



Dr. Abe Chames High School
SPOTLIGHT



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ראשי הישיבה

Candle Lighting 5:13
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Dvar Torah – The Chashmonaim's Mistake, *said over from the words of Reb Henschel Leibowitz, ZT'L*



Mattisyahu, the Kohen Gadol. Yehuda HaMaccabee. Even young children recognize the heroes of Chanukah. The Rambam tells us that their fame is justified: They were saints of the Almighty, and were it not for them, Torah and mitzvos would have been forgotten from the Jews.” The Chashmonaim were not ignorant Jewish warriors, rather, pious and learned men who took up arms purely L’Shaim

Shamayim and they were given Divine assistance to be victorious over the Greeks.

In spite of all their power and success, none of them survived. “The Chashmonai family is extinct,” says the Gemara in Bava Basra. What grave aveirah could these giants in Jewish history have committed to deserve such a fate? The Rambam identifies their sins a violation of Yaakov Avinu’s warning before his death. “The scepter shall not be removed from Yehuda.” Yaakov was telling his sons that no other shevet should take the throne of Israel. The Chashmonaim, descendants of Levi, should not have taken the throne after their victory against the Greeks. For this misdeed, all four sons perished and their lineage was cut short.

We can be certain that these saintly individuals, who

risked their lives for their nation and heritage, were motivated by their concern for the survival of the Jewish people alone, and not a desire for power. They came to the conclusion that the turbulent situation at the time called for strong leadership which only they could provide. Additionally, their taking of the throne from the tribe of Yehuda was only a temporary and emergency measure to relieve Klal Yisrael from the oppression of the Greeks and poison of their Hellenist culture. The Rambam additionally points out that Yaakov’s statement was not a biblical prohibition, rather a personal command to his children, expressing his Torah perspective of what is best for the nation. Nevertheless, the Chashmonaim were punished and their family was terminated because they did not withdraw their opinion and find another leader, acceptable to the Torah view of their forefather Yaakov.

There are many times when we feel motivated by pure intentions, to help another person, to benefit our families or to support a worthy cause. While these motivations are quite praiseworthy, it is of utmost importance that the actions that they produce be in accordance with the Torah’s perspective expressed by our Sages. If these actions are in some way unethical or improper, we should reconsider. Even when the issue seems clear, let us pause and consult with our Torah authorities on the matter, and muster the humility to accept their judgement.

Dvar Halacha – Sleeping with Tefillin - by Daniel Dayan, 12th Grade

It is brought down in the *Shulchan Aruch* that it is *Asur* for a person to sleep, even temporarily, while wearing *Tefilin*. However, the *Shulchan Aruch* adds, that if a person places cloth over the *Tefilin* so that they may be covered, he may sleep briefly. Some opinions hold that the longest amount of time a sleep can still be considered temporary, is less than one minute. The Mishne Brurah says that sleeping in *Tefilin* was made *Asur* because the *Chachamim* were afraid of people passing gas while wearing their *Te-*

filin. However, by covering the *Tefilin* with a cloth of some sort, the person will be aware that he’s wearing *Tefilin*, and he will not come to pass gas. Nevertheless, a person may only sleep sitting, and not lying down, because he cannot fall into a settled or deep sleep with them, as that is definitely forbidden. However, one should bear in mind that sleeping at all in *Tefilin* is a tremendous *Bizayon* (embarrassment) to such a holy item.

The Weekly Quiz

Q: Which letter(s) of the *Alef Bais* is/are not in any of the *Shevatim's* names and why?

Answers or ideas for future questions may be submitted in writing to the Spotlight office or emailed to Quiz@ytcteam.org

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

Last Weeks Question:

Q: In this week's Parsha, we find the children of Leah being jealous of a child of Rachel and they try to kill him. Where in Tanach do we find a descendant of Rachel being jealous of a descendant of Leah and he tries to kill him?

A: David and Shaul

Yasher Koach to Eliram Oz of the 10th grade for being the first to correctly submit the answer.

Yeshiva Toras Chaim Toras Emes

Celebrating its 30th Anniversary is pleased to announce its Dinner Journal/Building Campaign

This week's spotlight...

Parents of the Year Award

Mr. & Mrs. Seth & Esther Entin

Seth, sometimes known around town as "Shlomo", and his wife, Esther, have been involved with Toras Chaim Toras Emes since 1998. Together with their four children, Yaakov, Yitzi, Shmuel and Meira, they have been, and continue to be an integral part of the YTCTE family.

Born and raised here in South Florida, Seth attended the RASG Hebrew Academy and Talmudic University, after which he graduated with highest honors from the University of Miami Law School. An active member of our Board of Directors, Seth provides invaluable advice and guidance to our school. As a native Floridian, Seth can certainly attest to the enormous Torah growth he has witnessed over the years in our community. Besides being a long standing member of Young Israel of Greater Miami, Seth has set aside a daily commitment to learning in the NMB Community Kollel.

Seth is a Shareholder at the law firm of Greenberg Traurig PA, and practices in the area of international tax law. He has been awarded "top attorney in his field" by many prestigious legal publications and is a renowned speaker at tax conferences worldwide.

Esther's name has been synonymous with PTA activities in every one of our divisions. From her early years as an assistant in the Toras Emes Preschool, to president of PTA, Esther has taken great pride in being an active participant in all areas of her childrens' education. From mother/daughter luncheons, to Scholastic Book Fairs, there was no task too small or too great to tackle.

The Entins are prime examples of active parents who put their childrens' chinuch first and foremost on their list of priorities. As their children progress, Yaakov, in Ner Israel, Yitzy, in Kerem B'Yavneh, Meira, in Bais Yaakov, and Shmuel, who is currently attending DACHS, we wish them continued growth and nachas from all their children.

Chanuka Chagiga at DACHS - by Jonathon Kestenbaum, 11th Grade

This past Wednesday the entire DACHS came together for our annual Chanukah Mesiba. The afternoon started with a terrific talent show. Netanel Raden introduced different students from all grades to perform their various talents in front of the rest of the Yeshiva. Each performance was terrific and the students really enjoyed it. After the talent show ended, latkes, sufganiyot, and ice cream were served to everyone present. There was then lively dancing with music performed by the DACHS band. The talent show was unbelievable, the food was great, the dancing was energetic and it was a really a great success which was enjoyed by everyone present.



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