



By: Rabbi Sruli Schwartz

Acceptance Speech

When I was learning in Yeshiva in Passaic, N.J., one of my friends complained to me about a certain problem he had. There was no apparent solution, so I said to him, "Speak to G-d; He listens." Someone overheard me saying this and said, "What do you mean? We say in *shemoneh esrei*, *shema koleinu*- listen, or hear, our voice- which implies that we have to ask Hashem to listen to us, something that He does not necessarily do." Before we could duke it out, we had to go *daven maariv*. All kidding aside, this fellow had a valid point. Asking G-d to listen to us seems to imply that Hashem does not always listen to what we say, a hard concept to digest.

When Yehuda suggested to his brothers that they should sell Yosef and not leave him in the pit, the *posuk* says, "And they listened to him [Yehuda]." (37:27). Rashi comments that not only did the brothers listen to Yehuda, they accepted and agreed to what he suggested. Rashi further comments that the word *shema* could have one of three meanings. It could mean hear, listen, or accept/agree. Here it means agree.

In light of the three different translations for the word *shema*, we can have a different understanding of *shema koleinu* in *shemoneh esrei*. Typically, *shema koleinu* is translated as hear or listen to our voice. But these translations imply that G-d does not always hear or listen to what we pray. This seems unlikely. But if we use the third translation of *shema*- accept- then the prayer makes sense. We are asking Hashem to accept our prayer- indeed something that He does not always do.

Whether we feel Hashem accepts our prayers or not, nonetheless, prayer is an opportunity to strengthen our belief in Hashem. Our determination to pray three times a day proves that we believe in an Almighty G-d.

By: Rabbi Yaakov Deutscher

Everyday Miracles

"Behold!- a caravan of Ishmaelites was coming from Gilead, their camels bearing spices, balsam, and lotus- on their way to bring down to Egypt." (Bereishis 37:25) The Medrash (*Yalkut Shimoni* 247: 145) explains that

normally such caravans are carrying rawhide and tar, not beautifully smelling fragrances and spices. Hashem orchestrated this miracle so that Yosef wouldn't have to bear the terrible stench of the Ishmaelite drivers and cargo.

This is difficult to comprehend. Yosef was in the midst of having his world turned upside down. He went from being a prince amongst princes, his father's favorite child, to being sold as a slave to a band of merchants. At such a dark moment in Yosef's life, does a small miracle, a caravan full of fragrances really make a difference?

Rav Chaim Shmuelevitz, z"l, answers with the following explanation: Yosef, as mentioned, was going through a very difficult life changing experience. There were two ways for him to react: to recognize that this was all part of Hashem's master plan, or to feel that Hashem had totally abandoned him. To keep Yosef from feeling abandoned, Hashem had therefore sent Yosef a small sign, a kiss from heaven; a pleasant smelling caravan. This small sign gave Yosef *chizuk* (strength) to realize that Hashem had not rejected him, rather this entire chain of events was all part of Hashem's master plan.

Throughout history Hashem has shown us constant reminders that He has not forgotten us. One such example is the story of Chanukah. One may ask why is the miracle of the jug of oil always the focal point of Chanukah? Wasn't there also a miraculous victory in which a few Chashmanayim beat thousands of Greeks? The answer is yes, winning the war was a miracle, but that's not what we are celebrating on Chanukah. In fact, there were many wars that were won by the Jews that are equally worthy of celebration. However, the celebration of Chanukah is to celebrate the small miracles that Hashem does for us on a constant basis. The celebration of Chanukah reminds us that although we can't physically see or hear Hashem, He is constantly watching over us.

The next time we find the perfect parking spot, or have exactly enough change in our pocket we must recognize that it wasn't luck that brought it about. It was Hashem sending us a message and reminding us to never forget that He is there beside us.

Riddle Corner– By the Kollel Rabbis

Where in this week's parsha do we find a proof to which parent has first rights to name their child?

Answer to last week's riddle: Q. Where do you find in Parshas Vayishlach a *sheivat* (tribe)

Gimatria Corner

אותו אהב אביהם מכל אחיו = שגלה סוד לו בלבד ולא להם (37:4) בה"ט
ולא יכלו דברו "לשלם" = 400 (שנים, שזה גרם השעבוד) (37:4) בה"ט
וישאלו האיש = מלאך גבריא-ל שאלו (37:15) בה"ט

called a *kahal* (congregation)?

A. "A nation and a congregation of nations shall descend from you; and kings shall issue from your loins." (35:11) The *gemarah* points out that the only child Yaakov had after this blessing was Binyomin. Therefore, the mention of "a congregation" in the *pasuk* is only referring to one tribe; the tribe of Binyomin.

Kollel News

1. Kollel's Chanukah Mesibah!

First night of Chanukah, 8: pm At the Kollel.

Guest speaker:

Rabbi Ozer Alport, author of *Parsha Potpourri*

*Please join us for an inspiring *Zemiros Kumsitz**

Dessert Reception from the Famous Kollel Kitchen
For Men and Women.

2. Save time! Submit online for the Kollel's 10th Annual Dinner

Please join us in celebrating "A Decade of Devotion to Torah Learning" at the **Kollel's Tenth Annual Dinner**. We feel privileged to honor community members who share the Kollel's ideal of commitment to learning and teaching Torah.

Len and Gilya Freedman

Guests of Honor

Rabbi Uri and Sara Leah Greenspan

Harbotzas Torah Award

This year's Dinner is dedicated in memory
of our beloved friend,

Dr. David Epstein, z"l.

A special memorial journal will be published
in conjunction with the dinner.

To submit an ad or RSVP online, please go to our website,
www.phillykollel.org and click on the Dinner tab.

3. Masmid Program Website!

We are excited to announce the launch of the all new Masmid Webpage! Check the Masmid Program Pages often for exciting news, current schedule, photos, videos, stories and sponsorship information, here: <http://www.phillykollel.org/masmid-program.html> Also, while there, don't forget to join our Masmid email list to receive updated news and periodic exciting announcements. Philadelphia at Cong. Bnai Israel, 8201 Castor Avenue, Philadelphia as a Joint Project of BIOZ, TCN, and the P.C. Kollel.

4. 88th Agudah Convention Live Hookup

The Kollel will host a live video hookup to the Agudas Israel of America 88th National Convention.

This Thursday night (7:15 PM) and Motzaei Shabbos (8:00 PM). (Rabbi Frand and Rabbi Reisman *Shiurim* will run as

scheduled) Theme: לב אבות על בנים For the Sake of Our Precious, Vulnerable Youth

3. THIS SHABBOS AT THE KOLLEL

Thursday, November 25:

9:30 a.m.: Thanksgiving Day Program

7:15 p.m.: 88th National Agudas Yisrael Convention

Live hookup

9:00 - 10:00 p.m.: Rabbi Frand's Weekly Parsha Shiur

No Kollel Erev tonight.

Friday, November 26:

8:25-8:50 a.m.: Rabbi Prupas's Chumash Shiur

4:20 p.m.: Candle Lighting

4:38 p.m.: Shkiya/ Sunset

Shabbos, November 27:

8:15 a.m.: Shacharis

8:41/ 9:23 a.m.: Latest Krias Shema

3:57 p.m.: Mincha followed by Seudah Shlishis

4:37 p.m.: Shkiya

5:31: Maariv

5:49: p.m.: 72 minutes

6:30 p.m. Masmid program

7:30 p.m. Rabbi Reisman's Navi Shiur

Community News

Bnos of Bala Cynwyd will *iy"H* meet this Shabbos, Parshas Vayeshev, Nov. 27th, from 2:45pm - 3:45pm at LMS.

Torah Youth - Pirchei of Bala Cynwyd will NOT meet this Shabbos.

Ben and Malka Liebman will be hosting a *kiddush* this Shabbos, at Aish HaTorah, in honor of the birth of their daughter, Naomi Shira.

Mazel tov to Rabbi and Mrs. Ephraim and Bracha Goldfein on the engagement of their son, Avrumy.

If you would like to receive Menucha Vesimcha by weekly email or to sponsor an issue of Menucha Vesimcha in someone's honor / memory, please contact the editor at: menuchavesimcha@verizon.net

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