

SHAILOS L'CHAZARA

Review Questions

Likkutei Sichos Vol. 1

לקוטי שיחות · חלק א

Parshas Vayechi

פרשת ויחי

2 sichas in this booklet

Sicha 1: Oil on Your Foot! · p. 102, §§1-14

Sicha 2: Our Children Are Our Guarantors! · p. 109, §§15-17

Name: _____

Class: _____

★ easy ★★ medium ★★★ harder

Each sicha has questions, a true chassidishe story, and a lesson for you.

Oil on Your Foot!

וטובל בשמן רגלו

Likkutei Sichos vol. 1, Parshas Vayechi, p. 102ff, sections 1-14. Compiled from sichos of Simchas Beis HaShoeivah and Shabbos Parshas Bereishis 5719 (1958), a shmitah year.

The point: *Asher "dips his foot in oil": the foot (kabbalas ol) uses the oil (chochmah), because kabbalas ol is unlimited and is the foundation of all avodah. Machaneh Dan walked last and returned everyone's lost things: one who gives himself to ahavas Yisroel stays whole and returns the lost "mah" of others. Asher, the inside of the foot, brought the brachah of shmitah to all Yidden.*

Name: _____

Date: _____

QUESTIONS ★ easy ★★ medium ★★★ harder

- ★ What brachah did Yaakov give Asher, and what did Moshe Rabbeinu add? Why must these words also have a spiritual meaning?

- ★ What does "oil" hint to, and what does the "foot" stand for? So what does "dipping his foot in oil" mean?

- ★★ In avodas Hashem, what is "oil" and what is "foot"?

- ★ What was the job of Machaneh Dan in the midbar?

5. ★★ What is a spiritual “lost object”, and who can lose one? Who returns it?

6. ★★ The Gemara says a man who always said “dunu dini” (judge my case) must come from Dan. What does it mean to behave this way, and where does it come from?

7. ★★★ Give the two ways kabbalas ol is higher than understanding.

8. ★★ Give the three reasons why Machaneh Dan walked at the end.

9. ★★★ What is the hora'ah for a person who learns and does mitzvos at the very highest level, "right next to the Mishkan and the Aron"? Who is sure to stay whole?

10. ★★ Naftali (at the very end of Machaneh Dan) was blessed "yam vadarom yerashah". What are the three levels? How is inheritance different from buying or a gift?

11. ★★ Asher was the middle of Machaneh Dan. How did he feed all Yidden, and what is strange about the posuk "and if you will say, what will we eat"?

12. ★★★ So why was the blessing of shmitah drawn out specifically through Asher? How does that explain "shemeinah lachmo" and "tovel bashemen raglo"?

A CHASSIDISHE STORY

An Envelope Under the Door

Rabbi Leibel Groner, one of the Rebbe's secretaries, told this story.

One Erev Pesach a respected woman in Crown Heights called him. "Reb Leib, I don't know what to do. I don't smell any cooking in my neighbor's kitchen." She had gone next door pretending she needed to borrow an onion, and she saw that the oven was empty: the family had no food for Pesach. She offered the neighbor money, but the neighbor refused.

Rabbi Groner went into the Rebbe's room and told him. The Rebbe opened his drawer, took out \$500, and handed it to him. "But they already refused money," Rabbi Groner said. The Rebbe told him to put the money in a plain envelope, slip it under their door, and run away.

A little later the same woman called again. Now, she said, the smell of Yom Tov cooking was coming from the neighbor's kitchen.

Erev Pesach, with a world of things on his mind, the Rebbe made sure one family had a Yom Tov, and that they would never even have to feel embarrassed about it.

Source: *Rabbi Yehuda Leib Groner, "Money for Pesach", in To Love a Fellow Jew, ch. 11, "Seven Stories" (Sichos in English; also on chabad.org)*

Think: Who in this story acted like Machaneh Dan, noticing what someone else had "lost" and bringing it back (§§3-4, 7)?

THE LESSON FOR YOU

Serve Hashem with kabbalas ol, not only when you understand and enjoy it: that is the "foot" that holds up the "head". And don't only take care of your own avodah: be like Machaneh Dan and bring back what another Yid lost.

For example: A boy in your class has stopped coming to minyan, and you're busy with your own learning goals. Walk "at the back": call him the night before, wait for him at the door, and save him a seat. That is returning a lost object.

My turn: One thing I'll do with kabbalas ol, and one Yid I'll "walk at the back" for:

Our Children Are Our Guarantors!

ברוך מבנים אשר

Likkutei Sichos vol. 1, Parshas Vayechi, p. 109ff, sections 15-17. From a sicha of Simchas Torah 5719 (1958).

The point: *Asher's daughters married Kohanim Gedolim and he was "blessed with children" in quality, not number: living with kabbalas ol according to Shulchan Aruch ("dunu dina") brings children who are one with the Torah. Children are the "foot" of klal Yisroel, and that is why Hashem accepted only them as guarantors for the Torah.*

Name: _____

Date: _____

QUESTIONS ★ easy ★★ medium ★★★ harder

1. ★ How does the Midrash explain "Me'Asher shemeinah lachmo", and how does Rashi explain "yehi retzui echav"?

2. ★★ What does being "beautiful" have to do with Kohanim Gedolim? What is a wife's part in her husband's avodah?

3. ★ What is the true beauty of a Jewish woman?

4. ★★ How does a family merit children who are "Kohanim Gedolim"? What is special about the Luchos in the Kodesh HaKodashim?

5. ★ On “baruch mibanim Asher”, the Sifri says no tribe was blessed with children like Asher. Why does Rashi say “I don’t know how”?

6. ★★ How do we explain the Sifri?

7. ★★ What did the Rebbe Rashab ask on “I multiplied his seed and gave him Yitzchak”, and what is the answer?

8. ★ Before Matan Torah, Hashem asked for guarantors. Which did He accept?

9. ★★★ Why specifically the children? Explain with “foot” and “head”.

10. ★★ So what is the connection between kabbalas ol and good children?

11. ★★★ You are 13, still a “foot” on the way to being a “head”. According to this sicha, why does your Torah and kabbalas ol matter to the whole Jewish people?

A CHASSIDISHE STORY

The Only Kid with a Kippah

Michael Kanterovitz grew up in a secular home in Tel Aviv, but even as a child, Chassidic teachings captured his imagination. As a teenager his widowed mother sent him to an agricultural school in Kfar Silver, near Ashkelon. Out of 400 students, he was the only one who wore a kippah.

That didn't stop him. Every Friday night he stood up in the dining hall, sang Lecha Dodi, and made Kiddush for everyone. He convinced an American visitor to donate a Sefer Torah, and arranged a real Hachnasas Sefer Torah with a parade. The school gave him a room for an aron kodesh, and on Shabbos mornings he went around waking up the boys from traditional homes, so they could have a minyan with krias haTorah.

In 1958, when he was fifteen, he wrote to the Rebbe: “I live in a place where Torah is not kept, and I myself know little. How should I behave?” To his shock, the Rebbe answered: what you are doing is a great mitzvah; keep spreading Yiddishkeit among your friends. Years later, in yechidus, the Rebbe still remembered and asked him about Kfar Silver. Rabbi Kanterovitz went on to serve as a rabbi in Canada and England.

Source: Rabbi Michael Kanterovitz, “The Only Kid with a Kippah”, *JEM Here's My Story* (2021)

Think: How was this fifteen-year-old a “foot” that held up the “head” (§17)?

THE LESSON FOR YOU

You are not “just a kid”: the children are the guarantors of the whole Torah. Your kabbalas ol, doing what the Shulchan Aruch says even in small things, holds up your family and klal Yisroel, and brings real nachas.

For example: At camp, you’re the youngest in the bunk and the others skip bentching. You bentch out loud anyway, every meal, with a smile, and after a week two older boys start joining you.

My turn: One small halachah I will be careful with this week, even when no one checks:
