

To Raise a Lamp

The Lamp of Hashem

Constructed of one block of gold, the Menorah lamps illuminated seven unique branches. With the command, "Behaalotecha", Aharon the Kohen Gadol is instructed to kindle the menorah with all flames facing the center branch. The Torah is not just emphasizing WHAT should be done, we are being clued in to HOW it needs to happen.

The Menorah was constructed with detailed specifications (Parshat Terumah), including the directive that all seven lamps should be tilted inwards towards the middle branch. What is there for Aharon to do when lighting the menorah if the lamps are already tilted inward? It seems the flames would automatically ascend towards the center of the Menorah.

Is the Torah discussing the Menorah itself or the act of lighting it? It seems that both are relevant to the service of the Kohen Gadol. The structure of the Menorah is one essential unity that subdivides into seven unique streams of light. The process of how to ignite the flames was also relevant and needed to be done with a holistic focus on oneness.

In fact the word "Behaalotecha," which is translated as "kindle," literally means to uplift, related to the word *Aliyah*.

CENTERED



The soul is called a lamp, as the verse states, "The lamp of Hashem is the soul of man," (Mishlei 20:27), and all Jewish souls collectively are called a Menorah, which has seven lamps, corresponding to seven levels of Divine service. It follows that this process of illuminating is actually also about lifting up souls.

Aharon the Kohen Gadol is tasked with lifting up the people to reveal an essential root unity that we all share. Hammered out from one solid hunk of gold – we each branch out with a unique glow. Lighting up the Menorah with an emphasis on the center shaft reveals a unity and togetherness at the core.

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: How did they light the Menorah in the Bais HaMikdash? There were 7 lamps – was one of them the Shamash?

A: Each lamp was kindled from an adjacent lamp in the Menorah. The western lamp (*Ner Ma'aravi*) was kindled from the *Mizbe'ach HaChitzon* (outer altar).

רמב"ם פ"ג מהל' תמידין ומוספין הי"ג

Q: Why is Pirkei Avos called Avos – Fathers?

A: One reason is that it begins with the generations of how the Torah was transmitted, person to person. Another reason is that Avos includes ethical teachings, and anyone who guides another is considered to have made him; thus, all the Tana'im mentioned in Avos are our fathers, for they direct us. So too, when we follow their instructions, we are their children. Yet another reason is that Avos contains all ethical teachings in the world, and is thus the "father."

מדרש שמואל

Torah Questions?

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

**שבת
שלום
ומבורך**

The Bigger Picture

Perspectives

By: Mishael Sionov

Rabbi Yitzchok Fingerer shared a remarkable story. There was a shochet in the times of the Brisker Rav who had aspersions cast on him. Rumors were going around that he had been engaging in inappropriate activity, and many people wanted to have him removed from his post.

They convened a meeting with the Brisker Rav as the chairman, and put out a secret code to have only the leaders and dignitaries of the community attend the gathering at the Rav's house to discuss deposing the local shochet.

Somehow, the shochet found out that there was an important meeting held at the Brisker Rav's house, and, being unaware that he was the very subject of the meeting, he decided to attend.

And so it was; the meeting was about to commence, and the shochet himself was sitting in the crowd. Everyone waited for the Brisker Rav to start speaking, but he just sat there silently.

Time was delay, and people starting murmuring to each other. After a while of silence, the meeting disbanded, nothing accomplished. No one dared to encroach upon the Rav's territory or speak up before him, and so the people eventually just left.

for more from Mishael Sionov visit
www.parshagrowth.com



Afterwards, one of the rabbanim approached the Rav and asked him, "Why were you silent? Everyone came for a reason; each guests' time is valuable. Why didn't we just host the meeting as planned and get rid of the shochet?"

The Brisker Rav responded: "You think it's worthwhile to shame the shochet, to humiliate him in public? Is that what kashrut is worth? What worth do the mitzvot have, if it means embarrassing another Jew in public?"

We must exert extreme caution when it comes to the dignity of our fellow Jew, and have our priorities straight. Always look at the bigger picture... ☺

HAYOM YOM

18 Sivan

In this present era of *ikvesa diMeshicha*, [the generation that can already hear the approaching footsteps of Mashiach,] every Jew is obligated to seek the welfare of his fellow, be he an elder or a youth — to arouse him to teshuvah, so that he will not leave the fold of the Jewish people, who, with G-d's help, will merit the complete redemption

Chassidic Story

The Undelivered Letter

Avigdor, a wealthy businessman, brought a large donation to the Baal Shem Tov to distribute to the poor.

"Thank you," said the Baal Shem Tov, can I offer you a blessing?"

"No," replied Avigdor proudly, "I have a large beautiful family, ample funds and there is nothing I need or want."

"Perhaps you can do a favor for me," continued the Baal Shem Tov, "and deliver this letter to the head of the charity committee in Brody?"

As a resident of Brody, Avigdor was happy to help the Baal Shem Tov. However as soon as he left the meeting he immediately forgot about the request and the letter.

Sixteen years passed and the wheel of fortune turned. Avigdor's forests caught fire; his fields were flooded and the crops were ruined. The over-confident merchant lost all he owned.

He was forced to sell his beautiful home and all his possessions. One by one he sold the clothes off his back to feed his starving children. As he went to sell an old coat from the closet he found the letter of the Baal Shem Tov in the pocket!

Tears came to his eyes as he recalled his meeting with the Baal Shem Tov, and got ready to fulfill his mission from sixteen years prior....

To be continued in next week's
Queens Farbrengen...

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

8:10pm Candle Lighting
8:15pm Mincha
Followed by Kabbalas Shabbos
8:45am Chassidus Shiur
10:00am Davening
5:00pm Tanya Shiur
8:00pm Mincha
9:19pm Maariv / Shabbos Ends