

“MAKING AN IMPRESSION ON OUR CHILDREN”

As we approach Rosh Hashana, the closing days of year 5779 it behooves us to look back and view our accomplishments and achievements. One of the main purposes of our existence in this world is to transmit the Torah and Torah values to our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. How well have we succeeded? The Ribbono Shel HaOlam helps us in gauging our success (or lack of it) within this weeks Parasha.

The pasuk states, (28:45), “All these curses will come upon you and pursue you and overtake you, until you are destroyed, because you will not have listened to the voice of HaShem, your Gd, to observe His commandments and His decrees that He commanded you”. The next pasuk continues, “They will be in you as a sign and a wonder, and **in your offspring, forever and ever**”. This to me is a most shocking implication of a curse, a curse that is destined to last “**forever and ever**”. This to me was extremely disturbing. Can it mean that the curses will stay with our children and future generations forever? Is the pasuk not predicting the demise of Klal Yisrael (Gd forbid)?

I felt relieved when I saw a novel interpretation of these pesukim by Maharil Diskin.(1818-1898) He writes that by saying the curses will stay with our offspring forever the pasuk is not predicting the fall of Klal Yisrael. Rather, the pasuk **must be read in conjunction with the following pasuk**. It means that the curses which come upon us will be due to the fact that we did not keep the Torah in such a meaningful way that the Mitzvot will remain with our offspring forever.

To clarify, what it means is, that the Mitzvot we do are supposed to create a positive impression on our children. If we see that this is not happening, then we need to look no further than the next pasuk. It is “because you did not serve HaShem, your Gd, “**B’SIMCHA U’BTOV LEV M’ROV KOL**” with joy and gladness and with goodness of heart, out of abundance of everything”. Herein lies the key to understanding our mission. Mitzvot need to be performed with joy and enthusiasm! Only in this manner will our children be caught up in our passion and realize how important it is for them to make the Mitzvot part of their own lives as well.

When our children see what a profound feeling a Pesach means to us, sitting at a Seder surrounded by family, friends and guests, or when they see our sadness if rain should prevent our observance of Mitzvat Sukka, they will see how meaningful the Mitzvot are to our lives, and then their observance of the Mitzvot will be a “sign and a wonder forever and ever” as well. Even the daily and routine Mitzvot, such as putting on Tefillin with joy and happiness, Davenin

with Minyan day in, day out, is done **with enthusiasm** and **Simcha**, then that feeling will filter down to them as well.

But when our performance does not make that impression on our children, if doing the Mitzvot at a time when we have B'H an abundance of everything, yet we merely "go through the motions", that may suffice to keep us going, but our children will find it to be an empty experience which will not inspire them to emulate our ways.

This is what this pasuk is saying, If we want children to continue perpetuating Mitzvot then we must never stress "vi shver es is tzu zain a Yid", How difficult it is to be a Jew, but rather, **how wonderful it is to be a Jew**, b'simcha u'btov lev m'rov kol.

Shabbat Shalom from Yerushalayim---- Rabbi Aharon Ziegler

KOL HAKAVOD TO THOSE WHO ANSWERED LAST WEEK: **Pechman Family-Jerusalem/Rabbi Levi VanLeeuwen-Elazar/*Mordechai Ziegler-Yeshivat Kerem B'Yavne/*Rabbi Charles Meisels-Far Rockaway,NY/Libby Ziegler-Yerushalayim/*Rabbi Jay Karzen-Arnona/*Yaakov Doerrsckuck-Member of Kollel Agudat Achim-Switzerland/*Yehudis Teller, Yehoshua Teller, Family Teller-Lakewood, NJ/

****THERE IS STILL TIME TO ENTER A DEDICATION FOR SOMEONE YOU WISH TO HONOR OR MEMORIALIZE IN MY NEW BOOK "HALACHOT OF RAV SOLOVEITCHIK-VOL 8"-FULL PAGE, HALF PAGE OR QUARTER PAGE -FOR DETAILS- aharonlibby@aol.com**

QUESTIONS ON PARASHAT KI-TAVOH:

1-The Brachot were given on Har Grizim and Har Eival. What city lies at bottom of these two mountains?

2-In what way (or ways) does the ending of the To'cha'cha in our parasha differ from the ending of the To'Cha'cha in Bechukotai?-

3- What pasuk has a remez (hint) for raising the Torah[hag'baha] and showing it to the congregation?

4-What is the problem with a GER [a convert] reciting the declaration of Bikkurim?

5-On which specific fruits does the Mitzvah of Bikkurim apply?

6-According to our parasha, what was the root cause for HaShem to administer the curses on our people? Send answers to: aharonlibby@aol.com

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