



Derech HaTorah of Rochester

The Path of Respect and Excellence

כ"ד טבת

January 5, 2024
כ"ד טבת, פרשת שמות, תשפ"ד

Calendar

Fri., Jan. 12- End of 1st Semester - Regular Schedule
Sun., Jan. 14- Yeshiva dinner in NYC, Jan. 14 at VIP Country Club. To reserve your spot or place an ad, call Rabbi Shmuel Herman or visit:
<https://www.rayze.it/rochester49/>
Mon., Jan. 15 - DHR OPEN - No Busing
Fri., Jan. 26- Mon., Jan. 29-Midwinter Weekend Break - **No School**



From the Principal

Dr. Lea E. Goldstein

Sharing Someone Else's Trouble, Feeling Their Pain

נושא בעול עם חברו

The pasuk writes "His sister stood at a distance, to see what will be with him" (Shemos 2:4). Miriam had no expectation of what might happen. Eventually, Pharaoh's own daughter came to bathe and took the baby home to raise him. However, Miriam went there without the expectation that she would be able to save the child, but simply to become aware of his fate.

Rav Dovid Povarsky, zt"l, Rosh Yeshiva in Ponevezh, made a poignant observation: There is a similar incident earlier in the Torah where a concerned family member did not know what the fate of a young child would be, yet in that case, she had a totally different reaction. When Hagar was sent into the desert, her water supply was exhausted, her child got sick, and she was almost certain that he would die. She cast the child away, saying "Let me not see the death of the child" (Bereishis 21:16). Hagar's reaction was that she did not want to see what would happen to Yishmael.

Notice the difference between Hagar and Miriam. There is a concept amongst the Jewish people of נושא בעול עם חברו - participating in the hardship of one's fellow man, i.e. - to become part of another person's suffering. Miriam wanted to be there because he was her brother and she would want to experience any pain that he was going to endure. Hagar, on the other hand, did exactly the opposite. "I do not want to see the death of the child." It was too painful. In a certain sense, there was selfishness there. Miriam wanted to share her brother's pain, but Hagar couldn't bear it.

Rav Simcha Zissel of Kelm teaches a similar idea. He notes that this parsha, Shemos, introduces us to Moshe Rabbeinu. From now until the end of the Torah, we learn about his life and great accomplishments. This is the parsha where Hashem asks him to lead the Jewish people. It is only natural, Rav Simcha Zissel says, that the Torah should provide some background information about Moshe's life to explain why he was endowed with this leadership role.

We only have four, brief incidents to provide us with clues regarding Moshe's qualifications and capabilities. The first (Shemos 2:11) teaches us that although he lived in the lap of luxury in the palace of Pharaoh, he refused to relax in comfort but went out to empathize with the suffering of his brethren. Rashi, based on the Midrash Rabbah, elaborates: "he gave his eyes and heart to be in pain over them." Moshe, completely safe and insulated from what was happening to the Jewish people, left what today would be called his "comfort zone" to proactively go out to see and feel their pain and lent his strength to help each and every one of them.

Rav Volbe explained, on this Medrash, that he demonstrated to the people, in a concrete and tangible way - going out to them, giving his eyes and heart to be pained - that he was personally affected by what they were going through, something which made it easier for each person to carry their own burden. That is the secret power of nosei b'ol im chaveiro. When the person who is suffering is aware that there are others who are TRULY bothered by the situation, it is easier to bear that burden. But it requires real effort to truly feel this pain, and to such an extent that the one suffering knows others are sharing the pain..

The next two incidents involve Moshe interceding when an Egyptian man was beating a Jewish man and again when two Jews were fighting. Finally, we are taught that Moshe's compassion was not just for his fellow Jews. He traveled to Midyan and immediately stepped in to protect Yisro's daughters (2:17). He defended oppressed young girls who were not able to fend for themselves.

These are four incidents out of the first 80 years of Moshe Rabbeinu's life that the Torah tells us about, before relating that Hashem appointed him to be the leader and deliverer of the Jewish people. In all four incidents, Moshe exhibited an essential quality that is absolutely essential for a leader of the Jewish people - the quality of participating in the burden of his fellow man, feeling his pain, and empathizing with his suffering.

The Gemara in Ta'anis (11a) says, when the community is steeped in pain, one should not say "I will go to my home, eat, drink, and I am okay." Rather, he should pain himself along with the community, as we saw with Moshe Rabbeinu. The Gemara concludes by sharing that "anyone who pains himself with the community, will merit to see the comforting of the community".

Klal Yisrael is suffering on many levels: the ongoing war in Eretz Yisrael, personal tzaros, as well as frightening levels of anti-Semitism. It behooves all of us to try to feel each others' pain, even when we aren't directly affected.

This dvar Torah was adapted from the hashkafa portion of Rabbi Yisrocher Frand's Commuter Chavrusah Tape on the weekly portion: Tape #654 - The Woman Mohel; Laser Milah and from <https://cross-currents.com/2023/11/21/nosei-bol-im-chaveiro/> by R' Shaya Karlinsky.

Fun & Learning at DHR



Mazel Tov to...

...Rabbi and Mrs. Yitzy Shulman upon the birth of their new son!

Middos Mention...

... Leah volunteered to help a new student get an ice pack from the office. She even waited patiently with her new friend. How kind!



...Miriam helped to clean up papers. Wonderful!

Benching Superstars....

Yehudis Balgley	Rochie Dan	Miriam Goldstein
Naomi Finegold	Baruch Ber Herman	Nosson Hein
Rochel Finegold	Esther Mittel	Tamar Noble
Sara Katz	Chaya Notis	Rina Malka Ribakow
Rivka Nochomovitz	Olivia Wettenstein	Zalman Yaras
Meir Vogel	Zelda Deitch	



The Votes are in!



Second Grade has been learning about rights and responsibilities of citizens, including VOTING. They put their knowledge into practice by participating in a class election to determine how they would spend DHR Dollars! The majority vote went to a field trip to the RMSC Strassenburgh Planetarium!!



Special Kumzits with the Middle School

On Sunday night, the middle school boys came together for a night of music and inspiration and yummy food. A big thank you to R' Goldstein and R' Finegold for playing guitar at the kumzits and a big thank you to Rabbis Goldstein and Balgley for providing refreshments. Words of inspiration were shared by R' Finegold and R' Mammon.



Mechanchim Kollel on Day Off!

On Monday, New Year's Day, our Rabbaim attended LOI's Mechanchim Kollel from Shachris until 11:40am. They learned bechavrusa and then, Rabbi Nochomovitz, the new Rosh Kollel, gave shiur. Beautiful!!



Condolences to ...

...Mrs. Jodi Baker upon the loss of her brother, Mr. Michael Glover.