



Alumni Reflections

Impact of Limud HaTorah

Indian gurus, Eastern spiritual religions? Demons? In the Torah?!!

By: Rabbi Menachem M. Pam, Rebbe at Torah Academy

Kollel Member
2006-2011



Rebbe at Torah Academy
2011-



וּלְבָנֵי הַפִּילגְשִׁים אֲשֶׁר לְאַבְרָהָם נָתַן
אַבְרָהָם מִתְּנַת וַיִּשְׁלַחם מֵעַל יִצְחָק
בְּנוֹ

“And to the sons of the concubines Avraham gave presents and he sent them to the east away from his son Yitzchak” (Bereishis 25:6)

What were these “presents” that Avraham gave these children of his? The gemara (Sanhedrin 91A) tells us that he gave them the names of the powers of tumah-impurity. This means that he presented them with the ability to control certain negative demonic forces that exist in the world. (The commentaries explain that Avraham was aware that in the Far East the worship of the spirits and of demons were rampant, so he taught his children the knowledge of these practices in order that they be aware of their pitfalls and how to avoid them.) Interesting for sure....

So just how powerful are these forces? And what do we have in our arsenal to combat them? The answer is even more interesting....

A teenage girl who grow up in a religious household in Israel, somehow lost her way and shed her upbringing. After a stint in the IDF she decided to travel the world- as so many young Israelis do- to find some meaning to life. Her travels brought her to the Far East, to India. As she backpacked through the vast countryside she constantly inquired about different sects and religions and tried to participate in various religious ceremonies and conclaves.

One fine day, she was informed that

a particular, popular guru had a temple nearby and that his practices were extremely powerful. It was a “must see- can’t miss” attraction.

After climbing the mountain and scaling the steep staircase she arrived at the temple. It was already full and quite stuffy, and the service had already began. She squeezed her way in found a seat and settled in.

The guru had begun his intense meditation. Feeling tired and thirsty the young backpacker reached into her pocket and found a small sucking candy.

Total quiet. The guru was really dialing in by now.

Entirely by rote, having grown up religious she unwrapped the candy and mumbles a shehakol.

Suddenly the guru screams out, “WHAT JUST HAPPENED IN THIS ROOM?! SOMEONE JUST DID SOMETHING OR SAID SOMETHING THAT TOTALLY BROKE MY CONNECTION TO THE FORCES!!”

All his powers and all his spiritual forces were broken by a no-kavannah- totally mumbled bracha by a person who had already forsaken the Torah. Could we imagine the power that very bracha that WE say has? How about a bracha that we actually think about when we recite it? That is power- real power!

Indian Gurus? Demons?

All add up to a lot of nothing against the simplest action of a Torah Jew!

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

- Rabbi & Mrs. Shmaryahu Abramczyk
- Rabbi & Mrs. Avrohom Berzansky
- Rabbi & Mrs. Nussie Bitterman
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- Rabbi & Mrs. Pinchos Friedlander
- Rabbi & Mrs. Chaim Tzvi Friedler
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- Rabbi & Mrs. Yaakov Yosef Hutman
- Rabbi & Mrs. Ari Kahan
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- Rabbi & Mrs. Avromi Mayer

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Menachem Mendel Pam

- Rabbi & Mrs. Shloime Rothstein
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- Rabbi & Mrs. Yakov Ephraim Skolnick
- Rabbi & Mrs. Moshe Weinreb

HaRav & Rebbetzen
Moshe Tuvia Lief,
Miyased HaKollel



MINNEAPOLIS COMMUNITY
KOLLEL

Organization Profile



Rabbi Pam teaches during a special Chanukah Father and Son learning class.

Current or former Kollel members currently teaching or working in Torah Academy

- Mrs. Devora Abramczyk, 6th Grade
- Mrs. Elesheva Botnick, 1st Grade
- Mrs. Adina Cohen, 7th/8th Grades
- Mrs. Shayna Brocha Ebstein, office
- Mrs. Shaina Gitty Engelson, 7th Grade
- Rabbi Chaim Tzvi Friedler, 3rd/8th Grades
- Mrs. Shaynie Goldberger, Torah Tots 2
- Mrs. Tzipora Greenberg, substitute
- Mrs. Estee Kahan, shaarim
- Mrs. Rena Lichtman, 5th Grade
- Rabbi Tzvi Lichtman, 6th Grade
- Mrs. Shifi Mandelbaum, ice
- Rabbi Menachem Pam, 7th Grade
- Mrs. Shaindy Pam, office
- Mrs. Bashy Rothstein, 2nd Grade

Community Library Initiative is nearing completion.



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

Modeh Ani (3)

By: Rabbi Yaakov E. Mandelbaum

B'Chemla- With Compassion

The words of the tefilla imply that we need a certain compassion to receive our souls each morning. The Zohar explains that we should feel an intense happiness upon arising each morning. If a lender takes a collateral from a borrower, he has every right to retain it until the debt is repaid. Likewise, until we properly fulfill all of our duties to Hashem, he need not return our souls. Yet, he does so each and every day- in his great compassion!