

Friday 7th July 2017

Candle Lighting	4.42pm
Maariv	6.15pm

Shabbat 8th July 2017

Shacharit	9.00am
Mincha	4.25pm
Maariv	5.41pm

A word from the Rabbi

Often we find ourselves in a predicament, be it a dispute or argument, where we feel hard done by. We feel that we have been treated unjustly and that we are on the right side of not only the law, but of morality as well.

That being said, we understand that just believing we are right isn't enough to persuade ourselves or others. To that end, we attempt to convince people about the rectitude of our behaviour by presenting the 'objective' facts, describing the scene as it truly panned out.

But is it really possible to be objective?

In this week's Parsha we learn of a complex individual named Bilaam, an arch enemy of the Jews who sought to destroy the nation using his spiritual powers of cursing.

The Torah tells us that he "got up early in the morning and saddled his donkey". The commentators all ask why an individual of such esteem and fame would need to saddle his own donkey. Surely he would have attendants to take care of the laborious and trivial tasks of the journey? Does the prime minister fill his own car with petrol?

Rashi shares a deep insight not only into Bilaam's personality, but also into the workings of our own unconscious mind.

"Why did he saddle his own donkey? Because hatred causes a breakdown of the senses ... (mekakelet et hashura)".

Bilaam's hatred towards the Jewish people made him incapable of acting 'normally' and according to the acceptable standards of someone of his standing.

It is interesting that Rashi makes the identical comment regarding Avraham's zeal in saddling his own donkey en route to sacrifice Isaac.

"Why did he saddle his own donkey? Because **love** causes a breakdown of the senses ... (mekakelet et hashura)".

From these two statements by Rashi, we can see that emotions have the tendency to distort our perceptions. Bilaam and Avraham were overcome by emotions - hatred and love - which caused them to act in a way unbecoming of their status.

When we are emotionally involved in a situation, we lose perspective and therefore our objectivity. Objectivity requires indifference, while emotions develop our subjectivity. Emotional connections undermine our ability to remain objective.

It is impossible to remain truly objective about anything that really matters.

Shabbat shalom

WE WISH A HEARTY MAZAL TOV ON YOUR BAR/BAT MITZVAH ANNIVERSARY TO:

Adam Krowitz	Eliot Levin	Jarred Levy
Rebecca Michels	Michael Subel	David Teperson
David Wainstein		

WE WISH A HEARTY MAZAL TOV ON YOUR WEDDING ANNIVERSARY TO:

Neil and Susan Leiboff	Avigdor and Margaret Sacks
Ian and Robyn Satill	

We wish long life to the following Members who commemorate Yartzeit this week:

Anne Pogroske	for her father	Alec Bank
Wendy Cohen	for her father	Solly Barr
Calvin Stein	for his grandfather	Harry Brener
Calvin Stein	for his grandmother	Mona Brener
Karen Chazan	for her mother	Rona Flax
Lewis Folb	for his father	Wilfred Folb
Dianne Fuchs	for her mother	Helene Greenblo
Lydia Lazarus	for her mother	Fay Hurwitz
Lovelle Israelson	for her husband	Matthew Israelson
Denise Kassel	for her father	Matthew Israelson
Ivor Kaplan	for his mother	Ethel Kaplan
Mervyn Katz	for his father	Solly Katz
Steven Rosen	for his father	Joseph Rosen
Sandra Perry	for her sister	Joyce Rosenberg
Cheryl Miller and George Rosettenstein	for their brother	Rusty Rosettenstein
Jennifer Jodeikin and Howard Sandler	for their father	Vivian Sandler
Belinda Levy	for her grandfather	Joseph Sher
Sandra Plit	for her father	Arthur Shlom
Simone Rutovitz and Helene Shofer	for their brother-in-law	Louis Singer
Rodney Tobiansky	for his father	George Tobiansky
Michael Fisher	for his aunt	Rosa Wenezky
Marc Schneider	for his mother	Trudy Schneider