

# The Shul

at the Lubavitch Center

6701 Old Pimlico Road

Baltimore, MD 21209

410-486-2666

www.chabadshul.org



December 26, 2020

VaYigash

11 Tevet, 5781

## Dust Particles

You're sitting on your favorite chair, admiring the sun streaming through the window. Suddenly you notice those shimmering particles gracefully dancing in the sunlight.

It's easy to spot the dust that seems to collect just moments after the furniture has been cleaned, but in the air it's only noticeable once in a while, when the light streaming in from outside hits the dust particles at just the right angle. Nevertheless, those dust particles are always there.

Every single detail of our lives is directed by Divine Providence. "The feet of man are directed by G-d," the Torah teaches. Chasidic philosophy explains that nothing, absolutely nothing in this world happens by chance or coincidence; every event, great or small, has G-d's fingerprint on it.

Often, like the ever-present, but infrequently sighted, dust particles, we do not notice this Divine involvement in our personal lives and the world around us.

Sometimes, once in a while, we see the Divine workings and apprehend G-d's involvement in even the most minute part of our lives. At those moments, it's as if a stream of sunlight is shining on the glimmering specks at just the right angle to reveal them to us.

It happens when we least expect it and it might seem so trivial that we don't even notice it for what it truly is - Divine Providence: You're running an errand for a friend (and you're running late, as well) and a car pulls out of a parking space - in the area where you can never find a space - just as you approach.

Someone who moved and whose phone number changed calls you just as you were about to give up finding the scrap of paper on which you wrote the new phone number...

You're driving in the car, as thirsty as anything, but without anything (to drink). Suddenly you remember that a bottle of Seltzer had rolled out of the shopping bag under the seat and you hadn't bothered to retrieve it when you unloaded the rest of the groceries...

The pile of leaves your children just raked together make the perfect soft-landing for a neighbor's toddler who squiggles out of his stroller - head first.

These "coincidences" are hardly coincidental. They are all Divine acts of G-d's intervention and involvement in our lives, even in the seemingly inconsequential.

Like the particles of dust, they are always there. Like the particles of dust, they often seem unimportant. But they are a constant reminder of G-d's presence in our lives, if we are willing to "let the sun shine" on them and if we are willing to recognize their true source.

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

## The Ultimate Rebuke

In our Parashah, after Yosef reveals his identity to his brothers, he sends them back to Eretz Yisrael with gifts and with instructions to bring Yaakov down to Egypt. The Torah relates (45:22-23), "To each of them he gave changes of clothing; but to Binyamin he gave three hundred pieces of silver and five changes of clothing. And to his father he sent 'Ka'zot' / like this—ten male donkeys laden with the best of Egypt and ten female donkeys laden with grain, bread, and food for his father for the journey." Rashi z"l comments on the word, "Ka'zot / like this" – "According to this calculation. What was the calculation? Ten donkeys, etc."

*(continued on the other side)*

What is Rashi adding to our understanding of the verse? Some explain that Rashi is noting that Yosef did not actually send Yaakov any donkeys; he only sent (on wagons) the quantity of gifts that would have been carried by ten male donkeys and the amount of food that would have been carried by ten female donkeys. R' Shmuel Mohilever z"l (1824-1898; rabbi of Bialystok, Poland and a strong advocate of settlement in Eretz Yisrael) offers a different explanation:

Rashi is explaining how Yosef could suggest that Yaakov leave Eretz Yisrael. He is informing us that the value of the food carried by the donkeys was equal to the gift that Yosef had given Binyamin, i.e., 300 pieces of silver. The Halachah is that one is forbidden to leave Eretz Yisrael except in special circumstances, one of which is when a famine causes the price of barley to rise to one Sela (a coin) per two Se'ah (a volume). Three hundred silver pieces equals 75 Sela'im, while ten donkeys can carry 150 Se'ah. If Yaakov's gift (ten donkeys carrying 150 Se'ah) equaled Binyamin's gift (300 silver coins or 75 Sela'im), a ratio of two Se'ah per one Sela, it is an indication that the famine was bad enough that Yaakov was permitted to leave Eretz Yisrael. This was Yosef's message to Yaakov.

Why did Yosef allude to this in such a roundabout way? So as not to speak negatively about Eretz Yisrael. (Quoted in Drishat Tzion)

(by Rabbi Shlomo Katz from Project Genesis at [www.torah.org](http://www.torah.org))

	<p>Rabbi Kaplan is holding a weekly Thursday evening (8:30pm) online shiur on the Shaar HaBitachon section of Chovos Halivavos. Shaar HaBitachon has been effective in giving strength and encouragement to people facing difficult and challenging situations in everyday life. What a perfect topic, presented by a gifted teacher, for these times. This online shiur is open to anyone who would like to attend and can be joined at: <a href="https://cutt.ly/join-shiur">https://cutt.ly/join-shiur</a></p>
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

<b>Yahrzeits This Week:</b>	
Howard Elbaum 11 Tevet - Friday night / Shabbat	for father Yaacov Kopel ben Avraham Menachem

<b>SHUL DIRECTORY</b>	
<p><b>Rabbi:</b> Shmuel Kaplan . . . rabbikaplan@chabadmd.com  <b>Treasurer:</b> Michael Frank . . . shul.chabad@gmail.com  <b>Security:</b> Jay Bernstein . . . jaybernsteinesq@gmail.com  <b>Kiddush:</b> Reuven Frank . . . . . rfrank82@gmail.com  <b>Bulletin:</b> Howard Kaplan . . . . . hkaplon@towson.edu  <b>Website:</b> Shoshana Zakar . . . . . sue.zakar@gmail.com</p>	<p><b>Gabbaim:</b>  Yehudah Buchwalter . . . judahbuchwalter@verizon.net  Allan Genut . . . . . agenut@gmail.com  Ephraim Siff  <b>Mikvah Mei Menachem</b> . . . . . 410-415-5113  <b>Aleph Learning Institute</b> . Mrs. Rochel Kaplan, Director  <a href="http://www.alephlearninginstitute.org">www.alephlearninginstitute.org</a> / email: <a href="mailto:alephji@gmail.com">alephji@gmail.com</a></p>

<b>DAVENING AND SHIURIM SCHEDULE</b>	
<p><b>Friday — עשרה בטבת, 12/25 — 10 Tevet</b>  Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.  Shabbat Candles — 4:31 p.m.  Minchah / Ma'ariv — 4:25 p.m.  Fast Ends — 5:20 p.m.  Kiddush — after 5:23 p.m.</p> <p><b>Shabbat, 12/26 — 11 Tevet</b>  Shacharit — 9:00 a.m.  Sof Z'man Kriat Shema — 9:44 a.m.  Beitzah Gemora Shiur — 3:50 p.m.  Minchah — 4:20 p.m.  Ma'ariv — 5:33 p.m.</p> <p><b>Sunday, 12/27 — 12 Tevet</b>  Shacharit — 8:00 a.m.  Minchah / Ma'ariv — 4:40 p.m.</p> <p><b>Monday, 12/28 — 13 Tevet</b>  Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.  Minchah / Ma'ariv — 4:40 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Tuesday, 12/29 — 14 Tevet</b>  Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.  Minchah / Ma'ariv — 4:40 p.m.</p> <p><b>Wednesday, 12/30 — 15 Tevet</b>  Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.  Minchah / Ma'ariv — 4:40 p.m.</p> <p><b>Thursday, 12/31 — 16 Tevet</b>  Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.  Minchah / Ma'ariv — 4:40 p.m.</p> <p><b>Friday — New Years Day, 1/1 — 17 Tevet</b>  Shacharit — 8:00 a.m.  Shabbat Candles — 4:36 p.m.  Minchah / Ma'ariv — 4:40 p.m.</p>