

MESIVTA'S MESSAGE

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FEATURED TORAH *Message*

Rabbi Moshe Chaim Biron

Look outside the window and you can see that winter is very much on its way. As we enter the month of חשוון, we might feel a foreboding feeling of monotony settling in. I wanted to share a thought that can help bring some meaning into the upcoming month.

For those who were paying attention during Rosh Chodesh bentching, you would have noticed that the name חשוון can also be said as מרחשוון. One explanation given for the מר (which means bitter) addition is that leaving תשרי - a month full of ימים טובים - and entering into מרחשוון - which is bare of any ימים טובים - leaves one with a bitter taste.

There is another beautiful explanation given by the חידושי הר"ם that מרחשוון can be understood as שפתיו מרששין - whispering lips. We have spent so many hours davening over the past 6 weeks during a time that ה' set aside especially for connection with Him. We have hopefully reached new levels in our רוחניות and אלול. תשרי are not just extra time spent in shul! They are actually a time to recharge our batteries back to 100%. Now that we are

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THOUGHTS *on the* PARSHA

Dovid Tomaino, 11th grade

ה' tells Avraham in this week's parsha to leave his homeland and promises him a tremendous and unprecedented reward if he does - וְהָיָה בְרָכָה - and you will be a blessing. The Ramban has two explanations for these words. The first is that when a person would bless someone else, he would say, "ה' should make you like Avraham." The second explanation is that all the families of the world will be blessed on his account, as in, he will be a conduit of blessing to the world.

The Ramban has a question on this. Why is Avraham being rewarded for simply leaving a place? ה' didn't even tell him that he had to do anything when he got there to earn the reward. So how did Avraham earn this reward of וְהָיָה בְרָכָה?

The Ramban explains that there was a story in Avraham's life that the Torah does not write, but by understanding this story we can understand the reward ה' promised him. Avraham was originally in אור כשדים, where he rejected the avodah zara around him and chose to devote himself to serving ה'. He was persecuted terribly for this and had to flee. He headed to כנען but settled in חרן instead.

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SPARKS *of* MUSSAR

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Rav Yitzchok Blazer

When R' Yisroel's wife bought a lottery ticket, R' Yisroel immediately summoned two witnesses and said to her in their presence, "I have nothing to do with your money or any interest that accrues on it

ever." Why? R' Yisroel was afraid his wife might win the lottery and become rich. "When Hashem grants a person wealth," explained R' Yisroel "it is not solely for that man's benefit. It makes him a gabbai in charge of dispensing tzedakah and helping the poor. Who can accept such a heavy responsibility? It requires searching every

end of the city to see whether someplace there is a pauper in distress, or a sick person who needs help, or a small child whose family lacks the money to hire a teacher for him. Who can find them all?" Not wanting to face the test of wealth, R' Yisroel hastened to free himself of any rights to the lottery.

RECENT *Happenings*

Avraham Rosenblum, 11th grade

After a great Elul zman in yeshiva, everyone was ready for a well-deserved סוכות בין ימנים. I went back home to Passaic, excited to know that my rebbe, Rabbi Biron, was going to be spending סוכות with relatives near where I live. We decided to make a שמחת בית השואבה for anyone from MTI who lived in the area. A few text messages and phone calls later, and we had eight current and former MTI talmidim invited! (There were also gatherings for talmidim and alumni with Rabbi Fromowitz in Detroit and one in St. Louis at Rabbi Goldman's סוכה.)

Seeing people who I usually only see in yeshiva while I was home from yeshiva had a very special feel, and it was especially nice to get to reunite with the alumni. We all enjoyed delicious food while conversations and music filled the atmosphere of my family's סוכה.

After a while, Rabbi Biron gathered everyone together to share some words of chizuk and inspiration about סוכות and more specifically about the סוכה itself. He explained that the shechina rests in the סוכה and therefore we should take advantage of this precious opportunity by spending as much time in the סוכה as possible. He emphasized that it's beneficial to be doing mundane activities, including even just relaxing, in the sukkah.

Following the divrei chizuk, I got my guitar out and we had an awesome kumtitz with everyone singing which set a tone that is difficult to put to words, but something that can only be experienced in a סוכה.

Overall we had a beautiful, meaningful, and fun time at the שמחת בית השואבה and it set the perfect mood for the second days yunif and led us with fire to the next zman in MTI.

COMMUNITY LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

- SUNDAY NIGHT WOMEN'S MESILAS YESHARIM (ZOOM)
- TUESDAY NIGHT WOMEN'S ORCHOS TZADDIKIM (CHESTERFIELD)
- DAILY AHAVAS CHESSED (WHATSAPP)
- DAILY SHMIRAS HALASHON (WHATSAPP/EMAIL)
- DAILY ORAYSA (WHATSAPP)

For more information

missouritorah.org/community-learning
or call 636.778.1896 x108

MAZEL TOV

- Rabbi & Mrs. Menachem Wachsman on the bar mitzvah of their son Yosef!
- Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Manne on the birth of their son!

Next Motzei Shabbos!

CONQUERING OUR GREATEST CHALLENGES
We cordially invite you to AN EVENING OF CHIZZUK at a ruach filled Melave Malka

מוצאי שבת ט"ז מרחשון
NOVEMBER 16
8:30 PM

For Men & Women at the Yeshiva Campus
1809 Clarkson Road, Chesterfield

Sit-Down Delicious Milchig Melave Malka & Kumzits with Talmidim to Follow

*\$18 Suggested Donation Per Person
RSVP appreciated to events@missouritorah.org*

Rabbi Bentzion Chait
is the Director of the National Torah Initiative and a member of the hanhala of Yeshiva Chofetz Chaim of Queens. He was also one of the founding Roshei Yeshiva of Yeshiva Toras Chaim Toras Emes in Miami.

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going back into "regular" life, it behooves us to take all that we have gained and bring it with us into the rest of the year while keeping our "lips moving" with constant תפילה and connection to ה'. We should all be zoche to infuse the month of חשוון and the entire year with all of our newly acquired madreigos and hasagos.

THOUGHTS *on the* PARSHA

continued

ה' then told Avraham to leave חרן so he could fulfill his original intention to go to כנען and spread the name of ה' to the people there because כנען/ארץ ישראל was the best land for Avraham to continue his great work. In this context, Avraham was quite deserving of reward.

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