

A Joke With A Lesson

Shaya got pulled over by a police officer.

Shaya said, "Officer, why are you stopping me? I wasn't even speeding!"

The officer said, "SPEEDING?! That would be half a problem."

"You are driving so slow it looked like you PARKED on the highway! You are causing a massive traffic jam behind you! PICK UP SOME SPEED AND MOVE...!"

What's The Lesson? Elul begins Thursday and Friday. Even if we've been moving a little slowly until now, Elul is here!

Now is the time to wake up, get moving, find inspiration, and start preparing for the holy days ahead!

Yankel was standing by a lake when he saw a man drowning.

He ran over, stretched out his hand, and yelled, "Quick! Give me your hand!"

But the man wouldn't give it to him.

The man's wife yelled, "You're saying it wrong! Tell him to **JAKE** your hand."

I've been married to him for 30 years.

He doesn't know how to give, only how to take...!"

What's The Lesson? The more one gives, the more one actually gets!

Giving to others brings a person a special happiness and pleasure that money can't buy!

Learn the gesimmak of giving and helping others!

Short Stories and Inspiration.

R' Shmuel Dishon shlitza, who should have a complete and speedy recovery, once said that we must learn from a GPS. Even if one completely went down the wrong path, it will never say, "You fool, you good-for-nothing! You really messed up and are dumb, silly, and just a bad person. It will always say "recalculating" and try to find a new way.

It may take longer, but it will never say "YOU ARE OVER."

What's The Lesson? Hashem never tells a person, "you messed up and are now over."

Hashem waits for us to return. The moment a person wants to come back and asks Hashem to help him find his way, Hashem will send all the help and will help him figure it out. Nothing is too big or hard for Hashem.

This Connects To Elul:

Hashem gave us a gift called "Elul" to revalue and remind ourselves what is real and important in life. Elul is meant to help us prepare for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

But some think, "Do you know how much I messed up this past year?"

It could be that you did, but the main focus should not be on how you messed up; rather, it should be on how you can get back on track. Focus on how you can be better from today. Do something more, become better, and you'll feel better and happier!

How To Wake up!

The Manchester Rosh Yeshiva, Reb Yehudah Zev Segal ztl, once went with someone to collect money out of town. After a full day of collecting, they finally went to sleep.

R' Segal woke up very early and wanted to wash his hands with the *negel vasser* tray he had prepared, but he didn't want to wake up the person who had done him a favor by coming along to help him. What did he do?

Reb Segal carefully picked up his *negel vasser* tray, walked out of the room, and washed his hands quietly outside the room so that he wouldn't disturb the other person.

(One is really not meant to walk around 4 feet without first having washed his hands in the morning, but some poskim say that in one's own room one is allowed to walk fully, and that is what R' Segal relied on rather than wake up the person).

What's The Lesson? One can do the right thing while still being careful about other people's feelings!

Doing the right thing should never make us forget to think about the people around us.

This Connects To This Week's Parshah:

We learn that one must do good, but we must make sure that the good we do does not come at the expense of hurting someone else. As it says in our parshah, "*tzedek tzedek*," do what is right, in the right way. (R' Bunim of Peshis'cha)

Of course, one must always make sure that everything is done according to halacha, even when it comes to helping others. But the point is clear and simple: Be good and do good, but not by hurting, annoying, or ignoring the feelings of others.

ת"ד

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עליו נשמת שאלותי איך שבא בן חיים קלונסוס

This is not meant to rule practical *halachah*; rather, it's to show the sweetness of learning.
Based on R' Yitzchak Zilberstein's seforim

Q. Do Not Do This When You Are Bored!

Yossi was really bored and was very good with his hands, so he decided to steal a car. *That is not okay, but he was very young and immature.*

He broke the lock, hot-wired the car, and sped off. While speeding, Yossi turned to the back of the car and saw a baby in the car seat!

He was shocked, but then he saw the baby was blue; he was even more shocked. He wasn't sure what to do, so he quickly sped to the hospital and saved the baby's life.

The father came and thanked Yossi for saving his baby's life. But then he added, "You still owe me money for breaking my lock; it will cost me some nice money to repair the lock."

Yossi said, "You must be joking! I just saved your baby's life! Give me a break."

The father said, "What you really did was break into my car, and for that you owe me money!"

Yossi said, "I was wrong for that. I agree. But realize, if not for me, who knows what would have happened to your child! You left your child in the car, which is very dangerous! I saved his life, so it was a good thing I stole the car! I shouldn't need to pay you now!"

Who To Ask?

A. Who makes Torah Learning so sweet & geshmak!?

The Gemara (*Menachos 64a*) discusses a case where a person went fishing on Shabbos, which is forbidden by Torah law. At the same time he caught a fish, he also caught a baby who was in danger, thereby saving the baby's life.

On the one hand, he performed a forbidden action on Shabbos by fishing.

On the other hand, he ended up saving a baby, which is a case of *pikuach nefesh*, and saving a life is permitted even on Shabbos.

Rava says we must look at his intentions: he had in mind to go fishing, which was forbidden. Since he never had in mind to save the baby, the fact that he saved the baby by mistake should not make his action permitted.

Rabbah says that he is not guilty because we follow the action that was actually performed. Since the result of his action was that he saved the baby, his action was fully permitted because of *pikuach nefesh*.

In our case, since we rule that we follow a person's actions, Yossi's action saved the baby. Yossi doesn't need to pay.

I Can't Fall Asleep At Night!

The Gur Rebbe, the Pnei Menachem ztl, went to the eye doctor because his eye was bothering him.

The doctor said to the Rebbe, "Your eyes are very red. Is something bothering the Rebbe and making it difficult for him to fall asleep?"

The Rebbe said, "So many people are telling me all their troubles and pouring out their hearts to me. Just thinking about their difficulties stops me from being able to fall asleep."

The doctor said, "Is that the *tachlis*, the purpose? The Rebbe must take care of his health."

The Rebbe was unable to hold back his passion and said, "I will tell you what the *tachlis*, the purpose is. "When a baby is born, he receives everything he needs. He is fed, washed, and clothed. It's all about him. As he lies in the crib, he thinks the world is here to serve him."

"As he grows older and his understanding becomes greater, there comes a day when he realizes that the time has come for him to see what he can do for the world and how he can help others."

"He starts to realize that he isn't the center of the world, and that he has the ability to be helpful to others, and not just take from others."

"THIS IS THE *TACHLIS*. THE PURPOSE FOR WHICH THE WORLD WAS CREATED. A person was created to try to do good for others, to follow in the way of his Creator. This is the *tachlis*!"

What's the Lesson? Wow, look at how a Torah leader looks at life!

This Connects To This Week's Parshah:

We learn how one must judge correctly and see the full picture. In life, we must learn to look at our life and judge it correctly.

We must learn from the above story: one of the purposes in this world isn't to make as much money as possible; that isn't considered if you are successful. Real success is to be able to help others!

This is the true way to look at it if you're successful in this world: how much are you helping others!!

A Geshmaka Question & Readers Answers

This weeks geshmaka question:

We learn about judges: what are some good tips on how one can judge others in a good way and not negatively?

Last week's Geshmaka Question: Moshe rabbeinu told Klal Yisroel "See, if you will keep the Torah today you will have blessings and if not then the opposite chas v'shalom. Question: What message was Moshe rabbeinu trying to add when he said 'today'?

Shaya Kugelman Answers: It says in דברים דף פא that by talmud torah, one gets some reward in this world. So it says, "See, that if you will keep the Torah that I give you today, because even today you will get reward, שכר, שכר."

R' Avrum Rosenblum Answers: The Torah is telling us to focus on "today", not to dwell on yesterday: I should have done that. Nor on tomorrow, saying, "I think tomorrow will be a good day to start. Today, NOW, is the day I will do what Hashem wants."

D.Y.A. Answers: The *midrash* says that "today" refers to *Rosh Hashanah* like it says *hoyom haras olam* on Rosh Hashanah. Hashem judges each individual for blessing or the opposite chas v'shalom.

Ask your friend or Rav/Rabbi for an answer and it may appear here.
Text your answer in by Sunday to (347) 669 0369 or by email to torahisweeter@gmail.com

Your Never Alone!

R' Mendel Kaplan ztl used to repeat a story that happened with R' Yisroel Yaakov Luchansky, the *Mashgiach* of Rav Elchonon Wasserman's yeshiva in Baranovich.

Reb Yisroel Yaakov used to walk at night to visit his mother. Someone once asked him, "Doesn't the Gemara say that it is not safe for a Talmid Chacham to walk alone at night?"

He answered, "I'm not alone."

When Reb Mendel Kaplan repeated this story, he said that anyone listening would probably think such a tzaddik would say, "Because Hashem is with me."

But that's not what he said. Reb Yisroel Yaakov said, "Because the Yetzer Hara is with me."

What's The Lesson?

Of course Hashem is with a person. One just has to open their eyes, focus, and they will see Hashem is everywhere. But one must also be aware that the Yetzer Hara is always trying to get you. One must push themselves to learn and daven better; it's not always so easy.

This Connects To This Week's Parshah:

It says, "Do not be bribed since the eyes of the wise will become blind." In life, the Yetzer Hara tries to bribe us. It tells us, "Do this or that. You will only enjoy life if you do it."

In truth, only by doing what is right can we truly appreciate life and build a deep, meaningful, and happy life.

We know that the Yetzer Tov only comes when one becomes *bar mitzvah*, at age 13. Yet the Yetzer Hara came 13 years earlier, since the day a person was born.

Question: Why does the Yetzer Hara get a 13 year head start?

Answer: The Yetzer Hara needs a 13-year head start to try to convince us to do the wrong things! It's because the Yetzer Tov is so powerful that the Yetzer Hara needs a head start!

This should wake us up, and we should realize how much power we have. You are stronger than you think! Of course, ask Hashem for help: without him, nothing is possible.