contained learning, geared

toward practical halacha) 10–noon A

Tuesday

👤👤 Partners in Torah

at the Mayerson JCC

Rabbi Binyamin Teitelbaum.....8 PM

Wednesday

👤👤 Torah Treasures for

Seniors at the Mayerson JCC

Rabbi Yitzchok Preis..... 10:30–11:15 AM

👤👤 Downtown Lunch-n-

Learn at Strauss & Troy

Rabbi Yitzchok Preis..... 12–1 PM

Thursday

👤👤 Halacha based on the parasha

Rabbi Chaim Heinemann.....9:10–10 PM

Homemade refreshments served.

KEY: 👤👤 Beginners

👤 Intermediate

👤 Advanced

👤👤 for men and women