



Rav Yehonasan Eybeshutz ztz"l (1690-1764, 21st of Elul)

Rav Eybeshutz was born in Cracow, Poland. At the age of 21 he became the Rosh Yeshiva of the Prague yeshiva. He authored many works in areas of halacha as well as kabbalah. Thirty of his works in the area of halacha have been published. His works include *Urim V'tumim*, *Kereisi Ufleiisi*, *Yaaros Dvash*, and *Ahavas Yehonasan* (a commentary on the weekly haftorahs). Rav Eybeshutz is also famous for writing *kameyos* (amulets with holy writings) for women who were soon to give birth.

Devar Torah on the Parsha from Rav Eybeshutz

.פסח אשר לא עבדת את ה' אלקיך בשמחה ובטוב לבב מרב כל. - *Because you did not serve Hashem, your G-d, with joy and with a good heart, while you had abundance of everything.* -- Devorim 28:47

In *Ya'aros D'vash* (part 1, *drush* 11) Rav Eybeshutz expounds on this verse, and in the name of the Arizal, Rav Eybeshutz writes that each Jew needs to have joy when doing any mitzva. Rav Eybeshutz then gives an advice of how to reach that joy: Before performance of a mitzva think how it is such an incredible honor that the Master of the Universe asked you personally to do this action for Him.

Hints & Answers* **HALACHA CHALLENGE:** Although putting words together in the game of Scrabble is not included in the actual *melacha* of Writing, (unless the pieces firmly snap into the frame), it is nevertheless forbidden to play Scrabble on Shabbos. This is due to the decree of "Maybe he will come to writing," as scrabble is a type of game where the players keep the score and typically write the score down (see *Shemiras Shabbos Kehilchosa* 16:32). **RHYMES:** "new" **RIDDLE:** 1. "And the sky that's above your head will be copper..." (Devorim 28:23) 2. "And you should raise your voice and say in front of Hashem: An Aramenian wanted to destroy my father..." (Devorim 26:5, based on Rashi's commentary). 3. You might remember the fish head (as one of the *simanim* on Rosh Hashana) as you'll read the verse "Hashem will make you a head and not a tail..." (Devorim 28:13) | *Menucha answers are not to be taken as final decisions in *halacha*.

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Menucha

A Shabbos table companion
for the whole family

לע"נ ר' ברוך חיים בן שלמון ז"ל

Volume 15, Issue 39

Ki Savo

5786

Halacha Challenge

Playing Scrabble on Shabbos



"Kids, I have a surprise for you!" said Abba once everyone finished *bentching* after their Shabbos day *seuda*.

All children looked at Abba with suspense. He walked over to a corner of the room and pulled a game out of a bag.

"This looks like the game of Scrabble," said his daughter Miriam.

"Correct! And I made sure to open the package before Shabbos," said Abba.

"But why are the letters in Hebrew?!" asked his son Shmuel.

"Well," started explaining Abba, "Now that we made *aliya*, we need to start learning Hebrew. That's why I thought it would be a great idea to buy you all a game of Scrabble with Hebrew letters!"

"I love your idea, Abba," said his son Chaim, "But how can we play it on Shabbos?"

"Hmm...Are you saying that putting letters together to form words could be a *melacha* of Writing," asked Abba.

"I think so," said Chaim, "And also, in Scrabble, the players write down the score. Although we won't be writing the score, maybe it's a problem to play such a game on Shabbos."

Question: Can they play the Scrabble now?

(The "Hints & Answers" section is on page 4)

Dedicated anonymously for yeshuos and refuos to all Klal Yisroel

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Parsha Pearls

וַנִּצְעַק אֱלֹהִים אֱלֹקֵינוּ... [Devorim 26:7]

And we cried out to Hashem, the G-d of our fathers... [Devorim 26:7]

Why does the man who brings first fruits to the kohen and tells him that we davened to Hashem in Mitzrayim to save us, he describes Hashem as “the G-d of our forefathers”? A kohen who is serving in the Beis Hamikdash knows quite well that Hashem is the G-d of our forefathers. The Kli Yakar in his *peirush* on Chumash, comments on this verse and explains that when we davened in Mitzrayim we knew that without the merit of our forefathers Hashem would not be able to save us.

This helps us to answer the fundamental question: “Why do we need to daven?” If we deserve something, we’ll get it anyway. And if we don’t deserve something, how will davening help? With the answer of Kli Yakar on this verse, we see that tefilla (or at least one approach of it) is asking Hashem to answer our requests, even if we are not deserving of it, by using the merits of our forefathers. Perhaps, that’s why every *Shmone Esrei* begins with, “Blessed are you Hashem, our G-d and the G-d of our forefathers...”



וַיִּמַּל ה' אֱלֹקֵינוּ אֶת לִבֵּנוּ וְאֶת לִבְנֵינוּ לְאַהֲבָה אֶת ה' אֱלֹקֵינוּ בְּכָל לִבֵּנוּ
וּבְכָל נַפְשֵׁנוּ לְמַעַן חַיֵּינוּ. -- דברים ל:ו

And Hashem, your G-d, will circumcise your heart and the heart of your children, to love Hashem, your G-d, with your entire heart and with your entire soul. (Devorim 30:6)

The *Kitzur Shulchan Aruch* [128:1] brings the *mesorah* that from the fact that the first letters of the words אֶת לִבֵּנוּ וְאֶת לִבְנֵינוּ (of the verse cited above) spell out אלוּל, the Torah is telling us that אלוּל is the month when Hashem will remove the blockages of our hearts and the hearts of our children in order that we should have strong love for Him. But, of course, in order for this to come about, we need to show to our Father in Heaven that we want this to happen, and also put our efforts towards it.



Rhymes for Kids



“Everyday, you shall regard the mitzvos as if they are brand new, as though you are just today being commanded regarding them.” [Rashi’s commentary to Devorim 26:16]

Rise and shine and feel the dew.
All the mitzvos are now brand ___!



Parsha Trivia



1. The beautiful sky above you — whose is it? There is a place in this week’s parsha, and in fact it is the only place in the whole Torah, Nevi’im and Kesuvim, where Hashem says that the sky is “your sky”! Can you find that place?
2. Everyone knows that when we stand in front of Hashem during tefilla (i.e., *Amida*), we need to *daven* in a whispering (or very soft) voice. Where in our parsha the opposite is requested?! Namely, there is a place in the parsha where Hashem asks you to raise your voice as you talk in front of Him! Can you find it?
3. Why some of us will have an image of a fish head in our minds when we’ll be in shul this Shabbos?