Beware the Unintended Consequences

by Rabbi Daniel Isaacs

For any nation Independence Day is always a big happy celebration. This is certainly true for the Jewish People, who celebrate the anniversary of their becoming a free and independent Nation on Pesach. The Torah requires an enormous public feast: roast lamb, four cups of wine, story-telling...you know what I mean! We see that the men who were impure (tommeh) and unable to make the Korban complained about being prohibited from the celebration, and were “rewarded” with the laws of “Pesach Sheni.” Who would want to miss celebrating Pesach?

So it’s kind of a shock to read (Rashi 9:1, from the Sifri) that in the 40 years that Bnei Yisroel spent in the desert they only celebrated ONE Pesach! Why?! Rashi explains that were uncircumcised – and the Torah prohibits parents of children from offering the Korban Pesach – they were the korban and celebrate. They couldn’t circumcise the they were always on call to travel in the desert, and such performing a bris. Yet Rashi ALSO says that it was a disgrace couldn’t bring the Korban.

We’re faced with a question: if they were keeping the Pikuach Nefesh by not circumcising, and keeping the bringing the Korban while their children were was it considered a disgrace that they didn’t bring it?

The Mizrachi has an answer: Hashem wanted Bnei Yisroel immediately after receiving the Torah, but the with the Golden Calf, then with the Spies – caused desert for 40 years. Their wandering was their own responsibility for not being able to bring a Korban even though they wanted to bring one!

We are responsible for much that we don’t think consequences. This makes those things we do think about Summer’s coming, what will your child – your most valuable, precious investment – be doing? Will they be in an environment that’s “Torah-safe”, safe for their neshamos, as well as safe for their bodies? For many children, camp can be the most inspiring time and place of their year; it is an opportunity for great relationships with leaders and role-models, and tremendous growth. We care – as we should! – that they have space to healthily develop their bodies and minds; let’s also care for their ruchniyus, their spiritual development.

A very special thank you to Menachem Jacobson, 8B for engineering the music for the Celebrate Israel Parade. Menachem assembled the AV cart, coordinated all of the music, and kept the entire ASHAR contingent marching excitedly along.

Torah’s laws of Torah’s laws by not uncircumcised, why Yisroel to enter Eretz Yisroel People’s wicked actions – first them to have to wander in the fault so they bore the Pesach during those years, about: unintended
The seventh grade class trip to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, was not only an educational experience, but an exciting place to be. The day started off a little rocky when we were on the bus and there was a problem with the brakes. We had to switch buses, which made us miss our first activity at the US Mint. Once we finally arrived in Philadelphia, we got to see the long-awaited monument, the Liberty Bell. I pictured the Liberty Bell a lot bigger than it was in reality. After that, we went to the Museum of American Jewish History. Our tour guide helped us see an amazing connection between Judaism and our country's past. After that, we headed to lunch at The Bourse Building Food Court. It only took us about five minutes to eat because of how excited we were for the next activity-souvenir shopping. In girl world, if there’s no proof then it didn’t happen, so of course we needed to find the right sweatshirt that our entire class would want to buy. Unfortunately, at the first shop, we couldn’t find anything that we all agreed on but the teachers promised us that we would get to go to another shop if there was enough time. Our next activity was the Constitutional Walking Tour of Philadelphia. Even though this was an amazing part of the trip, it was pretty exhausting. We had an amazing tour guide walk us through the city and tell us the historical events that had occurred in each place. It was especially fascinating to me, because we already knew some of the information from our social studies teacher, Mrs. Granata. We got to see all of the things that we were learning about in person. The truth is, in my opinion, you don’t fully understand the history until you see it for yourself. As we were walking to the second gift shop, the highlight of my trip occurred. I have an aunt whom I only get to see once or twice a year since she lives in California. She and the class that she teaches flew in for their eighth grade trip. They started off their trip in NYC and marched in the Israeli Day Parade, but the second day of their trip was in Philadelphia, the same day that we were there. Out of the corner of my eye I saw a sweatshirt with the name of her school. I shouted out her name and she came running to me. As soon as I got home, I couldn’t wait to tell my mother about how I saw her sister. After all that excitement, we went to the gift shop. Although there were no sweatshirts there, we each got our own little souvenirs. Along with a few of my friends, I got a grey t-shirt that says Philadelphia on it. After that we went to Congregation Mikveh Israel. There were twenty Torahs which I admired as I carefully got my turn to come up and kiss one of them, after the education part of the tour. As soon as we left Congregation Mikveh Israel, we tried to go back to the Mint. Unfortunately, there were only five minutes until it closed, so we weren’t able to go in. We got on the bus from there and drove to Elizabeth, New Jersey, for dinner provided by ASHAR. We continued our drive home after bentching and thanking the workers in the restaurant for our meals. By the time we got back to ASHAR, we were all exhausted and wishing for bed. Our parents picked us up and we got our wishes.

- Goldy Zazon, Class 7G
Our unit on fractions turned into an all out art bonanza. I am very proud of 4G. They followed instructions and the results speak for themselves!

- Mr. Steve Hirsch

Classes 5-7B visited Sports Time USA on Monday. Thank you to Mrs. Weinstein for sponsoring the bus.
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