

What Do I Really Want?

"I will harden Pharaoh's heart, that I may multiply My signs and marvels in the land of Egypt." (Shemos 7:3)

When we are in situations in which we are forced to do something we don't want to do, we sometimes mutter to ourselves, "If I had my choice about this, I wouldn't be doing it." Whereas other times, we realize while we are doing it that it is actually to our betterment to do it.



Pharaoh didn't want to let the Jews go, and Hashem hardened his heart to make sure that it would not happen. This was in order that Hashem could afflict Pharaoh with all 10 plagues. All the *meforshim* ask, "How could Hashem be so unjust?! Hashem Himself hardened Pharaoh's heart, resulting in him not letting the Jews go! Why should Pharaoh suffer because Hashem wants to send more plagues?"

One of the most famous answers given to this question is that Pharaoh really didn't want to let the Jews go, but if his heart had not been hardened, he would have been forced to let them go to end his persecution. Therefore, Hashem had to harden Pharaoh's heart in order to keep Pharaoh's free choice at an "even keel".

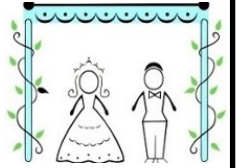
The *Beis Halevi* (Yosef Dov Soloveitchik 1820-1892) takes this to another level, and he contrasts this concept with the famous *Rambam* in *Hilchos Gittin*, where the *Rambam* says that when *halacha* demands that the husband give the wife a *get*, yet the husband refuses to give it, he is beaten until he agrees to give her the *get*. The *Rambam* explains that although the *get* must be given out of free will, this is not called giving a *get* under duress because deep down every Jew really wants to do the right thing. It is just that this Jew's *yetzer hara* got in the way, so by beating the husband we are weakening the *yetzer hara* and allowing his true underlying desire to do Hashem's *mitzvos* to surface. Therefore, the husband is giving the *get* under his own free will, because deep-down all Jews want to do good.

As for a gentile like Pharaoh, we can now understand that his underlying desire was to oppress the Jews, and to force him to free the Jews would be a contradiction to his internal conscience. The hardening of Pharaoh's heart allowed his true desire to be expressed, which was not giving the Jews the opportunity to leave. Therefore,

(Continued on page 2)

Lifecycles

Mazel Tov to Yehoshua & Liz Frohlich on the upcoming wedding of their daughter Rena to Mordechai Weinblatt, on Monday, Jan 27 at Sokoya Hall. The Kehilla is invited to the Chuppah at 18:30 and the Simchas Chosson V'Kallah at 21:45.



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Shabbos Schedule Parshas Vaera

לוח שבת פרשת וארא

Erev Shabbos		ערב שבת
Mincha 1	12:30	מנחה א'
Candle Lighting	16:29/16:49	הדלקת נרות
Mincha 2	16:51	מנחה ב'
Sunset	17:09	שקיעה
Shabbos Day		יום השבת
Brachos	08:00	ברכות
Shochein Ad	08:30	שוכן עד
Latest Shema – M. A.	08:28	סוף זמן ק"ש למג"א
Latest Shema – G'ra	09:14	סוף זמן ק"ש לגר"א
Mincha 1	13:00	מנחה א'
Pele Yoetz Shiur	16:10	פלא יועץ
Mincha 2	16:25	מנחה ב'
Sunset	17:10	שקיעה
Ma'ariv 1	17:47	מעריב א'
Ma'ariv 2	18:10	מעריב ב'

(Continued from page 1)

Pharaoh truly deserved the punishment that he received.

When we are forced to do *mitzvos*, due to social pressure, or for financial or other reasons, we may wonder, "Is it really best for me to be 'forced' to do something that I really don't want to do?"

My analogy for this is the device called an alarm clock: When the person is wide awake and is aware of what he has to do the next morning, he sets the alarm to the time that is necessary for him to get up. However, when the alarm goes off in the morning and he is still half asleep, he has millions of reasons to explain why last night's decision was wrong and he should be going back to sleep. We all



understand that those reasons are not borne out of logic; rather they are borne out of his desire to sleep. If he were to have all his faculties with him, he would instead be jumping out of bed.

The next time the *yetzer hara* tells you to do something, try to imagine how you would respond if you weren't involved - for example, pretend that someone else was asking you for advice. You may find out that it is easier to listen to the *yetzer tov* than to the *yetzer hara*, for the *yetzer tov*'s position is usually borne out of logical thought, whereas the *yetzer hara* is just a desire of the moment.

May we all merit - no matter how difficult it is - to make the right choices.

Stay In Touch!

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You can also sign up for the shul's instant communication group on the same page!



המשך מנומר 4

המשל שלי לזה היא המכשיר שנקרא שעון מעורר. כשאדם ער לגמרי ומודע למה שעליו לעשות למחרת, הוא מכוון את האזעקה לשעה הדרושה לו כדי לקום. עם זאת, כשהאזעקה מצלצלת בבוקר והוא עדיין חצי ישן, יש לו מיליוני סיבות להסביר מדוע ההחלטה אמש הייתה שגויה והוא צריך לחזור לישון. כולנו מבינים שהסיבות הללו אינן מקורן בהיגיון; אלא הם נובעים מתוך רצונו להמשיך לישון. אם יש לו את כל שכלו איתו, במקום זאת הוא היה קופץ מהמיטה.

בפעם הבאה שהיצר הרע אומר לך לעשות משהו, נסה לדמיין איך היית מגיב אם לא היית מעורב - למשל, אם מישו אחר היה מבקש ממך עצה. אולי תגלו שקל יותר להקשיב ליצר טוב מאשר ליצר הרע, שכן עמדתו של יצר הטוב נובעת בדרך כלל מתוך מחשבה הגיונית, בעוד שהיצר הרע מציע רק הרצון הרגעי.

יהי רצון שנזכה כולנו - לא משנה עד כמה זה קשה - לבחור נכון.

אבות ובנים

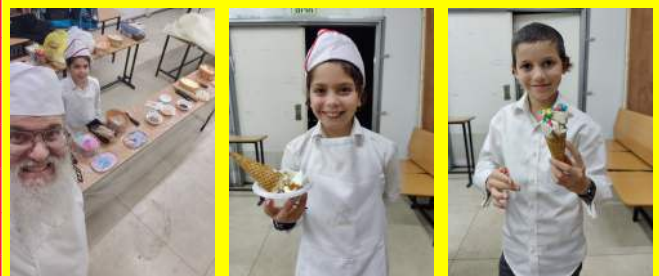


AuB Motza'ei Shabbos at 19:00!

Boys aged 7+ learn for 1 hour

Thank you to this week's sponsors:
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Leil Shabbos Learning Program

Last Shabbos, the boys who regularly attended the *Leil Shabbos* Learning Program received a customized "birkon" gift.

Thanks to **Rabbi Naftali Kaplan** for running the very popular program and to **Rabbi Eliahu Jacobs** for sponsoring the gift and supporting the program.

If you were supposed to receive this gift, but didn't manage to come last week, please come this *leil Shabbos* to get it.



Netziv Hayom

Sponsor *Netziv Hayom* in memory of your loved ones or in honor of a special occasion, and all the learning and davening that take place in our shul during that day will be in the merit of your choosing. Just 120¢ per sponsorship, which is announced via a notice on the "*Netziv Hayom*" board in the shul, as well as an announcement in this newsletter. To sponsor a day please contact Mrs. Zakoo Netziv@ahavasshalom.org.



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24 Teves sponsored by the Beer Family
לע"נ גיטל בת חיים יצחק ז"ל

Shiurim with the Rav

The Rav will be giving 2 shiurim this coming week:

SUNDAY 21:15: *Mishnayos - Mikvaos*

TUESDAY 20:15: **NEW!!** *Hilchos Yom Tov*

All shiurim are given in shul and via ZOOM at this link: cutt.ly/AhavasShalomZoom

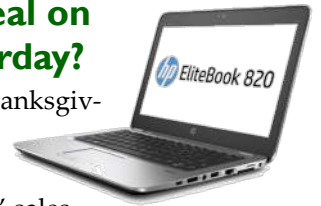
Shiurim are archived at ahavasshalom.org/youtube



Questions that appear in this newsletter come from RBSsemicha.com. Four volumes of questions are now available in print. See rbssemicha.com/books for more information.

Q&A: Grabbing a deal on Small Business Saturday?

Q On the Saturday after Thanksgiving, East Side Electronics took part in the world-wide "Small Business Saturday®" sales



event and offered HP EliteBook® laptops for the ridiculously low price of just \$150 each. Levy really wanted to get one of these, but the store was only offering the sale on Saturday until it closed at 5:00pm, which was entirely during Shabbos, so it was forbidden for him to buy it. However, may Levy give \$150 to his gentile neighbor, Chris Kunzler, on Friday, and ask him to buy a laptop on Shabbos for him?

A No. One may not give money to a gentile before Shabbos and ask him to purchase something on Shabbos. However, it is possible on Friday for Levy to suggest that Chris buy the laptop on Saturday for himself, and then Levy can buy the laptop from him after Shabbos. OC 307:3 M.B. 13

How Much Is That Lexus at the Shabbos Table?

Q At the Shabbos table at the Khodedadian home, JoJo Shehebar mentioned



to his host that he had just bought a new Lexus IS300. "Really, I was looking at that, but bought the ES350 instead. How much did you end up paying for it?" asked Moshe Khodedadian, the host. May JoJo respond with how much he spent on his car?

A Yes. Since neither party is interested in buying a car, it is not considered "business," but instead just "idle talk" and it is permitted to discuss the exact price. However, the *Maggid Mishneh* and the M.B. hold that one should not engage in idle talk on Shabbos. OC 307 M.B. 27

Mi Shebeirach for Cholim

Reminder: If you would like the Gabbai to read the name of a *choleh* on Shabbos during the *Mi SheBeirach*, you must submit it via Email to Mrs. Zakoo by Thursday! Send your list of *Hebrew Names* using *Hebrew Letters* to Mrs. Zakoo at office@ahavasshalom.org.



COMMUNITY CARE

Do you know someone in our Kehilla who is unwell?

Please let us know so that we can arrange home/hospital visits and meals.

Contact: Alan Rubenstein 054-398-8570

You can also inform the Ahavas Shalom Vaad.



יש לי זוג - ושבט שבו

Dozens of Men and Boys are learning every Leil Shabbos in our Beis Medrash Sponsor all the programs over one Shabbos for just 250 ₪



Proper Payments

Please don't put cash into the *pushka* to try to pay an outstanding shul obligation. Instead, give your cash to a vaad member, or just pay using Nedarim Plus.

When paying online, please remember to include a note explaining the purpose of your donation.



Pele Yoetz Shiur

Continuing this Shabbos afternoon, Rav Zachariash will give his shiur for men on **Pele Yoetz**. This week, the shiur will begin at **16:10** in the hall on the topic **טבע**.



Mevarchin Rosh Chodesh Shevat

הַמּוֹלַד יִהְיֶה בַּיּוֹם רְבִיעִי, שֶׁבַע-עֶשְׂרֵה דְּקוֹת וְשִׁבְעָה-עֶשֶׂר חֲלָקִים אַחֲרֵי שֶׁשׁ בִּבְּקָר.



The *Molad* will be Wednesday, 17 minutes and 17 *chalakim* after 6 in the morning.

ראש חודש שבט יהיה ביום חמישי הבא עלינו ועל כל ישראל לטובה.

Rosh Chodesh Shevat will be on Thursday.

מה הרצון האמיתי שלי?

וְאֵנִי אֶקְשֶׁה אֶת-לֵב פְּרָעָה וְהַרְבִּיתִי אֶת-אֲתִתִּי וְאֶת-מוֹפְתֵי בְּאֶרֶץ מִצְרָיִם: (שמות ז:ג)

כשאנחנו נמצאים במצבים שבהם אנחנו נאלצים לעשות דברים שאנחנו לא רוצים לעשות, לפעמים ממלמלים לעצמנו, "אם הייתה לי הבחירה שלי, לא הייתי עושה את זה", בעוד שלפעמים אנחנו מבינים שזה בעצם לטובתנו לעשות.

פרעה לא רצה לשחרר את היהודים, וה' הקשה את לבו כדי לאפשר שזה לא יקרה. זה היה כדי שה' יוכל להעניש לפרעה בכל העשר המכות. כל המפרשים שואלים, "זה לא הוגן?!" ה' עצמו הקשה את לבו של פרעה, כדי שלא ייתן ליהודים לצאת! למה פרעה יסבול בגלל שה' רוצה לשלוח עוד מכות?"

אחת התשובות הידועות ביותר לשאלה זו היא שפרעה ממש לא רצה לתת ליהודים לצאת, אבל אם ליבו לא היה מוקשה, הוא היה נאלץ לשחרר אותם כדי לעצור את מצוקותיו. לכן, ה' היה צריך להקשה את ליבו של פרעה כדי לשמור על איזונה של הבחירה החופשית של פרעה.

הבית הלוי מעלה זאת לרמה אחרת, ומשווה זאת לרמב"ם המפורסם בהלכות גיטין, ששם אומר הרמב"ם שכאשר על פי ההלכה מגיעה לאישה גט, ובכל זאת הבעל מסרב למסור לה, כופין אותו עד שיאמר "רוצה אני". הרמב"ם מסביר שלמרות שהגט חייב להינתן מתוך רצון חופשי, זה לא נקרא לתת גט בכפייה כי עמוק בפנים כל יהודי באמת רוצה לעשות את הדבר הנכון, רק שיצרו הרע תקפו, לכן על ידי הכאת הבעל מתישים כחו של היצר הרע ומאפשרים לרצון הפנימי האמיתי שלו לקיים את מצוות ה' לעלות. לכן באמת הבעל נותן את הגט מרצונו החופשי.

על בסיס זה, אנו יכולים להבין שרצונו הפנימי של פרעה היה לשעבד את היהודים, ולכן לכפות עליו לשחרר את היהודים תהיה סתירה למצפנו הפנימי. הקשחת לבו של פרעה אפשרה את רצונו האמיתי לבוא לידי ביטוי, שלא לתת ליהודים לצאת. לכן, פרעה באמת היה ראוי לעונש שקיבל.

כאשר אנו נאלצים לעשות מצוות, עקב לחץ חברתי, או מסיבות כלכליות או אחרות, אנו עשויים להרהר, "האם באמת הכי טוב לי להיות 'כפוי' לעשות משהו שאני באמת לא רוצה לעשות?"

המשך בעמוד 2

Learning and Oneg Shabbos

16:21 Boi BeShalom Kids' programs (Girls and Boys)
20:30 Boys: Learning followed by Oneg Shabbos at **21:00**
20:30-21:30 *Bochurim*: Learning with special snack table
20:30 Adults: Beis Medrash Learning or *Alshich Hakadosh* shiur from R' Avishai Hill followed by Oneg Shabbos **21:30**

זמנים	יום	'(Sun)	'(Mon)	'(Tue)	'(Wed)	'(Thu)	'(Fri)	Weekday times until Parshas Bo
למי חול	שחרית	06:20, 07:15, 08:10	06:20, 07:15, 08:10	06:20, 07:15, 08:10	06:20, 07:15, 08:10	06:14, 07:15*, 08:10	06:20, 07:15, 08:15	
עד פרשת בא	מנחה	13:00, 15:15	13:00, 15:15	13:00, 15:15	13:00, 15:15	13:00, 15:15	12:30, 16:58	
	מעריב	19:00, 21:00	19:00, 21:00	19:00, 21:00	19:00, 21:00	19:00, 21:00	*Hall	

HaRav Avrohom Baruch Zachariash, Sh'lita, Rav
Su-Fr 08:30-09:15 and Su-Th 19:15-20
Cellphone: 052-763-5938
Binyomin Rubenstein, Chairman
binyomin@ahavasshalom.org 054-237-0028

Administrative Secretary: Miriam Zakoo
Su & Tu 11:00-13:00 and Th 10:00-12:00
J 058-3263914 office@ahavasshalom.org
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