

Bais Yaacov Bnos Malka Newsletter

לעילוי נשמת יצחק עקיבא בן אהרן ז"ל

December 2023

Parshas Vayeishev

פרשת וישב

כסלו תשפ"ד



Chizuk for Ultimate Victory

Although our celebration of Chanuka marks the military victory over the Yevanim, the truth is that the war wasn't really over yet when the miracle of Chanuka took place. Although there had been a partial victory, the political struggle continued. “חגו כ"ה” – the Chashmona'im rested on the 25th of Kislev from their initial battles and from retaking the *Beis HaMikdash*, but they didn't achieve full political freedom for quite some time.

Rav Yitzchok Breitowitz *shlit"א* explains that the *neis* of the *pach shemen* gave the Chashmona'im *chizuk* for the continuing fight. It is very difficult to fight when you think there is no hope, and the Jews were, after all, much fewer in number than the Greeks. The miracle of the *pach shemen* reminded them that when you put your efforts in, when you try to bring light to the world and try to defeat Yavan whenever you can, then *Hashem* will do the rest. A small amount of light, a tiny jar of oil, can, with *Hashem's* help, become a flood light. This encouraged *Am Yisroel* that this partial military victory would ultimately lead to complete victory.

A central message of Chanuka is thus that our job is to produce light, to produce *ruchniyus* in our lives, even a small amount, and *Hashem* will do the rest. Even if prospects look bleak, your job is always to do the right thing. You might feel it won't make much of a difference. This small thing – this small contribution to my shul, my neighborhood, my family, or even within yourself – won't produce very much. As Rav Breitowitz puts it, you may feel like you're trying to empty an ocean with a thimble. But nevertheless, do what you can. Produce the light, and then *Hashem* will bless you with even more.

When the Chashmona'im found the *pach shemen*, they could have said, “Nu, if we can't fulfill the *mitzva* anyway, why bother trying?” But instead, they did the *mitzva* with what they had, and *Hashem* blessed them and gave them more.

If you can bring a little light to dispel ignorance or stop assimilation in the smallest way, if you can produce a little light to take a step forward working on your own personal challenges, if you can spark a little light and maybe learn a little more Torah, your small action can turn into something very big.

The hope created by the *neis pach hashemen* and the miracle of the military victory, the *bitachon* that we have that *Hashem* will help us, should lead to great *simcha*. The *Chovos HaLevavos* writes that if a person has full *bitachon*, “שמחתו בכל ענין” – he will always be happy. Why? Because he knows that *Hashem* is in complete control and that *Hashem* will only do what’s good for him. He won’t be worried. He will *daven* to *Hashem* for what he thinks is good, but if something else happens, he will still be *b’simcha*, because he knows that *Hashem* always does what is best for us.

The Rambam writes that the days of Chanuka are “*yemei simcha*.” We should learn from the message of hope of the *pach shemen* in order to achieve great *simcha* on Chanuka.

Shabbat Shalom and Chanukah Sameach

Chana Ginsburg

Hanuka Hallel



Ulpan Chanukah Party!



Thank you to Noah Tzabari's Savta for demonstrating how to make traditional Sefardi Sufganiyot!



The girls took part in an amazing 'fire show' to get ready for the Holiday of lights"!



Kita Gimmel performed the Chanukah story! Written, planned and perfected all on their own!





Amazing class
Chanukah
celebrations!

