



A LESSON FROM THE PARASHA

RABBI MOSHE TZVI CRYSTAL



Greatness Within

A FASCINATING DISCUSSION APPEARS IN A MIDRASH ON THIS WEEK'S TORAH PORTION, WHICH DESCRIBES HOW EVERYTHING HASHEM CREATED IN THE HEAVENS, HE CREATED ON EARTH, AS WELL—including all the parts of the Mishkan (the Tabernacle), which were created first above and then below. The Midrash ends by stating that Hashem holds more dear that which was created below, as the Torah says,

Make for Me a Sanctuary, and I will dwell among them [on earth]. (25:8)

The Rambam, in *Pirkei Hatzlacha*, describes how the parts of the Mishkan are symbolic representations of the organs of the human body. For example, the Rambam writes, the seven arms of the menorah symbolize the five senses, plus the faculties of speech and imagination.

The *Sh'la* expounds that the source of the Mishkan's holiness was that symbolic representation of the human being, because the human being was created in the image of Hashem. Thus, from its very physical design, the Mishkan broadcasted the existence of the Creator and thereby made a resting place for Hashem's presence.

Rabbi Yerucham Levovitz makes an inspiring point: If mere lifeless objects can be a dwelling place for Hashem's presence, because they represent the human being made in Hashem's image, how much more so can a living person, who was made in Hashem's image, be a place for Hashem's presence!

How do we foster Hashem's image in ourselves? By striving to pattern ourselves after Hashem in all that we do—by reflecting the Thirteen Attributes of Hashem, about

A TIMELY HALACHA

RABBI CHAIM HEINEMANN

On Purim, there is a mitzvah of *Mata-nos l'Evyonim* (giving gifts to the poor). Let's go through some of its laws. The following is based on *Kovetz Halachos*, by Rabbi Shmuel Kamenetzky.

The minimum requirement is to give money to two poor people—men, women, or children. A family is considered to be one "person." The recipient does not have to be an *evyon* (completely destitute). It can be anyone who struggles to make ends meet. Our Sages tell us that on Purim, if someone claims

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Kollel Women's Learning Presents:

PURIM TO PERFECTION

Review and clarify the Halachos of Purim with Rabbi Chaim Heinemann

When: Wednesday, March 8 at 7:30 pm
Where: The Kollel Annex

which the Rambam writes (*Sefer haMitzvos, Essin 8*), "As He is merciful, so should you be merciful..."

Let's live up to our innate likeness to Hashem. We have greatness within us!



this Sunday at 9am

Pre-Purim learning seder for men

on the topic of *k'riasa zo hall'la*—

"The Megillah Reading: Biblical Chronicles or Epic of Thanksgiving?"

with guest speaker

Rabbi Michael Hasten of Indianapolis, followed by a gala breakfast

THIS WEEK IN JEWISH HISTORY

RABBI MOSHE TZVI CRYSTAL

On 4 Adar, 5067 (1307), the body of Reb Meir of Rottenburg was released for burial, fourteen years after his death. The leading halachic authority of the Ashkenazi world at the time, Reb Meir had been caught by agents of King Rudolf I while attempting to escape German persecution of Jews. He was imprisoned, and an enormous ransom was set for his release. Members of the community offered to pay, but Reb Meir ruled that to accept the ransom would set a precedent for other Torah sages to be kidnapped and ransomed. With self-sacrifice, he thus remained in prison for the last seven years of his life, where he continued to study and was visited by his students. The vengeful king kept his remains until a Jew named Alexander Vimpen redeemed them fourteen years later, with the request that he be buried next to the great Reb Meir.

Sponsorship & feedback:

parasha@cincykollel.org

sponsored by Rabbi Dov & Anne Wise

in loving memory of Anne's brother,

Dr. Hal K. Rothman PhD, Henoch Koppel ben Nachman Ya'acov,

whose *yahrzeit* is 8 Adar.

Cincinnati Torah

is distributed weekly to local shuls and the community e-mail list.



A RIDDLE FOR YOU

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Ohr Somayach Institutions (Jerusalem)

What verse in the Torah has all the letters of the *Aleph-Beis*?

The answer will appear next week..

LAST WEEK'S RIDDLE:

Q What name is mentioned three times in the Torah—once as a non-Jew, once as a convert, and once as a Jew?

A Re'uel. The first Re'uel mentioned (B'reishis 36:4) is one of Esav's sons, who was not Jewish. The second (Sh'mos 2:18) refers to Yisro, a convert to Judaism (see Rashi's commentary to 4:18). The third Re'uel (B'midbar 2:14) is the father of Elyasaf, Nasi (Prince) of the Tribe of Gad. His name is spelled three times as De'uel, and once as Re'uel. 

GREAT ACTS OF SIMPLE PEOPLE

HIRAM DEUTSCH WAS DRAFTED INTO THE GERMAN army in the late 1800's. He was a religious young man, and therefore he would not eat most of the food served to the soldiers. He subsisted on bread, fruits, and vegetables.

When his superiors found out that he wasn't eating meat, they were angry. They accused him of purposefully making himself weak, in order to aid the enemy by depriving the "fatherland" of a soldier. In the following days and weeks, the officers made Hiram's life miserable.

In desperation, Hiram sent a letter to Kaiser Wilhelm, asking him to help with the situation, and praying to Hashem that the Kaiser would actually receive the letter—and that it wouldn't make everything worse.

Several difficult weeks later, all the soldiers were called outside to stand at attention, in honor of a letter from the Kaiser himself, written to their brigade, which would be read aloud for everyone to hear. To everyone's surprise, the letter stated that kosher food was to be provided for Private Deutsch in the place where he was stationed. Further, if no kosher food were to be found, he was to be transferred to a place where kosher food would be available! 

At the Kollel

EVERY DAY

EVERY WEEK

Sunday *Free brunch!*

 **Boys' Learning Program**
for fourth, fifth, & sixth graders—
Mishnayos

Rabbi Moshe Fuchs
and Izy Newmark..... 9–10 AM

*Parents who are interested can e-mail
Rabbi Fuchs—splashwen@gmail.com*

 **Beginner's Gemara**
(Maseches Sukkah)

Rabbi Ezra Stettin..... 9:10–10 AM

 **Beginner's Halacha & More**
(skills-building)

Rabbi Moshe D. Zeffren.. 9:30–10:30 AM

 **Shivti** (Self-contained learning,
geared toward practical halacha)

Rabbi Avrohom Weinrib..... 10 AM–NOON

 *Homemade refreshments served*

Monday

  **Torah Treasures for Seniors at the Mayerson JCC**
Rabbi Yitzchok Preis..... 10:30–11:15 AM

Tuesday

  **Partners in Torah at the Mayerson JCC**
Rabbi Michael Soroka..... 8 PM

Wednesday

  **Downtown Lunch-n-Learn at Strauss & Troy**
Rabbi Yitzchok Preis..... 12–1 PM

Thursday

  **Halacha**
in the former Back Office
Rabbi Yisroel Kaufman
and Chaim Heinemann 9:10–10 PM.

KEY:  Beginners  Intermediate  Advanced  for men and women

Chavrusos are available for private and group learning—
speak to Rabbi Chaim Heinemann! weekdays noon–1 PM • Sun.–Thurs. 8–9:45 PM

DAVENING TIMES CAN BE FOUND AT CINCYKOLLEL.ORG/MINYAN-SCHEDULE/

A TIMELY HALACHA

(CONTINUED)

to be needy, we do not look into whether he is or isn't; rather, we take his word for it. (Yesod v'Shoshav ha'Avodah says that on Purim Hashem responds to our requests in a similar way! – Ed.) This applies to the (supposedly) poor person himself, not a person collecting money for someone else.

The mitzvah is to give money which will be enjoyed on Purim itself, so *Matanos l'Evyonim* should be given on Purim day—not before Purim, since the money might get spent before Purim. However, one may give the money before Purim to a messenger, who will deliver the money on Purim.

Women are required to fulfill this mitzvah. A woman can fulfill her obligation together with her husband, since a couple is treated like one person. However, it is proper for a man to notify his wife that he is giving *matanos l'evyonim* on her behalf.

There is no set amount for these gifts, but, as with any monetary mitzvah, each gift must be worth at least a *p'ruta*—enough money to buy something small. Rabbi Kamenetsky holds that donation of one dollar is already considered *matana chashuva*, a nice gift. Rabbi Moshe Feinstein zt"l maintained that it's best to give enough money to buy a roll or a Danish and a cup of coffee.

Once can fulfill the mitzvah with a check, even if it's postdated and banks are closed, because the money can still be enjoyed—someone can, in theory, give him cash for it.

It is fine to send the money anonymously.

Ma'aser funds (the tenth of one's income set aside for charity) may not be used to fulfill this mitzvah. However, once a person has given money to two poor people, any additional gifts may be funded with *ma'aser* monies. 