



# KINDER TORAH

ת"טז

PARASHAS TAZRIA

## WHAT A WELCOME

"Come forward, please. We have been expecting you."

*The man stepped forward nervously. He had never been here before, and did not know what to expect.*

"Yes, after 120 years of doing mitzvos, you have finally arrived. Now is the time to receive your reward."

*The man felt comforted. He had performed many mitzvos in his life. Perhaps it would be okay after all.*

"First, let us hear about your life. The angels have recorded all of your deeds. Let them come forward and tell us about you."

*A huge door swung open and revealed thousands of angels ready to speak about this man.*

"On the 12<sup>th</sup> of Teves, he spoke badly about his neighbor."

"On the 13<sup>th</sup> of Teves, he degraded his relative."

*The man's heart began to drop. These angels heard all of the loshon hora that he had said. Every word was a separate aveyra (sin).*

"Excuse me. I am so sorry, but may I interrupt for a second?"

"Go ahead."

"How many angels are here, recounting my loshon hora?"

"That is a good question. Let us figure it out. You spoke many words every day. You learned Torah; you conducted your business and personal affairs. You probably spoke no more than four or five words of loshon hora each day."

"Probably. That is not very many."

"Let's add them up. Four or five words a day, is about thirty words a week. Multiply that by fifty-two weeks of the year and you have about 1,500 words per year. By the age of 68 (which is 55 years after your bar-mitzvah) you have accumulated 80,000 words of loshon hora."

*The man began to cry.*

"Oh, what have I done. How I have misused my power of speech. If I had only known this while I was alive. Now it is too late."

*Kinderlach . . .*

*The Chofetz Chaim zt"l makes this simple calculation in his book, "Shmiras Ha-Loshon". Our words are never forgotten. They are stored in Hashem's computer (so to speak). Even a few words a day add up. Every day, another few words of loshon hora until the numbers are very large. Now is the time to stop while we can. Learn the halachos of loshon hora and stop yourself from speaking badly about people. Turn off the calculator today.*

## FOR HIS NAME WITH LOVE

"This month shall be for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year to you" (Shemos 12:2). "Is this another special parasha, Abba?"

"Yes it is, Avi. It is the last of the four parshios – Parashas HaChodesh."

"Is it about this month?"

"Yes, Avi."

"What is so unique about this month of Nissan, that it receives a special parasha, Abba?"

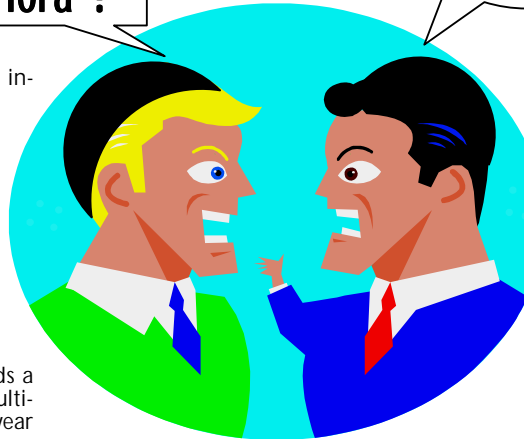
"Ahhhh. The month of Nissan is a glorious month, Avi. The Yalkut Shemoni (Parashas Bo) states that we were

re-deemed [from



Loshon Hora !

Rechilus



Mitzrayim] in Nissan, and are destined to be redeemed [from the present golus] in Nissan. The Torah counts Nissan as the first month for the Jewish people, because Yetzias Mitzrayim occurred then, and because it is our 'birthday' as a nation. In fact, the Gemora (Shabbos 87b) relates that Rosh Chodesh Nissan was such a holy day, that it acquired ten crowns! The Avodah of the Mishkan, in all of its magnificent glory, began on that day. The princes of the twelve tribes began bringing their inaugural offerings on that day. So you see, Avi, Nissan is truly the first of the months. Such a unique month deserves a special announcement in the Beis HaKnesses."

"I am sure that Rav Zeidel Epstein zt"l adds more explanation to Parashas HaChodesh."

"Correct, Avi. He speaks about the mitz-

vah of Kiddush HaChodesh (sanctifying the new month.) When Hashem gave this mitzvah to Klal Yisrael, he gave us tremendous *koach* (power). We control the holiness of the *z'manim* (appointed times.) For example, Beis Din can decide which day is Rosh Chodesh Nissan. Thirteen days later will be Erev Pesach. One who does not bring the Korbos Pesach on that day receives the punishment of *kares* (spiritual excommunication). One who eats chometz during the following seven days receives the same punishment. Who decided which day would bring the punishment of *kares*? We did! We hold the power of *kedusha* (holiness), which carries along with it spiritual life and death."

"Awesome."

"Rav Epstein cites other examples to show how we control the forces of nature also. Therefore, he concludes that Hashem's empowerment of Klal Yisrael with this mitzvah shows His great love for us. He would only give such a great gift to a people whom He loves dearly."

"Abba, I feel so good! Hashem loves me! What can I give Him in exchange for that love?"

"You can follow His instructions. You can live your life as He wishes. You can live 'I'maan Shemo b'ahavah' – for the sake of His name, with love. This is our way of reciprocating Hashem's love for us."

*Kinderlach . . .*

*Hashem loves us! He gave our ancestors a very big mitzvah that proves it – Kiddush HaChodesh. He put control of the kedusha of z'manim in their hands. Although we do not have this mitzvah today, we still have Hashem's love. It is every bit as strong as it was back then. We surely want to show Him that we appreciate that love, and want to return our love to Him. How? By learning His Torah and keeping His mitzvos. By living our lives for His sake. This is our final preparation for Pesach, kinderlach. When we live "I'maan Shemo b'ahavah," then we become kelim (vessels) which are ready to receive all of His blessings and goodness. We can gather all of great hisorerus (spiritual awakening) that Hashem showers upon us the night of the Pesach Seder. This is what we give, and this is what we get. For His Name with love.*

Parasha Questions:

- What is the appearance of a *nega* on the head or beard? (13:30)
- What is the appearance of a *nega* on the clothing? (13:49)
- What is done with clothing in which the tsoraas spread? (13:52)
- What is done with clothing in which the tsoraas did not spread? (13:53-56)

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