



Family & Friends



Parshas Ki Seitzei

September 12th 2024 - Elul 9 5784



Naftali Haller's Siyum

PARSHAS KI SEITZEI RAV YEHUDA KRAINES

At the beginning of this week's parsha we read about the laws of eshes yefas to'ar. This law applies to female captives of battle that can be taken as a wife. Although such women were permitted to be married, they are required to undergo a post battleground process that will divest them of their desirability.

The Torah's prescribed procedure of shaving her hair, growing long nails and ridding her attractive attire, are all efforts made to ensure that this woman is not taken as a wife. The anticipated outcome is that she should be returned to her family and nation. If after all these efforts to dissuade the soldier from marrying, he nevertheless decides to join in matrimony, the Torah sanctions this union. Reason being, if Hashem would not permit this marriage, the soldier would sin anyway, therefore it was made permissible.

Eshes yefas to'ar demonstrates



Baruch Dayan
Ha'Emes

The Yeshiva joins together with the Stone family in mourning the loss of

Mrs. Frances Stone

מרת פרומט בת יהודה ע"ה

mother of our dear talmid
R' Benny Stone.

Condolences can be sent to
either

+ 44 7866 934 302 or
bstone2448@gmail.com

המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון
וירושלים ולא תוסיפו לדאבה עוד

how specific situations become permissible due to the gravity of the challenge. On the other hand, we can reference several difficult mitzvos that are nevertheless prohibited. For example, avak lashon hara refers to speech which incites the speaking of actual lashon hara. The gemara Bava Basra (165a) says that many people fall into theft, some into promiscuity, and everyone is guilty of avak lashon hara. How do we understand the actions of avak lashon hara being prohibited if all are guilty of its clutches?

The Maharsha on this gemara answers our question by redefining what type of 'people' the gemara is referring to. In doing so, he explains that there are two types of people. Those



Mazel Tov

Heartfelt Mazel Tov wishes to:

Benny Fine on his recent engagement.

Rabbi & Mrs. Gershon Grossman on their son's birth.

Rabbi & Mrs Yisrael Hersch Steif on their son's bar mitzvah.

Mr. & Mrs. Chaim Jacobovitch on their son's birth.

Rabbi & Mrs. Yehoshua Chaitovsky on their granddaughter's marriage.

that remain stagnant in their yiddishkiet and those that strive for greater heights. When the gemorah casted a bleak future in adherence of avak lashon hara, this was directed to the 'stagnant' individual. For those on the other hand, that invest the effort and strive higher, they are surely bound to succeed in adhering to the most difficult of mitzvos.

Chazal teach us that eshes yefas to'ar was written to guide us in overcoming our yezer hara. When we find ourselves gripped in the clutches of the yetzer hara, our rational thoughts have been temporarily blurred. Rabbi Noach Orlowek has repeatedly mentioned in the yeshiva the following practical suggestion. In

the face of overwhelming sin, it is important to stay focused on little actions that will accumulate over time and allow us to grow. Be it avak lashon hara or any other difficult situation, one positive step at a time will point us in the proper direction and allow us to realize the inner essence of the Jewish neshama.

RAV CHAIM DOV ALTUSKY

This upcoming Shabbos, will mark the 14th yahrtzeit of Moreinu V'rabbeinu, HaGaon HaGadol, Rav Chaim Dov Altusky, zt"l. In addition to Klal Yisrael's loss of a gadol, talmidim of the yeshiva lost a Rebbe who was endowed with the keen ability to not only teach how to learn, but he also taught through example how to live.

The Brisker Rav had allegedly

written only two haskamos for seforim throughout his life. The one written for Rav Shach, says as follows, "he does not need approbations from anyone, for he is very great ... in all subjects of the Torah." In the spirit of how the Brisker Rav described Rav Shach, a talmid attempting to scribe fond memories of his Rebbe, feels woefully inadequate.

Unlike today, both the Americans and the Israelis learned together in the main Bais Medrash of the Yeshiva. During this illustrious period, throughout the sederim, Rebbe occupied his iconic wooden seat, in the front-right corner of the Bais Medrash. Wrapped in tefillin and totally immersed in learning, very few matters were deemed worthy of disrupting his daily routine. In addition to all of his chidushim, shiurim and gadlus, his silent example taught everyone a deafening lesson – nothing is

more important than Torah learning. All of his thoughts, actions and words revolved around Torah. In an effort to dismiss anyone from thinking that this message is cliché, permit me to share the following story.

The Chafetz Chaim once appeared as a character witness in a Polish court. After completing his testimony, the lawyer sought to bolster the Chafetz Chaim's integrity in the eyes of the judge, by relating the following story. "I would like to give the court a glimpse into the greatness of this Rabbi. A thief once stole from him. In order that the thief should not be guilty of sinning, he rushed after him shouting, 'It's yours! I forgive you!'"

Sensing a gross embellishment of the truth, the judge skeptically countered the lawyers claim and asked if he truly believed such a story. To which the lawyer replied, "Although I did not personally witness these actions, people do not tell over such stories about you and me."

Rav Altusky was a gadol because of his myriad achievements. His family, talmidim and those that were privileged to know him, recognized this and esteemed him. The staunch example he so firmly set, continues to act as a spiritual compass for many. May the eternal memory of our righteous Rebbe, serve as a blessing for his family, the Yeshiva and all of Klal Yisrael.



Pictures from our Bais Medrash

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