

The Making Of A True Leader

MOSHE'S SUCCESSOR

The Prayer for Yehoshua

Moshe prayed for Yehoshua when he joined the spies in checking out the Land of Israel. The others, with the exception of Calev, did not want to settle the Land. They preferred the absolute spirituality of the desert where they did not need to engage in the material world at all. In the desert, bread fell from the heavens, water came from the well of Miriam and their clothes were altered and laundered by the Clouds of Glory. They did not want to waste their holy existence on plowing, planting and working the land.

Moshe did not want Yehoshua to be influenced by the temptation and leaning of the spies to lead an exclusively spiritual life. He needed to make sure that his ultimate successor would engage with others with humanity and be able to answer even the seemingly ridiculous questions. Yehoshua went on to lead the people into Israel with true Ahavat Yisroel as learned from his master.


When the convert asked the great Shammai to explain the Torah on one foot, he was kicked out of the house. Hillel famously answered, "do not do to others as you would not do to yourself; the rest is commentary."

Shammai reacted from a purely spiritual approach; he could not relate to the question at all.



Since Hillel thought the question was valid, can we say that Shammai overreacted? As it turns out, there are many different types of people and the great Hillel and Shammai personified opposite approaches.

Shammai lived in a world of absolutes. He embodied the path of a perfect Tzaddik who always chooses right over wrong. There were no grey areas. This is the path of Gevurah - stringency. This was the approach of the spies.

Hillel showcased Chesed – kindness, where there was space for reading between the lines. The world of Hillel was less rigid and more human. Life could be confusing, right and wrong could be nuanced and hard to decipher one from the other. This is the quality that true leaders possess. 

Tanya Shiur Summer Series

5:00pm Shabbat afternoon

Chabad House Zal

144-01 69th Avenue

(enter on Main St. btwn 68th Dr. & 69th Ave.)

Separate seating for men & women

Torah Q&A for Your Shabbos Table

Q: Who was ben Derosai?

A: Ben Derosai was a robber who would cook his food only partially – half-cooked according to Rambam and one-third cooked according to Rashi. One who cooks food to the level of "the food of ben Derosai" on Shabbos is liable for violating the prohibition of cooking.

מנחות נז.

Q: I can't remember if I said Birkat Hamazon – what should I do?

A: If a man ate and is full and can't recall if they said Birkat Hamazon, they should repeat the entire bentsching. Sefardim omit the 4th blessing (ha'tov v'hameitiv). A woman does not need to repeat.

שו"ע או"ח קפד, ד והגהות רעק"א

Q: How were Yehoshua and Calev spared from being included with the bad report of the Spies?

A: Moshe davened for Yehoshua, and Calev went to pray at *Me'aras Hamachpeila* in Chevron. From here we see the importance of being connected to a tzaddik.

סוטה לד.

Torah Questions?

You can submit any Q's that you would like to see in this column to Rabbi Shaul Wertheimer at rabbiquChabad.org

Eating Animals

There are two things without which humans cannot survive: blood and oxygen.

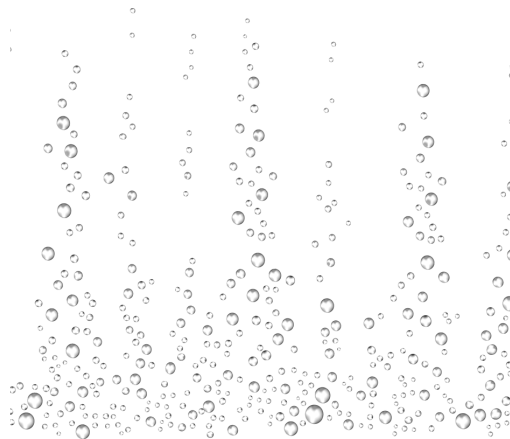
When we eat and drink, the food and liquids are digested and transformed into nutrients that are absorbed in the blood stream. It is important to eat nutritious and healthy food, for it transforms to a literal part of us; so too, the kosher dietary laws dictate that we may only consume certain foods.

Ramban (Vayikra 11:11) writes that the reason why we are not permitted to eat animals of prey is because this will transmit an element of cruelty into our persona.

So while we need blood (nourished by our food and drink) and oxygen, the only difference is the frequency. While one can survive for a period of time without food or drink, a person without oxygen would expire quickly.


Much as we recite a blessing before partaking of food, our sages (Bereishis Rabba end of ch.14) also state that "with each and every breath a person is to praise his Creator."

The Midrash (Ruth Rabba 3:13) notes that when the mother of Elisha ben Avuya – perhaps the most famous heretic – was pregnant, she ate something that was not permitted, and this caused Elisha to veer from the path of Torah years later.



Admittedly, his mother was permitted to eat the particular food item at that time, in keeping with the idea that a pregnant woman may be given certain items if deemed necessary. However, it's a bit like cutting off one's limb to save a person's life; some things may be necessary, despite their deleterious effect.

As critical as our diet is, all the more vital is the purity of the air we breathe.

Yet we are not merely subject to the vagaries of the weather; we can purify the air around us. When we think holy thoughts of Torah, this remains internal until we express it through our speech. The sound waves of our Torah speech travel through the air to the intended recipient, purifying the air. 

HAYOM YOM

25 Sivan

"A care in a man's heart, *yash'chena*." Our sages offer two interpretations of that last word: "Remove the care from the mind," or "discuss it with others."

The Tzemach Tzedek commented: "...with others" who are "others" only in the bodily sense, but are completely united with him, for they empathize with him.

Chassidic Story

The Undelivered Letter

Continued from last week


...Avigdor found the letter that the Baal Shem Tov had handed him sixteen years earlier. Addressed to Mr. Zaddok, Chairman of the Charity Committee of Brody, he set off to deliver the parcel.

Rushing into the street, Avigdor asked the first man he saw, "Where can I find Mr. Zaddok? I need to find him urgently."

"He is in the shul. He is quite a lucky man as we was just appointed head of the Charity Committee today," said the man. "A tailor by trade," continued the man, "Mr. Zaddok worked long hours, earned very little money and was virtually unknown in Brody. Lately, this has changed, the squire commissioned him to make uniforms for his servants and he even just received a contract for 5000 army uniforms. He is generous and kindhearted. Just this morning, he was appointed head of the committee."

Avigdor rushed over to the shul and handed Mr. Zaddok the letter. It read: *Avigdor was once very wealthy and has become exceedingly needy. Please help him in all ways you can and he will once again prosper. As a sign not to doubt my words: Your wife is expecting a baby and today she will give birth to a boy.*

A moment later the door to the shul burst open and the gabbai exclaimed: *Mazal Tov! Your wife had a baby boy!*

Avigdor indeed returned to prominence and used his wealth with wisdom and humility. 

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In honor of our wonderful children and grandchildren – Shaul & Tzipah, Mendel, Shoshi, Sruli, Shmuel and Zalmy."

8:12pm Candle Lighting
8:17pm Mincha
Followed by Kabbalas Shabbos
8:45am Chassidus Shiur
10:00am Davening
5:00pm Tanya Shiur
8:00pm Mincha
9:21pm Maariv / Shabbos Ends