

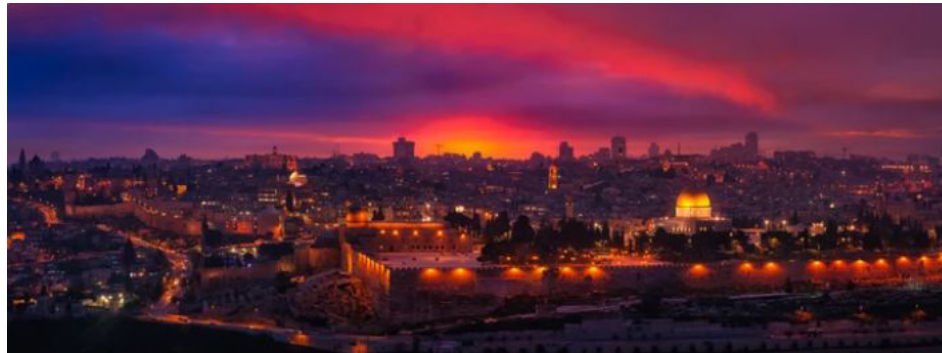


Family & Friends



Parshas Vayera

November 14 2024 - Cheshvan 13 5785



Sundown in Yerushalayim.

PARSHAS VAYERA SHMUEL FINKELSTEIN

In the beginning of this week's parsha, we find three angels arriving at Avraham Avinu's tent. Avraham invites them in to drink, rest and eat. The passuk follows up by mentioning, "And he took a calf, tender and good" - "וַיִּקַּח בָּן" (Bereishis 18:7)

Rashi explains that although the simple translation would indicate that Avraham Avinu only prepared one calf, in reality three calves were prepared. By doing so, Avraham was able to provide every guest with a complete tongue.

The Sifsei Chachamim quotes the Gemorah Baba Metzia (86b) that explains how we reach the conclusion that Avraham prepared three calves instead of one. By focusing on the chosen verbiage of the passuk - בָּן בָּקָר - we are taught how the number three comes into play. If the reality was that one singular calf was being prepared

it would be sufficient to write the noun of calf, בָּן בָּקָר without the adjective of רַךְ describing the noun בָּן בָּקָר. Reason being, every young animal has tender meat. From the fact that the Torah added the word tender, רַךְ, we can derive from this extra word that Avraham prepared a second calf. Furthermore, from the fact that the passuk wrote וטוב with an extra 'vuv', we can derive from this additional 'vuv' that Avraham prepared a third calf.

The Sifsei Chachamim continues to reference the opinion of the Maharam that offers an alternative approach to understand why Avraham prepared three calves. Irrelevant of which teaching we follow, according to both opinions, Avraham Avinu prepared three calves.

Rav Pam derives a very important lesson from the way Avraham treated his guests. Even though Avraham had no interest in fancy foods, he realized that not everyone was



Heartfelt Mazel Tov wishes to:

Mr. & Mrs. Chaim Mordechai Cohen on their son's birth.

Rabbi & Mrs. Chaim Schreiner on their daughter's engagement.

on his elevated spiritual level and average people might very well appreciate the finer things in life. With that understanding in mind, he sought to fulfill their needs. Elaborating on this thought, Rav Pam continues to explain how a husband should have his spouse's needs in mind, as well as a parent towards his child.

Another lesson we can learn from here is as follows. According to Chazal, the day that this story took place was the third day after Avraham's Bris Milah which is the most painful day. Because Hashem Yisbarach did not want Avraham to have to trouble himself with guests, He made it exceedingly hot by removing the protective cover of the sun. Avraham sent his trusted servant Eliezer outside to look for guests, but Eliezer came back empty-handed. Avraham said to himself, "One cannot trust a slave," and he went to look for guests himself.

Although Avraham was a wealthy man with many servants and assistants, he personally

attended to his guests, as the Talmud says, Avraham did the following himself:

He ran to get the calf (or calves) as it says "And to the cattle did Avraham run."

He stood and served them, as it says, "And he was standing over them under the tree, and they ate."

He gave them butter and milk, as it says, "And he took cream and milk."

The mitzvah of loving-kindness includes assisting people personally with whatever they need, whether they be rich or poor. As Rabbeinu Yonah writes (Sha'arei Teshuvah 3:13), "There is a mitzvah of loving-kindness (גמילות חסדים) which is very important but many people are not careful about it."

THE LUBLINER RAV

This past week marked the 91st yahrtzeit of Rav Meir Shaipro, zt"l, the Rosh HaYeshiva of Yeshivas Chachmei Lublin and founder of the Daf HaYomi program. His yahrtzeit takes on a special significance for all Bnei Torah for

he developed a revolutionary Daf Hayomi program that has turned thousands of simple Jews into scholars whom have mastered Shas. As a matter of fact, there are several distinguished kollel members at the yeshiva, that also deliver prominent Daf Yomi classes in the evening.

Rav Meir Shapiro, zt"l, was an extraordinary figure in the Torah world. The following story offers inspiration to every Ben Torah. When Rav Shapiro was the Rosh Yeshiva at Yeshivas Chachmei Lublin, he cared not only about the learning of his students but also about their personal struggles. He once noticed a student in yeshiva who seemed deeply troubled and distant. Concerned, Rav Shapiro called the bachur into his office and spoke to him privately, asking him if everything was okay and offering support. The student, touched by the Rosh Yeshiva's personal concern, broke down and shared the difficulties he was going through.

Rav Shapiro told him, "In our Torah learning, we encounter challenges and difficult sugyas (topics). But just like in learning, Hashem gave us the strength to endure and eventually

Your simcha could be featured here!

understand those challenging areas. In life, too, Hashem gives us the strength to overcome hardships, even when we feel lost. You are not alone in this, and together, we can find clarity."

This small moment highlights Rav Shapiro's greatness as a Rosh Yeshiva—he was not just focused on producing Torah scholars, but on creating whole, resilient people. His wisdom in both Torah and life continues to guide generations of bachurim who face their own struggles, reminding them that Torah learning is a source of strength and that they are never alone on their path.

In addition to his Rabbinic position and his capacity as Rosh HaYeshiva, he dedicated every fiber of his life to increase Torah study for every person, on every level, in all corners of the world. On the 7th of Chshvan in 1933, this great personage passed away at the young age of 46. Although he never merited having children, he continues to accrue the merits of tens of thousands of lomdei Torah on a daily basis. May his memory be a blessing.



Alumni Shabbos in Lakewood.

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