



Parshas Pinchas

July 10, 2020

## A Taste of Torah

### Good Hospitality

by Rabbi Chaim Yeshia Feeman

The parsha discusses the different *korbanos* (offerings) that were brought during the different festivals. The *korbanos* brought on Sukkos are unique, as one of the animals offered, the bulls, decline steadily from one day to the next. Thirteen bulls are brought on the first day, twelve on the second, eleven on the third and so on, ending with seven bulls on the seventh day of Sukkos. There are various explanations provided for this decline. Rashi (Bamidbar 29:36) cites a Medrash Tanchuma that this teaches us the proper conduct one should have toward a guest who is staying for some time. On the first day, one serves fattened poultry. On day two, the guest is served fish, on day three, meat, then beans, and finally vegetables. One should decrease one's level of generosity, as manifested by the *korbanos* (offerings) of Sukkos that decreased daily.

This Medrash is puzzling: One would expect that one's hospitality would increase, not decrease, over time. Furthermore, what is the comparison between the *korbanos* and how we treat our guests.

Rabbi Dovid Goldberg, Rosh Yeshiva of the Telshe Yeshiva in Cleveland, OH, explains that a host can approach the aforementioned method of hospitality in one of two ways. The first approach is that by whittling away at what the guest is offered, the host displays a lack of interest toward the guest. This, of course, is not what the Torah wishes to teach us. However, there is another way to view this approach toward treating a guest; the host should make the guest feel as

if he is part of the family. A guest will often feel like a burden to the host, as the host goes out of his way to provide for him. By slowly decreasing what the guest is offered, eventually providing him what other members of the household receive, the guest is made to feel like a member of the family.

What does this have to do with the *korbanos* of Sukkos? Perhaps this can be explained with two insights from the Vilna Gaon. The Vilna Gaon, commenting on the teaching of the Talmud (Sukkah 11a) that the Sukkah commemorates Hashem's Clouds of Glory that protected the Jewish People in the desert, explains that the Sukkah is not a commemoration of the Clouds of Glory that accompanied the Jewish People upon their departure from Egypt. Rather, the Sukkah commemorates the Clouds of Glory that returned to the Jewish People after Hashem forgave them on Yom Kippur for the sin of the Golden Calf. These clouds had departed following the disaster of the Golden Calf, and their return marked the renewal of Hashem's presence among the Jewish People.

The second insight from the Vilna Gaon is regarding a phrase we recite in the *Shemone Esrei* recited on holidays. In the holiday *Shemone Esrei*, we say that Hashem chose the Jewish People, loved us, and found us pleasing. "Found us pleasing," explains the Vilna Gaon, refers to the holiday of Sukkos. This comment dovetails with the first insight of the Vilna Gaon; Sukkos is the celebration of the renewal of the relationship between

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## Stories for the Soul

### Shining Through

During the 1920s, Rabbi Boruch Ber Leibowitz (1862-1939), Rosh Yeshiva (Dean) of the Kaminetz Yeshiva in Poland, came to the United States to raise badly-needed funds for his yeshiva. Rabbi Leibowitz stayed in New York during his time in America, and his saintly ways made a great impression on all who met him.

At one point, Rabbi Leibowitz met with Jimmy Walker, the mayor of New York City. The mayor presented Rabbi Leibowitz with the key to the city, and commented, "Rabbi Leibowitz disproves Darwin's Theory of Evolution. Only G-d could have created such a person!"

On another occasion, Rabbi Leibowitz visited was at a pharmacy to make a purchase. The person accompanying him handed the money to the pharmacist, but the man refused to take it. The pharmacist said, "Take money from him? He looks like an angel, not a man - I wouldn't take a penny from him!"

In this week's parsha, Yehoshua is appointed to succeed Moshe as the leader of the Jewish People. Our Sages teach that Moshe's face shone like the sun, and Yehoshua's face shone like the moon. Throughout history, and even in our times, the Jewish People have merited leaders whose spiritual greatness is visible upon their faces and through their conduct.

## Kollel Happenings

### KOLLEL CLASSES CONTINUE VIA ZOOM MEETING

The Kollel is continuing many of its classes and offering new classes via Zoom Meeting. You can tune in to live classes online or call in on a phone. For a full schedule and the links and phone numbers to access this treasure trove of Torah, visit [www.denverkollel.org](http://www.denverkollel.org) or email [info@denverkollel.org](mailto:info@denverkollel.org).

### BUILD YOUR LEGACY AND SECURE THE FUTURE OF TORAH WITH LIVE ON/LIFE & LEGACY

The Kollel is one of 28 local organizations selected to be part of Rose Community Foundation's Live On/LIFE & LEGACY program, which focuses on creating financial stability for the future through planned giving. Think it's not for you? Think again! Anyone can make a planned gift, no matter the amount. Visit [www.denverkollel.org](http://www.denverkollel.org), email [rmh@denverkollel.org](mailto:rmh@denverkollel.org) or call 303-820-2855 for more information.

### HELP BUILD THE FUTURE OF TORAH IN DENVER

Claim your part in building the future of Torah in Denver! The Kollel is in the midst of a capital campaign to build a three-story, state-of-the-art Torah Center that will serve the entire Denver Jewish community. To contribute, or for dedication opportunities and details on the building, visit [denverkollel.org](http://denverkollel.org) or email [info@denverkollel.org](mailto:info@denverkollel.org).

## Parsha Quizzers

The six items below can be found in Rashi's commentary to this week's parsha. Can you figure out where they are? (Answers on bottom)

- |                       |                          |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1) Royal demotion     | 4) The right crime       |
| 2) Family feud        | 5) Keep it in the family |
| 3) Entrance for women | 6) Just the two of us    |

## Lives of Our Torah Leaders

### Rabbi Menashe ben Yisrael - Part XII

At this point, when it seemed Rabbi Menashe would depart Amsterdam for Brazil, two wealthy Jewish brothers, Avraham and Yitzchak Pereira, stepped in to prevent the departure of such an illustrious Torah personality from their community. They established a new yeshiva in Amsterdam and Rabbi Menashe was appointed to head the yeshiva, ensuring that he would

remain in Amsterdam.

It is unclear exactly when all this took place. Some sources put the founding of the yeshiva at 1640, while others say that it was founded in 1644, when Avraham Pereira joined his brother Yitzchak in Amsterdam. Regardless, they were successful in their efforts, and Rabbi Menashe did not depart for Brazil.

## A Taste of Torah

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Hashem and His Nation following the Golden Calf, and is thus a time when "Hashem found us pleasing," in spite of the serious setback of the Golden Calf.

As we begin building our relationship with Hashem again following Yom Kippur, we gradually bring Him into our lives more and more, day by day, throughout the holiday of Sukkos. This is similar to how one should treat a guest whom the host wishes to make "part of the family." It is therefore apropos that on Sukkos, the experience of making a guest like a member of the family is reflected in the *korbanos* that are offered to Hashem.

This approach explains a puzzling passage of Talmud (Erachin 10a) that states that the reason why the complete

*Hallel* is recited every day of Sukkos (as opposed to Pesach, when the complete *Hallel* is recited only on the first day) is due to the different offering brought each day. Why should a decline in the number of offerings be a reason to recite the entire *Hallel*? Based on the above, it can be said that this decline represents the growth in our connection with Hashem, certainly cause for reciting the complete *Hallel*.

While Sukkos is the holiday that focuses on building our connection with Hashem following a setback, we can certainly incorporate this idea into our daily lives throughout the year. Hashem should not be a mere guest in our homes and lives; we must strive to make Him an integral part of everything we do.

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|---|--|
| 1) Royal demotion 25:15 s.v. rosh         | 4) The right crime 27:13 s.v. ka'asher         |
| 2) Family feud 26:13 s.v. h'Zerach        | 5) Keep it in the family 27:16 s.v. yifkod and |
| 3) Entrance for women 26:64 s.v. uv'atlah | 6) Just the two of us 29:35 s.v. atzetz        |

## Parsha Quizzers - Answers