# 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 VAYIKRA – THE HOLIEST PASSION

**Rabbi Shlomo Caplan**

Ever since the beginning of time people have been offering sacrifices. Adam brought a sacrifice (Shabbos 28b). Kayin and Hevel brought sacrifices. Noach brought sacrifices (Bereishis 8:20) as did Avraham (ibid.12:7), Yitzchok (ibid. 26:25) and Yaakov (ibid. 38:20/46:1). Hashem had not commanded any of them to offer these sacrifices. Why then, did they bring them?

I believe we can find the answer in a discussion on the significance of sacrifices written by Rav Yosef Yehuda Bloch. He suggests that the desire to bring *korbanos* (animal sacrifices) derives from an innate drive to elevate the physical world to a level of connection to its source – Hashem. Let us explore this idea a little further. Every human being has a Neshama that emanated from Hashem as stated in the Torah, "And He blew into his nostrils a soul of life" (Bereishis 2:7). This Divinity is within every person. As Chazal state, "Beloved is man for he was created in the image of G-d" (Avos 3:14). The Neshama desires to cleave to its source – Hashem. Additionally, it seeks to elevate its body – its physical exterior – to its Divine Creator. Even animals, that do not have a Neshama, have a sublime sense of connection to their source of existence – the Creator. This connection is consummated when the animal is brought as a *korban.* Thus, when a person offers a *korban,* and reflects on this concept, his physicality is elevated vicariously to a more spiritual level.

Perhaps the following Medrash (Bamidbar Rabba 23:9) will demonstrate the innate desire of even animals to serve as a *korban*. When Eliyahu Hanavi set about to discredit the prophets of the idol Baal, he told the prophets to acquire two identical bulls and cast lots to determine which one would be offered to the Baal, and which one would be offered to Hashem. The bull selected for Hashem readily followed Eliyahu, while the bull for the Baal refused to go with the prophets. He protested that it was not fair that he should be forced to be a sacrifice for the Baal; he yearned to be offered as a *korban* to Hashem.

This passion to offer sacrifices to Hashem knows no limits. It is what drove two great Tzaddikim, Nadav and Avihu, Aharon's sons, to offer incense at the dedication of the Mishkan – despite the fact that they did not have permission to do so. It is what caused the 250 *nesi'im* at the time of Korach, to bring incense despite the likelihood that it would cost them their lives. It is what caused thousands of Jews to offer sacrifices on homemade altars even though this practice was forbidden once the Bais Hamikdash was built. However, if one doesn't get too carried away with this emotion, it will be the essence of his *avodas Hashem.*

This passion to devote our lives to bringing ourselves closer to Hashem is latent within all of us even today. We can use every Mitzvah to elevate not only our Neshamos, but also our bodies, to a level closer to Hashem. This, in turn, elevates all physical objects associated with that Mitzvah. In this way we can help bring both the spiritual and physical worlds closer to the achievement of their destinies.

**You can bring a zechus refua shelaima for Sandy Bruck - Shalom ben Tila Leah – and for all who need a refuah 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.**

## THE CANDY SALE

**Questions for discussion at your Shabbos table by Rabbi Yitzi Weiner**

I'd like to share with you a true story that happened this week.

A 10 year old girl named Baila received an abundance of snacks, candy, and nosh during the holiday of Purim. Not wanting to eat it all herself, Baila and her sister, Leora, decided to combine their candy and nosh and sell it for Tzedakah, charity. They posted signs throughout the neighborhood, advertising their nosh and candy sale on Sunday.

Many people from the area came to Baila and Leora's makeshift candy store set up in front of their home, and purchased the candy. The girls made a considerable amount of money. As night fell, they had to stop their sale, intending to resume it on another Sunday.

While putting away the candy, Baila noticed a bottle of Coke on the table. She was thirsty and had a strong craving for it but felt conflicted. She had intended to sell the Coke and donate the money to Tzedaka. Committed to selling the candy and giving the proceeds to Tzedaka, Baila wasn't sure if she could drink the Coke.

On one hand, the Coke wasn't explicitly designated for Tzedaka. She had only said that she planned to sell all her candy and use the proceeds from the sale for charity. But on the other hand, it seemed as if all the candy, including the Coke, was earmarked to be used for Tzedaka. Baila was unsure if she could drink the Coke. What do you think? This question was asked to Rav Tzvi Berkowitz.

Regarding last week's question about the bonfire that fell and caused damage, Rav Zilberstein says that it would be similar to the case of a man pushing the elevator button. In this situation, the one who lit the fire, not the one who set it up, would be liable for the damages. As for whether the man can get his money back, if it were a typical case where his primary intention was to give tzedakah to the shul, then he would not be able to reclaim his money. However, if it was clear that his sole intention was to receive the honor of lighting the fire and not to support the shul, then he would have a right to ask for his money back.

## PAINTING THE WALLS

The tiny apartment in which Rav Aryeh Levine lived had unfinished walls. They were concrete but were not painted. This is how he lived his entire life.

A few days before his passing he told his children that he wanted them to paint the walls. In their surprise they asked him why he suddenly wanted the apartment painted. He told them that he knows that his days are numbered and before long the family will be sitting shiva for his passing. There will be many people coming to be menachem aveil. Invariably, among those coming to be menachem aveil will be people who will express disdain for the manner in which the children allowed their father to live in such squalor conditions.

"I have no problem living in this apartment and my children have done nothing wrong, however I do not want anyone to have any complaints on the way my children cared for me."

Taken from the introduction to the fourth volume of Vehaarev Na. Reprinted with permission from Table Talk.

***Daf HaShavua***

**Chabura is learning Kesubos Daf ב"ט**

**Have you joined the new Mussar shiur? We are learning the sefer Pele Yoetz. Please contact Rabbi Greenspan to join the daily 5 minute shiur.**

**To sponsor the 1st Seder Weekly, please contact office@firstseder.org. For more information or to register for First Seder, contact RabbiGreenspan@FirstSeder.org or 732-407-3178.**

1st Seder

A BAIS MEDRASH PROGRAM FOR MEN

**First Seder Weekly Schedule**

| | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
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| **Morning Track 1: Shiurim** | | | | | |
| 9:20 AM – 9:55 AM | Mishnayos Zavim *(R' Chesky Weiss)* | Mishnayos Zavim *(R' Chesky Weiss)* | Mishnayos Zavim *(R' Chesky Weiss)* | Mishnayos Zavim *(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)* | |

***Sifrai Chofetz Chaim***

**Shemiras Haloshon from the Chofetz Chaim. Have you joined the daily shiur? You can listen via WhatsApp, podcast or online! You can also listen to archived shiurim from the Sefarim of the Chofetz Chaim of Ahavas Yisroel, Kavod Shamayim, Sfas Tamim, Zechor L'Miriam.**

***Maharal Shiur* will Iy"H take place at Jonathan Chodesh's Residence, 7 Maple Avenue at 9:00 PM Motzai Shabbos . Learning Perke 6 of Tiferes Yisroel "The Mitzvos were given as a decree to man."**

***Good Shabbos!***