

Zmanim

קבלת שבת

London 7:44

Manchester 7:57

מוצאי שבת

London 8:56

Manchester 9:08

# חזו בני

ד' אייר תשפ"א

פרשת תזריע-מצורע



## EMUNOH IN THE PARSHA



זאת תהיה תורת המצורע ביום טהרתו והובא אל הכהן

(ויקרא יד:ב)

There may be times when you feel that your davening could have been better or your learning could have been with more *hasmodoh*. But this is not a reason to despair. The **Roshei Besomim** (R. Yeshaya Muskat z"l) learns from the above *Posuk* an incredible solution to this problem. He says that whenever you can, you should push yourself to daven better and to learn harder. And when you do, you will lift up all those previous *Teffilos* and *Sedorim* that were insincere or incomplete, and they too will be brought to the same high place that your current improved davening and learning are going to!

This is alluded to in the *Posuk*: If one's Torah is "*Toras metzora*", i.e. afflicted, imperfect learning, then on the day of "his purity", in other words, when you do reach higher, purer levels, "it will be brought to the Kohen", meaning, those previous imperfect *Teffilos* and times of learning will be raised up together with today's pure Torah and *Teffiloh* and brought to the *Ribono shel Olom*. What a tremendous *chizuk*! Now to put a little more effort into the next *Teffiloh*...

## EMUNOH IN THE SIDDUR



ברכות התורה

According to many opinions, *Birchos HaTorah* are actually *mideoiraisa*, unlike almost all other *brochos* which are *miderabonon*. As such, it's worth taking some time to think about what we are saying every morning, especially as they contain a *tefillah* for our *hatzlochoh* in learning!

The *Gemoroh* (*Nedorim* 81a) tells us that the reason why Eretz Yisroel was destroyed was "*al ozvom es Torosi*", they forsook My Torah. The *Gemoroh* then explains this to mean that the Yieden didn't bother to say *Birchos HaTorah*. But why would missing out a *brochah* or two warrant such a harsh punishment?!

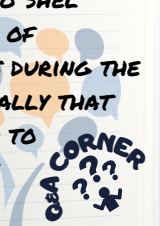
One idea is that it was representative of their whole approach to Torah; they considered Torah to be 'Jewish Studies' like any other subject, like maths or science, so they didn't deem it worthy of a *brochah*. They didn't see it as "*torosi*", *Hakodosh Boruch Hu*'s wisdom.

By saying *Birchos HaTorah* with meaning, we commit ourselves to learning Hashem's Torah as the *Dvar Hashem*, the most precious thing in the world.

Q: I'VE HEARD A NUMBER OF REASONS WHY WE COUNT SEFIROH UPWARDS TO 49 BUT IT STILL MAKES MORE SENSE TO ME TO COUNT DOWN TO 1?

A: THAT IS INDEED A GREAT QUESTION! ONE APPROACH IS TO UNDERSTAND THAT DURING THESE WEEKS WE ARE BUILDING OURSELVES. AND WHEN YOU BUILD, YOU HAVE TO START AT THE BOTTOM AND MAKE YOUR WAY UP.

REB MOSHE SHAPIRA Z"l EXPLAINED THAT IN PARTICULAR WE ARE BUILDING UP OUR EMUNOH DURING THIS TIME, TOWARDS "ONCHI HASHEM" OF SHOVVOS.. SO WE HAVE TO START WITH NUMBER ONE - THE RIBONO SHELOLOM, THE BASIS OF EVERYTHING. IT IS DURING THE SEFIROH SPECIFICALLY THAT WE CAN BUILD UP TO GREAT LEVELS OF EMUNOH...



## EMUNOH IN OUR CHACHOMIM



**Rav Yitzchok Alfasi** (The Rif), whose yohrzeit is this coming this week (10th Iyar), is such an important *Rishon* that he can be found at the back of almost every *Gemoroh*.

His journey began with **Rav Chushiel Gaon** who had travelled from *Bavel* to collect funds for a needy kalloh, and was seized by pirates. He was sold as a slave in Africa, but was later redeemed by the members of its Jewish communities. He headed to Kairuan, where he became a Rosh Yeshiva and had a son, the famous **Rabbeinu Chananel** who himself later became the Rosh Yeshiva. A young and brilliant talmid, Yitzchok Hakohen from the Algerian city of Kal'a, was accepted into Rabbeinu Chananel's yeshiva.

As he advanced in his learning, Yitzchok, now Rav Yitzchok, became aware that many people were unable to derive the *halochoh* from the *Gemoroh*. So he came up with the idea of compiling a full and extensive work that would present all of the *halochos* and the practical conclusions of the *Gemoroh* in a clear manner.

To achieve this goal, he moved into his father-in-law's attic, where he worked on his sefer for 10 years straight! Due to the threat of forced conversions, Rav Yitzchok with his wife and two children escaped to the Moroccan city of Fez where he remained for 40 years and completed his *Sefer Hahalachos*, which is one of the pillars upon which the *Shulchon Oruch* is based.

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THIS WEEK: THE AMAZON RAINFOREST



## EMUNOH IN OUR LIVES

(Adapted from R. Dovid Kaplan)

As the El Al plane flew over Niagara Falls, many of the Israeli passengers, who had never been to North America before, got up to gaze at the magnificent sight from above. But not **Reb Aharon Leib Steinman** z"l. His eyes remained glued to his *Gemoroh*. One of the talmidim travelling with the *Godol* noticed and went over to him. "Rebbe. It's worth taking a look! It's *mamash niflo'os haBorei!*" Without looking up, Reb Aharon Leib pointed to the *Tosafos* on the side of the page. "This", he said, "is *niflo'os haBorei!*"

This is why we have *emunoh* in our *chachomim*. They're just on a different level...