

MESIVTA'S MESSAGE

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FEATURED TORAH *Message*

Rabbi Label Friedman

These first few months in MTI have embodied the message that is given at the beginning of this parsha. Yaakov gives over the message of עם לבן גרתי to Eisav his brother. Rashi on this pasuk asks, why does Yaakov use the term גרתי and in this specific spelling, which means to live in a transient manner. Furthermore, why did Yaakov talk about the time he lived with Lavan at all? Rashi answers that Yaakov used this specific term in order to relay the message of his strength in the face of adversity. Yaakov used the term גרתי to show that even though he had been living under the influence of Lavan, he still kept תרי"ג מצוות. The way that Yaakov was able to counteract Lavan's influence was by living in a transient way with an ever moving upward mentality.

The question that I pose to many talmidim each day at MTI is - "Are you moving in a positive direction spiritually." The answer that I get from the talmidim is "yes." It's quite amazing that these talmidim are able to attach themselves to the spiritual inheritance that they received from Yaakov to push themselves forward even in the face

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THOUGHTS *on the* PARSHA

Aidan Kornblum, 11th grade

This week's parsha discusses the mitzvah not to eat the גיד הנשה - the sciatic nerve. The ספר החנוך offers a meaning for this mitzvah. He states that there have been numerous times in the history of the Jewish people that we have been challenged, killed, and persecuted. Through all this, one might consider despair and sadness as the only option, and it becomes increasingly easy to lose faith in a G-d who allows such calamities. This is why Hashem commanded us not to eat the sciatic nerve. The angel of Eisav was fighting Yaakov Avinu to kill him, but with Hashem's help, Yaakov overcame the angel, escaping with just an injury to his sciatic nerve. In the end, Hashem healed Yaakov with a unique and miraculous beam of sunlight.

This is still so relevant to the Jewish People today. As we experienced last year on Shmini Atzeres, and until today, with the ongoing conflict, there will always be others who seek to destroy us. This is the reason for the prohibition of eating the sciatic nerve. It is to remind us that we cannot lose hope or faith in Hashem and that we should stay steadfast in our observance of His Torah. As seen

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SPARKS *of* MUSSAR

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Rav Yisroel Lipkin of Salant

R' Yisroel held that two people should not say Kaddish simultaneously, and the synagogue followed his teaching. On the yortzheit of R' Yisroel's father, a simple Jew

who had yortzheit for his daughter was also in shul.

The man, assuming that R' Yisroel had priority, was very distressed at the thought of not saying Kaddish for the elevation of his daughter's soul. But R' Yisroel went over to him and said with a smile, "Will you

please say the Kaddish?"

The congregation was amazed that R' Yisroel was willing to give up his obligation of honoring his father. R' Yisroel explained that the merit of doing chesed is greater than that of saying Kaddish.

RECENT *Happenings*

Yonah Efron, 11th grade

This week in MTI, we had the pleasure of having a visit from Rabbi Markowitz from Kyiv, Ukraine. Rabbi Markowitz started off his speech by talking about his life and how he was born in Kyiv but then left at the age of four with his family. There was a goal that Rabbi Markowitz had instilled in him from a young age by his parents and grandparents who had survived the Holocaust - that he and all those around him should never forget what happened to the Jewish people at the hands of the Nazi regime. That is what set him on the path of going back to Kyiv after he had served in the Israel Defence Force (IDF) for seven years. When Rabbi Markowitz and his wife decided to move to Kyiv in the year 2000, they did not speak a word of Ukrainian, yet that didn't bother them because they realized that the best way to achieve their lifelong goal was

by teaching Torah to those who don't have easy access to it. Rabbi Markowitz helped start seven shuls, daily Gemara classes, and other shiurim.

Rabbi Markowitz then spoke to us about the Russian and Ukrainian war that has been happening for the past three years. He talked about the mesiras nefesh that the Jews in Ukraine have and what they do. Rabbi Markowitz spoke about the kosher food situation and how the shuls are now soup kitchens, with some people driving 2 hours from their house each day just to make sure they eat kosher, daven with a minyan, and learn. He said that once, a man started to cry after he received his food and they asked the man what was wrong. The man replied, "I haven't eaten in four days." The speech was motivational and inspiring.

MAZEL TOV

- Rabbi & Mrs. Dovid Fromowitz on the birth of a grandson to their children Mr. & Mrs. Yehuda Striks!
- Jake Fendelman on his engagement to Ms. Rosie Weber!
- Mr. & Mrs. Menasha Abrams on the birth of their daughter!

THOUGHTS *on the* PARSHA *continued*

time and time again, our enemies will never succeed in eradicating the Jews. Even under the worst of circumstances, we must remain with the emunah that Moshiach will come and we will merit the building of the Bais Hamikdash in our days.



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With 30 years of experience, Jonathan has advised numerous non-profit organizations on tax-advantaged charitable estate planning options. As the founder of Planned Giving Advisors, he has managed planned giving programs for major clients and conducted training for over 5,000 fundraisers. He previously held senior positions at the Anti-Defamation League, United Jewish Communities, and Continuum Health Partners. Jonathan is also the author of The Planned Giving Blog, providing insights to a broad audience in the field of planned giving.

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FEATURED TORAH *Message* *continued*

of all of the distractions we have in our world. May we all see continued positive growth in all things physical, emotional, and spiritual.