FOCUSED ON PEACE

The Gemara (Sotah 43a), expounding on Shemos (6:25), identifies the maternal grandfather of Pinchas (Puti’el) with Yisro, or a descendant of Yisro. Because many members of the tribes heaped abuse upon Pinchas by saying, “Did you see this descendant of Puti’el, who fattened calves to sacrifice them to idols, rise and murder a prince in Israel?”, therefore the Torah traces his lineage to Aharon.

Although the words of the sages cast light on the reason the Torah traces the lineage of Pinchas back to Aharon, where it would seem sufficient to identify Pinchas as the son of Elazar, who we already know was Aharon’s son, we remain puzzled as to the connection between Yisro and Pinchas’s action. Why would the common people attribute the action of Pinchas to the acts of idolatry committed by Pinchas’s maternal ancestor?

Meged Yosef explains that Pinchas’s act could be understood from two different vantage points. On the one hand, it could be an act of zeal, displaying devotion toward Hashem and toward the Jewish people. It could also be considered an act of murder, born of the emotion of anger and hatred. The masters of mussar say that the line that divides anger-hatred from zeal is razor thin. Many times, only Hashem could know whether such acts are the highest good or the basest evil.

In truth, Yisro himself is somewhat of an enigma. On the one hand, we know that he was a priest in Midian, one who instructed others towards idolatry. On the other hand, according to the Midrash, it was he who protested against Pharaoh’s decision to enslave the Jewish people. How is Yisro defined? Is he really the idol worshiper who had a compassionate heart but who was nonetheless far removed from the God of Israel, or was he a person who understood the righteousness of the God of his son-in-law, and whose practice of idolatry was a meaningless carryover from his confused past?

Indeed, this doubt was never really resolved. Where the Torah says (Shemos 18:9) “וַיְהִי מֵאֵלֶּא תָּחֹת - “and Yisro rejoiced”, some interpret this as genuine joy for the victory of Israel over the Egyptians, while others interpret the same phrase as an indication of a silently borne pain for the Egyptians with whom he identified. Yisro’s acts were the same according to both opinions, but his heart was known to no one.

It is in this manner that the common people attacked the character of Pinchas. Surely he is like his ancestor Yisro, who showed his devotion to the idols by fattening calves for their sacrifice. If he really had been opposed to idolatry and was simply acting out of habit, wouldn’t it do to sacrifice some old, sick bull? Can’t we perceive his real motivation by looking into the details? Surely Pinchas, like his forebear, imitates that righteous one in a cloak, which conceals his true motivation. Therefore, he is not a righteous zealot, but a murderer disguised as one. For this reason, the Torah comes to define the true man, a descendant of Aharon, the man who sacrificed all for the peace of Israel. The act of murder and the emotion of hatred are as foreign to Pinchas as they were to Aharon. Pinchas did his deed out of love for the Torah and Israel, and was not tarnished by any personal enmity or emotional hatred.

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A LEADER’S OUTLOOK

In our lives, we are placed in one leadership role or another. Like Yehoshua, we, too, must be leaders and act accordingly, but nonetheless, our goals should be assisting others, not an exercise in self-fulfillment. Only then will we, too, be able to deal with our children, students and communities to their utmost, both peacefully and effectively.

CARING KNOWS NO BOUNDS

The lengths to which a leader must go in serving his congregation are illustrated with the following. A Jewish man who lived in Lodz developed a serious infection in
his hand. The doctors were afraid that the infection might spread, and they suggested that the hand be amputated in order to save his life. After considering the alternatives, the man decided not to undergo the procedure, and to deal with the situation as it would develop. Due to his disability, he was unable to work, and his financial condition deteriorated. His landlord realized that the rent was not going to be paid, and he moved to have the family evicted.

It was on a Friday, and the ill man approached Rabbi Eliyahu Chaim Meisel, the Rabbi of Lodz, and cried out to the Rabbi for a solution to his woes. The Rabbi was shocked when he heard how desperate the situation had become, and he reassured the man that the landlord, being a Jewish man himself, would certainly never follow through with the cruel threat to evict the man and his family from their apartment.

The Rabbi handed him money to pay for the Shabbos needs of his family, plus another sum to pay for his travel costs to get home and to return again on Monday of the next week. On that Sunday, the Rabbi summoned the landlord and admonished him for having threatened to evict the unfortunate family. He also cautioned him not to act with impudence by intimidating them.

On Monday, when the man returned, Rabbi Meisel spoke to him and advised that he travel to a particular professor in the big city and consult with him about a cure for his hand. The man was very reluctant, for he had no money for transportation, let alone to pay for a doctor’s appointment or for treatment. Nevertheless, the Rabbi insisted that a poor person has no right to give up hope on life, and that he was responsible to do his utmost to get back on his feet. With a bit of encouragement, the poor fellow traveled to the city with a few rubles in his pocket and a letter from the Rabbi for the doctor. He eventually was cured and returned to his home town. During that entire time, the Rabbi had sent three rubles to the family every week to keep them on their feet. The man returned to his family healthy and intact, and he found employment as the shammash of the main shul in Lodz.

The Rabbi insisted that a poor person has no right to give up hope on life.

Halachic Corner

Pirkei Avos: Chapter 1

Questions for Thought and Study

1. How did Pinchas become considered more of a “son of Aharon” after he killed Zimri and Cozbi? See Zohar 25:11
2. Why does the Torah imply in Pasuk 25:14 that Zimri was killed twice? See Ohr HaChaim 25:14
3. Why does the Torah need to tell us about all the things that Dassan and Aviram did wrong (as part of the rebellion of Korach) when counting them? See Ohr HaChaim 26:9
4. Why are the names of Shimon’s families, יִשְׂרָאֵל, changed to יִשְׂרָאֵל, and רְעֵי, changed to רְעֵי, in the second counting in the desert? See Malbim 26:12
5. Which group of people did remain from the people who left Egypt and were not part of the second count in the desert? See Ramban 26:64

Halachic Corner is dedicated by Benyomin Freeman in memory of his father, Gedalia Freeman, whose dedication to quality education for his family began their eighteen-year relationship with HTC. May his memory be for a blessing.

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Questions for Thought and Study

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The Chicago Mitzvah Campaign is conducting another Tefillin checking opportunity, Sunday, August 1, 12:35-1:15. Rabbi Chaim Yitzchak Dvorin will speak on “The Three Weeks - Be All That You Can Be!” and will offer a discounted appetizer menu as well as participate in Tefillin giving. Men & women invited to attend. More info: Rabbi Joshua Zisook at 847-982-2500 or jzisook@hct.edu.

The 10th Annual Event for P’milim / Lev L’Achim, hosted by Nachy Shabat, Nesanel Davis and Josh Blitstein Institute and plan your future. Ask our recent graduates! Fall semester begins September 3rd.

Attention High School and Seminary graduates, if interaction with expert faculty, real learning, meaningful time with friends and the ability to quickly reach your goals with a prestigious degree that gives you access to internships, quality employment or graduate school is your goal, come visit icja.org or call 773-973-1450. You can find internships, meaningful work experience, and a network of top-notch professionals.

If your goal is to move straight into the workforce, join us in order to gain a competitive edge in the job market to help you find meaningful work experience and identify what allows you to stand out amongst the crowd.

Please call Mrs. Mann to set up an appointment with Dr. Tessler: 773-973-0241.


Last Oakton Pool for this season! This Wednesday night, July 31, 8:30-10:00 PM. Due to new regulations from Oakton Pool, no money will be accepted at the pool. Go to www.Kehillahfund.org/pool to buy your swim passes or call our hotline for more information, 641-715-3900 ext. 234750#. Come swim and support Kehillah Fund at the same time!

The Ida Crown Jewish Academy remembers Milton & Miriam Saltzman z”l on the occasion of their yahrzeit. We thank Jack and Annette Saltzman and family for establishing a scholarship in memory of their parents and grandparents. May their memory be for a blessing.

Please join us Monday in greeting: HaRav Uri Zohar a”h, Leader of the Israeli Teshuva Movement and hear an eyewitness report from HaRav Elyas Bronde a”h on Monday, July 29th - The 10th Annual Event for P’eylim / Lev L’Achim, hosted by Nachy Shabat, Nesanel Davis and Josh Rosen, corner of Devon & Kimball in Lincolnwood. Co-Chairmen: Mendy Berger, Shuie Davis, Shimon Fink, and Benzie Friedman.

The Jewish Community Foundation Chicago (JCF) is pleased to announce the opening of a new campus on Oakton Street in Wilmette. The Ida Crown Jewish Academy will be offering Sports Clinics in wrestling, baseball, fencing, girls and boys basketball and cross country with our own Ida Crown coaches and players for students in grades 3-8. Sports Clinics will be held on August 19, 20, and 21. Come find out what it’s like to be an Ida Crown Ace! All kids welcome! For more information and to register, visit our website at www.icja.org or call 773-973-1450.


The Chicago Miztvah Campaign is conducting another Tefillin checking opportunity, Sunday, August 4th, through Thursday, August 8th, at Bais Chaim Dovid in Lincolnwood, 3461 Devon Avenue. Expert batim macher will also be available for batim repairs. CMC is endorsed by Vaad Mishmeret STaM and local Rabbonim. Reservations necessary to guarantee same day turnaround. Call 1-866-MY RABBI (1-866-697-2224).

The Chicago Mitzvah Campaign is conducting another Tefillin checking opportunity, Sunday, August 1, 12:35-1:15. Rabbi Chaim Yitzchak Dvorin will speak on “The Three Weeks - Be All That You Can Be!” and will offer a discounted appetizer menu as well as participate in Tefillin giving. Men & women invited to attend. More info: Rabbi Joshua Zisook at 847-982-2500 or jzisook@hct.edu.

Call 1-866-MY RABBI (1-866-697-2224).
Chicago Community Kollel invites the community to its Annual Yarchei Kallah Program Aug. 3-9, with special guests, HaRav Naftali & Reb. Tehila Jaeger. Shabbos Parshas Mattos/Maassei, HaRav Jaeger will speak at the Kollel after 8:00 AM Shacharis & at Shalosh Seudos following Mincha at 7:30 at Agudas Israel of WRP. Daily Learning for Men at the Kollel with Rosh Kollel, HaRav Dovid Zucker, Sunday-Friday, Aug. 4-9. Chavrusas 9:15-11:15 AM, Shiur 11:15-12:15 PM on the topic 'Aish V'Shalom' on Sunday, Aug. 4th, at 12:45 PM, at the Chicago Center for Torah and Chesed (upstairs) 3135 W. Halevi in Yerushalyim. Rabbi Cherrick will deliver a shiur on 'A People of Honor - The Way Home'. Mincha 1:40 & 7:35. 5:45 PM Documentary "Who Will Write Our History". Info: 773-761-4000 or www.kins.org.

This Sunday: Refuah 311 proudly presents our popular Health & Safety Family Fair. Join us this Sunday July 28, 1:00-4:00 PM, at the Bernard Horwich JCC, 3003 Touhy, for this free community event. Inflatables, emergency vehicles, arts and crafts, raffles, prizes, games, activities, animal show 1:15-2:00 PM, petting zoo, and sport activities 2:00-4:00 PM. Something for the entire family! For more information, contact Jenny Landsman: jlandsman@TheChicagoCenter.org or 773-761-4005 x105.

Extended Early Bird Deadline for Bais Yaakov High School of Chicago’s “Success in Yerushalayim” Raffle - Free tickets with every purchase by July 31st! First Prize: 7 round-trip airfares to Eretz Yisroel, 11 days luxurious accommodations and $1,000; or take $12,000 cash! Second Prize: 6 round-trip airfares to anywhere in the continental United States! Add the $50 Chai option to be able to win an additional $18,000! Drawing מ'מעש'ה September 16th. Call 872-241-4540 or www.succosraffle.com.

Shani & Jane Re-design will be coming to Lincolnwood Jewish Congregation A.G. Beth Israel, (7117 Crawford in Lincolnwood) this Sunday, July 28, at 11:00 AM, to show us what to do when you have too much clutter and to show the upside of downsizing. Let Shani & Jane Re-design give you information on how to do just that in an organized manner. Please call the shul office to RSVP, 847-676-0491.

JCC Chicago seeks outstanding Early Childhood Assistant Teachers for Fall 2019. Be part of a team of educators, social workers and specialists who support the whole child through a developmentally appropriate curriculum embracing Jewish life and complementing the home. We're looking for those who are enthusiastic about guiding each child to their potential towards future success. Visit www.jccchicago.org/careers for more information and to apply online.

Rabbi Paysach Krohn will be speaking at Cong. Yehuda Moshe, Aug. 2nd & 3rd, for the Bernie Cohen Memorial Scholar in Residence Weekend, Fri., 8:15 PM “Becoming a Person of Bracha”; Shabbat 10:45 AM “Your Siddur, Your Life”; 12:30 PM “Bringing out the Best in Yourself”; 5 PM “Chizuk Compliments, & Constructive Character”; 8:00 PM “Keeping Private in a Public Life: Social Media”. Register for meals by Sun., July 28. View full schedule at www.yehudamoshe.com or call 847-673-5870.

Hillel Torah (Skokie, IL) is seeking a Preschool Lead Teacher. Our ideal candidate will have a background in early childhood education, be committed to providing a nurturing and developmentally appropriate classroom experience, and have knowledge and background with Judaic curriculum. Send résumé and cover letter to resumes@hilletgorah.org.

Chicago is proud to welcome HaRav Mordechai Cherrick, נורא, Rosh HaKollel, Kollel Bais Halevi in Yerushalayim. Rabbi Cherrick will deliver a shiur on דוד המלך entitled "What is יעש", on Sunday, August 4th, at 12:45 PM, at the Chicago Center for Torah and Chessed (upstairs) 3135 W Devon Avenue. Mincha to follow at 1:30 PM.

Last week, 40+ participants from Yachad’s Rayim division of young adults and their friends had a great time making delicious pizzas! Rabbi Ari Zucker from YUTMK treated us to a dvar Torah and we enjoyed socializing with old and new friends! Thank you to EU’s for their great service and for opening their party room for us! Our end-of-summer/pre-school-year kickoff BBQ is right around the corner & open to teens & young adults! Info: bakerd@ou.org, Yachad.org/Chicago. #BecauseEveryoneBelongs.

Come tour the Bernard Horwich JCC Chicago Early Childhood Center! 2-, 3-, and 4-year-old programs, half-day and extended options. Warm, experienced teachers provide a warm and caring learning environment. The JCC has opportunities with extensive Judaic content. Plus, children and parents love our British Swim School program. Call Miriam at 773-516-5881 for a private tour! Registration opens November 18, 2019, for the 2020/2021 school year. jccchicagoearlychildhood.org.
Over 15 speakers, two days of Torah learning, one inspirational event! NILI’s Annual Yarchei Kallah: Women’s Learning Conference is just one week away! Join us August 4th-5th at Or Torah for this amazing event! Come for one shiur, one day, or both days. Free breakfast and lunch and free babysitting for registered participants! For woman only. Schedule now available at wwwNILIorah.org.

Save the date and kick off the new year with the YU Torah Mitzvion’s Annual Summer Event! Enjoy great food, great location, and great company! September 8th at Noah’s of Lincolnshire (200 Barclay Boulevard, Lincolnshire, IL 60069), 6:00 PM reception, 7:00 PM dinner. More details coming soon!

The Wi-Fi Chevra recommends that you start your day with a Good Morgan! Good Morgan Café! Located in the Wi-Fi Building on McCormick Blvd., Good Morgan offers a delicious array of breakfast and lunch specials daily. Try their delicious Belgian waffles or omelet specials! Don’t miss their famous fried whitefish sandwich and other tasty sandwiches and wraps. Open daily 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM.

In honor of Rabbi Louis & Rebetzin Saretta Lavezsky for their 35 years of skillful, inspirational and selfless leadership at Congregation Kesser Maariv. We appreciate your guidance through school, our wedding, the birth of our kids (and now for the next generation also). Your friendship is priceless. Thank you, Sue & Steve Goldrich.

Thank you so much to the entire community for the friendship and support you have offered us over the past nine years, from when Avi was a single college student through us raising Momo and Chemy. As blessed as we are to be able to move to Ramat Beit Shemesh next week, we know we will miss the Torah, chesed, and achdus here. - Avi and Channah Levin.

By Philip & Corinne Cutler in loving memory of their grandparents, Essie Gerber, הור, on the occasion of her yahrtzeit on 24 Tamuz, and Chaya Weinstein, הור, on the occasion of her yahrtzeit on 3 Av. May their memory be for a blessing.

In loving memory of our husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, מAaron, תמר, & great-grandfather, מAaron, תמר on 2 Av. (Bais Chaim Dovid, Kehilath Jacob Beth Samuel, Agudah of WRP)

Jack Mann, on the occasion of his 14th yahrtzeit on 27 Tamuz, corresponding to July 30, 2019. His life exemplified the Mishna that the crown of a good name surpasses them all. May his memory be for a blessing. - Leah Mann, and the Kaplan, Rosenbaum and Mann families.

By the Daniels family in memory of our dear father and grandfather, Sol Daniels, הור, on the occasion of his yahrtzeit on הד, אדר (Kehilath Jacob)

By Rochelle & Sherwin Schneiderman, Jeff & Marsha Schneiderman and family, Lynda Sohl & Oscar Stewart and family, Dennis & Miriam Schneiderman and family, Karen & Yossi Safarty and family, Esther & Glenn Kapetansky and family, and Barry & Judy Rubin and family, in memory of our mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, מFegi, and family, in memory of Mr. William Henning Rubin, הור, on the occasion of her 23rd yahrtzeit on Rosh Chodesh Av.

In loving memory of Mr. Irving Weiss, הור, on the occasion of his 8th yahrtzeit on the 26th of Tamuz. We love and miss him each and every day and he is always in our hearts. All his lessons and inspirations that so many of us aspire to, should be a continued Aliyah for his neshama. - Jessica and Lennie Weiss and family and Lisa Weiss.

By Eudice Greenfield, Jonathan & Devorah, Kobi, Elisheva, Ari and Boaz Greenfield; Chaviva & Andrew, Barak, Vered and Einav Kaplan; Naftali & Judy, Leor and Yona Greenfield on the 8th yahrtzeit of their beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, Esther Feigenbaum Estreicher, on Rosh Chodesh Av. May her memory be for a blessing. (Cong. Or Torah; The Jewish Center, NY; Anshei Shalom, West Hempstead)

By Mrs. Fegi Mauer, Rabbi & Mrs. Ari Maryles and family, and Miss Chani Mauer commemorating the seventh yahrtzeit of their mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, Mrs. Adel Farkas, הור, on 29 Tamuz, and the third yahrtzeit of their father, grandfather, & great-grandfather, Mr. Ernest Farkas, הור, on 2 Av. (Bais Chaim Dovid, Kehilath Jacob Beth Samuel, Agudah of WRP)

By Esther Cardash; Aaron & Debbie Cardash and family; Dina & Marc Romanoff and family, Feigy & Moshe Schwartz and family; Chana & Chuly Stern and family, Yael & Zevi Farkas and family, Yehudah & Esti Romanoff and family, and all the younger grandchildren and great-grandchildren, in memory of their mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, מChani, on her yahrtzeit on הד, אדר, on the occasion of her yahrtzeit on 24 Tamuz.

By Avis Perlman and family, Joel & Tammy Rubin and family, and Carol & Michael Roth and family, in memory of Mr. William Henning Rubin, הור, on the occasion of his yahrtzeit on 24 Tammuza. (Or Torah, Anshe Sholom, Bnai Yeshurun, Teaneck, NJ)

By Mr. & Mrs. Marshall Mauer and family, Mr. & Mrs. Joel Mauer and family, and Mrs. Freda Mauer and family and all the grandchildren in Baltimore, New York, and Chicago, in commemoration of the 33rd yahrtzeit of their father, and grandfather, Chaim ben Mordechai Leib, הור, on 29 Tammuza. (Chesed L’Avrohom)

Likutei Peshatim is endowed by Les & Ethel Sutker in loving memory of Max and Mary Sutker and Louis and Lilian Klein, הור. May their memory be for a blessing.

Answers:
1. When Pinchas killed Zimri, the tribe of Shimon gathered to kill him. He was so scared that his בורות (soul) left him. He survived by the souls of Nadav and Avihu entering him. This is why Pinchas was considered to be more of a son of Aharon after this incident.
2. A person “dies” when he sins and loses his holy בורות (soul) to sin. Zimri had already “died” when he sinned. He then was physically killed by Pinchas.
3. The main reason for the rebellion spreading against Moshe was due to Dotson and Aviram. Ohr HaChaim implies that Dossan and Aviram instigated Korach himself to move forward with the rebellion.
4. The tribe of Shimon lost 37,000 since the last count. Many of the people who died were from these families. To stop the plague, these families changed their names.
5. Women were not part of the sin of the spies and loved Eretz Yisrael (see Tzelophchod’s daughter). They were not included in the punishment of the spies.
6. Yehoshua and Caleb were over the age of sixty so they were not part of the count of men between the ages of twenty to sixty.