

The Shul
at the Lubavitch Center
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October 31, 2015

VaYera

18 Cheshvan, 5776

Shadows

In these days when the minds and hearts of Jews the world over have been turned to our brethren in the Holy Land, let us all take action, even if that action is seemingly as impotent as a passing shadow.

Depending on the time of day (i.e., the sun's location in the sky) the very same object's shadow will be short and fat or tall and thin. Since your shadow is always with you, it is a built-in compass, as long as you're not in a forest or a city of skyscrapers.

It's also a ready-made source of outdoor fun for kids - remember trying to stand on your friend's shadow?

The Baal Shem Tov comments on the verse in Psalms, "G-d is your shadow at your right hand," that G-d has implanted a spiritual dynamic into the universe: Just as the movement of a person's body is reflected and magnified in his shadow, every step of our conduct in this world likewise arouses spiritual forces of incomparable power.

Every action we take in this physical world, every mitzva (commandment) we do, has a reaction and ramification in the spiritual worlds.

But the concept of our conduct in this world impacting the spiritual worlds is not limited to physical actions. It also includes even our words (and thoughts) as illustrated by the following anecdote:

Once, while in the Baal Shem Tov's shul, two villagers were arguing. One shouted at the other that he would tear him to pieces like a fish. The Baal Shem Tov told his disciples to hold one another's hands, and to stand near him with their eyes closed. Then he placed his holy hands on the shoulders of the two disciples next to him, completing the circle. Suddenly the disciples began shouting in great terror: They had seen that fellow actually dismembering his disputant!

This incident shows clearly that every potential has an effect - either in physical form or on a spiritual plane that can be perceived only with higher and more refined senses.

With these teachings in mind, it might actually be a compliment to say of someone, "He's afraid of his shadow." If that "fear" is actually cautiousness toward his words and actions, fearing that they might have negative ramifications, then we would all do well to be afraid of our shadows.

But, lest one think that only our actions and our words create shadows, think again. For, in the words of the Previous Rebbe, "Thought is potent." Even our thoughts can effect the world. Thought knows no bounds; no partition can stand in its way; at all times it reaches its required destination.

We see an example of this from the story of Job, when his friends felt his plight despite their distance from him. People who are connected, friends or family, can often feel when someone is thinking about them. And if the thought is a warm one, one that shows concern for the person's situation, it can have lasting benefits. It can, according to Chasidic teachings, actually help a person spiritually and even materially.

And we all thought that a shadow was just an image cast on a surface by a body intercepting light!

(from <http://www.lchaimweekly.org>)

Raise the Bar

"Someone once saw Napoleon crying and asked him why he was crying. Napoleon said, 'I looked up to Alexander the Great as a role model. Now people will look up to me as a role model. Since I'm not as good as Alexander the Great, there will be a lowering of standards of what a ruler can accomplish.'" (Rabbi Simcha Zissel Brodie zt"l, as heard from my good friend, Barnea Selavan)

When G-d commanded Abraham to sacrifice Yitzchok, G-d said "please" (Biraishis 22:1-19). The Gemara in Sanhedrin says that G-d was telling Abraham to make sure he "passes this test" and obeys His commandment, because otherwise Abraham will negate his earlier successes. (Our Rabbis tell us that G-d gave Abraham ten tests, which he passed.) Why does one failure invalidate other successes? When a person does an action, it reflects on his entire being!!

(continued on the other side)

Since Abraham passed all of the tests until now, people felt that his essence was one of total devotion to G-d. If he would fail one, that would reflect a lesser dedication to G-d. This in turn would affect to what extent other people would put into their service of G-d.

As parents, educators, and friends, we don't always realize it, but people DO look at us as guideposts in life. Don't lower the bar of standards of what can be accomplished in life!!

(by Rabbi Chaim Flom from Project Genesis at www.torah.org)

Community Information of Interest

The Last Years of the Old Order: Israel and the Jews 1962-1966. Lecture by Rabbi Dovid Katz.

October 31: "Will These Dry Bones Live?" The Emergence of the Soviet-Jewry Issue 1962-66

This lecture will begin at 8:30 p.m. and be held at the Congregation Shomrei Emunah.

November 2: Join *An Evening of Celebration of Life* with Bonei Olam this coming Monday night, November 2nd, 7:30 p.m. at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ben Ram and hear a personal journey by Rabbi Zev Schwartz and inspirational words from Rabbi Bochner, A light buffet dinner will be served. All proceeds to benefit Baltimore couples.

November 8: For All Tastes will be held on Sunday, November 8, 2015 at Beth Tfiloh Congregation at 6:30 p.m. This two-prong event will include a delightful concert featuring musical selections from Cantors Avi Albrecht, Melvin Luterman, Emanuel Perlman, Avraham Rosenblum the Beth Tfiloh High School Acapella and the HaZamir Choirs followed by a fabulous kosher dairy dessert and wine reception. Tnuva will be donating many food products while Golan Heights Winery will be supplying the wines. All proceeds will benefit Meir Panim; committed to ending hunger in Israel. For more information and to buy tickets, please visit www.foralltastes.org or go to Hadassah Greater Baltimore or Jake's Barber Shop.

Seudah Shlishit
סעודה שלישית

Mr. Marvin and Mrs. Sara Itzkowitz are sponsoring
Seudah Shlishit this Shabbat
in memory of the Yahrzeit of Sara's mother,
Toba bas R' Dov Rimler z"l. May her neshama have an aliyah.

Yahrzeits This Week:

Sara Itzkowitz 20 Cheshvan - Sunday night/Monday for mother Toba bas R' Dov Rimler

SHUL DIRECTORY

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Davening and Shiurim Schedule

Friday, 10/30 — 17 Cheshvan

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
Parshat HaShavua Shiur — 7:45 a.m.
Candles — 5:49 p.m.
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 5:50 p.m.

Shabbat, 10/31 — 18 Cheshvan

Shacharit — 8:40 a.m.
Sof Z'man Kriat Shema — 10:12 a.m.
Berachot Gemara Shiur — 4:35 p.m.
Minchah & Seudah Shilishit — 5:35 p.m.
Ma'ariv — 6:50 p.m.



Sunday, 11/1 — 19 Cheshvan

Shacharit — 8:00 a.m. **Eastern STANDARD Time**
Shulchan Aruch Shiur — 8:45 a.m.
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 4:50 p.m.

Monday, 11/2 — 20 Cheshvan

Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.
Parshat HaShavua Shiur — 7:45 a.m.
Ma'ariv — 8:50 p.m.

Tuesday, 11/3 — 21 Cheshvan

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
Parshat HaShavua Shiur — 7:45 a.m.
Ma'ariv — 8:50 p.m.

Wednesday, 11/4 — 22 Cheshvan

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
Parshat HaShavua Shiur — 7:45 a.m.
Ma'ariv — 8:50 p.m.

Thursday, 11/5 — 23 Cheshvan

Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.
Parshat HaShavua Shiur — 7:45 a.m.
Tanya Shiur — 9:00 p.m.
Ma'ariv — 8:50 p.m.

Friday, 11/6 — 24 Cheshvan

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
Parshat HaShavua Shiur — 7:45 a.m.
Candles — 4:41 p.m.
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 4:45 p.m.