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Issue #64: Parshat Vayigash

December 30 • Tevet 9

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THE REBBE'S TORAH TEACHINGS

In the Torah portion of Vayigash, Joseph finally reveals his identity to his brothers. "I am Joseph," he says, "is my father still alive?"

The question itself demands further explanation. Judah had just told Joseph that Jacob was unwilling to send Benjamin down to Egypt, fearing that he would die there. He had also just stated that if Benjamin were to be detained in Egypt, he was afraid that his father might not survive. It is obvious that Joseph knew that Jacob was still alive. Moreover, we see that Joseph didn't even wait for a response, but immediately ordered them to bring their father.

"Is my father still alive?" was therefore not stated as a question, but as an expression of surprise. Joseph was astonished that his father was still among the living.

At the time Jacob was 133 years old, relatively young compared to the lifespan of Abraham and Isaac. Why, then, was Joseph so surprised?

When Jacob heard that Joseph had died, he entered a state of constant mourning. For 22 years he endured incredible grief, "and refused to be consoled." Jacob's pain was simply unendurable. It was therefore surprising to Joseph that his father hadn't succumbed to such protracted suffering.

Joseph then tells his brothers to "Hurry back to my father." The element of speed was required

not only to inform Jacob that Joseph had been found alive, but also to bring him to Egypt as soon as possible. Every moment that passed without father and son being reunited placed Jacob in danger for his life.

(As for the question as to why Joseph didn't travel to his father himself, the answer is contained in his words: "G-d sent me before you." Joseph knew that he was fulfilling a Divine mission in Egypt, and therefore could not leave.)

Jacob was in mourning for Joseph 22 years. This corresponded to the 22 years Jacob did not observe the mitzva of honoring his father and mother (as he was not in close physical proximity to them). His 22 years of mourning for his son were a punishment for this shortcoming.

However, at the exact moment the 22 years were up, the Divine decree that he be separated from his son no longer existed. Joseph thus urged his brothers to "hurry," for there was no longer any reason to delay "even the blink of an eye."

There are sometimes situations in life when it is necessary to act within the attribute of severity. And yet, as we learn from Joseph, we must always be careful to do so sparingly. As soon as the reason for punishment no longer exists, we must immediately revert to loving-kindness and mercy. For it is forbidden to cause even a moment of unnecessary suffering.

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**Torah Reading for Vayigash: Torah Portion pgs. 250-267
Haftorah pg. 1144 (Stone Edition Chumash)**

29 FRIDAY
 4:17 pm Light Candles
 4:25 pm Mincha/Maariv

30 SHABBAT
 9:20 am Shacharit
 10:00 am Youth Groups
 12:00 pm Kiddush
 See page 5 for sponsors
 4:15 pm Mincha & Seudah
 Shlishit, with Chassidic
 Melody & Discourse
 Maariv
 5:22 pm Shabbat Ends

31 SUNDAY-Fast of the Tenth of Tevet
 5:51 am Fast Begins
 8:00 am Shacharit
 4:15 pm Mincha with Torah
 Reading / Maariv
 5:14 pm Fast Ends

1 MONDAY
 8:00 am Shacharit
 10:00 am Second Shacharit Minyan
 4:30 pm Mincha/Maariv

2 TUESDAY
 6:30 am Shacharit
 4:30 pm Mincha/Maariv

3 WEDNESDAY
 6:30 am Shacharit
 4:30 pm Mincha/Maariv

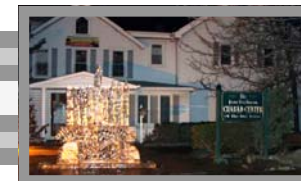
4 THURSDAY
 6:30 am Shacharit
 4:30 pm Mincha/Maariv

5 FRIDAY
 6:30 am Shacharit
 4:24 pm Light Candles
 4:30 pm Mincha/Maariv

This week's Women's Shiur will be held at 3:15 pm at the home of Sheya & Shani Farkas, 420 Church Avenue, Cedarhurst, and will be given by Mrs. Zeldy Stein.



The COOLEST



Ice Menorah

CHICKEN SOUP FOR THE NESHAMA: LIFE LESSONS

MISSION

One Shabbos, Shmerel was called to the platform of the synagogue to perform hagba, the lifting of the Torah scroll. It was a heavy Torah scroll; yet Shmerel thought he would be able to do it, as he was a husky fellow. But Shmerel overestimated his strength, and, to his embarrassment, almost dropped the Torah scroll! He even required assistance returning the Torah scroll to its place.

Shmerel resolved not to return to the synagogue without doing a full workout, which would surely prevent such an embarrassment from recurring!

Three months later, a well-built muscle-man entered the synagogue. He looked quite different, but yes – it was Shmerel. When Shmerel heard his name called, he strode to the platform, confident that this time he would not fail. Shmerel raised the Torah scroll aloft, and didn't even have to bend his knees. The "oohs and ahhs" from the congregants brought a satisfied smile to Shmerel's face, and he sat down with the Torah scroll, waiting for someone to wrap it in its mantle.

Suddenly, the gabbai approached him and said, "Shmerel, you did a remarkable job! But we called you up for an aliya, not for hagba!"

A job can be done remarkably, but was it the job that was demanded?



THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

THE QUANTUM LEAP

There are times when moving forward is not enough. There are times when you can't just change what you do, how you speak and how you think about things. Sometimes, you have to change who you are. You need to pick both feet off the ground you tread and leap.

| | | | | |
|--------|---------|--------------------|--------------------|---------|
| SUNDAY | 8:45 am | Chassidus | Rabbi Nachman Ross | SHABBAT |
| | 3:30 pm | Rambam | Rabbi Nachman Ross | |
| | 3:30 pm | Code of Jewish Law | Rabbi Wolowik | |
| | 4:45 pm | Moshiach Matters | Rabbi Nachman Ross | |

~~8:45 am Breakfast & Bavli Rabbi Wolowik~~
NOT IN SESSION, WILL RESUME JAN. 7

| | | | |
|--------|----------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| MONDAY | 7:15 am | Tanya | R' Meir Preger |
| | 7:15 am | Daf Yomi Daily Talmud Study | R' Elly Storch |
| | 10:30 am | Food for the Body & Soul | Mrs. Rivka Kotlarsky |
| | 3:45 pm | Connection to the Source | Mrs. Leah Muller |

| | | | |
|---------|---|--|----------------------------|
| TUESDAY | 5:30 am | Chassidic Mysticism | Rabbi Wolowik |
| | 7:15 am | Daf Yomi | R' Elly Storch |
| | 10:30 am | J.U.S.T. For Us Seniors Group | Mrs. Lisa Balch |
| | <small>NOT IN SESSION, WILL RESUME JAN. 9</small> | | |
| | 7:45 pm | Intermediate Hebrew Class | Mrs. Marla Turk |
| | 8:15 pm | The Light of Prayer | R' Shea Werner |

| | | | |
|-----------|----------|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| WEDNESDAY | 5:45 am | Tanya | R' Meir Preger |
| | 7:15 am | Daf Yomi | R' Elly Storch |
| | 10:30 am | A Tale of Two Souls – Tanya | Shimona Tzukernik |

| | | | |
|----------|---------|---|----------------|
| THURSDAY | 5:45 am | Tanya | R' Meir Preger |
| | 7:15 am | Daf Yomi | R' Elly Storch |
| | 8:00 pm | Living with the Times, Wkly Torah Portion | R' Yanky Feder |

| | | | |
|--------|---------|---------------------|----------------|
| FRIDAY | 5:30 am | Chassidic Mysticism | Rabbi Wolowik |
| | 7:15 am | Daf Yomi | R' Elly Storch |

WEEKLY TORAH PORTION SUMMARY: VAYIGASH

Judah approaches Joseph to plead for the release of Benjamin, offering himself as a slave to the Egyptian ruler in Benjamin's stead. Upon witnessing his brothers' loyalty to one another, Joseph reveals his identity to them. "I am Joseph," he declares. "Is my father still alive?"

The brothers are overcome by shame and remorse, but Joseph comforts them. "It was not you who sent me here," he says to them, "but G-d. It has all been ordained from Above to save us, and the entire region, from famine."

The brothers rush back to Canaan with the news. Jacob comes to Egypt with his sons and their families -- seventy souls in all -- and is reunited with his beloved son after 22 years. On his way to Egypt he receives the Divine promise: "Fear not to go down to Egypt; for I will there make of you a great nation. I will go down with you into Egypt, and I will also surely bring you up again."

Joseph gathers the wealth of Egypt by selling food and seed during the famine. Pharaoh gives Jacob's family the fertile county of Goshen to settle, and the children of Israel prosper in their Egyptian exile.

KIDDUSH CALENDAR

- **December 30**
Reuven Wasserman
Tzvi Tsaskis
Hillel Alenick
Boris Volfman
Eduard Grinfeld
- **January 6**
Mr. and Mrs. Moshe Susman
- **January 13**
Sponsorship Available

If you'd like to sponsor a future Kiddush at Chabad to mark any occasion, please contact Dr. Muller at 516-569-0169.

WE THANK...

Dr. Binyomin & Leah Muller for sponsoring the weekly I'chaim publication.
Eli Furst for donating several items for Chanukah.

**VOLUNTEER FORUM****WE THANK THE VOLUNTEERS FROM THE PAST WEEK:**

- Our devoted Kiddush volunteers: Lisa Balch, Paula & Yechiel Friedman, Fanny Gold, Sandy Gordon, Debby Hoffert, Ira Lebowitz, Larry Sachs, Leibel Stein, Alan Strauss, Yechezkel Taitz, Marla Turk, Avi Friedman and Josh Justic.
- Ali Bhatia, Chani Cohen, Itzik Cohen, Ari Englander, Bina Englander, Gabriella Englander, Adina Feder, Dassi Feder, Shira Feder, Lisa Fishbein, Rena Furst, Raizel Geselowitz, Ahuva Goldsmith, Tzirel Greenstein, Eli Kirsch, Ratzel Sara Kirsch, Esther Leiderman, Menucha Lowenstein, Shlomo Ross, Meir Rubashkin, Larry Sachs, Sara Schnoll, Larry Stein, Ari Tannenbaum, Levi Wolowik, Mendel Wolowik, and Yossi Zwiebel for their help with the Chanukah Wonderland.
- Rabbi Meir Geisinsky for organizing the Teen Minyan
- Motty Glick for reading the Torah at the Teen Minyan

We sincerely apologize if we have inadvertently omitted your name

DID YOU KNOW...?

There's just 2 days left to receive a tax deduction for 2006! As we rapidly approach the end of the 2006 tax year, we'd like to urge you to consider a year-end tax-deductible donation to Chabad of the Five Towns. Thanks to the generosity of people like yourself, this has been a banner year for Chabad, culminating in more than 4,500 people benefiting from our Chanukah events last week. We look forward to even more excitement in the year to come, as we institute new programs, continue to serve the entire community and reach out to those in need. Invest in our community—donate to Chabad and reap instant rewards! Donate online: www.chabad5towns.com/charity or call 516-295-2478.



HALACHA OF THE WEEK

PROPER TREATMENT OF SEFARIM, HOLY BOOKS

- If Sefarim are lying on a bench, it is forbidden to sit on the bench, unless the Shul is crowded or there is something between the Sefarim and the bench. Certainly, it is forbidden to leave Sefarim on the floor.
- A person may not put a Sefer on his knees and lean his elbows on the Sefer.
- A Sefer must not be left overturned. If one found a Sefer which was turned over, he should turn it on the proper side.
- It is forbidden to use a Sefer for one's personal benefit – for example, to shield against sunlight or to hide oneself. However, it is permissible to use one Sefer to elevate another Sefer in order to facilitate learning.

YOUTH CALENDAR



- December 31 • No Hebrew School
- January 3 • B.A.T.T., 7:00—8:30 pm
- January 4 • Chai Five, 5:30—7:00 pm
- January 7 • Youth Zone, 10:00 am—12:00 pm
- January 8 • Storytime at Chabad,
for children ages 4-7, 5:30—6:30 pm



NEW ON OUR SITE



- 1/1/2007 • Tevet 11 Ovadiah Lazari
- 1/2/2007 • Tevet 12 Adina Bronstein
- 1/2/2007 • Tevet 12 Jaiden Enciso Kowal
- 1/2/2007 • Tevet 12 Shayna Rivka Popack
- 1/4/2007 • Tevet 14 Miriam Hatten
- 1/5/2007 • Tevet 15 Natan Thalheim




To Mr. Abe Tannenbaum on the loss of his mother. Shiva will be observed through Sunday morning, December 31, at 671 West Broadway in Cedarhurst.

To Mrs. Chaya Freedman on the passing of her father, Shmuel Meir Rephael Goldberger, A"H. Shiva is being observed in Montreal, 2963 Brighton in the Cote des Nieve area. Chaya can be reached through Wednesday morning at 866-737-1661.

Tuesday, January 2 • Evening Class for Women

This monthly class on the Aleph Bet is taught by renowned lecturer, Mrs. Chaya Franklin. Explore the deeper meaning of the letters of the Aleph-Bet—8:15 pm at Chabad.



Looking for quality entertainment on a Saturday night?
Come on Down to Chabad of the Five Towns!
 Enjoy an enlightening evening of Food, Fun & Fulfillment

January 6th
Chabad and Laughter
 — The Best Medicine: with renowned comedian
JERRY KAHN!
 • Food: Sushi, Salads & Desserts

February 17th:
DRUM CAFE!
 • Food: Chinese with Marlon Sobol!

Café Chabad takes place at:
 Chabad of the Five Towns,
 74 Maple Avenue, Cedarhurst
 at 8:30 pm

For more information and
 to RSVP, please visit us online:
www.chabad5towns.com/cafe
 or call: 516-295-2478

Fee: \$18 per person.

Tuesday, January 9 • Wrap it Up! Mystery Package Party

Wrap up a gift values at \$200.00-\$30.00. all packages will be auctioned off and proceeds will benefit Chabad's activities. No bid is too high, and everyone is a winner at Chabad. Refreshments will be served. For men and women. 8:15 pm

HAVE A HA HA HAVdallah!

By: Michele Justic

What will you do after havdalah on January 6? If you like to laugh, head to Chabad. Yes, you read right, "Chabad." Beginning at 8:30 p.m. as part of the Café Chabad series, Jerry Kahn will perform. In case you need a reminder of where you have heard of him before, he proudly states, "I started my own business. I call my company 'Emergency Exit'... you may have seen my ads in buses, trains, airplanes, and movie theaters!"

Seriously though, Jerry has performed for presidential candidate Joe Lieberman and his entourage. He was also the opening act for Comedy Relief for the Homeless and he performed in the Brooklyn Jewish Film Festival. He will bring his unique humorous style to Chabad of the Five Towns, 74 Maple Avenue in Cedarhurst at their ever-popular Café Chabad.

That ought to keep you laughing for awhile, though you're welcome to come to shul every Shabbos for Rabbi Wolowik's entertaining speeches.

When that wears off, come back to Chabad on February 17 at 8:30 p.m. for the second installment of Café Chabad. Enjoy some sushi, salads and desserts while listening to The Drum Café with Marlon Sobol.

Marlon has appeared on the Carson Daly Show and has performed at Madison Square Garden, Webster Hall, Irving Plaza, BB Kings, Lincoln Center, Windows on the World, the Supper Club, the Nuyorican Poet's Café, Swing 46, and the Louise Armstrong Legacy House hosted by Arvell Shaw.

Marlon has recorded on numerous albums including Matisyahu's Youth and Arise... Shake off the Dust the Yaloppin Hounds, New Yaloppin City, Lindy-Hop Deluxe, The Architect, and Rayzd, Fear is the Mind Killer.

You don't have to trek into the city to see him though. Just come to 74 Maple Avenue in Cedarhurst on February 17 at 8:30 p.m. For more information or to RSVP visit www.chabad5towns.com or call 516-295-2478.

