



# PIRCHEI Weekly

Agudas Yisroel of America

January 6, 2024 - כ"ה טבת, תשפ"ד - Vol: 11 Issue: 13

פרשה: שמות הפטרה הבאים ישרש יעקב... (ישעיהו כזו-כח:ג, כט:כב-כג)

מברכים ר"ח שבת [יום חמישי] (מולד יום חמישי: חלקים 4 + 08:45)

דף יומי: בבא קמא ס"ה

משיב הרוח ומוריד הגשם ותן טל ומטר לברכה ברכי נפשי (שבת מנחה)

## Torah Thoughts

ואלה שמות בני ישראל... (שמות א: א)

And these are the names of the Children of Israel ...

ספר חומ"ת (סימן כז) כ"ה ח"א writes that he found in the name of the letters שמות בני ישראל are the acronym of תרגום ואחד תרגום — A person must read through the weekly פרשה twice and then [learn it] once with the תרגום [translation]. The ח"א then explains that this הלכה (ש"ך) is specifically alluded to in this week's פרשה, because the learning of the weekly פרשה has within it the power to bring the גאולה, redemption. There are many unusual ברכות found in the מצוה, גמרא, ראשונים, and אחרונים connected to this special מצוה. We have included a short sampling below. (For a more comprehensive list and a collection of many interesting and pertinent הלכות on this topic, see ספר ואלה שמות by R' Hillel Litwack א"ח.)

The ח"א (דף ח:) גמרא ברכות teaches in the name of R' Huna: לעולם ישלים אדם פרשיותיו עם הצבור שנים מקרא ואחד תרגום... ש"ך — A person should always complete learning his weekly פרשה twice and then once with the תרגום, together with the congregation ... one who completes his weekly פרשה with the congregation will be blessed with long life.

מדרש תנחומא (גר ג' חלק ו' פרק ב') מנורת המאור אמר ליה ד' לישאל בני היו קוראים את הפרשה בזמנה בכל שנה ושנה ואני ישאלאל תשאלאל. משעלה עליכם כאלו עמדתם לפני בהר סיני ומקבלין אותה, My children, read the פרשה at the right time and complete the cycle every year and I will consider your learning [the פרשה] as if you are now standing before Me at הר סיני and you are receiving the תורה.

The ח"א writes in the name of רש"י... ופירש"י ותדקדק בו פאשר תוכל... ונתנין עליה ש"ך, Complete the learning of your weekly פרשיות together with the congregation... רש"י explains that one should analyze and understand the פרשה as much as he can, and he will receive the reward [of learning תורה], and there is no greater comparable reward, as we find (ש"ך) that the reward of learning תורה is the equivalent to all other מצוות!

The ח"א (שער עליון, פרק ראשון) יסוד ושורש העבודה writes: התקון בעולמות העליונים הקדושים בהשלים הפרשה עם הצבור, גם גדל ש"ך — there is a major positive effect on a 'higher realm' that is accomplished by completing the weekly פרשה, and the greatness of the reward is enumerated in the הקדוש.

The ח"א writes (זכור למרזם): והעצה היעוצה שתתחזק - the האמונה בלב האדם היא ש"למד פרשת השבוע בכל שבוע עם פרוש רש"י — the advice that is well known to strengthen one's heart with אמונה, belief in רש"י, is to learn the weekly פרשה together with the explanation of רש"י. [Ed. note: This special סגולה was often used by the Manchester ראש שבת סימן (אור זרוע וצ"ל Yehuda Zev Segal וצ"ל), and is found in the פרשה, R' Yehuda Zev Segal gave his children 3 ways to acquire מדרש פרשת השבוע and one was to complete the weekly פרשה.]

R' Yehuda Zev Segal valued this מצוה so much that he asked his children on his deathbed to complete the weekly פרשה before eating the morning קעודה (שבת מדרש): בשם מדרש שבת קעודה (תוספות ברכות ח: בשם מדרש).

Adapted from: ואלה שמות (with kind permission from Rabbi Hillel Litwack)



## Yahrtzeits of Gedolim

כ"ט טבת 5577 - 5658 1817 - 1898 ר' was born in Grodno, Russia, to Diskin. At the age of 14 years, he married Broide. He received סמיכה at the age of 18.

When he was 25, he took over his father's position as רב of Lomza. He served as רב in Lomza, Mezritch, Kovno, Shklov, Brisk, and finally, in 1878, he moved to ישראל. He became the leader of the אשכנזי community in ישראל. In 1881 he established the Diskin Orphanage and opened ישיבה. Together with ר' Sonnenfeld, he fought against the מושל משה. His every gesture was dictated by the הלכה. Accordingly, he valiantly battled those who tried to introduce secular institutions and were lax in the הלכה, especially מצוות הארץ like מצות צבי ניי.

לעיני ר' ישראל בן אברהם ז"ל

## Gedolim Glimpses

When ר' Diskin moved to a new apartment, he hired a porter to carry the packages. On one trip, the porter carried two chests of hand-written חידושי. R' Diskin was unusually adamant that the top chest remain on top. As he followed the porter, watching that the chests remain in the correct order, he explained to the puzzled fellow, "The top chest has my father's writings. It would be wrong if my writings would be on top of his, even for one moment!"



לעיני ר' ישראל בן אברהם ז"ל

אחינו כל בית ישראל, הגתונים בערה ובשביה, העומדים בין בים ובין ביבשה, המקום ירחם עליהם ויזיאתם מערה לרונה, ומאפלה לאורה, ומשעבוד לגאולה, השתא בעגלא ובזמן קרוב, ונאמר אמן:

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# The Value of One Moment of Life

... וינקה איש מבית לוי ... (שמות ב: א)

... And a man went from the house of לוי ...

רש"י explains that in light of פְּרֵעָה's decree that all baby boys born to Jewish mothers be drowned in the river, עַמְרָם had separated from his wife יוכבד. Upon seeing that the leader of the generation had separated from his wife, the other men separated from their wives as well. מֵרִים respectfully pointed out to her father that his decree was harsher than פְּרֵעָה's decree; whereas פְּרֵעָה's decree targeted only males, עַמְרָם's decree was against the females as well, and whereas פְּרֵעָה's decree took away life in this world, עַמְרָם's decree deprived many souls of the opportunity for life in the Next World.

מֵרִים taught her father עַמְרָם something that even he, the leader of the generation, had not realized. עַמְרָם thought that if all the baby boys would be thrown into the water, there was no reason to continue bearing children. However, מֵרִים pointed out that the difficulty of bearing a child, the pain of childbirth, and the agony of watching a child being thrown to its death in the river was all worthwhile for the few precious moments of life that the child would live before being drowned.

R' Menachem Zvi Berlin related the following story to R' Zilberstein:

When R' Yosef Cohen — the father of R' Dovid Cohen פְּטַנְיָה, the ראש ישיבה of the ישיבה — was ill prior to his פְּטַנְיָה, I came to visit him, and I asked him to tell me about שְׂרָאֵל. He straightened himself in his bed and said, "Let me tell you a story that happened 80 years ago that shows us the value of even one moment of life.

"The story happened when R' Yehoshua Leib Diskin came with his attendant to visit an elderly relative of his who was very ill. When he entered her room, he was appalled at the conditions in which the woman was living. The stench of bodily waste and filth pervaded the room, and it was obvious that it was forbidden even to say a blessing there.

"It turned out that there was a cleaning woman who came once every two weeks to clean the room, but a day or two after she did her work the room would become filthy again, and the situation would deteriorate until the cleaning woman came again two weeks later.

"When R' Yehoshua Leib was ready to leave, the elderly woman asked for a blessing that she should live for many more years. She noticed that R' Yehoshua Leib's attendant was surprised at her request; the expression on his face clearly said, 'What kind of life is it to live like this?'

"She turned to the attendant and said, 'Every two weeks, when the woman comes to wash me and clean the room, I have an hour or two in which I can recite blessings to ד'. After that, the room once again becomes soiled and I cannot recite any blessings. But for the short amount of time that I can make a blessing, it is worthwhile for me to live the entire two weeks in these conditions!'"

When R' Shach came to visit R' Chaim Friedlander, who was very sick, he urged him to take advantage of every moment of life. At that point, R' Chaim's pain was so intense that he could no longer utter even a word. R' Shach sat down next to R' Chaim's bed and pointed outside the window, where trees and flowers were growing, and said, "Look, R' Chaim, at all the beautiful things blossoming in this world that ד' created. Strengthen your mind with thoughts of אֱמוּנָה about the power of the Creator, about His great wisdom, about His control over all of existence, and about His desire to do good for His creations. Even these flowers we see outside the window were created for the benefit and pleasure of man.

"This is considered taking advantage of every moment of life. If you do this, and you rejoice in your ability to think thoughts of אֱמוּנָה, it will be considered as though you utilized these moments as best as you could and you will earn the full reward of these moments."

Adapted from: *Aleinu L'shabei'ach* (with kind permission from ArtScroll)

## Focus on Middos

Dear תלמיד,

There is no lack of amazing stories that demonstrate the sheer brilliance of R' Yehoshua Yehuda Leib Diskin זצ"ל. For example, he once looked at a tree and told a companion the number of leaves on the tree. When someone questioned the total, he asked the person to tear off a branch without showing it to him. He then looked at the tree and gave the new total, which was the original total minus the number of leaves on the branch.

However, when it came to learning, R' Diskin would put in great effort, and had his difficulties as well.

When R' Diskin was רב in Lomza, his

day of learning and giving shiurim ended with a nightly study session with a תלמיד for six hours at a stretch. His תְּכֵנִיחַ recorded his experiences in brief in a סֵפֶר:

"When reaching a difficult point during the nightly learning hours, the רב would sink deep in thought, standing motionless for a long time, [and] grappling with the questions ... that were overtaking his whole being ... There were times when, even after concentrating so, the answers still evaded him.

"In such an instance, he would ask me to repeat the גְּמָרָא aloud, word by word, while he paced the length and breadth of the room, totally absorbed ... until he would burst

into tears. Turning to the wall, he would cry out in prayer, 'עֲנֵנִי ד' עֲנֵנִי — enlighten my eyes with Your תּוֹרָה.' He would then put צְדָקָה in a פּוֹשְׁקָעַ for the poor in שְׂרָאֵל and pray for ד's assistance, in the זְכוּת of הַנֶּסֶךְ.

My תלמיד, R' Yehoshua Yehuda Leib Diskin זצ"ל may have been able to reach great heights in תּוֹרָה with his brilliance alone, but he was learning ד' תּוֹרָה, and wanted to understand the true פֶּשֶׁט. Is it any wonder that he was from greatest גְּדוּלְתוֹ שְׂרָאֵל in his generation.

יהי זכרו בְּרוּךְ!  
בְּיַדְיֵנוּ, Your רַבֵּי

A letter from a Rebbi, based on interviews

- There are various equally acceptable methods to fulfill the obligation of being מעביר סדרה.
- One may read each פסוק of מקרא twice followed by the corresponding תרגום. The last פסוק of מקרא should be reread after the last תרגום so that one ends off with words of תורה (ערוך השולחן רפ"ה: ו).

Reviewed by R' Gedalyahu Eckstein

Since we only discuss 1-3 הלכות, it is important to consider these הלכות in the context of the bigger picture. Use them as a starting point for further in-depth study.

# The 10<sup>th</sup> International Pirchei שמו"ת Contest

This week 11 of our 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Pirchei Newsletter International שניגים מקרא וְאָחַד תַּרְגוּם contest.

In חוֹבְרַת כִּיּו תשע"ה (י: סֵפֶר אֹר הַשֶּׁבֶת ר' תניי, Kanievsky זצ"ל was questioned regarding a child reviewing only part of a פֶּרֶשָׁה. For תַּנּוּדָה, a child must normally fulfill the complete מִצְוָה. Regarding תַּרְגוּם שְׁנִיגִים מקרא וְאָחַד תַּרְגוּם, שְׁנִיגִים was of the opinion that a child should be trained "לֵאמֹת לֵאמֹת" — in stages, similar to our שׁוֹבְבִים Contest: 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade (6+) should complete the פֶּרֶשָׁה until שְׁנִי, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade (8+) until שְׁלִישִׁי, 4<sup>th</sup> grade (9+) until רְבִיעִי, 5<sup>th</sup> grade (10+) until חֲמִישִׁי, 6<sup>th</sup> grade (11+) until שְׁשִׁי, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades (12+) complete the entire פֶּרֶשָׁה.

Is your school or city represented in the Pirchei International שְׁנִיגִים מקרא וְאָחַד תַּרְגוּם contest? Every week is a new opportunity to enter this raffle! **Any** week you and your school can join and become part of this amazing קְדוּשַׁת ד' קְדוּשַׁת ד'. You can be part of hundreds of the children who are igniting the world with the זְכוּת of this unique מִצְוָה as an אֲחֵת!

It is not too late to enter the contest. To become a part of this amazing קְדוּשַׁת ד' קְדוּשַׁת ד', please send a weekly **fax** to **718 506 9633** or **email** to [shnayimmikracontest@gmail.com](mailto:shnayimmikracontest@gmail.com) signed by a parent – include your grade, name, school, city, state, zip, contact and fax #, and which פֶּרֶשָׁה.

The list of contestants as of press time for first 10 weeks of the contest are:

**Grade 1** – *Yeshaya Gewirtz; Yeshivas Kochav Yitzchok (TI); Baltimore, MD; Dovid Geisler; Lakewood Cheder School; Chaim Schneider; Yeshiva Ohr Yehuda; Lakewood, NJ; Aryeh Leib haCohen Schwartz; Yeshivas M'kor Boruch; Passaic, NJ.*

**Grade 2** – *David Shimon Ickovitz; Yeshiva Kochav Yitzchok (TI); Boruch Greenfield; Yeshivas Chofetz Chaim (TA); Baltimore, MD; Zev Waldman; Yeshiva Shagas Aryeh; Lakewood, NJ; Avrohom Dov Hirsch; Tiferes Elimelech; Yisroel Willner, Yosef Willner; Yeshiva Karlin Stoloin; Brooklyn, NY.*

**Grade 3** – *Eli Mark, Elie Sadwin, Ephraim Silver; Yeshivas Kochav Yitzchok (TI); Baltimore, MD; Mordechai Shmuel Fisher; Talmud Torah Ohr Moshe; Menashe Salb; Yeshiva Torah Vodaas; Brooklyn, NY; Asher Epstein; Fallsburg Cheder; Fallsburg, NY.*

**Grade 4 (UK)** – *Asher Yochanan Herskine; Keser Torah Boys School; Gateshead, UK.*

**Grade 4** – *Ari Nachman Wheeler; Rambam Day School; Savannah, GA; Dovid Waldman; Yeshiva Shagas Aryeh; Lakewood, NJ; Yehuda Bachrach, Yehuda Lazarowitz; Yeshivas M'kor Boruch; Passaic, NJ; Yaakov Mordechai Fulda, Yisroel Meir Ganz; Siach Yitzchok; Far Rockaway, NY; Nochum Shimon Brown, Elisha Daniel, Simcha Leib Deal, Rephael Flaum, Nossan Tzvi Gewirtz, Mordechai Gold, Yehuda Gross, Elisha Iskowitz, Ahron Katz, Elan Levi, Shimon Orlian, Zev Schonkopf, Tzvi Schulman, Yehuda Shafran, Levi Sherman, Moshe Solomon, Raphie Weiss; Yeshiva Ketana of Long Island; Inwood, NY.*

**Grade 5** – *Yosef Shalom Stern; Yeshiva Ketana of LA; Los Angeles, CA; Ari Gale, Shmuel Yaakov Herzog, Matis Mintz, Yossi Newman, Yisroel Novice, Shua Rubin, Baruch Silver, Meir Yehuda, Tzvi Zakem; Yeshiva Kochav Yitzchok (TI); Yehuda Frieman, Kalman Hefter, Chaim Katz, Daniel Kraines, Naftali Kraines, Zevi Minkin, Yaakov Pianko, Eliyahu Rayman; Yeshivas Toras Simcha; Baltimore, MD; Dovid Bachrach, Yehuda Lazarowitz; Yeshivas M'kor Boruch; Passaic, NJ; Shimmy Lowy; Yeshiva Karlin-Stoloin; Brooklyn, NY; Avraham Abba Freedman; Yeshivas Derech HaTorah; Cleveland, OH; Yitzchok Binder; Yeshiva Yesodei HaTorah; Toronto, ON.*

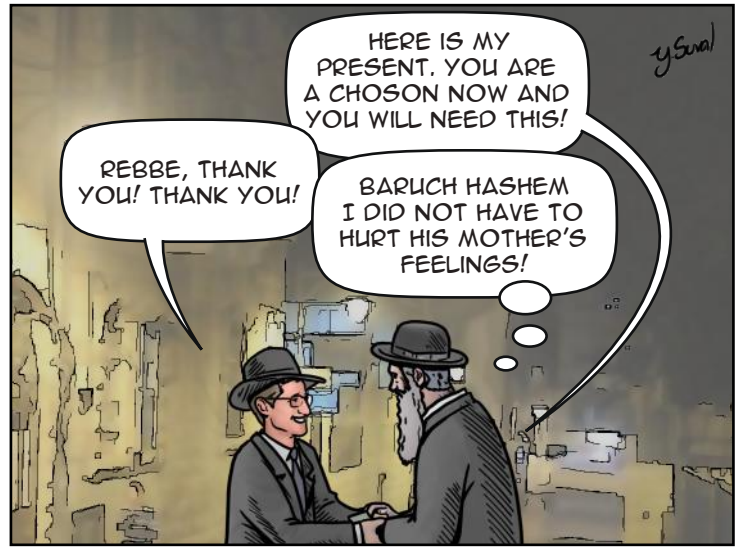
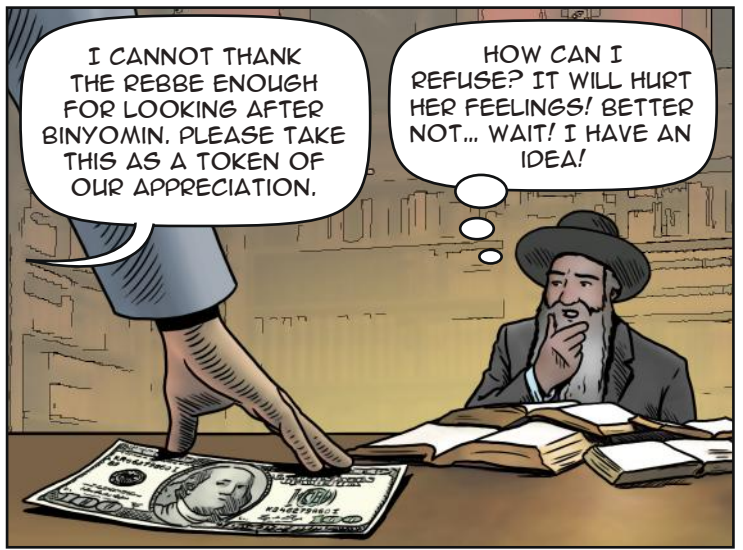
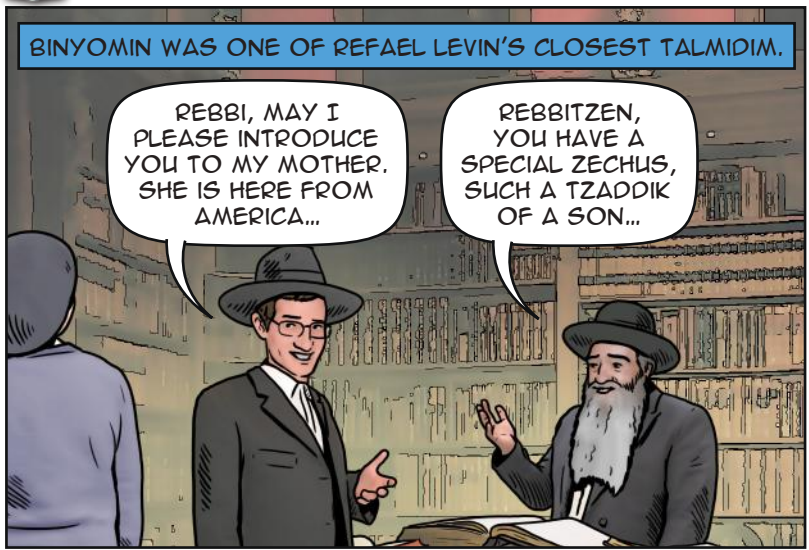
**Grade 6** – *Avrohom Yaakov Ickovitz; Yaakov Eliyahu Naiman, Amrom Novice; Yeshiva Kochav Yitzchok (TI); Elazar Meir Dashevsky, Yoel Goldstein, Nachshon Grayman, Menachem Marcus, Akiva Morris, Reuven Newman, Yakov Newmark, Aaron David Richards, Yehuda Rubin, Noach Salzberg, Avi Scherer, Dovi Shulman, Shlomo Steinharter, Baruch Tessler; Yeshivas Toras Simcha; Baltimore, MD; Zecharia Waldman; Yeshiva Shagas Aryeh; Lakewood, NJ; Meshilem Zev Fisher; Talmud Torah Ohr Moshe; Shmuel Perlman; Yeshiva Ketana of Bensonhurst; Brooklyn, NY; Betzalel Alter, Shaul Geller, Yaakov Kaminsky, Avrohom Lehman, Moshe Miller, Avrohom Boruch Rottenberg, Menachem Spira; Yeshiva Bais Dovid; Monsey, NY; Meir Tzvi Handelsman, Shmuel Hirsch, Mordechai Isaacs, Naftali Kestenbaum, Shmuel Kestenbaum, Yona Krongold, Aaron Kuznicki, Yosef Yitzchock Lifshits, Menachem Lipsett, Elazar Malaib, Yosef Shalom Merzel, Shraga Nathan, Shimon Yehuda Ochs, Yaakov Ouzzan, Elazar Pam, Refoel Moshe Paretzky, Eliezer Reiss, Yaakov Nossan Rosen, Yonah Schaumer, Pinny Scheinberg, Eliezer Schloss, Dovid Silberstein, Ephraim Silver, Eliyahu Simon, Yitzi Sobel, Naftuli Weiss, Dovid Yavorsky, Yaakov Yefet; Yeshiva Yesodei HaTorah; Toronto, ON.*

**Grade 7** – *Avinoam Glass; Rambam Day School; Savannah, GA; Menachem Gale; Yeshiva Kochav Yitzchok (TI); Shalom Barth, Betzalel Cohen, Daniel Herman, Shraga Kraines, Akiva Krohn, Chaim Newmark, Yaakov Paige, Yaakov Tzvi Rayman, Eliezer Dov Saitowitz, Akiva Asher Shafranovich; Yeshivas Toras Simcha; Baltimore, MD; Yisroel Meir Ginsberg; The Cheder; Yitzchok Lowy; Yeshiva Karlin-Stoloin; Brooklyn, NY; Yaakov Heitner; Cheder D'Monsey; Spring Valley, NY; Tzvi Alon, Yehuda Belsky, Mordechai Eliyahu Braun, Binyomin Cohen, Mordechai Sender Colman, Asher Elkaim, Dovid Enkin, Shimon Felder, Elazar Garfunkel, Meir Simcha Golub, Dovid Grossmann, Avrom Grunfeld, Shmuly Kaplan, Eli Katz, Nesanel Katz, Yosef Zalman Kozak, Chaim Krupnik, Eli Reichmann, Elchonon Zev Rosen, Yisroel Meir Rothstein, Nossan Meyer Rubanov, Kalman Rubner, Boruch Ber Rudner, Meir Simcha Schuster, Dvir Shukroon, Yehuda Spivak, Yosef Ullman, Eli Meir Weiss, Meir Wiesenfeld, Yehuda Zauderer, Ari Zimmerman; Yeshiva Yesodei HaTorah; Toronto, ON.*

**Grade 8** – *Dovi Nitekman, Zev Weinberg; Rambam Day School; Savannah, GA; Yisroel Bloch, Yaakov Zev Greenfield; Yeshivas Chofetz Chaim (TA); Moshe Kraines, Aharon Markowitz, Yitzchok Rayman; Yeshivas Toras Simcha; Baltimore, MD; Yitzchok Friedman, Pesach Gartenhaus, Yonah Zev Gewirtzman, Boruch Ber Landau, Simcha Zissel Levovitz, Yitzchok Avraham Perlstein, Yehoshua Mattisyahu Rockove, Moshe Rubinfeld, Yehoshua Heschel Schamovic, Michel Yehuda Schustal, Moishe Schwarzc; Lakewood Cheder School; Avraham Rupp; Yeshiva Even Yisroel; Meir Waldman; Yeshiva Shagas Aryeh; Lakewood, NJ; Avrohom Chaim Toplan; Yeshiva Ketana of Bensonhurst; Brooklyn, NY; Yitzchok Teichman; Bais Mikroh; Monsey, NY; Dovid Anhang, Avraham Berkowitz, Chaim Asher Bitterman, Nochum Brodsky, Avraham Chaim Buksbaum, Moshe Bursztyn, Eliezer Czermak, Mordechai Metliarov, Shmuel Yosef Labkovsky, Yaakov Lindo, Eli Marder, Shmuli Meisels, Moshe Greenberg, Menachem Gross, Meir Kestenbaum, Raham Kotliarov, Shmuel Yosef Labkovsky, Yaakov Lindo, Eli Marder, Shmuli Meisels, Moshe Yisroel Merzel, Yiddle Milevsky, Gavriel Oberstein, Raphael Pavel, Yerucham Rothenberg, Levi Simcha Sachs, Meir Simon, David Turtel; Yeshiva Yesodei HaTorah; Toronto, ON.*



# LEARNING FROM OUR LEADERS



ישיבת מלצר (ראש ישיבה) וצ"ל מלצר ר' איסר זלמן OF תלמיד מבהק עץ חיים WHERE HE BECAME A TALENTED LEADER AND FROM THERE MOVED TO ישיבת לומזיה IN פתח תקוה. HE MARRIED HENNA LIBA (אהובה), DAUGHTER OF FRANK R' FRANK R' THE SON OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD. AFTER HIS MARRIAGE, HE LEARNED AT HIS FATHER'S FEET AND SERVED IN THIS CAPACITY UNTIL HIS DEATH. HE ALSO SERVED AS דין IN THE Yeshiva OF R' SHMUEL SALANT. EVEN AS A CHOSON HE WAS HIS RIGHT HAND MAN, ASSISTING HIM IN HIS VARIOUS ACTIVITIES. R' ALSO TAUGHT HIM THE TUD OF THE גורל הגר"א AND OTHER קבלה ענייני. AFTER HIS DEATH, R' TOOK OVER HIS FATHER'S DAILY שיעור IN THE תורה בית התפילות AND CONTINUED HIS FREQUENT VISITS TO HOSPITALS, PRISONS AND WIDOWS. HIS TUD AND תורה IN גאוניות IN תורה AND תפארת רפאל WERE PUBLISHED POSTHUMOUSLY IN תורה ודעות.

For any inquiries or comments please feel free to call 347-838-0869 • Illustrated by: Yeshaya Suval 5685-5762 1924-2002 אייר י'

