

SHEVI' SHEL PESACH

5776

28-30 APRIL 2016 / 21-22 NISAN 5776
ALL YOM TOV & SHABBOS TIMES ON BACK

*On behalf of the
Ohr Somayach Rabbonim & Staff
we wish you a Chag Pesach Kasher v'Sameach*

LATEST TIME FOR MORNING SHEMA THIS WEEK: 9:17 AM
EARLIEST TIME FOR EVENING SHEMA THIS WEEK: 6:08 PM



THE SPLITTING OF THE SEA AND THE CONCEPT OF HIDUR MITZVAH

"This is my G-d and I will glorify Him (Zeh Keli v'Anveyhu); the G-d of my fathers and I will exalt him." [Shmos 15:2] The Talmud derives from here the idea of "beautifying ourselves before Him though our aesthetically pleasing performance of mitzvos: Acquire a beautiful Esrog, make before me a beautiful Succah, a beautiful Sefer Torah, beautiful Tefillin, and so forth." [Shabbos 133b]. This is the source for the general concept of "Hidur mitzvah".

Not only does the Torah expect us to fulfill the mitzvos, there is an additional aspect of fulfillment that involves carrying out the mitzvah in the most beautiful way possible. Even though one can buy a pair of Tefillin for \$300 – \$400 that are in fact kosher, buying an exceptionally nice pair of Tefillin with exquisite batim [housings] and exquisite writing on beautiful parchment can cost upwards of \$1000. We have spoken in the past that there is an obligation to spend up to 1/3 more to do mitzvos in a more beautiful way than what would be the bare minimum way of fulfilling those same mitzvos. All this is learned out from the above cited pasuk from Shiras HaYam: Zeh Keli v'Anveyhu.

One may ask: Why here? Why is specifically this, the time and place that the Torah decides to inform us of this concept of beautifying oneself before Him with our performance of mitzvos? It does not seem that it really fits into the context of Shiras HaYam.

I saw a very beautiful answer in the name of Rabbi Tzvi Cheshen from Eretz Yisrael. The Mishna teaches that 10 miracles were done for our fathers at Yam Suf [Avos 5:4]. In other words, the events at the Red Sea did not only involve one miracle – the splitting of the water – but rather there were 10 distinct miracles that happened there. The Bartenura and Tosfos Yom Tov proceed to list the 10 different miracles referred to by the Mishna. I am not going to go through the entire catalog. But just to cite a few examples — besides the basic splitting of the sea — they enumerate the following: The sea became like a tent (with protection from above) and the Jews entered into the midst of it; the sea bed was dry and firm without being muddy; as soon as the Jews crossed through, the sea bed turned back into mud and quicksand to trap the pursuing Egyptians. The list of miracles goes on...

The question is, why were all these miracles necessary? With the Egyptians on their tails and nowhere to go, Klal Yisrael would have been perfectly satisfied with the "mere" splitting of the sea! No one would have complained if there was not a tent of protective water over their heads or if the ground was still a little muddy. Nine of the ten miracles were most likely superfluous. All they really needed was "split the Sea and let's get out of here". Why did G-d add all these flourishes to the basic miracle? They were basically a form of "hidur mitzvah". "When I do something for My Nation, I want it to be first class! I do not want to just 'get by.' I want it to be as nice as possible."

Therefore, it makes a tremendous amount of sense why this is the source from which we learn that when you do a mitzvah, you do it right; you make it beautiful. It is because that is how the Ribono shel Olam treated us. When we buy someone a present, it is a sign that we appreciate them and like them. Typically, when we buy a person a present, we put it in a beautiful box. We want the presentation to be as nice as possible. When we buy our wives jewelry, we do not just take the necklace out of our pocket and say "here is the necklace!" We get a nice box which itself costs a few dollars. We have it wrapped really nicely – with a ribbon and a bow — which costs a few more dollars. Who cares? She cares! These extra flourishes beyond the basic gift are done to demonstrate how much we love the person to whom we are presenting it. The splitting of Yam Suf showed us how much He loved us. Hiddur Mitzvah – the beautiful Tefillin, the beautiful esrog, etc. – are intended to show Hashem how much we love Him!



The Torah says that on the 16th of Nissan, on the second day of Pesach, the Jewish people were obligated to bring an Omer offering. The bringing of the Omer offering permitted all types of new wheat crops (Chadash) to be eaten. What is so meaningful about this Korban HaOmer?

The Be'er Yosef says that the key to understanding the Omer is the following Medrash: "G-d said to Moshe 'In the wilderness I provided a daily Omer of manna for every Jew. As payment, let the Jews now bring for Me an Omer offering every year on the 16th of Nissan.'"

This Medrash is telling us that the purpose of the Korban Omer is to remind us of the Omer we that we all received in the wilderness. That is why it is called by the name Omer — to remind us of the famous Omer of the manna.

As we mentioned many times, the manna that we received in the wilderness is our reminder that it is G-d who provides us with bread from Heaven. Just as in the wilderness we clearly saw, without a shadow of a doubt, that it was G-d who gives us our livelihood, so too in all generations we must remember that as much as we work and as successful as we think we may be, it is G-d that gives us bread from Heaven. That is the lesson of the manna.

That is what the Omer Offering is all about. When we are harvesting our new wheat crop and we might tend to think that "my might and the power of my hand, brought me all this wealth" we are commanded to bring a Korban HaOmer to remember the manna.

That is why the omer is brought on the 16th on Nissan. We have it by tradition that the manna stopped falling on Adar 7 (the day of Moshe's death) and they had left over in the vessels until the 16 of Nissan. On the day they ran out of manna they had to bring the Omer Offering.

That too is why we count Sefirah for 7 complete weeks and tie it to the Omer Offering. If we brought an Omer Offering only one day of the year, perhaps the crucial lesson that it teaches us would be lost. The Halacha therefore requires that we review this lesson 49 times, over and over, until it becomes second nature.

BABY BOY



Mazel tov to **Daniel & Dani Treger** on the birth of a baby boy. Mazel tov to grandparents **Rami Taranto, Dovi & Tammy Wright** and **Barney & Brenda Treger**. The Shalom Zachor will Y"YH take place this Friday night 29 April from 8:30pm at 3C Mansion Road, Glenhazel.

ENGAGEMENT



Mazel tov to **Brocha Leah Friedman & Daniel Taitz** on the announcement of their engagement. Mazel tov to proud parents **Paul & Zandra Friedman** and **Israel & Ziva Taitz**

Mazel tov to **Talya Gershuni & Aharon Chemel** on the announcement of their engagement. Mazel tov to proud parents **Avi & Kate Gershuni** and **Charles & Dianne Chemel**

YORTZEITS THIS WEEK

- **Beverly Miller** for her late father
- **Harry Levy** for his late father

SHEVI' I SHEL PESACH 5776

Erev Yom Tov – Thursday 28th April REMEMBER TO MAKE AN EIRUV TAVSHILIN

Candle Lighting:	5.22 pm
Mincha:	5.25 pm

7th Day Yom Tov – Friday 29th April

Shacharis: Neitz (6.30am)	5.50 am
Main Minyan	8.00 am
Ohr Chodosh	8.30 am
Shiur:	4.45 pm
Mincha:	5.20 pm
Candle Lighting from an existing flame not later than 5.21 pm	

8th Day Yom Tov – Shabbos 30th April

Shacharis: Neitz (6.31am)	5.50 am
Main Minyan	8.00 am
Ohr Chodosh	8.30 am
Yizkor: approx.	9.45 am
Mincha:	4.50 pm
Simchas Hachag Shalosh Seudos please bring your own Matzoth, drinks, etc. Plates and cups will be provided.	
Followed by Ma'ariv	
Havdallah on wine only:	6.10 pm

REMINDER

Yizkor takes place this Shabbos 30 April

ACHARON SHEL PESACH/FRIDAY NIGHT

Chief Rabbi Goldstein

will be speaking on Acharon Shel Pesach /
Friday night between Mincha and Maariv
Mincha 5.20pm

CHILDREN'S BIRTHDAYS

Akiva Cohen

Happy Birthday!

SECURITY TIP: Never hide spare keys to your home outside, such as somewhere in your garden, as you could be observed retrieving them.

