

Chitas for Thursday Yud-Gimmel Tishrei, 5781

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לעילוי נשמת

הרה"ח הרה"ת הר" משה פינחס בן הר' אברהם מרדכי הכהן כ"ץ

הרה"ח הרה"ת הר' מרדכי בן הר' פינחס מענטליק

ולזכות רפואה שלימה וקרובה לזאב יחזקאל הכהן בן מינדל

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יארצייט י"ח תשרי

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Lizchus **Perl Leah bas Sara Esther**

~ for a Refuah Sheleimah Ukrovah! ~

Moshiach now! By Houston friends and family

This week is dedicated Lizchus the directors of Chitas for Kids

for inspiring Yiddishe kinderlach in learning Chitas

~ by the Raskin family, shluchim to Vermont ~

Mazel Tov **Chana Shaindel Gottlieb** (shlucha in Amherst, MA)

~ Bas Mitzvah Yud-Beis Tishrei ~

May she grow as a Bas Chabad and bring much nachas to the Rebbe and to her family!

Mazel Tov **Chana Tenenboim** (Proud shlucha of the Rebbe in Hewlett, NY)

~ 5th birthday in the month of Tishrei ~

Shnas Bracha Vehatzlacha!

Mazel Tov **Colonel Bayla Deitsch** (chossid of the Rebbe in Chandler, Arizona)

~ 9th birthday Yud-Gimmel Tishrei ~

Shnas Bracha Vehatzlacha!

Mazel Tov **Mayer Rabkin** (Brooklyn, NY)

~ 10th birthday Yud-Gimmel Tishrei ~

Shnas Bracha Vehatzlacha!

CHUMASH :: Parshas Vezos Habracha - Chamishi with Rashi

Moshe is giving brachos to the Shevatim before he passes away:

First Moshe gives a bracha to **Shevet Dan**: They live in a place near the border, and they get a bracha to be very

strong to keep the Yidden safe!

To **Shevet Naftali**: They are happy with the part of Eretz Yisroel Hashem gave them! They will be able to catch a lot of fish in the Kinneres, which is in their part.

Asher should have many sons. They will make the rest of the Yidden happy because they will trade oil and fruit for grain. Asher's daughters will be beautiful, and the rest of the Yidden will want to marry them.

Shevet Asher will have so much olive oil!

The mountains in Asher's part of Eretz Yisroel have metal inside, and they protect the Yidden from anyone coming to attack the Yidden from the top (north) of Eretz Yisroel.

Now Moshe gives a bracha to ALL of the Yidden:

Your soldiers are strong, and keep the borders of Eretz Yisroel safe, as if they were locked tightly with metal locks that can't be broken!

All of your life will be wonderful, and you will have plenty of *parnasa* — as much as you serve Hashem every day.

There is no one like Hashem! Hashem helps you, and keeps you safe.

TEHILLIM :: 69 - 71

In one of today's kapitelach (Ayin-Alef) there are FOUR niggunim! It was the Rebbe's 70th birthday kapitel and chassidim were so happy that they made many niggunim!

One of them is on the words "**Kemofes Hayisi LoRabim, VeAta Machsi Oz.**" Dovid Hamelech says, "I was an example to many people, and You give me strength!" When a Yid acts in a way that will be a *Dugma Chaya* for other people, Hashem gives him the *koach* to have *hatzlacha*!

TANYA :: Igeres Hakodesh Siman Chof-Alef

Today we start a new letter in Igeres Hakodesh. Can you guess what it's about? That's right, about giving Tzedakah!

This letter has something NEW about *tzedakah*. We need to do it with *zerizus*, very quickly — not to push it off until later!

Zerizus is very special. The *chachomim* tell us that the *Akeidah* — when Avraham Avinu went to bring Yitzchak as a *korban* — is not the whole reason why we always ask Hashem to help us in its *zechus*. Lots of Yidden had *Mesiras Nefesh* later, and Hashem didn't even give them a clear command like He talked to Avraham Avinu! The main reason we ask for *brachos* in the *zechus* of the *Akeidah* is because Avraham Avinu did it with *ZERIZUS*.

This teaches us how important it is to have *zerizus* in all of our *mitzvos*!

We especially need to have *zerizus* in giving *tzedakah*. *Tzedakah* has a very strong *koach*: it protects us from many not good things.

Even though it was already decided on *Rosh Hashana* and *Yom Kippur* what will happen during the year, Hashem judges us again each day, to see if we will bring those *brachos* down. That's why every day again we need to earn these tremendous *brachos* by giving *tzedakah* with *zerizus*!

HAYOM YOM :: Yud-Gimmel Tishrei

Today is the Yartzeit-Hilula of the Rebbe Maharash. His Ohel is in Lubavitch.

The letter we will soon be learning in *Igeres Hakodesh* is *Siman Chof-Beis*. It is important to know that not the whole letter is printed in *Tanya*! The beginning and end of the letter are not printed there.

This whole letter was first printed in *Hatamim*.

At the beginning of this letter is the *Takanos Liozna*, the detailed rules the Alter Rebbe made about when people could come to the Alter Rebbe in Liozna. Part of the rules is that everyone had to have a set time when they were allowed to come, and it wasn't easy to change that time. The part of this letter that we learn in *Tanya* is part of the *Takanos* — that when they come, they shouldn't ask about *Gashmius*, but only *Ruchnius*. (This letter was also later printed in the Alter Rebbe's *Igros Kodesh*, which includes — in the introduction to the newer version — a detailed history of these *Takanos*.)

SEFER HAMITZVOS :: Shiur #84 - Mitzvas Lo Saasei #357

Today we learn one last *mitzvah* (*Mitzvas Lo Saasei #357*) about *Yibum* and *Chalitzah* — nobody is allowed to get married to the *yevama* until she does *Chalitzah*.

A *yevama* is a woman whose husband passed away before they had children, and her husband has a brother. He is supposed to get married to her so they will have a baby to name after her husband. Until she does *chalitzah*, she can't get married to anyone else.

We learn this *mitzvah* from a *posuk* in *Parshas Ki Seitzei*: **לֹא תִהְיֶה אִשְׁתְּ הַמָּת הַחוּצָה לְאִישׁ זָר׃**

The details of this *mitzvah* are explained in *Mesechta Yevamos*.

RAMBAM :: Hilchos Yibum V'Chalitzah

In today's Rambam, we learn more *halachos* about *chalitzah*.

One *halacha* is that these *mitzvos* only need to be done if the *yavam* is ALLOWED TO get married to her. For example, if the *almanah's* brother-in-law is already married to her sister, he doesn't need to do *chalitzah*. That's because he wouldn't be able to marry her even if he wanted to, since the Torah doesn't let us marry two sisters.

Today we finish the *halachos* about *Yibum* and *Chalitzah*, *Perakim Vov*, *Zayin*, and *Ches*, and tomorrow we will IY"H start a new set of *halachos*!

RAMBAM- PEREK ECHAD :: Hilchos Tefillah, Tefillin U'Mezuzah V'Sefer Torah - Perek Zayin

Now we start to learn the *halachos* about a *Sefer Torah*. It is a *mitzvah* for every Yid to write his own *Sefer Torah*. The Rambam tells us one way to do this *mitzvah*, by checking at least one letter of the Torah to make sure it's not *posul*.

The Rebbe tells us another way, by everyone buying a letter in the *Sefer Torah*, which is one of the *mitvzoyim*!

INYANA D'YOMA :: Chassidishe Yom Tov

Today is the yahrzeit of the Rebbe Maharash.

Before the Rebbe Maharash was nistalek, he asked for a clock. He put a feather in a certain place so that the clock wouldn't go further when it got there. That was the minute that he passed away!

The Rebbe tells us again and again that *chassidim* need to learn from the Rebbe Maharash how to act in a way of *Lechat'chila Ariber*. The Rebbe Maharash said that everyone thinks that if something gets in the way of doing what you should, try to find other ways to do it. But the Rebbe Maharash says that you should just DO what you need to, and not even THINK about that thing that is getting in the way!

There are a lot of stories of the Rebbe Maharash that are called “*Baal Shem'ske Hanhaga*” — that he did things in a way of miracles, to make sure that everything was done exactly in the right way and that nothing got in the way.

We also need to decide to do *mitzvos* and *Mivtzoyim* and not to be worried about problems that can come up along the way. When we do what Hashem wants, we will be able to jump right over all of the problems!

TEFILLAH :: What Do We Live For?

In *davening*, we ask Hashem for all of the things we need.

Chassidus shows us that this is not the only reason for *davening*. When we reach out to Hashem, we are connecting to Hashem! During the time of *davening*, we are able to stop all of our busy work for a few minutes, and think about our connection to Hashem. We remind ourselves why we are here in this world at all — in order to serve Hashem!

In honor of *Yud-Gimmel Tishrei*, we will learn a story about this from the Rebbe Maharash:

The two oldest sons of the Rebbe Maharash were the Raza and the Rashab. One day, when they were playing outside, they had an argument about the difference between Yidden and Goyim.

The Raza said that Yidden are more special because of all of the Torah that they learn, and the kavana they have when they daven.

But the Rebbe Rashab said that couldn't be. Because many Yidden COULDN'T learn Torah or have kavana, but they still had to be different than goyim!

When the Rebbe Maharash heard about their argument, he called them over. He told them to bring Ben-Tzion, a simple Yid who helped in their house. The Rebbe Maharash asked Ben-Tzion a few questions:

“Ben-Tzion, did you eat?”

“Yes,” Ben-Tzion answered.

“Did you eat well?”

Ben-Tzion shrugged. “Well? I ate enough, Boruch Hashem.”

The Rebbe Maharash asked further: “Why do you eat?”

“So I can live,” Ben-Tzion said.

“And why do you need to live?”

“To be a Jew and do what Hashem wants,” Ben-Tzion answered with a sigh.

Then the Rebbe Maharash asked that the coachman, Ivan, come. The Maharash asked Ivan the same questions:

“Ivan, did you eat?”

“Yes!” Ivan answered.

“Did you eat well?”

Ivan smiled. “Yes, I did!”

“And why do you eat?”

“I need to eat so I can live,” Ivan said.

“And why do you need to live?”

“To enjoy a good drink of mashke and something good to eat!” Ivan answered.

The Rebbe Maharash thanked Ivan.

Now his sons were able to see for themselves what is special about even a simple Yid. Even a simple Yid realizes that his purpose in the world is to serve Hashem, not just to enjoy life.

The time of *davening* is a very good time for us to remind ourselves why we need to live, and to make sure we’re living that way!

HALACHOS HATZRICHOS :: Do it Too!

Putting up a *sukkah* can be hard work! Many times, it makes more sense to have someone else do the building. Your older brother, a neighbor, or a hired carpenter might do a better job putting up a strong *sukkah*, in much less time than it would take you!

Still, we want to give *kavod* to the *mitzvah* of *sukkah*, by not letting someone else do the WHOLE job. Even if someone else is building most of the *sukkah*, we should still make sure to be part of it! We at least help put up some of the *s’chach*, so that we will participate in this special *mitzvah* too.

See *Shevach Hamoadim, Sukkos*

GEULAH U'MOSHIACH :: Shabbos

The days before Shabbos are a preparation for Shabbos, and the *Zohar* says that Shabbos gives a *bracha* to all of the days of the week.

When we prepare so we can celebrate Shabbos properly, then the *kedusha* of Shabbos helps us in our *avodah* the rest of the week: We’ll remember what the *gashmius* is really there for — to help us act the way Hashem wants! We’ll be able to find Hashem in all of the *gashmius* things!

Golus is like the days of the week, and *Geulah* is like Shabbos. The times of the *Geulah* will be like one long Shabbos, and every Shabbos is a taste of the *Geulah*! When we celebrate Shabbos properly, we can also take the *chayus* of the *Geulah* and bring it with us into the rest of the week!

See *Sefer Hasichos 5749 and 5751*

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