

AT THE ARTSCROLL SHABBOS TABLE

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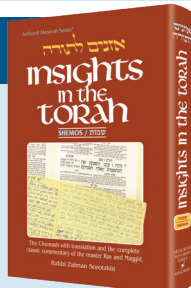
WEEKLY INSPIRATION AND INSIGHT ADAPTED FROM CLASSIC ARTSCROLL TITLES

DEDICATED BY MENACHEM AND BINAH BRAUNSTEIN AND FAMILY
L'ILLUI NISHMAS RAV MOSHE BEN RAV YISSOCHOR BERISH AND MARAS YENTA BAS YISROEL CHAIM

PARASHAH

SEEKING THE TRUTH

*Oznayim LaTorah –
Insights in the Torah*
by Rav Zalman Sorotzkin



וישמע יתרו.

And Yisro heard (18:1).

Three “individuals” heard one report, and each responded in a different way. The ancient nations heard that Hashem had dried up the Sea of Reeds before the *Bnei Yisrael* and shook with great fear. Amaleik also heard this and came to attack the *Bnei Yisrael*. Yisro heard it and came to be converted.

For it is not just the miracle that determines the reaction, but also an individual’s preparation for it. It was only Yisro, a person who sought the true G-d and came to learn about Him from Moshe, who drew the appropriate conclusion from the miracles of *Yetzias Mitzrayim*.

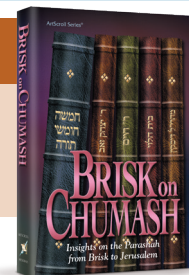
This provides an answer to those who say that if Hashem were to show us outright miracles like those of *Yetzias Mitzrayim*, the entire world populace would be transformed overnight to total believers.

If we are seeking the truth and truly want to see it, we will. 📖

PARASHAH

FULLEST CONSENT

*Brisk on Chumash by Rabbi Asher Bergman,
written by Rabbi Yaakov Blinder*

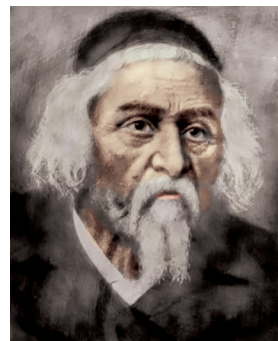


כֹּה תֹאמַר לְבֵית יַעֲקֹב וְתֹגִיד לְבְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל.

*Thus shall you say to the house of Yaakov
and tell the children of Yisrael (19:3).*

At first glance, this phrase seems to be unnecessarily repetitious. *Rashi* quotes *Chazal* as explaining that “the house of Yaakov” is a reference to the women of *Klal Yisrael*, while “the children of Yisrael” refers to the menfolk. It is interesting to note that the women are mentioned before the men. Why is this so?

The *Beis HaLevi* explains that the *Gemara* teaches that if someone wishes to purchase a property that is jointly owned by a man and his wife, he must obtain consent from the wife first and then the husband. The reason for this is that if the woman is approached after her husband, we are concerned that the wife may have consented merely to please her husband, but is not truly willing to sell. Obtaining her permission first thus ensures that the sale is undertaken with her fullest consent.



The Beis HaLevi

**HE WANTED
TO ASCERTAIN
THE PEOPLE’S
WHOLEHEARTED
ACCEPTANCE.**

When Hashem gave the Torah to *Klal Yisrael*, He wanted to ascertain the people’s wholehearted acceptance of the new responsibilities with which they were being charged. He therefore approached the women first, to ensure that they would not react in a manner that would reflect more their desire to oblige their husband’s will than their own inner convictions. The reply from all concerned was, of course, the resounding declaration that “Everything that Hashem has spoken we will do!” (19:18). 📖

ARTSCROLL MESORAH

I was teaching seventh grade one hot day and the kids were clearly bored. Back then, there was no air conditioning in class, and the *rebbe* had to find a way to make the climate in class a bit more relaxing. They needed a break, so I said, "Guys, I want to tell you a story."

I told them about a *rebbe* in Torah Vodaath when I had been a child whose name was Rav Yosef Levitan. He was *niftar* at a young age, *Rachmana litzlan*, just 37 years old, and at his *sheloshim*, a *chavrusa* of his got up and told a story. He had promised not to share it while Reb Yosef was alive, but he felt it was appropriate to say at that time.

As a *bachur*, Reb Yosef had been learning a complicated *sugya* in *Ma-seches Bava Basra*, on *daf* 29b, and he faced a question that he could not resolve. He spoke to his friends and to the *rebbeim*, but none of their explanations satisfied him. He went to sleep that night in an anxious mood, consumed by this difficult *kushya*.

The next morning, however, he came in to the *beis medrash* glowing, a wide smile on his face. He was a new man. His *chavrusa* asked him why he looked so happy, and Yosef explained that in his dream, he had received a visit from his *rebbe*, Rav Shlomo Heiman, who had passed away several years earlier. "The *rebbe* told me to get up and go wash *negel vasser* and say *Birchos HaTorah*,

and then to look in the *Ri Migash* on the *sugya* where I would find an approach that resolved my difficulty. I did what he said and saw that the *Ri Migash* asks my *kushya* and gives a *teirutz*. My *rebbe* is still with me and I have a *teirutz* to the *kushya* that bothered me... I should not be happy?"

"LAST NIGHT, I DREAMT THAT THE ROSH YESHIVAH, RAV SHLOMO, CAME TO ME..."

I concluded my story by telling the boys that in the *Otzar Hasefarim* of Torah Vodaath, there is a *Ri Migash* that has written in the margin, on *daf* 29b, an anonymous note in pen with the date and the words, "Last night, I dreamt that the rosh yeshivah, Rav Shlomo, came to me..."

(Parenthetically, Reb Yosef was *niftar* young, and the year before, Rav Moshe Lieberman, another beloved *talmid chacham*, was *niftar* at a young age. My father, the *menahel*, went to visit both of their widows one afternoon, and later that day, he, too, was taken at a young age, *Rachmana litzlan*. Rav Shmuel Brudny commented that my father had gone to "take regards" from these women, messages he would bring to their husbands.)

This was the story that I told the boys, and I could see the doubt on

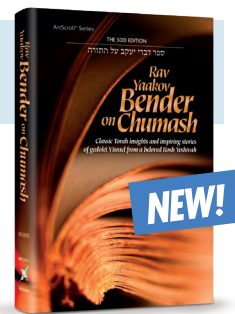
some of their faces: A *rebbe* came back in a dream? An American teenager had a question that made a commotion in the World of Truth? Come on, *rebbe*, a boy sitting in the front row said with his eyes.

During recess, I saw an older man, Reb Avraham Schnell, pacing the hall. I remembered him from Williamsburg and knew him as a *talmid* of Torah Vodaath, so on the spur of the moment, I asked him to come into the classroom with me after the break. He came in and the room grew silent.

"Tell me," I asked him, with no rehearsal or practice, "did you know Reb Yosef Levitan?"

He looked at me in surprise. "Know him? He was a very close friend of mine. Should I tell you something amazing?" Reb Avraham turned to the class and started to tell them about the *Ri Migash* and the dream and the *sefer* in the *Otzar*...and I saw the wonder in their eyes: *Rabbi Bender was not making it up! This really happened!*

In my classroom that day, I felt like the boys finally understood the extraordinary, vibrant, living connection between a *rebbe* and *talmid*, the power of Torah to transcend the page, the relationship between them and the *Nosein HaTorah*. 📖



NOW THROUGH FEBRUARY 10, 2021

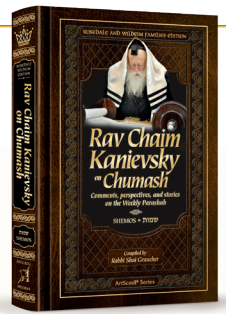
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RAV CHAIM'S SEFARIM

Rav Chaim Kanievsky on Chumash – Parshas Yisro
compiled by Rabbi Shai Graucher



The Steipler Gaon was once visiting his son, Rav Chaim Kanievsky, and he mentioned that he was on his way to the printer to publish some of his writings. Rav Chaim replied that he had several pages of his own that were ready for publication, and the Steipler took the papers and said that he would drop them off together with his own writings.



Rav Chaim Kanievsky with his father, the Steipler Gaon.

In the end, this particular work of Rav Chaim suffered multiple delays and was only published a

year later. The Steipler told his son, "The reason your work was delayed is because you violated the words of Chazal (*Kiddushin* 45b) that a son does not have the audac-

ity to take it for you. He took it himself!"

Rav Chaim explained, "I would certainly not dare ask my father to undertake an errand for me! What he meant is that I should not have even mentioned to him that I had something to be taken care of at a place to which I knew he would be going. I

"I WOULD CERTAINLY NOT DARE ASK MY FATHER TO UNDERTAKE AN ERRAND FOR ME!"

should have realized that he would

certainly offer to do it for me, as he did, and that was a slight to his honor!" 📖

should have realized that he would certainly offer to do it for me, as he did, and that was a slight to his honor!" 📖

HISTORY

MANUSCRIPTS THAT WERE NEVER PUBLISHED

The Jewish Experience: 2,000 Years by Rabbi Nachman Zakon

As Auschwitz Liberation Day, January 27, 1945, was recently marked and people recalled the Holocaust, they automatically thought of the loss of the Six Million and the destruction of Jewish

scripts were lost or destroyed both during the war and under the rule of the anti-Semites of Soviet Russia.

Here are just a few examples:

The Gerrer Rebbe, Rav Avraham Mordechai Alter, had many

murdered in the Warsaw Ghetto

and all of his writings went up in flames.

RAV MOSHE FEINSTEIN COMPLETED A COMMENTARY ON THE ENTIRE TALMUD YERUSHALMI.

life in most of Europe.

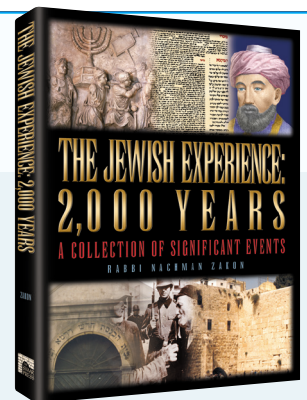
There was another aspect of the loss.

No one will ever know how many important Torah manu-

boxes of handwritten commentaries, all of which were destroyed.

Rav Menachem Ziemba was regarded by many as the greatest Talmudic scholar in Poland. He was

When Rav Moshe Feinstein was in the Soviet Union, he completed a commentary on the entire *Talmud Yerushalmi*. In those days, before copying machines, he had only one copy, and he was taking it with him to show to his father. A Communist guard on the train took it from him and destroyed the precious manuscript before his eyes. 📖





Parashah for Children

פרשת יתרו

News

The miracles of Kriyas Yam Suf and the amazing defeat of Amalek by the Jews made news all over the world. But out of all the people in the world who heard the news, the only one who did something because of it was Yisro, Moshe's father-in-law.

Yisro entirely changed his life because of what he heard. He dropped what he was doing, closed up his comfortable home, and headed to the desert to join the Jews. Yisro took along Moshe's wife Tziporah, and their two children, Gershom and Eliezer.

The Message

When Yisro arrived, he stopped at the edge of the Jewish camp. He sent a message to Moshe.

"It is I, your father-in-law, Yisro. I have arrived from Midian with your wife and children. Please come out to welcome me. If not for my sake, do it for the sake of your wife. And if not for her sake, do it for the sake of your children."

Welcome!

As soon as Moshe got the message, he went out to honor his father-in-law and welcome his family. Aharon and his two oldest sons, Nadav and Avihu, went with Moshe. When the Jews saw their leaders going somewhere, they followed along.

Yisro couldn't believe his eyes! Moshe was personally coming out to greet him, along with the leaders of the Jews! Behind them, stretching far into the distance, was the entire Jewish people. What an honor, what a welcome!

Moshe bowed down to the ground to show respect for his father-in-law. Then he got up and gave him a kiss.

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THE WEEKLY QUESTION

Question for Parashas Yisro:

How many letters are there in the Aseres Hadibros and why?

Kids, ask your parents to email the answer to shabbosquestion@artscroll.com by this Wednesday Feb. 10 to be entered into a weekly raffle to win A \$36 ARTSCROLL GIFT CARD! Names of winners will appear in a future edition.

HINT: The answer can be found in *The Jaffa Family Edition Weekly Parashah*.

