

SCHEDULE

שבת קדש

Mincha Erev Shabbos	4:26 PM
Friday Night Learning	after 7:00 PM
Daf Yomi— By R' Teichman	7:30 AM
Shacharis— Followed by Kiddush	8:30 AM
-Sof Zman K"Z- גר"א 9:41 < 9:05 גר"א	
B'NOS - Hosted @ Ohel Moshe	2:15 - 3:15
Mincha - Followed by Shalosh Seudos	4:20 PM
Maariv -	5:35 PM
Avos U'Banim -	6:30 PM

Weekday Minyanim & Shiurim

Sunday

Daf Yomi— By R' Teichman	7:30 AM
Shacharis	8:30 AM
~ Followed by Halacha Shiur	
Mincha / Maariv	4:35 PM

Monday - Friday

Daf Yomi— By R' Teichman	5:45 AM
Shacharis	
Monday	6:40 AM
Tuesday	6:45 AM
Wednesday - Friday	6:35 AM
Mincha (Mon -Thur)	1:45 PM
Mincha/Maariv	- See You Next Year!
Maariv (Mon-Thur)	9:45 PM

Rabbi Teichman's Thursday Night
Shiur After Maariv

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Chanuka Special Mincha/Maariv Daily

~4:35pm Wednesday & Thursday This Week~

Shul Contacts

@OhelMosheBaltimore.com

Rabbi Teichman

410-570-3333 or ravzt@hotmail.com

Gaboim:

Naftali Miller (Rishon) & Yossi Frydman (Sheni)- Gabbai@

Laining Schedule:

Gavi Cohn- Lain@

Kiddush & Shalosh Seudos Sponsorship:

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Dovid Wealcach & Shuie Steinharter- FixIt@

Seforim & Sidurim Library Manager & Dedication Contact:

Dovi Becker- Library@

Building Fundraising Committee:

Ethan Berner & Yaakov Berkowitz- Building@

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כ"א כסלו

אהל משה



Rabbi Zvi Teichman

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Issue#213

RABBI'S MESSAGE

Why Are You So Needy?

Yosef finding himself deep in a pit with no water, surrounded by poisonous vermin and facing imminent death, suddenly discovers that he is to be saved. His brothers have rather chosen to rid themselves of him by selling him off as a slave.

Ishmaelites traveling in a caravan on their way down to Egypt purchase him and Yosef begins his journey into the unknown. The verse describes this caravan as consisting of camels bearing *sweet smelling spices, balsam and lotus*.

Rashi quoting several sources points out that this was extremely unusual as most often these Arabs were engaged in the conveying of malodorous naphtha and tar. This act of Providence was God's subtle encouragement to Yosef that He had not abandoned him despite the bleak outlook ahead and was providing him the comfort of traveling among pleasant aromas.

The renowned Rosh HaYeshiva of Yeshivas Mir, HaRav Chaim Shmulevitz would say it was precisely in this unnecessary "luxury" that God expressed His boost to Yosef in this most trying time. The love of a parent is not as evident in the provision of necessities as it is the bestowing of the nonessential extras of life.

Reb Chaim adds that this principle is the reason why on Chanuka we emphasize the miracle of the oil more so than the victory in battle. The military triumph was needed for us to survive but the oil was a precious gift that we could easily have lived without and thus represented a "kiss" of extra affection.

It would seem that this caravan was only carrying sweet fragrances in place of its normal stinking cargo. However, upon more careful examination of the sources quoted, it appears that it is not quite that simple.

The Mechilta states:

...אלה זימן לו הקב"ה שקים מלאים בשמים וכל ריחן טובים, **שלא ימות** מריח הגמלים ומריח העשן...
God arranged there to be sacks filled with spices and all sorts of perfumes so that the he would not die from the stench of the camels and the fumes of the tar. (בכילתא... בשלה מס' ויהי פ"ה)

There was a need to neutralize, with the presence of the spices and perfumes, the dangerous odors of the camels and naphtha that were apparently there too. This was then indeed a necessity not a luxury as otherwise he might have died!

If that be the case why then didn't God simply maneuver a caravan absent of hazardous material to transport Yosef in, without any need for an antidote?

In several places an episode is related regarding an mysterious discussion between Rabbi Tarfon and his students.

Rabbi Tarfon and the sages were sitting in the shade of a dovecote.

They said, one who drinks water to quench his thirst recites the blessing: בורא נפשות רבות, Who creates numerous living things with their deficiencies.

We derive this from the verse that says, "behold! a caravan of Ishmaelites was coming from Gilead, their camels bearing spices etc.", since it is the custom of Arabs to bear foul smelling hides and God foresaw that Yosef would have to travel, He arranged that they be carrying perfumes, this is what is meant חסרון, deficiencies. (תורה שלמה בראשית לו בה בשם ילקוט כח"י תימני)

What is this enigmatic Medrash teaching us?

The simple reading of this blessing we recite countless times during the day is quite intriguing. We really aren't thanking God for any substantive pleasure. We are expressing gratitude for creating us with חסרונות, deficiencies!

Who creates numerous living things with their deficiencies that are incumbent on

the material you have created to maintain life... (י"א בטור א"י"ה סי' רד)

The emphasis is on the lack not the provision. The Rashba (שו"ת הרשב"א תתכ"ג) refers to the Talmud (בבב"ב לו) which entitles this blessing: **ויא כולם**, the "nothing" blessing, since we do not acknowledge the provision of God but rather our being created with "needs"!

Why in truth did God create us with a thirst, hunger and craving? Wouldn't it have been easier simply not to need?

God provides for the needs of mankind. He created us with a thirst so that we would always be conscious of our dependence on Him and an abiding faith that He will fulfill our "needs". That "quality" of instinctive need may even extend to the necessity of interrelating to our fellow man positively, as we are united in our dependency for each other as well.

Our frustration in life only begins when we define, or better yet when we create, our own concept of what we think we need. Yosef began his voyage with an amazing lesson from God that would assure him that all he was ever lacking in life would be provided for by God.

He observes the strange circumstance of the presence of the sweet scented perfumes to counteract the effects of the naphtha and tar. When faced with noxious fumes God provides a miraculous remedy.

Yosef quickly realizes the deeper meaning of the blessing of חסרון, lack. Whatever is truly required he knows he can count on it being supplied. With that attitude he remains confident that as long as he can properly assess what his true needs are he has no reason to ever go wanting.

Yosef can survive the estrangement from his family, the taunting of the wife of Potiphar, the difficulty of life in prison and the betrayal of his fellow inmates, because he can rely on God to provide for what he truly needs to thrive.

Have you ever been bothered that after eating a three course meal starting with sushi to soup to 72 ounce steak accompanied by fries and vegetables and topped off with chocolate mousse for desert, if you didn't wash for bread all you say is a "measly" Borei Nefashos?

If we ponder for a moment the depth of this blessing and the way it reflects on our deepest bond with God in His providing for all of our "needs", we might dance a jig on the table itself! When we find ourselves disappointed in not matching up to our expectations in life it might suit us well to reexamine if what we feel we are missing is truly a "need".

We always read this portion immediately prior to Chanuka or as its first Shabbos.

The most noxious aspect of Greek culture that was brought to the world was their invention of new needs.

The obsession with entertainment and sport and the need to fill the "vacuum" of time with the pursuit of newfound pleasures no matter how innocuous and noble they may seem, threw the world into an endless cycle of pursuing needs that were merely illusory in their value and purpose.

God created us with wants that He fulfills, provided they are genuine and of value.

The Yom Tov of Chanuka is one designated for הלהל והודאה, praise and thanks. If we focus on our sincere and healthy needs and realize how God constantly grants with love all that we need, we will achieve the goal of Chanuka and merit to have our greatest wishes fulfilled!

באהבה, צבי טייכמן

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Avos U'Banim

6:30 - 7:15

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Membership Meeting

A General membership meeting will take place on Wednesday 12/28 at 8:30pm at the Shul. Full members in good standing are invited to attend. The meeting agenda will be emailed to the membership this week and will include general updates, building campaign updates, Sefer Torah campaign updates, and discussion on select topics.

To suggest a topic please email or contact:

Azi Rosenblum: 443-854-2172 arosenblum@remsource.com

Shiur & Shmooze For Women By Rabbi Teichman

Wednesday December 21st

8:00pm

At the home of
Essie & Yaakov Berkowitz

6820 Navajo Drive

