



Focus on Middos

Dear Talmid,

R' Yaakov Dovid Wilovsky זצ"ל, also known by the acronym רי יעקב דוד בן זאב — had a very difficult time during his brief stay in the US. He witnessed the top distributors of kosher meat selling non-kosher animals to the public, and had to deal with many ignorant רבנים in high positions. He decided to move from Chicago to ארץ ישראל, eventually settling in צפת. He wrote the following before he left:

“Who knows? Perhaps one day די will perpetuate the תורה and it will find a dwelling in this country. Let the future generations know what transpired in America at the time that [the ריבני] resided there. Let them know that among the רבנים and בעלי בתים there were both good and bad people...”

The ריבני then goes on to say that he talked with many well-meaning Jews who desperately wanted him to do something to stem the tide.

The ריבני wrote, “I answered their cry and responded to their foremost request and decided to live here in America and see what could be

done... I saw that they wanted the situation rectified with every fiber of their hearts and souls.” He continues: “The only approach that may save this country is if I would establish a ישיבה גדולה here and bring young great תלמידי חכמים from Europe. Perhaps if I would open a ישיבה and begin to deliver regular תלמידי חכמים, שעורים would come to listen and thus we would be able to bring תורה into this country in a way that would begin to repair the breaches.

“This is not something that has never been done before. In the past תורה has been brought to an entire country through the efforts of one individual or several individuals. The רמבי"ם is a prime example of one individual that injected תורה into an entire country.”

My תלמיד, the ריבני never saw the end results of his labor. However his selfless efforts bore fruit decades later. So too, sometimes our efforts seem to be for nothing, but in reality there will come a time when we will see that no effort is wasted.

יהי זכרו ברוך!

רבני Your בדידות

A letter from a Rabbi — based on interviews

ערב שבת The 2nd International Learning Program

In our final issue before the summer, we advised that we would announce the winner of the International ערב שבת Learning Program at the beginning of the next season. The beautiful responses from both the parents and the boys who participated in this program were ברוד ד' amazing. Try it once; your ערב שבת and your שבת will be enhanced forever! The winner רפאל יצחק Friedman from Brooklyn, NY.

Just another thought regarding the accepted custom to dip an apple in honey on ראש השנה: The גימטריה, numerical value, of the word דבש, honey, is 306, which is the same numerical value as אב הרמון, Merciful Father. The תפוח, apple, is 494, which is the same numerical value as חוס, have pity and be merciful to us...



Understanding Tekias Shofar

R' Saadia Gaon offers 10 thoughts for תקיעת שופר:

1. The שופר announces the coronation of a new king. ראש השנה is the day די became מלך על כל העולם.
2. Like a מלך offers a pardon before punishing, so the שופר declares, “Whoever wishes can do תשובה now; if not, let him not complain later!”
3. The שופר was sounded at מתן תורה and inspires us to renew our commitment to תורה.
4. The שופר recalls יחזקאל's words to do תשובה, “When I bring a sword ... blow the שופר and warn the people!” (ל"ג:ב-ג).
5. The שופר reminds us to daven for בית בן נון (ירמיהו ד: י"ט-כ) המקדש השלישי.
6. The שופר causes די to remember the זכות of עקידת יצחק.
7. The שופר inspires trembling in the heart (עמוס ג:ו).
8. The שופר reminds us of the יום הדין (צפניה א: ט"ז).
9. Sounding the שופר arouses in us the desire for קבוץ גלויות, the in-gathering of exiles (ישעיהו כ"ז: י"ג).
10. The שופר reminds us of תחיית המתים, which will be accompanied by שופר!

Sage Sayings



The Ridvaz lived in America at a time when Yiddishkeit was just beginning to be established on American shores. He fought to create high standards in kashrus that were thought to be impossible. His timeless advice of “Sounds Jewish' is not enough” was expressed in a witty way: “אז? מ'רופט עם מענדל, מעג מען עסן פון זיין פענדל? — If they call him Mendel, one is permitted to eat from his pot?...”

Source: Heard around the Shabbos table



LEARNING FROM OUR LEADERS

בס"ד
PIRCHEI AGUDAS YISROEL OF AMERICA

LIKE HIS REBBI, R' SHRAGA FEIVEL MENDLOWITZ ZT"l, R' QUINN WAS FAR FROM AN ORDINARY MENAHEL. BEING CALLED TO HIS OFFICE WAS RARELY A PUNISHMENT FOR A STUDENT; IT USUALLY GAVE THE BOY A LIFE LESSON IN DERECH ERETZ...

YANKI, PLEASE COME INTO MY OFFICE...

YES, REBBI.



R' QUINN WALKED OVER TO THE SHELF AND TOOK OUT SHOE POLISH, A BRUSH AND A CLOTH.

RAV QUINN IS NOT POLISHING MY SHOES!

DO ME A FAVOR. YOU ARE A BEN MELECH AND NEED TO DRESS AS SUCH. I'M DOING IT THIS TIME, BUT NEXT TIME PLEASE DO IT YOURSELF!



THERE WAS A BOCHUR IN MESIVTA WHO LOST HIS FATHER. IT WAS THE FIRST FRIDAY AFTER THE SHIVAH...

DOV, PLEASE COME INTO MY OFFICE...

YES, REBBI.



TAKE THIS QUARTER* AND BUY YOUR MOTHER FLOWERS!



*A LOAF OF BREAD COST AROUND 18 CENTS IN THOSE DAYS.

BUT--

MY SON, LISTEN CAREFULLY. THIS IS HOW TO DO IT CORRECTLY...



AS YOU GIVE YOUR PRECIOUS MOTHER THE FLOWERS PLEASE TELL HER THAT YOU WERE THINKING OF HER. DON'T SAY IT CAME FROM ME!



Yishaya Suval

R' NESANEL QUINN WAS BORN TO זלמן פנחס וז"ל IN THE WILLIAMSBURG SECTION OF NY. THE QUINNS, WHO WERE NEIGHBORS OF THE ROGATCHOVER GAON IN DVINSK, LITHUANIA, WERE CHILDLESS FOR 10 YEARS. UPON THE ADVICE OF R' SHALOM BER OF LUBAVITCH, THEY MOVED TO AMERICA, WHERE, HE PROMISED, THEY WOULD HAVE A FAMILY AND ימים אריכות. (THEY HAD 5 CHILDREN; MRS. QUINN LIVED TO 111.) IN 1921, NESANEL WAS ENROLLED IN ישיבה תורה ודעת. THREE YEARS LATER, R' SHRAGA FEIVEL MENDLOWITZ זצ"ל JOINED THE ישיבה AS מנהל, BEGINNING A DECADES-LONG רבי-תלמיד RELATIONSHIP. IN 1934, HE MARRIED לאה, DAUGHTER OF R' MEIR LINCHNER (HIS רבי's ADVICE). UPON HIS רבי's ADVICE, HE BECAME A SIXTH-GRADE רבי IN RJJ. IN 1938, HE RETURNED AS סגן מנהל IN ישיבה תורה ודעת. HE LATER BECAME מנהל, AND STAYED WITH THE ישיבה FOR 60+ YEARS. IN 1965, HE CO-FOUNDED A LEARNING CAMP, אור שרנה. HE ALSO MANAGED A MAJOR מתמיד נפלא WHO INSTALLED AN אהבת הבריות AND עניוות, חסד, WITH HIS WARMTH, חסד, AND עניוות.



For any inquiries or comments please feel free to call 347-838-0869 • Illustrated by: Yishaya Suval www.leilshishi.com

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