WEEKLY EMUNOH DIGEST FOR TEENAGE BOYS

<u>Zmanim</u> קבלת שבת London 5:40

מוצאי שבת London 6:48 (7:11 ר״ת)





בס"ד



אלהי מסכה לא תעשה לך. את חג המצות תשמור (שמות לד: יז-יח)

The juxtaposition of these two פסוקים is curious. What does the איסור of making idols have to do with פסח with?

The קדושת לוי זיע"א quotes the מדת ישראל זצ"ל who famously teaches that the תורה generally refers to the תום טוב as חג המצות whereas we refer to it as חג הפסח. The reason for this is that we want to show our appreciation to the עבש"ע for "skipping over" the houses of our tormentors and bringing us to redemption. This is encapsulated in the name תפסח. Whereas the עבש"ע wants to shed a light on our eagerness to keep His מעוות and that we placed our trust in Him to saunter out into the desert with nothing but some hard-baked dough on our backs. This is encapsulated in the name מ המצות.

However, it is essential we maintain that אמונה and בטחון. In the words of the חמדת ישראל, every Yied must remain tightly connected to the 13 עיקרי Only then does the רבש"ע continue to take pride in His people and *shepp nachas* from our מצוות.

Therefore this פסוק, which appears each year in the פרשה that begins our preparation for פסח, contains a warning to not allow any אלהי מסכה foreign influences which can undermine our אמונה to take root. In this way, הקב"ה will continue to look fondly upon us and take pleasure from our commitment to His מצוות as reflected in the next commitment to His מצוות as reflected in the next prefers for the upcoming טוב ...



אשרי העם שככה לו

Praiseworthy is the nation for whom this is so

In modern Hebrew, when someone asks למה, (why?) the standard response is ככה (because), which can be a little frustrating as it's not a real answer!

What exactly are we referring to when we say שככה לו-it is so? And what is so praiseworthy about it?

The שומר אמונים says that this word actually has a vital lesson for us in our עבודת השם. He explains that in this context, the word ככה means that the way things are is the way they are meant to be. We may have our own opinions about what we would like to happen in any given situation, but at the end of the day, whatever does occur is because הקב"ה has willed it to be so.

When we see events that happen as nothing less that the will of 'a, then we realise that this is also the best possible outcome even if we don't immediately understand why. The says that therefore a person should accustom themselves to saying, 'If this is the way that $\pi \eta r$ wants it, then it's good that it is so.'

This positive outlook is praiseworthy, as it says אשרי העם and also has the ability to fill us with true שככה לו (happiness) as we develop our בטחון through an awareness that everything that הקב"ה does is ultimately for the best!

Q. HOW SHOULD WE AS YIEDEN REACT TO THE TERRIBLE EARTHQUAKES THAT TOOK PLACE IN SYRIA AND TURKEY OVER THE PAST FEW WEEKS?

A. FIRST OF ALL, WHEN WE SEE SUPERNATURAL EVENTS, THAT SHOULD STRENGTHEN OUR NAILE STRENGTHEN THAT A PERSON DOES NOT NICK HIS FINGER IN THIS WORLD, UNLESS IT HAS SO BEEN DECREED BY NE. ALL THE MORE SO, WHEN WE SEE THESE TERRIBLE



חזו בני







This Tuesday, כ"א אדר, marks the *Yohrzeit* of **Rav** Elimelech (Weisblum) of Lizhensk זצ"ל.

Rav Eliemelech was born in 1717 in the town of Tiktin, Galicia, to Reb Eliezer Lipman and Mirel. In his youth, he learned by Rav Chanina Lipa of Chomelnik and subsequently became a devoted דיסח of the Mezritcher געיד. He married Sprintza Rokeach who bore him five children. Rav Elimelech and his brother Rav Zusha of Anipoli spent many years in exile to bring a עכלל for לכלי Anipoli spent many years in exile to bring a שכינה עכינה and to try to somewhat feel the pain of the many wordrous tales are told about the travels of the famous brothers.

After the חסידות was גפטר, his תלמידים spread across Eastern Europe. Rav Elimelech founded חסידות in Poland, where it thrived for the next 170 years. He settled in Lizhensk, where thousands of חסידים would flock to him for his ברכות and advice. Rav Elimelech established core principles of חסידות, strongly emphasising the necessity to have a connection with a צדיק, who could be used as a conduit for having a greater הקב"ה ot דביקות. His אהבת ישראל was legendary, and even when he had to rebuke people, it was done in the most discreet, sensitive way, so that the listener would get the message without feeling embarrassed. One day, he stopped wearing רבינו תם תפילין. When queried, he explained that the night before he had felt unwell and stopped seeing petitioners, but at 2am a man arrived seeking a ברכה for his wife who was in childbirth. Rav Elimelech was hesitant to answer the door, but then he thought, 'What would I do if it was my daughter that needed help?', and rushed to give the man a warm ברכה. But due to the fleeting hesitation, Rav Elimelech in his great humility thought of himself as unfit to wear רבינו תם תפילין!

Almost all of the Chassidic leaders of the next generation were his תלמידים. The four most famous ones, about whom it is said received his פטירה, אפטירה, מגיד און איז איז איז איז איז איז איז איז איז מגיד און איז איז איז איז איז איז איז Rav Menachem Mendel of Rimanov and the Apta בר. These great גדיקים further spread חוזה to all parts of Poland and Galicia. Rav Elimelech's און מולד מולד ארוכה אלימלך אלימלך as the תורה מור עולם החסידות עולם החסידות איז איז איז איז איז איז to be said before *davening*.

He was נפטר in 1787, and is buried in Lizhensk, where thousands flock each year to *daven* at his holy קבר.

זכותו יגן עלינו





A man by the name of Shimon approached Rav Yaakov Galinsky זע"ל and told him that he had been diagnosed with an illness. He had been recommended to fly to the USA for treatment and asked Rav Yaakov for his opinion. Rav Yaakov advised him to go, and gave him a ברכה for a רפואה שלימה.

A few weeks later Rav Yaakov saw Shimon and enquired as to why he hadn't yet travelled to America. Shimon responded that he was still researching whether that particular hospital and surgeon were the best options for the operation. Rav Yaakov asked him, 'Have you researched the pilot flying you there to see if he is competent?' Shimon answered, 'No, I'm not worried about that. If the pilot were to be negligent, he would be risking his own life too, so I place my trust in him. But the surgeon could be incompetent and it wouldn't affect his health whatsoever!'

Rav Yaakov responded, 'My friend, listen to what you just said. The נביא says, 'בכל צרתם לו צר', which means that when כלל ישראל ישראל is also כביכול o pain. 'ה is your pilot. If you are going through a difficult time, 'ה is right there with you, feeling your pain and worry, and you can therefore be assured that He will 'fly your plane' in the best way possible.



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