



Alumni Reflections

Impact of Limud HaTorah

Conversational Courtesy

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Kollel Member
2006-2013



Rebbe at the Yeshiva of MN
2013-



Sefer Bereishis may not include many typical mitzvos, but it does contain something far more important to one's essential growth, "Derech Eretz." Chazal coined the book of Bereishis "Sefer HaYashar, The book of the just," a reference to our forefathers who were called "Yesharim, Just Ones." A surface perusal of Bereishis may read like a historical accounting of an ancient family. By calling Bereishis Sefer Yesharim, our sages are telling us that there is a wealth of knowledge and inspiration to be mined from even the most seemingly mundane conversation. Indeed, our Yesharim exemplify how to live life the Torah way. Bereishis is not merely the first book of the Torah from a chronological perspective, but is an absolute prerequisite for any Torah that follows. "Derech erez kadma l'Torah," states the Mishna, "Proper character comes before the Torah," therefore the Torah begins with Bereishis.

On that note, let's take an example from this week's parsha. Two brothers, Yaakov and Eisav, both brought their father Yitzchak food so that he may bless them. A cursory glance tells of similar stories.

Upon closer examination, their approaches are worlds apart. In this well-known episode, Yaakov approached his father pretending to be Eisav to receive the blessing intended for his older brother. The Torah relates that Yaakov approached

his father and called out, "Father?"

"I am here," Yitzchak responded,

"Who are you my son?"

Yaakov replied, "I am Eisav your firstborn."

When we examine this exchange there is something noteworthy. Yaakov called out the word father and stopped! He waited for his father to say that he was available and only then did he continue on his eternal mission. Eisav, on the other hand, barged in and commanded his father, "Get up and eat from my game so that you may bless me."

Yaakov may have learned this simple decency from his father Yitzchak. In parshas vayera, the Torah relates how, on their way to a secret mission, Yitzchak turned to his father Avraham, to ask a question of critical importance. This is the exchange:

"Father," Yitzchak called.

"I am here"

"Where is the sheep for the offering?"

This seemingly insignificant nuance in a conversation teaches us a powerful lesson in proper behavior, not only in how we deal with our parents but to anyone else as well.

As we continue learning the stories of these Yesharim, let's realize that these are also true models of how to live our lives.

Have a good Shabbos.





HaRav & Rebbetzen
Chaim Simcha Gibber,
Rosh Kollel

HaRav & Rebbetzen
Menachem Frank,
Rosh Kollel, 2005-2011

HaRav & Rebbetzen
Eliyahu Stern,
Rosh Kollel, 2011-2015

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MINNEAPOLIS COMMUNITY
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Organization Profile



The Yeshiva's spacious campus.

More information about the Yeshiva next week.

Community Library Initiative



Please join dozens of community members to help finish this project and greatly enhance the Torah learning across the community.

This impactful project includes:

- A designated resource center for Rabbis and Students to further their study
- A multi-purpose classroom/conference room designated to the memory of Dr. Zuckman ob"m
- Space that allows for current and additional seforim
- An English-Hebrew library section
- An area available for our JWAY students/members
- Private area for the Kollel Rabbis



Please see Rabbi Avigdor Goldberger to find out what sponsorship opportunities are still available.

Insights Into Davening

Asher
Yatzar

By: Rabbi Yaakov E.
Mandelbaum

In an expression that is unique to Judaism, we thank Hashem for our ability to process human waste. Rav Eliyahu Roth used to say, Imagine if you had a difficult operation, performed in the easiest manner, without anesthesia, yet painless, by the world's best physician, at no charge.

Wouldn't you be thankful?

Let's think about this next time we say Asher Yatzar.