



December 2, 2011

ו כסלו תשע"ב

פרשת ויצא

Candle Lighting 5:10 PM

Rabbi Binyomin Luban  
Rabbi Yisroel Y. Niman  
Rabbi Mordechai Palgon

ראשי הישיבה

Issue 4

## Dvar Torah - Spontaneous Emotions ? by Rabbi Avi Meth

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We tend to think that it is impossible to control intense emotions, but great people know how and when to express such emotions.

A story is told about Rav Yisroel Salanter who was told on *Shemeni Atzeres* that his child had passed away. He did not react for the entire *Yom Tov*. Right after *havdalah*, he broke into tears

and cried for three hours straight.

When רחל first meets יעקב אבינו in this week's פרשה, פרשה, רחל tells us that he cries. רש"י gives two explanations for his reaction. Firstly, he saw with רוח הקודש that he would not be buried with her. Secondly, he came empty-handed, and unlike his grandfather's servant אליעזר who came laden with gifts for her mother רבקה, he had nothing to give her. The

שפתי חכמים explains that רש"י is required to give both of these answers because each has a difficulty preventing it from answering the question unaided. According to the first answer – that he would not be buried with her – how would he have explained to her why he was crying? He certainly would not have told her about her own death! According to the second answer – that he didn't have anything to give her – would a צדיק like יעקב be concerned about a lack of money? This שפתי חכמים is, at face value, perplexing. If יעקב אבינו was so distraught that he was brought to tears, why debate what he was thinking? His weeping could be understood as a spontaneous emotional response, an uncontrollable reaction to great anguish. What room is there to discuss the possible השבונוח of whether or not it makes sense to be upset? We see that we have the capability of being in control of our emotions. יעקב did not suppress his emotions; he knew the appropriate occasion to express them.

## Dvar Halacha - V'sein Tal Umatar L'vrachah by Yehuda Silverman, 10th Grade

Starting with *Ma'ariv* on Monday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, we include *V'sein Tal Umatar L'vrachah* in the *Bracha* of *Bareich Aleinu*. Because this year is followed by a leap year, we begin one day later than the usual date, which is December 4<sup>th</sup>. We continue to insert this request until the *Mincha* preceding *Pesach*. If one forgets to say this formula at the appropriate time but remembers at some point before the conclusion of the *Bracha*, one should insert it at that point and then continue to the end of the *Bracha*. One who remembers after concluding the *Bracha*, even if before the next *Bracha*, should insert the request before the words *Ki Atah Shomea Tefilah* in the *Bracha* of *Shema Koleinu*. On fast days, when *Aneinu* is included at this point, one should say *V'sein Tal Umatar* before *Aneinu*. If one remembers after beginning the *Bracha* of *Retzei*, one must return to the *Bracha* of *Bareich Aleinu*. If one remembers concluding the *Shemoneh Esrai*, one must start from the beginning. Within the first thirty days, one is generally not accustomed to adding *V'sein Tal Umatar*, and must repeat the *Shemoneh Esrai* in a case of doubt of whether it

was said. If one says *V'sein Tal Umatar* at the wrong time of year, one must repeat the *Bracha* of *Bareich Aleinu* with *V'sein Bracha*.

## Upcoming Event!



Open House  
for  
Prospective  
9th Grade  
Parents &  
Students  
י כסלו  
תשע"ב /  
Monday  
evening,

December 5, 2011, 7:30 PM at Yeshiva

## The Weekly Quiz

*Q: What commonly-used Hebrew word, well known to many non-Jews, appears only once in the Torah?*

Answers or ideas for future questions may be submitted in writing to the Spotlight office or emailed to [Quiz@ytcteam.org](mailto:Quiz@ytcteam.org).

The first correct answer submitted will be announced in the next Spotlight. You need not be a student to participate.

Hatzlochah!

Answer to last week's question:

*Q. What is אבירום אביו's mother's name?*

A. Amisla'i bas Karnava

Yasher Koach to Mr. Isaac Jaroslawicz, who was the first to submit the

## Alumnus Responds to: Coping with Tragedy (Issue 3 by Chaim Benson, Grade 12)

Dear Yeshiva Toras Chaim Spotlight, Rabbi Palgon, Rabbi Glazer, Avidor Gerstenfeld, Chaim Benson, and all the students, staff, and faculty of Yeshiva Toras Chaim,

As a former student of Yeshiva Toras Chaim, a previous Editor-in-Chief of the Spotlight, and a current member of Yeshiva Gedolah Ateres Shmuel of Waterbury, this article truly touched my heart. I must say [that] to see this kind of sincerity in sympathizing for fellow Jews is truly unique and special. Yeshiva Toras Chaim imbues in its students honesty, commitment and a level of dedication which is befitting of a *ben Torah*. This article is just one example of a tradition that remains strong. I feel a

very real *nechama* in reading this article and seeing that my brothers in Yeshiva Toras Chaim care so much about my fellow *bochurim* here in Waterbury. While I never truly got to know Dani and Eli in their short lifetimes, I can now say, after learning so much about them, that they were truly special people who came from homes overflowing with *chessed*. The fact that I never got to know them personally doesn't matter here in Waterbury, since we treat each other like family no matter our age, origin or personality. Classes define our schedule; in no way do they affect our relationships. I know and feel very strongly within my heart and soul that Yeshiva Toras Chaim is very much the same way. I feel as

if each student in Yeshiva Toras Chaim *right now* is a brother to me, and he will forever be that way whether he is there for one year or four years. I feel as if my brothers in Florida are reaching out to me and telling me how much they feel my pain for the loss of my brothers here in Waterbury. It is truly one family. In this time of difficulty and great sorrow, I sincerely appreciate the comfort that each and every one of the students, staff, and faculty of Yeshiva Toras Chaim have extended to me. May we continue to share only with *simcha*.

With heartfelt love and sincerity,

Chaim Aharon Gross  
Class of 2007

## YTC/TEAM Dinner Honorees Part I

*Rabbi & Mrs.*

*David & Shifra Sharfman*

It is our great *kavod* to honor our esteemed *Bais Medrash Mashgiach Ruchani* and his *Rebbetzin*, **Rabbi and Mrs. Dovid and Shifra Sharfman**, with the **Harbotzas HaTorah Award**. Rabbi Sharfman's awe-inspiring talents as a Rebbe are surpassed only by the love and devotion he exhibits for each and every *bochur* – a combination which has earned him the profound respect and admiration of his *talmidim*, parents and colleagues alike. Additionally, Rabbi Sharfman's highly popular Sunday morning *shiur* has become **the "must-attend"** event for many of our community's *ba'alei batim*. Mrs. Sharfman, his true *eizer k'negdo*, opens her home to the *talmidim* of the Bais Medrash and joyfully shares in all of Rabbi Sharfman's endeavors. Professionally, Mrs. Sharfman's dedication to the children of our community in her role as a Speech/Language Pathologist has contributed greatly to their overall *hatzlacha*. The Sharfmans continue to inspire us all with their *Avodas HaKodesh* in helping to build Torah.

Harbotzas HaTorah Award

Rabbi & Mrs. Dovid & Shifra Sharfman



Honoring

Mr. & Mrs. Irving & Roslyn Seidel י"ג

Beloved Parents of

Mrs. Deborah S. Chames &

Mrs. Shira S. Westreich



Young Leadership Award

Mr. & Mrs. Chaim & Bryna Roth

Accepted in Loving Memory of their

Beloved Father,

R' Reuven Yisroel ben Chaim Hirsch

Roth י"ג



3rd Yahrtzeit of  
the Yeshiva's Beloved  
Friend & Benefactor,  
**Dr. Abe Chames A'H**

The commemoration of Dr. Abe Chames'

third Yahrtzeit will take place on

Monday, 10 Kislev / December 5, 2011, 3:30 PM

at Eretz HaChaim Cemetery in Bet Shemesh.

Mrs. Chames would appreciate the information being passed along to people you know of who will be/are in Israel, and may wish to attend.

May the family and K'lal Yisroel be zocheh to simchas.

13 Teves, 5772 / Sunday evening, January 8, 2012

YESHIVA TORAS CHAIM / TORAS EMES

27th Annual Dinner

Yeshiva Toras Chaim Dr. Abe Chames High School  
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