

* There will be a shiur (Gemorah Brachos) at Mark Franck's house on Shabbos afternoon at 4:50pm.

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Caulfield
Beth Hamedrash Weekly Newsletter

D'var Torah

LEAD BY EXAMPLE

by Rabbi Yaakov Menken (torah.org)

"Corruption is not His - the blemish is His children's, a crooked and twisted generation. Behold, to HaShem you have done this, your Maker and the One who established you." [Deuteronomy 32:5-6]

The Shaar Bas Rabim provides a homiletic interpretation of these verses. He says that they provide a profound lesson in parenting.

Some people, he says, behave incorrectly - and they know it - and yet, it does not bother them. Although they do not follow the Mitzvos, they feel no guilt for their actions, nor do they try to improve.

And yet, at the very same time, they expect exemplary behaviour from their children. They expect their children to follow the path of Torah, to study and perform the Commandments. And if, or when, their children deviate from that path, it causes them a great deal of anguish.

Says the Shaar Bas Rabim - they have been ensnared. They are making a tragic mistake. They need to understand: just as they expect their children to follow the straight path, the Holy One, Blessed be He, wants that from His children as well.

The children see that their parents do not listen to the voice of their Father in Heaven - so why should they do any differently? By not listening to their parents, they follow their parents' example in two ways: through their misbehaviour itself, and through their rejection of their parents' wishes. This is exactly what they should be expected to do - so the parents should not be surprised if their children go off course.

This is what the verse says, translating just one or two words at a time: "his corruption" - the fact that

he himself is corrupt - "no" - this doesn't bother him at all; but "his children" - the same corruption from his children - "their blemish" - it is

a painful blemish in his eyes. This is "a crooked and twisted generation" - such a person is mistaken, crooked in his thinking. "It is to HaShem that you do this" - you yourselves are doing precisely the same thing to HaShem, Blessed be He, and "He is your Maker, the One who established you." He wants from you, as His child, that you follow the good and straight path - and if you do not listen to your Father, how can you then expect from your children that they should listen to their parents?

If you would like to have children who are upright in their behavior, says the Shaar Bas Rabim, then you must be upright in your behavior. If you listen to your Father in Heaven, then your children will listen to your own voice.

We all want our children to be good people - I think it is natural for parents to want their children to "turn out better than we did!" We want our neighbours and friends to be good as well. The Shaar Bas Rabim is telling us that the way we can influence others - especially our children - is to influence ourselves first.

This is, of course, the ideal time for us to re-examine our actions, and improve them. In the wake of Yom Kippur we can start anew, and set ourselves in the right direction. We can only lead by example!

Good Shabbos, and may you be Sealed in the Book of Life.



Thoughts for the week:

"Happiness is not doing what you enjoy, but enjoying what you do."

"The Day of Atonement atones not for sins of man against man, until the sinner makes peace with his victim." (Gemorah Yuma)

"Enthusiasm is the inspiration of everything great. Without it no man is to be feared, and with it none despised." (Nestell Bovee)

"Always remember you're unique, just like everyone else."

Other Developments

* After shule on shabbos, Rabbi Yossef Levinson gave the traditional Shabbos Shuva drosho. Rabbi Levinson spoke about the mitzvah of teshuva and its inherent importance at this critical time of year. He explained that teshuva is a path and guiding force in life - referring to the intrinsic excitement and enthusiasm expressed by Ba'ale Teshuva. This, he explained, should be the fundamental in all our performance of mitzvot - a perpetual feeling of freshness and excitement. Yasher Koach.

* Last shabbos was the the traditional Shabbos Shuva "Partnership" Kiddish, made by the: Braun, Herbst, Goldstein, Ptasznicks and Kowadlo families. Yasher Koach to all involved.

Lest We Forget...

by Rabbi Zelig Pliskin (aish.com)

A maggid is a public speaker who tells stories and exhorts people to raise their standards of belief and behavior. In Europe they would go from town to town providing a genuine entertainment - one that gives insights and benefits as opposed to "entertainment" which just distracts and amuses. The Dubner Maggid has an interesting insight into forgetfulness to help understand Moshe's rebuke of the Jewish people in this week's Torah portion, "You were unmindful of the Almighty Who begot you, and your forgot God Who bore you" (Deuteronomy 32:18).

The Dubner Maggid explains the verse with the following parable: Reuven owed Shimon a large sum of money and lacked the necessary funds to repay his debt. His creditor was pestering him very much and he didn't know what to do. He therefore approached his close friend Levi and asked for advice. Levi told him that when Shimon approached him again he should act as if he were totally insane and then Shimon would have to leave him alone.

Following this suggestion, Reuven made all kinds of crazy sounds and movements when he was in the presence of

Announcements

- All members of the Main Shule and the Youth Minyan are invited to a Simchas Beis HaShoeva celebration on the second night Sukkos (Tuesday, 2 October). This will be held in the Pacanowski Sukkah at 8 Loch Ave, East St. Kilda, from 9:00PM till late. Come along for a Lechayim and lots of Yomtov Ruach!

- Minyanim times for this coming week are: Shacharis on Yom Kippur at 8:00am. Mornings: first minyan @ 6:15am, second minyan @ 7:00am. Mincha at 6:25pm followed by shiurim. Ma'ariv at 7:05pm.

Parsha Overview - Ha'azinu

The Torah portion is a song, a poem taught to the Jewish people by Moshe. It recounts the trials and tribulations of the Jewish people during the 40 years in the desert. Jewish consciousness, until the present generation, was to teach every Jewish child to memorize Ha'azinu. In this manner we internalized the lessons of our history, especially the futility of rebelling against the Almighty. The portion ends with Moshe being told to ascend Mount Nevo to see the Promised Land before he dies and is gathered to his people. By the way, this is one of the allusions to an afterlife in the Torah. Moshe died alone and no one knows where he is buried. Therefore, "gathered to his people" has a higher meaning!

Shimon and it worked well. Shimon left him alone. The next day Reuven asked Levi to lend him a sizable sum of money for a few days. A week later Levi asked Shimon to repay him, but Shimon just acted crazy again. Levi was furious at him and shouted, "I'm the one who gave you the idea to use this method. It's a real chutzpah for you to use that against me!"

The Almighty created forgetfulness as a benefit for people who have suffered in the past. If someone would always clearly remember every bit of suffering that occurred to him, he would find it very difficult to cope. He would not enjoy the positive things in life because of the remembrance of the pain of the past. By forgetting the misfortunes, one can live a happy life even though one has suffered in the past.

However, forgetfulness can also be a very negative trait if one forgets the Almighty and his obligations to Him. This, said the Dubner Maggid, is the message of our verse. The Almighty created forgetfulness (teshivas Rashi explains is forgetfulness). He did so for our benefit, unfortunately our ancestors used this to forget Him. We should learn the lesson and not forget the Almighty in our lives!

- Could people using the crèche over the Yomim Noraim please ensure they pay as soon as possible. For payments and further details, please call Jordi Elkus on 9528 6958.

- Succot begins on Monday evening (1 October) at 6:05pm. It is a mitzvah to immediately contribute toward the building of the succah at the conclusion of Yom Kippur (after breaking your fast...!).

- Please join us for our Katanga weekly Squash game on Sundays @ 6pm at Gardenvale Squash Centre. If you are interested in attending, please let Mendi Slodowitz know.

Suggestions or comments regarding our website or newsletter? Email us - we would love to hear from you.



Wishing everyone a Shabbat Shalom & Gut Shabbos and Shana Tovah.

"The Editors"