

EXPANDED
ELUL
EDITION

RABBI
DOVID
SPETNER



How To Truly Win

EVERYONE LIKES TO WIN. BUT WHAT DOES IT TRULY mean to win? Your favorite team winning a game or series? Being popular? Making a lot of money?

We are all fascinated by the idea of magic. The idea of being able to break the bonds of the natural is something that mankind has pinned for over thousands of years.

In this week's *sidra* we are told not to engage in various forms of witchcraft and magic. Many people assume that the Torah's primary interest is to keep us away from dark or black magic. Certainly some of the practices listed in the *sidra* are quite "dark" such as *Ov*, *Yidoni* and *Doresch el Hameisim* that all involve calling upon the dead in some fashion. However, others appear to be more benign, such as *Menacheish* and *Onen*, which are merely acting based irrational indications, yet they are still forbidden.

The Ran in his *drashos* explains that *avoda zora* (idol worship) and the magical activities that accompanied it were designed to help its practitioners to control the circumstances of their lives. They needed rain so they performed activities that, using forces Hashem put into the world, helped bring rain. When they needed health, healing and success, they performed other activities. They referred to it as "appeasing the gods," but its purpose was to help them "win" against the vicissitudes of nature.

Chazal teach us (Sanhedrin 67b) that magic is called *kishuf* because it is an acronym for *mak'chishin pamalya shel maala* – it contradicts the laws of nature established by Hashem.

So why didn't Hashem want us to use magic to help us control our circumstances?

The answer is given by the Torah immediately after the prohibition against performing magic: *Tamim tihyeh im Hashem Elokecha* – Be

tamim with Hashem your G-d. *Tamim* has varied but related translations: simple, perfect, whole. Rashi explains it so beautifully – "Walk with Him in simplicity and put your hope in Him and don't try to investigate the future. Rather everything that happens to you accept with simplicity. Then you will be with Him and His portion."

Hashem wants us to walk with Him without worries, confident that everything that comes our way is ultimately for our benefit. If we approach life with that attitude Hashem will reciprocate and look after us, not giving us what we think is best, but what is truly best for us. As a magnet on my refrigerator reads, "G-d's plan for your life far exceeds the circumstances of your day."

Rav Yaakov Kamenetsky, ז"ל, would tell of how as a *rov* of a small village in Lithuania his family was living in poverty. His growing family needed the salary that a larger community could provide. He applied for many positions throughout Lithuania, but in each case something went amiss and despite being the great *talmid chochom* that he was, he did not get any of the jobs, something that was very difficult for him and his wife. He was forced to raise funds in America on behalf of a yeshiva, eventually becoming a *rov* and bringing over his family. Rav Yaakov would conclude the story with the horrific fact that the *rov* of every single position he did not get was murdered by the Nazis, *ym"s*. Hashem was saving his family and much of the future of Torah in America.

We all want to win. We need to realize that we can win in the short term in the way that seems best to us or we can put ourselves in the Hand that truly holds all the cards and win over the long run. 🕊

THIS COMING WEEK!

There will be a mussar shmuz from the mashgiach of Yeshivas Ner Yisroel at 9:15pm in the main Kollel Bais Medrash this coming Wednesday night followed by a siyum by Egal Ziv in the Kollel Annex Bais Medrash at 10:15pm. All men of the community are invited to attend.

THE RABBI WAS ASKED ON THE PARASHA

WITH
RABBI YITZCHOK PREIS

Q: Is our parasha indicating that there will be murder and manslaughter in the era of Moshiach?

When discussing the *Arei Miklat* (Cities of Refuge), the Torah obligates an additional three cities after an eventual, further expansion of the land. Commentaries describe this further expansion to be in *Yemos Hamoshiach* (Messianic times). But would we still need cities for harboring those who cause wrongful deaths? Can that happen in *Yemos Hamoshiach*?



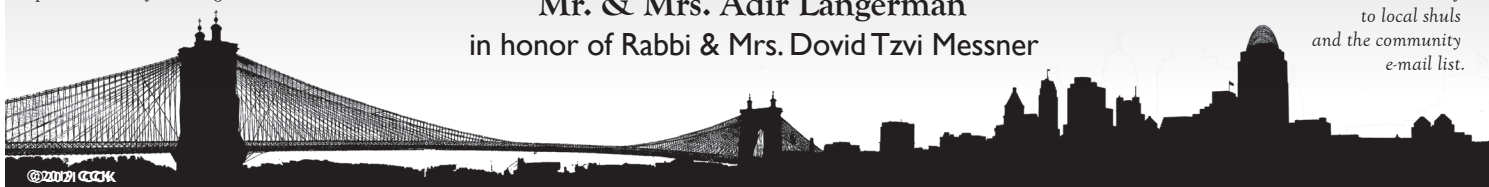
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A Shining Example

RABBI EPHRAIM SKOLNIK

Finally at the age of 35, Sarah Greenstein was getting married. Despite being the oldest in her family, she was the last one to get married. Her mother, although battling chronic illness, was able to make it to the wedding and celebrate with her daughter. Tragically, the day after the wedding, the mother succumbed to her illness and passed away. After the funeral,



at the burial Sarah, who had just celebrated the happiest day of her life a day earlier, uncharacteristically asked to say a few words. Sarah turned to the fresh grave and said, "Mommy, I am sorry that I caused you so much pain by being

so picky and not getting married earlier. I had a reason for doing this and it wasn't because I was so specific about the type of boy I wanted. I want to share a story that no one has heard that will shed some light. Many years ago, when I was a little girl in school, it reached a point in your illness when everyone thought you were not going to make it. My home life was turned upside down as Abba spent most of his day in the hospital by your side. One particularly busy day no one came to pick me up from school and I was left there all alone and I sat there crying. Suddenly I looked up to see the great Rav of Yerushalayim Reb Yosef Chaim Sonnenfeld looking down at me with concerned and caring eyes. He asked me a few questions and figured out the situation. He took me by the hand and walked me home. When he saw that the house was in disarray, he arranged for people to come and help out and make sure that my younger siblings and I were



taken care of. He talked to me for a while and as he turned to leave, he gave me a bracha, a blessing, and said, "don't worry, your mother will live to walk you down

the aisle at your wedding." Miraculously you recovered and only I knew the secret. From that day on, deep down I knew that the day I married would be your last. I wanted my younger siblings to have the benefit of their mother walking them down the aisle, and you the benefit of seeing and celebrating these momentous occasions. So, I graciously allowed all my siblings to marry before me. Mommy, I wasn't being selfish by waiting and being picky. I did it for you." Bonds of love so deep. Sacrificing so much for another.

THE RABBI WAS ASKED ON THE PARASHA

A: For starters, Rambam describes the world operating "normally" during *Yemos Hamoshiach*.

Human behavior will change radically due to the opening of the floodgates of wisdom, but that would not preclude human error and its repercussions. However, Ramban and many others understand that the world will radically transform into a Garden-of-Eden-like modality. As such, *Arei Miklat* might seem superfluous.

The Shela explains that there will be stages of transformation. He notes that the expansion of the land described in this *parasha* is not the final dominion of *Moshiach*, who will actually, eventually, rule the world. Rather, this is an early stage of *Yemos Hamoshiach*. And during

this initial period, there will still be the possibility of tragedy. Hence the need for the *Arei Miklat*.

The Chassam Sofer suggests that the concern of manslaughter is particular to the expanded boundaries and the fact that Jews will now be living in what was previously foreign territory. They will be exposed to the *tumah* (impurity) permeating those regions, as it will take time for the sanctity introduced by the new residents to offset the *tumah* resulting from evil and licentious behavior. During that time, the negative effects of the *tumah* will be of consequence, stalling the transformation to spiritual perfection and immortality, and as such, the need for these cities. 🕒

HAFTORAH HAPPENINGS-NEW COLUMN!

RABBI YAAKOV MARCHUCK

The Haftorah of this week is the fourth of the seven Haftorahs of consolation that are read between Tisha B'av and Rosh Hashana. The theme of these Haftorahs is to console us that the *Bais Hamikdash* will be rebuilt. In this particular Haftorah, Yeshaya tells us (52:2), "*Hisnaref mayufr kumi*" ("Shake the dust from yourself, arise enthrone yourself O' Yerushalayim"). We know that the Jewish people are compared to both the dust of the earth and the stars in the sky. The Gemara *Megillah* explained that which one we are compared to is dependent on our behavior. When we are doing the will of Hashem, we are like the stars which are high up in the sky. However, when we are not doing the will of Hashem, we are compared to the lowly dust of the earth. Based on this, the *Mincha Gedola* explains the *possuk*, do *Teshuva* and rise up from dust, and if we do that, we will arise to Yerushalayim and be like the stars in the sky. 🕒

Welcome to our new Yungeleit



Shimon Pransky

is a native of Atlanta, Georgia.

After attending Ner Yisrael, Shimon continued his learning at Mir Yerushalayim.

Shimon is married to Penina (nee' Klein) of Cleveland, an experienced teacher, and has two children, Miriam (2 1/2) and Sruly (11/2).



Binyamin Kanowitz

hails from Queens, New York.

Binyamin attended Yeshivas Chafetz Chaim, followed by Mercaz Hatorah and the Mir in Yerushalayim.

Binyamin is married to Rina (nee' Linn), of Queens, a nurse, and has three children, Shayna (7), Meir (3), and Dina (2).



Tzvi Richter

grew up in Monsey, New York.

After studying extensively in Israel, Tzvi continued his learning in Washington Heights.

Tzvi is married to Adeena (nee' Hirsch) of Los Angeles, who works as a nurse, and has two children, Avi (2) and Reeva (1).

A SAMPLING OF LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES THROUGHOUT THE WEEK

- 2 Open Batei Medrash
- Shivti Chaburah Sunday 9:30 - 10:45 am - a different in depth topic every week
- Choshen Mishpat Chabura Daily 9-11 am
- Dirshu Daily Amud 6-6:50 am
- Daf yomi with Rabbi Minster every evening
- Mussar Vaad Wednesday 10-10:20 pm
- Kitzur Shulchan Aruch Shiur Sundays 9:05-9:45 am
- Night Seder Chabura Kesuvos 9-10 pm Sunday - Thursday
- Daf Shavua Mondays and Wednesdays 9-9:45 pm
- Mishna Yomi What's App and Email
- Grill & Chill with YJP Men
- Bi-weekly Shabbos Afternoon Kollel Womens Learning Shiur
- 7th & 8th Grade Boys Halacha Shiur Tuesday 8:05-8:50 pm
- Women's Zoom Shiur with Rabbi Minster Tuesday 11 am till Noon
- Zoom Parasha class with Rabbi Preis Wednesday Noon - 1 pm 🎧

Halacha
Hands-on & Practical

Attention all 7th & 8th graders!

SERIES THREE:
Now through Succos

Master Hilchos Succah and Arba'ah Minim!

Learn the halachos with Rabbi Apter

Sponsored anonymously, as a z'chus to find a proper z'rug

8:15-9pm every Tuesday evening at the Kollel, followed by Ma'ariv.
Pass a quiz when we finish, and earn a special surprise!
To join, RSVP to RabbiHeinemann@gmail.com or 513-835-5005.

Kollel Women's Learning

Shabbos Afternoon Series

alternating weeks all summer, 5-6 PM

Shabbos Parashas Shoftim, September 3:
Rabbi David Tzvi Meissner

*The Key to Happiness,
Elihu Inspiration*

At the Minster Residence
6713 E. Farm Acres Dr.

for women only • babysitting will be provided

Kollel Womens Learning

PRESENTS

Sefer Yonah

Tuesdays | 11:05AM For Women

Gain a better appreciation and insight for Yonah!

VIA ZOOM
us02web.zoom.us/j/5959486315

For more information or to receive the recording please email kollewomenslearning@gmail.com

A MISHNA YOMI SHIUR VIA WHATSAPP
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BY RABBI DOVID SPETNER

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Mussar Vaad

In honor of קבלת התורה

A New Short Mussar Vaad will be starting up at the Kollel
Come focus on one of the קבלי התורה מ"ה each week

**Wednesday evenings after Maariv
10:15-10:30PM | Rabbi Heinemann's office**

For more information please contact:
R.D.T. Meissner or R.Y. Harkavy

Daf-a-Week

Join Rabbi Yaakov Apter and learn a Daf a Week

Every Monday and Wednesday at 9PM

ZOOM OPTION AVAILABLE

Now beginning Masechas Sukkah

Gain knowledge in Hilchos Sukkah - while improving your Gemara skills

**For more information:
Rabbi Apter - 845-263-6163**

Beginning WED. AUGUST 31!

Sunday thru Friday, 9AM to 11AM

TOPICS FOR ELUL:
Pruzbul and other Shemitah Topics
Pruzbul
Shemitah B'zman Hazeir
Peiros Sheviis, Getting Your Esrog

Weekly overview (chaburah) and thought on the Parsha.
STIPENDS MAY BE AVAILABLE.

For more details, see Rabbi Meir Minster

CINCINNATI Community KOLLEL

Kollel Elul! Dirshu Elul!

What better time to display your commitment to significant, daily limud haTorah?

Kollel Dirshu meets early AM daily at the kollel and will be starting the 3rd Perak of Maseches Shvuos on מ"ה א' / Monday, Aug 28. (This perk and beyond are not dependent on the material in the earlier perekim)

This is a great time to join our chaburah - One amud day Monday thru Friday, chazarah on Sundays, and the option for voluntary tests and stipends.

For more information please speak to Rabbi Yitzchak Prei - 513-884-6482

Attention Bnei Torah

Shivti Program Starting Up
(Starting with the Sugya and ending with Halacha L'maseh)

New topic every 1-2 weeks

Learn Interesting and Relevant topics while enjoying breakfast

**Sunday Mornings
9:30-10:45am
in Kollel Annex**

A special weekly stipend distributed at the end of the month has been arranged L'ilul Nishmas Harav Chaim Kanievsky Z"TL

For more information or for a chavrusah, please contact Rabbi C. Heinemann or Rabbi Izy Newmark