

Zmanim

קבלת שבת
London 3:44מוצאי שבת
London 4:55 (5:12 ר"ת)

חזון בני

ב' כסלו תשפ"ג

פ' תולדות



CHIZUK IN THE PARSHA



ותכהין עיניו מראות
(בראשית כז:א)

At this time of year, winter sets in and the world around us grows darker. For some people, it can seem like winter all year around as they struggle to see clearly in the spiritual darkness that surrounds them. However, as we find in this week's פרשה, lack of clarity itself can actually lead to very positive outcomes.

יצחק became visually impaired as he grew older. This led to יעקב receiving the ברכות in place of עשו, as he was famously able to masquerade as his brother. Already we are being taught that the lack of clear vision can actually result in blessing. The question many ask though, is how could יצחק possibly want to *bentch* עשו over יעקב? Surely he was aware of עשו's evil ways, well established by this point in the story?

The **מי השילוח זיע"א** exquisitely explains that יצחק was fully aware of עשו's bad behaviour. But he believed that he could do תשובה and turn his life around. In fact, he felt that for this reason עשו needed the ברכות more than יעקב. In his mind therefore, his כונות were, that come what may, even if עשו was far from perfect, he should be *gebentched*, so that one day, when he would turn his life around, the ברכות would be fulfilled.

However, הקב"ה knew that יעקב's children would not always be צדיקים. And so the nature of יצחק's כונות would be necessary for יעקב as well. In this way, יעקב's descendants would be protected by ברכות's if they occasionally strayed from the path.

So it was really יצחק's inability to see that has actually "seen us through" this long and difficult גלות...



CHIZUK IN THE SIDDIR

(Part 11) יהי כבוד

כי הוא אמר ויהי הוא צוה ויעמוד

For He spoke and it came to be, He commanded and it stood firm.

This פסוק takes us back to the beginning of time and reinforces our אמונה in מעשה בראשית. In fact **רבינו בחי"י** right at the start of בראשית explains that in reality everything was created from total nothingness on the first day and then on the subsequent days of creation, הקב"ה gave them form and longevity.

This is why our פסוק has two parts to it. הוא אמר ויהי is the fact that הקב"ה created everything with the power of speech (which is the idea of creating something outside of oneself) and הוא צוה ויעמוד is that once it was created it was, so to speak, 'made to last'.

The truth is that nothing in the world has independent existence, rather it all continues to exist as a result of הקב"ה willing it to be so, each and every moment. This is why the פסוק says הוא צוה ויעמד, it is only because of His commandment that anything in this world can 'stand' as it is.

Since everything exists as a result of הקב"ה's words, let us think about how important it must be to listen to His words, the words of תורה, the blueprint of Creation.

Q. I HAVE HEARD THAT צדיקים SUFFER IN THIS WORLD SO THAT THEY GET MORE שכר IN THIS WORLD TO MINIMIZE THEIR עולם שכר IN THIS WORLD. HOW DOES THAT SEEM FAIR, SURELY שכר IN עולם הבא IS WORTH MORE?

A. שכר IN עולם הבא IS INDEED MUCH MORE VALUABLE THAN ANYTHING IN THIS WORLD. THE REASON WHY רשעים GET THEIR REWARD IN THIS WORLD IS BECAUSE שכר IN עולם הבא IS A RUCHNIVSDIKE שכר, IT IS A REWARD FOR THE נשמה. A WHO HAS NEVER IDENTIFIED WITH HIS נשמה HAS NO שייכות TO THAT SORT OF שכר, WHEREAS A WHO LIVES FOR HIS נשמה AND NOT HIS גוף CAN HAVE NO GREATER REWARD.

Q&A CORNER

*DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS AND ARE LOOKING FOR ANSWERS?
TEXT US AT 07878158547 BEGINNING WITH THE WORD 'CHAZUBONAI'.

CHIZUK FROM OUR CHACHOMIM

This Tuesday, ה' כסלו, marks the *Yohrzeit* of **Rav Boruch Ber Leibowitz זצ"ל**.

Born in Slutsk, Belarus, in 1870, young Boruch Ber gained a reputation as a child genius. He went to learn in Volozhin where he became fiercely attached to Rav Chaim Soloveichik זצ"ל, and would become one of his foremost תלמידים, spreading his Rebbe's then novel מנהלך הלימוד. At the young age of 16, he received סמיכה from Rav Yitzchok Elchonon Spektor זצ"ל.

He married Faige Zimmerman of Hlusk, daughter of the town רב, Rav Avrohom Yitzchok, whom Rav Boruch Ber would succeed as the מרא דאתרא. In 1904, he was appointed as ראש הישיבה in ישיבת כנסת יצחק in Slabodka, one of the most prestigious ישיבות of the day. During World War I, he had to relocate the ישיבה to Kremenchung and then to Vilna before eventually settling in Kamenitz in 1926, where the ישיבה flourished for the next 13 years. In 1928, he went to the USA to raise funds for the ישיבה. New York City Mayor, Jimmy Walker, presented Rav Boruch Ber with the key to the city and stated that Rav Boruch Ber alone proved the existence of Hashem, for only a G-d could have made someone like Rav Boruch Ber!

Aside from his mind-blowing גאונות, he was also known as a tremendous בעל מידות. His daughter was engaged to be married, but unfortunately the חתן broke off the שידוך in heart-breaking fashion. Many years later the man had the temerity to ask Rav Boruch Ber for a written approbation for a job in רבנות that he was pursuing. Rav Boruch Ber sat down and wrote a beautiful letter, full of praise and accolades, for the man who had broken his daughter's heart. He then called in two בחורים to go over the letter and to make sure that it was praiseworthy enough, for he wanted to make sure that not even a tiny bit of animosity still lingered in his heart!

In 1939, when the Nazis invaded Kamenitz, he moved the ישיבה to Vilna. He fell ill and on ה' כסלו he was lying in bed with two of his תלמידים attending to him, when he suddenly perked up and said, 'The Rebbe is here!' He asked the בחורים to say over some תורה of Rav Chaim, and then collapsed back into his bed, murmuring the words, 'ושבתי בשלום אל בית אבי', before returning his pure נשמה to שמים.

יהי זכרו ברוך

Do you have an upcoming *simcha* or *yohrzeit* that you would like to mark in a meaningful fashion?

Chazu Bonai is enjoyed by *mispalelim* in over 60 shuls nationwide and we are currently welcoming sponsorship.

Full sponsorship can be yours for £180 or a single line for just £36.

Please contact 07878158547 or info@chazon.org.uk



CHIZUK IN OUR LIVES

In 2008, Israel was at war in Gaza. The first Israeli casualty was a young man called Dvir Alimonav. His mother, Dalia, had recently lost her husband and had now tragically lost her only son. She missed him terribly, and one night before she went to bed she said, 'ה', please send me a hug from Dvir so that I know that his death was not for naught'. A few days later, Dalia's daughter asked her to accompany her to a concert in ירושלים and Dalia half-heartedly agreed to go along. The concert was slightly delayed and a 2-year-old boy sat himself down next to Dalia. Dalia, a preschool teacher, asked him what his name was. He replied, 'My name is Eshel and I have a brother called Dvir'!

Dalia perked up and looked over at Eshel's family who were sitting two rows back. She approached them and saw baby Dvir in his pram. She inquired as to when Dvir was born and why they had chosen to name him the rather unusual name, Dvir. The woman replied that while she was expecting Dvir, she had gone to see a doctor who had grimly told her that there was a high possibility that the baby would be born with a severe heart defect. She went home and saw the news that Dvir Alimonav had died in Gaza. She was profoundly saddened and said, 'ה', if you give me a healthy son, I promise to name him Dvir in memory of the fallen soldier'. The baby was born perfectly healthy, BH. Dalia was dumbstruck and said, 'I am Dvir's mother!' This time, it was the other woman's turn to be shocked. She picked up the baby, handed him to Dalia, and said, 'Here, Dvir wants to give you a hug'.