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בשבת



אור ישראל

Living Life Deeper

PARSHAS
BO

BY RABBI NETANEL NAAMAT
RABBI NAFTALI ZIONS
RABBI AVICHAI BENSOUSSAN

GREETING FRIENDS

Right in the middle of the story of the Ten Makkos, we find *Klal Yisrael* receiving their first national Mitzvah - the Mitzvah of Kiddush HaChodesh.¹

Every month the moon waxes and wanes, 'renewing' itself by diminishing into nothingness, and then growing full again. Whenever the 'new' moon appears, *Beis Din* announces a new month, and the Jewish people say a special *Brachah*. Nowadays, we do not have a *Beis Din* to announce the new month, but we still have the Mitzvah of saying a *Brachah* over the new moon.

Other *Tefillos* are said in addition to this *Brachah*. As part of these *Tefillos*, a person turns to three others, and says, "*Shalom Aleichem!*" To which each recipient responds, "*Aleichem Shalom!*"

Why do we do this? What does greeting others have to do with the new moon? The Lechem Yehudah² says that the answer lies in a story that goes back to the six days of creation. When the heavenly bodies were first created, the sun and the moon were equal partners, both shining with equal force. The moon, though, complained to Hashem, stating that it is not proper for two rulers to lead. Therefore, one luminary should be shrunk. The moon's intention was that the sun should be weakened, but Hashem diminished the moon instead.³

In fact, the moon does not produce any of its own light, rather, it reflects light from the sun. If the sun would not shine on the moon, we would not see the moon (which is indeed why the moon grows and diminishes - the sun's light is increasingly and decreasingly blocked by the earth.) Thus, despite the ill intentions the moon had towards the sun, the sun had made peace with the moon, and in fact assists the moon by providing light.

When we see the new moon, we are reminded of the peace the sun had made with the moon, and it can inspire us to do the same with those who have hurt us. We say, "*Shalom Aleichem*" to underscore this point. We want to live peacefully, even with those who have wronged us, and we can take inspiration from the sun and moon's relationship to do so.

1 *Shemos* 12:2

2 Cited by *Anaf Yosef* in *Siddur Otzar HaTefillos*, Vol 2, p. 427a-427b

3 *Chullin* 60b

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Mind the Gap - Taking the Next Step

Making peace with someone when we are the guilty party is hard enough, but making peace with someone who genuinely wronged us is almost impossible! How do we overlook the pain someone may have caused us, and perhaps even befriend them?

It should be noted that there may be people in our lives with whom it is not wise to develop a relationship. These people may be bullies, or otherwise hurtful people who will most likely continue to hurt us.

Nevertheless, there is a time and place for forgiveness, and this trait can be used to make peace between ourselves and others.

One great method is to remind ourselves of the times that we have wronged others - perhaps we were too curt or angry with someone, and hurt their feelings. We generally have a positive view of ourselves, and though we may acknowledge that we've messed up, we don't think of ourselves as bad people.

Similarly, we can carry this viewpoint over to others - just because someone may have hurt me, that doesn't mean they don't have good qualities as well.



One who consistently learns Mussar becomes an entirely different individual.

- R' Nochum Partzovitz, *Mir Rosh Yeshiva*,
Binyan Nochum pg. 684

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A MOVING EXPERIENCE

Rabbi Azaryah Trager* was finally moving out of his apartment. He was lucky to have had such a nice apartment to begin with, but with his family growing, it was time to move into a larger place.

After securing the new apartment, it was finally time to move in. The new place was just a couple of blocks away, and it seemed a pity to spend so much money on professional movers. So, over the next couple of weeks, Rabbi Trager moved his belongings over, using his own car. However, there

was the problem of the heavy furniture - how was he going to move his table, dressers, and expensive breakfront?

There was a local yeshiva with young men who were more than happy to help. Rabbi Trager drove the small truck that he rented to his old apartment, and together they started to move the furniture. Though they were strong, Rabbi Trager made certain to have straps, a furniture dolly, and other items he may need.

Everything was moving smoothly - until disaster struck. The breakfront was slowly being loaded onto the truck when one of the fellows lost his footing. In moments, the breakfront slid down the ramp, crashing into a heap of glass and wood on the asphalt.

Silence reigned. All eyes turned from the mayhem on the floor to Rabbi Trager. Rabbi Trager slowly smiled, turned to the young man, and said, "You can't hurt me. Everything is from Hashem, this was not from you. Come, let's clean this up, and continue the job."

"You can't hurt me. Everything is from Hashem, this was not from you."

**Name has been changed, based on a true story.*

DID YOU KNOW?

- The blessing of peace is the one blessing that keeps all the other blessings together.¹
- Hashem allowed *Klal Yisrael* to be victorious in war even when they were terrible sinners, because there was peace between people.²
- At the end of every *Shemonah Esrei*, we *Daven* that we should be able to serve everyone, even if some may 'step on us' in the process.³
- At the very moment that a person is sinning against Hashem, Hashem continues to give him the ability to live, move, speak, and exist.⁴

1 *Tosfos Yom Tov* on *Uktzin* 3:13, s.v. אמר ר"ש בן חלפתא

2 *Talmud Yerushalmi, Peah* 1:1

3 *R' Schwab on Prayer*, p. 537

4 *Tomer Devorah*, Chap. 1