כולל דפילאדעלפיא
PHILADELPHIA COMMUNITY KOLLEL

A Parsha Weekly by the Philadelphia Community Kollel

MENUCHA V'SIMCHA

Shabbos Candle Lighting 8:14 PM

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KEEP THE FLAME BURNING!

By Rabbi Shimon Frank

Parshas Beha'alosecha

This week's parsha starts by telling us that Hashem commanded Aaron Hakohen to light the menorah. After the Pasuk describes what Aaron should do, it then continues- veya'as kein Aaron -and Aaron did so. Rashi explains that these words come to teach us something praiseworthy, that Aaron did not deviate and did exactly as Hashem commanded him. The question is obvious; what exactly is the praise of Aaron? We are talking about Aaron Hakohen, one of the greatest men ever. Of course he listened to Hashem!

The Sfas Emes gives an insightful explanation. The Torah is not only coming to tell us that Aaron didn't change and did exactly what he was commanded to do. The praise, says the Sfas Emes, is that no matter how many times he lit the menorah, he did it with the exact same feeling and enthusiasm, each time- even twice a day. This is something we can all learn from. There are many mitzvos we do every day, we daven shacharis, we put on tzitzis, we put on tefillin, etc. day in and day out. It's very easy to lose enthusiasm, and do it out of routine.

There was a rav, who was involved with Russian baalei teshuva. Once, an older Russian man asked him if he could use the rav's tefillin, as he did not own a pair. The rav graciously agreed and told him to come to the 7 a.m. shacharis the next day. Early the next morning, before 6, the rav was learning in shul when the old man appeared. The rav was surprised to see him so early and reminded him that shacharis was not for another hour. The man replied that he couldn't sleep the whole night, because of the excitement of putting on tefillin for the first time. How many of us can say that we have a hard time sleeping because we are thinking about all the mitzvos we will perform the next day?

I heard a practical suggestion and insight that can keep the enthusiasm going day to day. Before doing an everyday mitzvah such as davening, take a moment to think that this davening, on this specific Monday morning is never going to come back again. Hashem records each and every mitzvah and every day is a new opportunity to serve Hashem. What a great lesson to learn from Aharon Hakohen to keep the flame burning. Good Shabbos!

Continue on the other side

KUTEST KIDS early intervention

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THE PHILADELPHIA COMMUNITY KOLLEL PRESENTS THE

Clear & Concise

practical weekly halachos

By Rabbi Shimon Frank

Q- Rabbi, I'm confused. What *bracha* do I make when I see lightning or hear thunder? Do I make the *bracha oseh maaseh beraishis* or *shekocho u'gvuraso malei olam*, or both?

A-

- If you only saw lightning, the minhag is to make the *bracha* of *oseh maaseh beraishis.*
- If you only heard thunder, the minhag is to make the *bracha* of *shekocho u'gvuraso malei olam.*
- If you saw lightning and heard thunder at the same time (within a few seconds), you should make the *bracha* of *oseh maaseh beraishis.*
- If you didn't see the lighting and hear the thunder at the same time, then first make *oseh maaseh beraishis* on the lighting, then make *shekocho u'gvuraso malei olam* on the thunder.

עי' באו"ח סי' רכ"ז המחבר כתב שמברכים על ברקים (lightning) ורעמים (thunder) עושה מעשה בראשית ואם ירצה יאמר שכחו וגבורתו מלא עולם. ועי' במ"ב (ס"ק ה') שכתב כל הדברים שכתבתי בפנים.

Q- I saw lightning and heard thunder and made the correct bracha. Later in the day I saw lightning and heard thunder again. Do I make another *bracha?*

A-

- If the storm passes and the sky clears up from clouds, then one recites a new *bracha.* But as long as it's the same storm, one does not recite a new bracha.
- If the storm continues on to the next day, then one does recite a new *bracha* even though it's part of the same storm.

שו"ע סי' רכ"ז ומ"ב שם ס"ק ח'

Q- I was sitting in my living room and saw a flash of light coming from my window. I realized that it was lightning, but I didn't see the actual lightning bolt. Do I still make a *bracha*?

A- Yes, you can still recite the bracha, even if you don't see the actual lightning bolt.

כ"כ כמה פוסקים (שו"ת מנחת שלמה ח"ב סי' ד' אות ל"ד, שו"ת ציץ אליעזר חי"ב סי' כ"א, שו"ת אז נדברו ח"ו סי' כ"ג)

Q- I saw lightning or heard thunder, how long do I have to recite the bracha?

A- You have around 4 seconds to make the bracha

שו"ע סי' רכ"ז ס"ג ומ"ב שם ס"ק י"ג

Q- Is one allowed to recite these brochos in the middle of saying pesukei d'zimra?

A- Yes, since they are considered blessings of praise.

מ"ב סי' נ"א ס"ק ח'. שכתב שכל ברכת הודאה מותר לברך בפסוקי דזמרא.

PARSHAS

BEHA'ALOSECHA

SHABBOS ZEMANIM

Friday, June 17

6:43 pm - Mincha/Maariv
6:58 pm - Plag Hamincha
8:14 pm - Candle Lighting
8:32 pm - Shkiya/Sunset

Shabbos, June 18

8:15 am - Shacharis
8:41/9:17 am - Latest Krias Shema
6:30 pm - Mincha
8:32 pm - Shkiya/Sunset
9:27 pm - Maariv
9:44 pm - 72 minutes