

PARSHAS MISHPATIM

CHASSIDIC INSIGHTS, HIGHLIGHTS AND HAPPENINGS

פרשת משפטים - שבת ראש חודש אדר א'

February 8, 2024 / כ"ט שבט תשפ"ד



What's happening in Belz

This Monday and Tuesday, hundreds of Belz women from New York, New Jersey and Canada enjoyed a two-day Tzohar retreat at the Raleigh Hotel, in Upstate New York.

Tzohar is one of Belz Institutions in Israel's outreach organization that runs learning programs to bring Jews closer to Yiddishkeit. The Belzer Rav Shlita asked Tzohar's directors to arrange a retreat for Belzer Chassidim in America and Canada. The goal is to provide chizzuk (encouragement) and inspiration in the areas of Chassidus, parenting and tackling today's challenges, especially in the current era of uncertainty, when Israel is at war.

Entitled "Menucha Shlaima" (complete rejuvenation), the women's event featured prominent speakers from Eretz Yisroel and North America, including Rabbi Shlomo Bineth Shlita, Belz Posek in Beit Shemesh and one of Tzohar's in-house Dayanim, Rabbi Menachem Klein Shlita, Tzohar's CEO, Rabbi Pinches Breuer, a renowned lecturer – all from Eretz Yisroel, Rabbi Avrohom Mordechai Malach from Brooklyn and many more. The ladies were treated to gourmet meals and entertainment in the form of song and dance.

The success of this event can be summed up in the words of one attendee: "I came home a better person, wife and mother!"

On Wednesday, post-high school girls were treated to a program that equipped them with

the right tools to embrace their next chapter in life, especially as the mothers and home-makers of the future generation of proud Belz Chassidim.

Hundreds of young men are now looking forward to an uplifting Tzohar Shabbos weekend, this Shabbos Rosh Chodesh Adar, where they will gain chizzuk and enjoy a Shabbos of unity and inspiration.



שבת ראש חודש

ראש חודש אדר א' - Rosh Chodesh Adar

Friday and Shabbos - February 9 & 10

משנכנס אדר מרבין בשמחה

When the month of Adar comes, increase the joy.

The Meor Einayim zt"l teaches that אדר stands for א - the "א" is Hashem (אלוהי של עולם) - the Master of the world) - He דר - dwells. During the month of Adar, we discover Hashem dwells in this material world and leads it with Hashgachah Pratis (=individualized Divine Providence). All we need to do is keep our eyes open and recognize how He is in our midst, watching over us and guiding our life to the minutest detail.

The Ahavas Shalom zt"l says that אדר is the

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שבת ראש חודש אדר א - continued

acronym for רעוא דרעוין אשתכח - loosely translated as "The desire of all desires prevails"—the expression of רעוא דרעוין means when Hashem's love and desire for us is expressed and felt profoundly. Shalosh Seudos (= the third meal on Shabbos) is considered the peak and holiest time of Shabbos, and it is called רעוא דרעוין. This love and passion for us are revealed during this month.



Everyone loves a good story, especially a Chassidishe story...

וכי ימכור איש את בתו לאמה (משפטים כא:ז)
If a man will sell his daughter as a bondswoman.

The Faltishan Rav, Rabbi Eliezer Twerski zt"l related that when he was a child, he was raised in the home of his uncle, Maran Reb Yissocher Dov of Belz zt"l. Many Rabbanim used to visit Belz, including the Chusta Rav, Rabbi Moshe Greenwald zt"l, known as the Arugas Habosem, his magnum opus.

The Arugas Haboshem was once in Belz on Shabbos Parshas Mishpatim. He received an Aliya during Torah reading, and when the Ba'al Koreh (the person reading the Torah) said the words וכי ימכור איש את בתו לאמה the Arugas Haboshem let out a deep krechitz (sigh).

"I didn't know if the Rav gave a krechitz over the fact that a young girl was sold as a servant or because of my father's bitter fate, where he needed to sell his daughter as a servant," shared

the Foltishaner Rav.

"I approached the Arugas Haboshem after leining and asked about the krechitz. He told me, 'You are young. Do you need to know everything?' I was quite embarrassed. After a few minutes, the Rav told me, 'When you grow up, my child, and you will learn the Zohar on this pasuk, then you'll understand.'

"With time," concluded the Foltishaner Rav, "I got to understand the Zohar on the pasuk, which refers to Hashem and the Yidden. "איש" - refers to Hashem, and "בתו" to the Yidden. The pasuk alludes to the bitter exile. Hashem needed to sell the Yidden to a foreign nation, and over this fact, one needs to krechitz!"

רק שבתו יתן ורפא ירפא (משפטים כא:כ)
Only for his lost time shall he pay, and he shall provide for healing.

When Maran Reb Aharon of Belz zt"l resided in Budapest while fleeing the Nazis ym"s, two sons of the Jewish doctor, Dr. Frishman from Satmar, came to visit. Maran's gabbai, R' Ya'akov Weinberger (who also hailed from Satmar), praised the virtues of the doctor to Maran, saying that he is a righteous Yid. (He also added that Dr. Frishman never missed a Friday night tisch by the Satmar Rebbe.)

Maran Reb Aharon was pleased with what he heard and exclaimed, "אזוי, אזוי" (=really!). One of the people in attendance said, "Chazal say טוב שברופאים - the best of the doctors are destined to hell."

Maran was very distraught that someone could say such lowly words about a righteous doctor, especially in front of his two sons, who heard the comment. Maran wanted to diffuse the situation and responded: "Listen to how my father, Maran Reb Yissocher Dov of Belz zt"l paraphrased the

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words of "טוב שברופאים" – who is considered the best doctor? "לגיהנים" – a doctor who constantly thinks and fears reaching Gehennom because of his sins, and therefore he refrains from sinning – such a doctor is praiseworthy!" Maran concluded, "I think such words can be said about Dr Frishman."

לא תשימון עליו נשך (משפטים כב:כה)
Do not lay interest upon him.

In the city of Poznań lived a wealthy Yid who lent money on interest. The Yid died, and the Chevra Kadisha (burial society) demanded a hefty price for his burial. His family members went to the city's justice department, complaining about the higher price quoted for their deceased father's burial, which was over and above what was requested from others.

The judge summoned the Gaon Reb Akiva Eiger zt"l, the city's Rav, to resolve the matter. "Us Yidden," said Reb Akiva, "believe with complete Emunah (faith) in תחיית המתים – the resurrection of the dead when Moshiach will come. Therefore, whenever a person dies, the burial society cites a low burial fee since the plot is a temporary resting place. Not so when someone lends money with ריבית – interest, as Chazal says: "They will never merit to rise from their grave." The Chevra Kadisha is therefore justified in asking a higher price since the niftar will remain there forever..."

הסרתני מחלה מקרבך (משפטים כג:כה)
And I shall remove illness from your midst.

Reb Shmiel Zev Roth zt"l, known as the Ujhelyer Dayan and Rosh Beis Din of Kehal Machzikei Hadas D'Chasidei Belz in Eretz Yisroel, related a story.

In 1953, when he was still serving as Rav in the Belzer Shtibel in Antwerp, Belgium, he was experiencing terrible chest pain. The doctors warned him that his condition was life-threatening, advising him to travel to Brussels for medical intervention weekly.

As the Yomim Noroim (=High Holidays) was approaching, he felt that he didn't have the physical strength to undertake his annual trip to spend the Yomim Noroim with Maran Reb Aharon of Belz zt"l in Eretz Yisroel, as was his custom.

Elderly chassidim convinced the Ujhelyer Dayan to strengthen his resolve and travel to Eretz Yisroel since he could beseech Maran for a bracha (=blessing) for a Refuah Shelamah (=complete healing).

The Ujhelyer Dayan followed their advice and flew to Eretz Yisroel. During the days of Chol Hamo'ed (=intermediate days between Sukkos and Shemini Atzeres), when Maran Reb Aharon went out of the Sukkah following an Ushpizin tisch, the Ujhelyer Dayan approached Maran and asked for a Refuah Shelamah.

Maran Reb Aharon led the Ujhelyer Dayan into his room and said: "Don't be a שלמולניק (a fool), you're not sick, you're healthy, let go of the doctors." Maran repeated these words a few times, but the Ujhelyer Dayan continued lamenting his terrible pain.

Maran replied, "My father, Maran Reb Yissocher Dov of Belz zt"l, used to say: "A Yid who sits and learns, his toil in Torah is a refuah (healing) for all his ailments."

From then on, the Ujhelyer Dayan's pain receded until he was completely healed.

It's interesting to note that during his final months, Uohalar Dayan became gravely ill and needed to

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see a doctor. The doctor found a growth in his lungs that appeared to be dormant for a very long time, which suddenly came to life in what would be his final year.



THIS WEEK'S VORT

פרשת משפטים

ורצע אדניו את אזנו במרצע... (משפטים כא:ו)
And his master shall bore through his ear with the awl...

Rashi says that the reason for this kind of punishment is as follows: the ear that heard at Har Sinai the commandment of not stealing, and this thief disregarded this prohibition and stole such an ear needs to be pierced.

We need to understand why it is the ear's fault if the hand stole. One needs to look at the root cause: if someone doesn't comply with what he hears, his ear must be punished.

וכי ישאל איש מאת רעהו (משפטים כב:יג)
If a man shall borrow from his fellow

The Chofetz Chaim zt"l witnessed someone entering a bathhouse and using another's belongings. "A Yid who uses someone else's belongings," the Chofetz Chaim said, "comes out of the bathhouse dirtier than from how he entered."

ובשביעית יצא לחפשי חנם (משפטים כא:ב)
And in the seventh, he shall go free with no charge.

This verse can be explained as follows: Through the holiness of "ובשביעית" which alludes to Shabbos – the Seventh Day, "יצא לחפשי" – you are freed from all problems; use this day for complete rest.

רק שבתו יתן ורפא ירפא (משפטים כא:יט)
Only for his lost time shall he pay, and he shall provide for healing.

A person who keeps Shabbos as Halacha dictates, Hashem heals him from his illness. As the pasuk alludes to "רק שבתו יתן" – when you keep Shabbos, "ורפא ירפא" – a person is completely healed.



WE NEED YOUR HELP NOW MORE THAN EVER.

BATTLING THE WAR WITH KINDNESS

Since Israel was brutally attacked on Simchas Torah "Saad V'Marpe סעד ומרפא", A Belz Institution in Israel's affiliate organization, has been at the forefront, ensuring our soldiers have whatever they need to fight and defend us!

Donate Now - www.worldofbelz.org/help-our-soldiers