



Shabbat P. Shelach Lecha,

שבת פ' שלח לך

Sat. 16 - 17 Jun. 2017 - 23rd of Sivan, 5777 -

כו סיון תשע"ו

Issue Number 798

Baal Koreh	Rabbi Asher Sebbag	(Page-798).
Mufteer & Haftarah	Rabbi Asher Sebbag	(Page -1184).
Mevarchin Hahodesh	מברכין החודש	
Rosh Hodesh Tamuz on Next Sat. & Sun. - 24 & 25 Jun.	ראש חודש תמוז ביום שבת וראשון הבא.	
Shir Hashirim, Mincha, Kabalat Shabbat & Arbit.	19:00	
Shabbat Candles.	21:05	
Shabbat Shahrit - Followed by Kiddush. (Shema 8:15).	08:30	
Daf Hayomi with Rabbi Asher Sebbag Shlit"a.	19:45	
Mincha Shabbat Followed by Seuda Shlishit. (Sunset - 21:20).	20:45	
Arbit Motzei Shabbat followed by Havdalah.	22:36	
Shahrit Weekday - Sunday - Shahrit (07:30). (Mon & Thu 06:40)	06:45	
Daf Hayomi with Rabbi Asher Sebbag Shlit"a.	18:15	
Mincha & Arbit	19:15	
Shir Hashirim, Mincha, Kabalat Shabbat & Arbit.	19:00	
Shabbat Candles. P. Korach.	21:06	

Shlach (Numbers 13-15)

Shlach 5777

GOOD MORNING! This week I share with you three fascinating stories... and one question.

Several years ago I was in Prague eating at the King Solomon restaurant with a friend. The only other diners were a couple sitting near us. I kept staring at the man -- he looked just like a friend from Singapore who had recently passed away. Frankly, it was spooky. Finally, I asked him, "Excuse me. Where are you from?" "Milan" the man replied. That didn't help. "Were you born in Italy?" "No," the man responded, "Afghanistan." Bingo! "By chance is your last name Khafi?" "Yes! How did you know?" And I explained my

relationship with his brother and expressed my condolences over his loss.

Second story: Shortly afterwards I assisted in a wedding on Grand Cayman Island. The limousine brought me to the Marriot Hotel from the airport. While checking in, I noticed that the manager's last name was "Schwartz" and thought to myself "Amazing! In the middle of nowhere and here is a fellow Jew!" So, I asked him, "Where are you from?" He answered, "From a little place near Los Angeles, Santa Monica." Something started swirling in my head like a little red flag... and the next words out of my mouth were, "And how's your older brother, Marc?" The fellow looked up. His eyes bugged out. His jaw dropped. He stared at me and asked, "How could you possibly know that?" I didn't

respond -- kind of enjoying the dramatic moment. He looks down at his computer and starts repeating my name -- first then last, first then last -- and finally exclaims "Kalman Packouz! I haven't seen you for over 40 years!" When I was in high school I was president of District 4 AZA; my vice president was Marc Schwartz. This was his younger brother, Steve. How did I know? Whenever someone asked Marc, "Where are you from?" Marc would invariably answer, "From a little place near Los Angeles, Santa Monica." When Steve used the same response, somewhere deep in my brain a little voice said, "Aha!"

Third story: A few months later, I was talking with an 800 booking number to make a reservation for our winter vacation in Orlando. While the fellow looked for prices and availability I asked him, "Where are you located?" He replied, "In Bend. It's a little town in Oregon." I pedantically responded, "I know Bend! It was originally named 'Farewell Bend' by the pioneers who were able to ford there the shallow part of the Deschutes river before heading up to Portland or down to San Francisco." "Wow! How did you know that?" he asked. I replied, "I grew up in Beaverton, Oregon." "Funny" says he, "I grew up in Beaverton, Oregon!" "I graduated from Beaverton High School!" "Funny" he responds, "I graduated from Beaverton High School." "I graduated in the Class of 1968!" ... and lo and behold, he answers back, "I graduated in the Class of 1968!" And for the next half hour we caught up on the last 40 years and many of our classmates. What is the chance of dialing an 800 number and getting 1 out of 450 classmates you went to high

school with out of 307 million people in the United States? (But neither that nor the following 2 questions are the question I want to ask!)

Are these encounters more than coincidences? Is each one a bit of a miracle? The Ramban in his commentary on Noah explains that really everything is a miracle. However, miracles fall into 3 categories: 1) "An Open Miracle" 2) "A Hidden Miracle" 3) "Nature." From the Almighty's "point of view" they are all the same. The difference is our perception. When we get habituated to a miracle we call it "Nature." When it is a coincidence, it is a "Hidden Miracle." And, when the sea splits ... now that's "An Open Miracle!"

If truth is stranger than fiction, it is because it has a better and more creative Author. Our Torah teaches us that the Almighty loves us and has a personal relationship with each of us. Everything that happens to us is carrying a message from the Almighty to help us fulfil our mission in life and to perfect our character and soul.

So, here's the question: What's the message? What am I supposed to learn from encounters of this nature? There is an old Jewish saying, "If one person calls you a donkey, ignore him; if two people call you a donkey, buy a saddle!" If the Almighty is giving me the same experience again and again -- what is the message that I am not getting? It is possible that these meetings and communications are setting up events and connections for the future. It is possible that there was something I was supposed to initiate at these junctures.

Ultimately, we are finite and the Almighty is infinite. It is impossible for us to fully comprehend the depth of His messages to us, but there is always a lesson. Some say that "coincidence is God's way of staying anonymous." I say "Coincidence is God's way of saying 'I Love You and Don't Forget That I am Here With You!'"



TORAH PORTION OF THE WEEK

Shelach, Numbers 13:1 - 15:41

The Jewish people received the Torah on Mt. Sinai and were ready to enter the land of Israel. There was a consensus of opinion amongst the people that we should send spies to see if it was feasible to conquer the Land. Moshe knew that the Almighty's promise to give the Land included a guarantee to conquer it. However, one of the principles of life which we learn from this portion is: the Almighty allows each of us the free will to go in the direction we choose. Even though one man and the Almighty is a majority, Moshe -- by Divine decree -- sent out the princes of the tribes (men of the highest caliber) to spy out the land.

Twelve spies were sent. Ten came back with a report of strong fortifications and giants; they rallied the people against going up to the Land. Joshua ben Nun and Calev ben Yefunah (Moshe's brother-in-law) tried to stem the rebellion, but did not succeed. The Almighty decreed 40 years of wandering in the desert, one year for each day they spied in the land of Israel. This happened on the 9th of Av, a date noted throughout Jewish history for tragedy -- the destruction of both Temples in Jerusalem

and the expulsion of the Jews from Spain among them.

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Dvar Torah

**based on Growth Through Torah by
Rabbi Zelig Pliskin**

The Torah states:

"And the Almighty spoke to Moshe, saying: Send for yourself men, that they may spy out the Land of Canaan, which I am giving to the Children of Israel; one man, one man of every tribe of their fathers you shall send, every one a prince among them" (Numbers 13:1,2).

The Torah is not written in chronological order. What is the meaning of the juxtaposition of this section to the previous section?

Rashi cites the Midrash Tanchuma to elucidate the juxtaposition of sending the spies to the land of Canaan to the section of Miriam's speaking *loshon hora* (derogatory speech) about Moshe. Even though Miriam was publicly punished for speaking against her brother, these wicked people who witnessed her punishment did not learn a lesson.

The question arises: How could the spies be expected to learn from Miriam's *loshon hora*? Miriam spoke against a person, while they spoke against a land. Rabbi Yisroel Ordman, of Telshe Yeshiva in Lithuania, comments that one must acquire the attribute of always seeing the good in everything. A person who finds fault with things (meals, accommodations, etc.) will also find fault with people. Conversely, a person who always seeks to find the good in all phenomena will also see the

good in his fellow man. That is the lesson the spies should have learned: to notice virtues rather than seek out faults.

As a pious man once noted, "We were given two eyes -- one very powerful for introspection, so we should find our smallest faults; the other very

weak, for viewing others. Only too often we switch their functions."



Shabbat Shalom,
Kalman
Rabbi Kalman
Packouz

Mazel Tov: to Michael and Rachel Moses in Israel on the new baby boy, also to the grandparents Moshe and Suzan Moses & Abraham and Yael Cohen.

The Kiddush this Shabbat: is in memory of the late Hababa Nissan (Habiba bat Farha) ע"ה, whose Yahrzeit is on Sunday June 18 2017 / 24 Sivan 5777 and also to celebrate Zoher Ishak's reading of his Barmitzah portion.

Dear all: When we have an event at the synagogue such as a Bar Mitzvah, please do not make a fuss if somebody is sitting in your regular seat. Thank you.

Minyan: In the absence of few attenders to the Synagogue on Friday night and during the week, we kindly request your attendance for the few weeks coming to help with the Minyan. Thank you.

Sefer Torah: Ohel David Synagogue will be presented by a new sefer torah and Heftara sefer by the end of November (Heshvan).#

Security Alert: Please be very vigilant when you leave the Synagogue. Do not stand in groups and chat, go home without gathering on the main road. Be safe and alert.

THE KEHILLA WISHES חיים ארוכים "LONG LIFE"
TO THE FOLLOWING WHO HAVE YAHRZEIT

01 Sivan Mr	Ghassan Cohen	24 Sivan Mr	Yosef Daniel
01 Sivan Mr	David AbayahouDayan	24 Sivan Mrs	Marcelle Daniel
06 Sivan Mr	Abraham S. Cohen	24 Sivan Mr	Maurice Rashty
13 Sivan Mr	Ronnie Rashty	24 Sivan Mr	Nissan Nissan
13 Sivan Mr	Charles F. Silas	24 Sivan Mrs	Farah Sheldon
13 Sivan Mrs	Judith Silas	24 Sivan Mr	Freddy Nissan
20 Sivan Mrs	Annie Benjamin	24 Sivan Mr	Salman Nissan
21 Sivan Mr	Solly Judah	29 Sivan Mr	Frederick Spitz
24 Sivan Mr	Charles Daniel		

Quote of the Week

When alone -- guard your thoughts.
When at home -- guard your temper.
When with friends -- guard your tongue!