



Parshas Chayei Sara

November 2, 2018

A Taste of Torah With You in a Moment

by Rabbi Shmuel Halpern

What is the secret to inspired living? How can we tap into the power of renewal? What's the secret to retaining the energy of youth? While psychology and success literature have their fair share to say on the matter; I'd like to try and explore the issue from a Torah perspective.

In this week's parsha, the Torah describes the lives of Avraham and Sarah. Many of the commentators point out that the Torah stresses how Avraham and Sarah utilized every moment in their lives. They immortalized all their days and thus merited to bring them to the World to Come. This was due to their ability to recognize the unique opportunity that each moment presented them.

Let's develop this idea a bit further further. In blessing we recite every morning before saying *Shema*, we say, "...and with goodness He continuously renews creation every day." Rabbi Chaim of Volozhin (1749-1821) elaborates on this point in the second chapter of his monumental work *Nefesh Hachayim*. He explains that when we build a home, we take pre-existing material and fashion it further. As soon as we complete our work, the finished product stands alone, distinct and independent from its builder. Hashem's Creation is not that way. Were He to remove His will for the continued existence of the Universe, all would cease to be. Hashem not only created the world, He continuously renews it, day by day, moment by moment. Rabbi Yisrael Elya Weintraub (1932-2010), expounding on this idea, explains that each moment of

time is a creation unto itself. If we follow the perspective that time is one continuum, and each moment follows the preceding one, we won't see the newness of each moment. The correct approach is to appreciate that each and every moment in time is a creation in its own right. On a larger scale, each day, month, and year are entities unto themselves, with a special renewal at the beginning of the day, month, and year.

Taking this one step further, the Sfas Emes (Rabbi Yehuda Aryeh Leib Alter of Gur; 1847-1905) explains that each unit of time contains its own unique spiritual potential, waiting to be uncovered. Our job is to approach each unit of time as a unique opportunity, be it a new year, month, day, or even moment. At times, this seems simple. We start a new chapter in life, or a new endeavor, and feel the energy that comes with newness. However, most of the time, we seem to be repeating the same routine as the day before. How can we apply this insight to inspire our daily lives?

Perhaps we can suggest that the secret lies in the mitzvah of Torah study. The Torah is the word of Hashem, and, as such, it is infinite. As we delve into its wisdom, we reach new levels of understanding. Each level of comprehension opens a new frontier before us. As we turn the corner, we can see a brand new horizon beckoning. We march forward, striving to reach the new horizon, and again, lo and behold, there's another horizon beckoning. This is the never-ending process of Torah growth. Traveling this road brings

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Stories for the Soul

Now or Never

Based on a story on revach.net

A successful businessman was once approached by the rosh yeshiva (dean) of his son's school for a building campaign. The rosh yeshiva spoke about the yeshiva's plot of land and their ambitious plans. The rosh yeshiva asked the businessman if he would be willing to make a sizable donation to the campaign. The fellow replied that he had just invested a very large sum of money into a new deal and currently had no available cash for such a sizeable donation. But, he concluded, if the new venture would succeed, he would give 10% of the profits toward the new building.

A few months later, late one night, the rosh yeshiva received a telephone call from the businessman. The man informed the rosh yeshiva that he was at the closing and the deal had just been signed for the sale of his investment. Wanting to be good to his word as soon as the deal was official, the first person he wanted to notify was the rosh yeshiva to let him know the good news. He told the rosh yeshiva that he wanted to come over first thing the next morning to bring him a check for the new building as promised.

The rosh yeshiva asked the businessman to please come over that evening. The man replied that although the deal was signed, there were still some things that needed to be wrapped up, and he wouldn't be able to be come by until at least 3 am. Couldn't it wait until morning? No, replied the rosh yeshiva, the matter had to be taken care of now.

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Kollel Happenings

SECURITY COMPANY RESPONSIBILITY AT NOV. 7TH TORAH FOR TYCOONS

Join Larry Halpern, former owner of Safe Systems, Inc., and Rabbi Mordechai Fleisher, Senior Educator for the Denver Community Kollel, as they inspect the various angles of the responsibility of a security company to a customer. November 7th, 12-1:15 p.m. at the East Side Kosher Deli. Cost: \$25. RSVP info@denverkollel.org.

TORAH BY THE MOON

A night out for couples to engage in Torah learning! Men join Rabbi Shmuel Halpern for Tractate Brachos in Halacha and Aggada. Women attend *Chassidus in Real Life* with Rabbi Moshe Heyman. Mondays, 8-9 pm at the Southeast Kollel Torah Center, 4902 S. Xenia St. For more info visit denverkollel.org or email Rabbi Heyman, rmh@denverkollel.org.

THE M.B. GLASSMAN FOUNDATION GOLD LUNCH & LEARN PROGRAM

The M.B. Glassman Foundation GOLD Program is a division of the Denver Community Kollel dedicated to bringing Torah study to seniors in the community. Don't miss a great Lunch and Learn class on the weekly parsha at EDOS, 198 S. Holly St., at 12:00 pm. There is no charge for the lunch or the learning! For more information, contact rmf@denverkollel.org or call 303-820-2855.

Increase Your Jewish IQ

By Rabbi Yaakov Zions

Last week we asked: For the requirement of *lechem mishna* (using two loaves at the Shabbos meal), we use two "complete" loaves (see Shulchan Aruch, Orach Chaim 274:1). How can one mistakenly slice a *challah* completely through yet subsequently fulfill the requirement with it?

A: If a loaf has been split, in cases of need, one may insert a toothpick or utensil in both sides and reattach the halves, as long as it is not easily

discernable that it was broken.

Source: Shulchan Aruch, Orach Chaim 168:2.

This week's question: If one has an incomplete bread, where part of it has been removed and discarded after baking, how can he still fulfill the requirement of *lechem mishna* (using two loaves at the Shabbos meal) with this bread?

To submit an answer to Rabbi Zions, email ryz@denverkollel.org.

Lives of Our Torah Leaders

Rabbi Moshe Sofer, the Chasam Sofer - Part XVIII

The Chasam Sofer continued, "These new developments have led me to a similar conclusion, that the King of kings plans on leaving us in exile even

longer!" And with that, he began crying. Despite these misgivings, the Chasam Sofer maintained a good relationship with the government.

A Taste of Torah

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incredible opportunity for constant freshness and vigor. It not only impacts our study time, but spills over into all areas of our lives. By applying

our Torah wisdom to daily life, we can tap into the secret of inspired living. May Hashem help us continuously grow with great joy and newness.

Stories for the Soul

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At 3:30 am the man arrived at the rosh yeshiva's house, happy but exhausted from the day's events. After writing the check and handing it to the rosh yeshiva, the businessman asked him, "Please tell me, why was it so urgent for me to come tonight? Will the new building be ready in the morning?"

The rosh yeshiva replied, "I've been raising money from businessmen for years, and I know how their minds work. Tonight you are happy with your profit. You are thankful to Hashem for the windfall that came your way. By tomorrow morning, after a good night's sleep, that "profit" will have magically been turned into principal

for your next deal, and your eagerness to give us a donation will fade and turn into hesitation. This is why it was imperative for you to write the check tonight!"

Besuel and Lavan, Rivka's father and brother, respectively, exclaimed that only G-d could have arranged for Eliezer to meet Rivka by the well. The acknowledgment that Rivka was destined to marry Yitzchak changed by the following morning, though, as Rivka's family tried to delay the marriage. Eliezer would have none of it, and insisted they leave at once. In our lives, too, we must capitalize on inspiration before it fades.

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Denver Community Kollel | 1395 Wolff Street, Denver, CO 80204 | 303-820-2855
info@denverkollel.org | www.denverkollel.org

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