

Parashat Shemot • פ' שמות

PARNESS HAYOM TEVET

These Days of Learning have been dedicated to the memory of the following by members of their family.

21 Tevet

Stanley Yetnikoff in memory of Isaac Babad (Yitzchak ben Moshe Yisrael z'l)

21 Tevet

Aron Lieberman in memory of his father, Laizer Lieberman (Lazer ben Meir Kolominis z'l)

22 Tevet

Philip Cola in memory of his father, Lemel Cola (Asher Lemel ben Fishel HaKohen z'l)

23 Tevet

Aron Lieberman in memory of his mother, Raizel Lieberman (Raizel bat Aharon z'l)

27 Tevet

Avrum, Louis & Joseph Drazin memory of their father, Samuel Drazin (Shmuel Shlomo ben Aharon z'l)

For more information on the KTM Parness Hayom Project, please call our office at 514 486 5718.



The Burning Bush: Defining the Jewish Core

The image of the burning bush vividly imprints itself upon us as a symbol of Moshe's mission. Encountering it launches his career. Clearly, its symbolism expresses something powerful about the job and Moshe's relationship to it.

The Jewish people left Egypt "bechipazon" with hurriedness, which begs the question: Why did G-d wait for the last moment, only then to move speedily? The abysmal level to which the Jews had sunk necessitated the hurriedness. But Hashem could have moved to redeem them somewhat earlier, and the pace of redemption could have slowed! Why did He wait?

According to the Netivot Shalom, in with the burning bush, Hashem wished to allude to the familiar analogy of the "kernel of vitality." A seed sprouts only when most of its case has decayed and decomposed, leaving behind the bare germ from which new life continues. Precisely when that germ is situated between the poles of death and new life, precisely then the new cycle begins.

The burning bush symbolizes a Jewish people stripped of everything, retaining only some invisible permanent essence. Moshe sees the bush, and reacts in amazement. Can the Jewish people endure the lowest levels, and still survive?

Hashem shows him the paradox of Jewish survival – that we begin anew after severe spiritual setbacks. Moreover, the process of rebirth not only can take place after reaching a low level, it is exactly from that point that new growth is expected. The Exodus had to be hurried because we could not survive long on that lowest of levels; it could not have occurred any earlier, however, because the optimum time for renewal comes when only the bare essence is left, and all else has fallen away.

Moshe asked, "What if they do not believe me?" He contemplated their state, and could not understand how a vital kernel of belief remained in such inhospitable conditions. He could not detect a core belief strong enough to spawn a spiritual rebirth. At the burning bush, however, Hashem thundered instructions to him, "Remove your shoes from your feet! The place you stand upon is holy!" The holiness He called to Moshe's attention was that of the Jewish people. It was alive and well, despite their spiritual downturn.

As a nation and as individuals, we have spiritual ups and downs, but even in the lowest of lows, one should never give up on himself or on the Jewish people. And it is precisely from that lowest of places that the potential to reach the highest of highs can be found.

Shabbat Shalom, Eddie Shostak.

TRIBUTE CARDS

With your donation of \$18.00 or more KTM will send a card to mark the occasion of a birth, anniversary, engagement, marriage, speedy recovery, holiday greetings, birthday, or in memory of.

This week's Daf is sponsored by:

Ian and Andree Ellbogen
 In honour of the birth of their
 grand-daughter born to their
 daughter Eliane Ellbogen.

23rd of Tevet 5770

January 9, 2009

Shabbat Begins: 4:12pm

Shabbat Ends: 5:19pm

Haftara: Isaiah 27:6-28:13, 29:22-23

WINTER SESSION @ KTM

8:15-9pm	MONDAYS JANUARY 11 • 18 • 25 • FEB. 1 • 8	
	The Ramban on the Torah with Rav Ido Tauber This class will explore the unique commentary of the Ramban, including topics on faith and philosophy according to the weekly parasha.	
	TUESDAYS JANUARY 12 • 19 • 26 • FEB. 2 • 9	
	Parashat Hashavua with Rav Yishai Lisner An in depth look at the weekly parasha using the commentaries of our sages and other Torah commentaries with a special focus on relating these teaching to our daily lives.	
	WEDNESDAYS JANUARY 13 • 20 • 27 • FEB. 3 • 10	
9:15 - 10PM	"Orach Chaim" with Rav Ido Tauber Exploration of Jewish law that pertain to daily life using the Shulchan Aruch and Midrash Brurah.	
	THURSDAYS JANUARY 14 • 19 • 26 • FEB. 4 • 11	
	Parashat Hashavua with Rav Ido Tauber For or CEGEP and University Students.	
	Daily Maariv: Monday-Thursday @ 9pm	
	Individual Study Groups with Kollel Staff Study groups: Bekiut Gemera, Classic Jewish Philosophy and Halacha. Please call our office to join an existing group. Monday-Thursdays.	
WOMEN'S BEIT MIDRASH	Insight into Sefer Tehilim with Eddie Shostak This class will analyze David Hamelech (King David)'s monumental work through study of the literary structure of selected Psalms with a broad overview of Early and Later commentaries. TUES., 9:30am JAN. 5 • 12 • 19 • 26	
	Tehilim Group Completion of the entire Book of Tehilim and prayer for those who are ill. TUES. 10:30am & WED. 4:00pm	

Halacha MiTzion with HaRav Shlomo Aviner

Beshert

Q: Does a person have only one Beshert or are there various possibilities and he/she needs to decide who is the right partner?

A: There is one person chosen by Heaven as it says in the Gemara in Sotah (2a) that forty days before one is born, a Divine voice says that the daughter of this person is to be marry to that person. How do we know - after all we do not have prophets? If we act properly, we will have Divine direction, i.e. we choose a spouse first based on intellect and then emotion. There are occasions that one's partner is not here because he was killed in a war or died for another reason but it is still possible to marry. This is what is called: "G-d makes the lonely ones dwell in a house" (Tehillim 68:7 according to Sotah ibid.), i.e. Hashem places the lonely who are not exactly matched into one house and they are a good match in the end. It is possible that it is difficult at first - "It is as difficult to find a match as it was to split the Red Sea (Sotah ibid.) - but they will work it out and live in love, fraternity and friendship. There is therefore no difference in actuality whether one marries his beshert or not. Either way, you must marry with respect and love and then invest energy.

CARLEBACH KABBALAT SHABBAT



Join the TBDJ Youth Minyan with KTM, B'nei Akiva, BIBA Youth Minyan, NCSY, and Beth Zion Youth for a lively Carlebach Kabbalat Shabbat.

Rosh Chodesh Shevat—January 15th, 2010
in the TBDJ Social Hall
Mincha starting at 4:15pm

All high-school students (and others) are invited to attend.

That same night, students in grades 7-8 and grades 9-11 will be having an Oneg Shabbat at TBDJ, hosted by Rabbi Steinmetz, starting at 8:30 p.m.
We look forward in seeing you all there!

Kollel Torah Mitzion has a core faculty of graduates from Hesder Yeshivot in Israel who come here to serve as teachers and role models in our community. The core of the Kollel is the Beit Midrash which features a full schedule of classes as well as a drop-in center with a warm atmosphere where all, regardless of background, feel comfortable.

כִּי מֵצִיּוֹן תֵּצֵא תוֹרָה

Bringing a taste of Israel to Montreal...

Rosh Kollel: Rav Yishai Lisner
President: Rafi Faust
Executive Director: Eddie Shostak

