1st Seder Weekly Divrei Torah

A BAIS MEDRASH PROGRAM FOR MEN

FIRST SEDER BAIS MEDRASH established in 2012 by Rabbi Uri Greenspan, provides a unique learning program for men with diverse schedules, ages, and backgrounds. Since its inception, the daily learning programs of Gemara, Mishnayos, Tanach, Halacha, and Jewish ethics, have provided hundreds of First Seder participants with a rich, challenging, and authentic Bais Medrash experience. The wide range of subjects and the varying levels of difficulty allow for the participants to choose which learning track best fits their individual needs, enabling them to truly take their learning to the next level.

DAILY SCHEDULE:
9-11:30am: Gemara in-depth and B'Chavrusa
9:10am-1pm: Classroom Learning

Monday 9-9:45pm: Dirshu Mishna Berura Shiur
Tuesday *8:45-9:45pm:* Daf HaShovua Gemara Shiur

TO JOIN: Contact Rabbi Uri Greenspan at 732.407.3178
Office@FirstSeder.org, Lower Merion Synagogue

PARSHAS LECH LECHA – EVED HASHEM

Rabbi Shlomo Caplan

The Mishna in Avos (5:3) states that Hashem tested Avraham Avinu ten times. The Meforshim give divergent opinions as to what the ten tests were. The Rambam asserts that the first test was "Lech Lecha" – commanding Avraham to leave his home and travel to a foreign land. Rashi, however, lists Ur Kasdim as the first test. The Medrash (Bereishis Rabba 38:13) cited by Rashi at the end of Parshas Noach, states that Ur Kasdim means the fire of Kasdim. Nimrod cast Avraham into a fiery furnace for refusing to accept idolatry. Avraham was willing to give up his life for his belief in Hashem as the only G-d. The question remains why the Rambam did not consider this to be one of Avraham's tests.

Rav Yaakov Weinberg zt"l answers that Hashem did not command Avraham to forfeit his life. Avraham did it because he felt it was the right thing to do. This did not demonstrate that he was an *eved Hashem* – someone totally committed to doing Hashem's bidding. Indeed, there have been many people who have died for the causes that they believed in. There are those who are prepared to die for their country. There were the Japanese kamikazes who, in World War II, crashed their planes into enemy targets. During the Vietnam war in the 1970's, some protesters poured gasoline on their bodies and ignited themselves. In more recent times we witnessed Arabs who blew themselves up on Israeli buses in order to inflict pain and death on the Jewish passengers. Thus, perhaps Avraham also gave his life for what **he** believed in.

However, Lech Lecha was Hashem's commandment. Hashem told Avraham to leave his homeland and wander to an unknown location. He dropped everything and did as Hashem told him – no questions asked! This test proved that he was truly an *eved Hashem*.

The reason we do Mitzvos is only because Hashem has so commanded us. How many times does the Torah state, "And he did as Hashem commanded Moshe"?! Indeed, the Rambam writes (Hilchos Melachim 8:11), "Any [Gentile] who commits himself to keep the seven Mitzvos [of Bnai Noach] and is careful to keep them is considered one of the Pious Gentiles and he merits a share in Olam Haba – provided that he accepts them and does them because Hakadosh Baruch Hu commanded them in the Torah… But if he does them because of his own intellect, he is not a Ger Toshav and a Pious Gentile…" Similarly, if a Jew who is of poor health decides to fast on Yom Kippur despite the fact that it might kill him, this is not an act of righteousness. He is not an *eved Hashem*. Indeed, if he dies, it will be considered suicide.

Someone once asked the Chofetz Chaim's son if his father performed any miracles, as it says, "A Tzaddik decrees and Hakadosh Boruch Hu fulfills." "No," came the reply, "His wonderous feats were "Hakadosh Boruch Hu decrees and the Tzaddik fulfills."

We were all placed in this world only to serve Hashem. The loftiest epitaph one can achieve is the one given to Moshe: "*Eved Hashem.*"

You can bring a zechus refua shelaima for Sandy Bruck - Shalom ben Tila Leah – and for all who need a refua sheleima by signing up for a weekly erev Shabbos contribution at https://pay.banquest.com/lightuptheworld and by joining the 2-3 minute daily shiur on the writings of the Chofetz Chaim.

MESSED UP MOUSSE

Questions for discussion at your Shabbos table by Rabbi Yitzi Weiner

In this week's Parsha, we learn about our forefather Avraham. Avraham had an Eshel, an inn or an orchard where he would serve his guests delicious foods, who would then express their gratitude to Hashem. This leads us to the following true story.

Arye made a siyum on a large mesechta and was very excited about it. He decided to make a fancy dinner to celebrate and invited 25 of his close friends to a Simcha hall. He contacted a caterer and told him he wanted a lavish and fancy party. The caterer, Shmuel, was happy to take the job. Shmuel suggested a delicious and exciting menu to Arye. Arye agreed to Shmuel's ideas and was excited about them. Arye paid for the caterer in full on the day of the event.

The day of the siyum arrived, and all of Arye's friends arrived at the Simcha hall. The meal was delicious, and people kept complimenting Arye and Shmuel about the delicious food. There was course after course, and people kept praising the amazing food.

Finally, the meal was over, and dessert was served. The waiters brought out a delicious chocolate mousse with whipped cream on top. The mousse was delicious. The siyum was done, and things were moving to a close. But about a half hour, after the mousse was served, one of the guests vomited right at the table. A few minutes later, another person vomited. Then another. Soon nearly everyone who ate the chocolate mousse had to run to the bathroom or sink to empty their stomach.

It was extremely embarrassing to everyone who was there, especially to Arye. It was clear to everyone that something caused everyone to get food poisoning. Shmuel immediately investigated, and sure enough, there was salmonella in the mousse. That bacteria caused the food poisoning. Thankfully no one got seriously sick. But it put a dark cloud over Arye's joyous Simcha.

A few days after the event, Shmuel approached Arye and told him how bad he felt over the debacle and offered to refund the price of all of the mousse. Arye was unhappy with that offer. "A refund on just the mousse?" Arye argued. "nearly everyone threw up the entire meal. How can you charge me for the rest of the meal if the entire affair was ruined?"

Shmuel, who had paid a great deal of money for the raw food, was unable to give a complete refund. Shmuel countered that the rest of the food was greatly enjoyed by everyone. He was unable to refund that.

Arye then countered that not only should Shmuel refund the entire catering fee, but Shmuel should pay damages to Arye for causing him so much humiliation and shame. They agreed to bring this question to a Rav.

What do you think? Is Arye entitled to a complete refund of the entire meal? Or just the price of the mousse? On the one hand, people did enjoy the first courses. But on the other hand, because they threw up all their meals, it ruined the whole meal. In addition, would Shmuel be obligated to pay extra damages to Arye for causing him so much shame? See Upiryo Matok Bereishis Page 419.

Regarding last week's questions about the broken tiles, Rav Zilbershtein answered that the tenant does not have to pay for the entire floor. Instead, he would only have to buy a tile that is the closest approximation in shape and color to the original broken tiles.

FEEDING THE HORSES

Rabbi Dovid of Lelov was renowned for being concerned about the needs of animals as well as people. One Rosh Hashanah, when Rabbi Dovid was at the court of the Chozeh (Seer) of Lublin, he was noted to be absent from shul. The Chozeh did not want the shofar sounded until Rabbi Dovid was present and sent people out around town to look for him.

They finally found Rabbi Dovid with a sack of oats, feeding the horses whose owners had all gone to shul for the Rosh Hashanah services, and neglected their responsibilities to feed their animals that day.

One time Rabbi Dovid saw a driver whip his horse very viciously. Rav Dovid said to him, "If you only knew how to communicate with your horse, you would have no need to hit him. Is it fair and just then to whip the horse because of your ignorance?" Rabbi Dovid carried this one step further. "Just think," Rabbi Dovid said, "that one day this horse will take you before the Heavenly Tribunal for having whipped him. Will you not be embarrassed to go to trial against a horse?"

From Not Just Stories By Rabbi Dr. Avraham Twersky, Published By Artscroll Mesorah, Reprinted With Permission From Table Talk.

1st Seder

A BAIS MEDRASH PROGRAM FOR MEN

New Men's Shiur
Maharal – Tiferes Yisroel given by Rabbi Greenspan
Motzei Shabbos 9 PM
Fox Residence
329 Linden Lane

***Daf HaShavua* is learning Kesubos Daf n**

First Seder Weekly Schedule

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	Morning Track 1: Shiurim				
9:20 AM – 9:55 AM	Mishnayos Tohoros *(R' Chesky Weiss)*	Mishnayos Tohoros *(R' Chesky Weiss)*	Mishnayos Tohoros *(R' Chesky Weiss)*	Mishnayos Tohoros *(R' Chesky Weiss)*	Parsha HaShevua *(R' Yehoshua Levy)*
10:00 AM – 10:40 AM	Gemara Gittin *(R' Daniel Baltuch)*	Gemara Gittin *(R' Daniel Baltuch)*	Gemara Gittin *(R' Daniel Baltuch)*	Gemara Gittin *(R' Daniel Baltuch)*	Gemara Gittin *(R' Daniel Baltuch)*
10:45 AM – 11:25 AM	Dirshu Mishna Berurah + 5 minutes of Mussar *(R' Uri Greenspan)*	Dirshu Mishna Berurah + 5 minutes of Mussar *(R' Uri Greenspan)*	Dirshu Mishna Berurah + 5 minutes of Mussar *(R' Uri Greenspan)*	Dirshu Mishna Berurah + 5 minutes of Mussar *(R' Uri Greenspan)*	Dirshu Mishna Berurah + 5 minutes of Mussar *(R' Uri Greenspan)*
11:30 AM – 12:10 PM	Practical Timely Halacha *(R' Mordechai Shain)*	The Life and Torah of our Leaders *(R' Dovid Gross)*	Biur Tefilla *(R' Yoel Zeffren)*	Sefer Tehillim *(R' Uri Greenspan)*	Shemiras Haloshon from the Chofetz Chaim/Hashkafa - Parsha *(R' Uri Greenspan)*
12:15 PM – 1:00 PM	Shemiras Haloshon from the Chofetz Chaim/Hashkafa - Parsha *(R' Uri Greenspan)*	Shemiras Haloshon from the Chofetz Chaim/Hashkafa - Parsha *(R' Uri Greenspan)*	Shemiras Haloshon from the Chofetz Chaim/Hashkafa - Parsha *(R' Uri Greenspan)*	Shemiras Haloshon from the Chofetz Chaim/Hashkafa - Parsha *(R' Uri Greenspan)*	

To sponsor the 1st Seder Weekly, please contact office@firstseder.org.

For more information or to register for First Seder, contact RabbiGreenspan

Gut Shabbos!