

The Shul
at the Lubavitch Center
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July 13, 2019

Chukat

10 Tammuz, 5779

What's the Point?

During his travels throughout Europe, the previous Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Yosef Yitzchak Schneersohn, once met with a delegation of prominent Jews. The meeting took place in the lobby of a rather famous hotel. The delegation asked the Previous Rebbe to explain the significance of Chasidic philosophy. What was its point, its innovation? What had it introduced into Judaism that had not been there before? And if it introduced nothing new, why did he, the Previous Rebbe, place such an emphasis on its teachings?

In response to the question, the Previous Rebbe asked the delegation to examine the ceiling of the hotel lobby. As the meeting occurred at night, it was difficult to make out many architectural details. The Previous Rebbe then held up a lamp, illuminating the intricate frescoes and artistic designs that adorned the upper walls and ceiling. What had seemed drab, ordinary, uninspiring, turned out, when bathed in light, to be inspiring, beautiful and awe-inspiring.

The Previous Rebbe then explained that Chasidism was like the lamp. It did not introduce anything new, but rather illuminated what was already - and always - there but had been hidden, unseen.

This ability to illuminate the "dark corners" takes many forms. The illumination can come from a niggun, a melody (often wordless), that rouses and raises the soul. It can be found in a profound mystical discourse, or a topical discussion of the weekly Torah reading, a holiday, some aspect of Jewish law or thought, or even current events. Even Chasidic customs clarify venerated practices, infusing the mandatory with meaning and the legal with life.

And at a "Chasidische farbrengen" (gathering) soul-searching words-from-the-heart reach one's essence, reflecting an inner, often unknown potential.

Then there are the stories - stories of wonders and miracles, of self-sacrifice and faith, stories with deep lessons and simple truths. Chasidic stories teach life lessons from Torah insights and illuminate - there's that word again - the essence of the Jewish soul. Many acts might inspire us and many stories might impress us. But Chasidic stories are unique. For, through a Chasidic story we are shown righteousness, humility and devotion. And we are shown that these eternal qualities are not so far from us. For Chasidic stories turn on little things - a small change in pronunciation of a word, a minor act of kindness, a slight turn to perceive what had been hidden.

And Chasidism illuminates through metaphors. Since Torah is the blueprint of creation, all of creation reveals the Torah. From headaches to emoticons to hitting a fast-ball to chess, within each experience, we find Torah. That is, from every encounter we should learn to see the holiness it contains.

For if we see the holiness within one event, we will measure our actions so as to perceive it - and reveal it - in the next. And what enables us to do so, what illuminates us that we may illuminate the world?

Chasidism.

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

The Power of an Individual

"Really?? Rabbi Uri Lapolianski, the mayor of Jerusalem, started singlehandedly, Yad Sarah (the free medical loan society, which is the largest voluntary organization in Israel, with over 100 branches) !! "

Rabbi Yehoshua ben Kabbasai said "I always thought that when the Torah said 'the pure shall sprinkle (purify) the impure' (Bamidbar 19:19-See Para Aduma) it meant that one pure person could purify one impure person. Then I learned from the 'treasure of Yavneh' that one person could purify many impure people." (Yerushalmi Dmai 3:4) Rav Meir Shapiro zt"l, (the founder of the Daf Yomi) explained that when the second Temple was being destroyed, Rav Yochanan ben Zakai prayed that the sages of Yavneh should be spared. He asked for this because he felt that even this relatively small number of sages would be able to revitalize the entire Jewish people !!

Don't sell yourself short. Never underestimate the power of an individual !!

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

Rebbetzin Rochel Kaplan will be giving the second of two Shabbat Day Shiurim for women this summer from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. in Memory and ל"נ her Mother חי יוטא בת חנוך הענוך הכהן .

This will be on August 31 – 30 Av – Shabbat פּרשת ראה .

Please call 443-220-9124 or email chabadpikesville@gmail.com, to reserve.

All women are welcome. Classes to be held at Rabbi and Rebbetzin Kaplan's Residence.

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Ahavas Yisrael can only continue its critical mission with your ongoing assistance.

Please help Ahavas Yisrael continue their life-saving efforts by contributing generously on Charidy Day, Tuesday, July 23rd.



7.23.2019



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Yahrzeits This Week:

Rabbi Shmuel Kaplan 13 Tamuz - Mon night / Tues for father HoRav Moshe Binyomin ben HoRav Aryeh Laib

DAVENING AND SHIURIM SCHEDULE

Friday 7/12 — 9 Tammuz

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:00 p.m.

Shabbat, 7/13— 10 Tammuz

Shacharit — 9:00 a.m.
Sof Z'man Kriat Shema — 9:29 a.m.
Beitzah Gemora Shiur — 7:05 p.m.
Minchah & Seudah Shilishit — 8:05 p.m.
Ma'ariv — 9:17 p.m.

Sunday, 7/14 — 11 Tammuz

Shacharit — 8:00 a.m.
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 8:15 p.m.

Monday, 7/15— 12 Tammuz

Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 8:15 p.m.

Tuesday, 7/16— 13 Tammuz

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 8:15 p.m.

Wednesday, 7/17 — 14 Tammuz

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 8:15 p.m.

Thursday, 7/18 — 15 Tammuz

Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 8:15 p.m.

Friday, 7/19 — 16 Tammuz

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
Candles — 8:11 p.m.
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:00 p.m.