



The Power of the Seed

Except for a farmer, a gardener, and those who keep to a holistic diet, seeds seem to have very little importance in our lives. We try to genetically make lines of oranges that don't have them, we spit them out when we eat watermelons (if they still have them), and we avoid them like the plague if we have diverticulitis.

But if anyone asks me about where you see life's greatest mysteries, I talk to them about a seed. They are probably the most fascinating part of our world that exists, even more than the unexplored brain.

Think about it. This little tiny seed is basically a treasure-chest of DNA, prepared to (in the right circumstances) give birth to any of a variety of beings.

Look around you. Probably the chair you are in came from a seed, the clothes you are wearing, the walls or paneling of the house you live in, almost all the food you eat, and last but not least—**you** and another 6 billion people (including all of their brains), all came from a seed.

But what does this have to do with life's mysteries?

Well, let's start by looking at a computer chip. Considering that it has so much information, it stands on its own as quite an accomplishment, the result of hundreds of brilliant patents.

It can be as small as the tip of a needle, but contains within it the programming data for controlling very technical and complicated bits of knowledge. It took many years of science to design it to function properly, and it can perform many functions simultaneously in fulfilling its purpose of carrying the information needed for the proper functioning of your computer.

Now let's take an orange seed. It contains within it all the DNA info that exists about growing a tree, with all the complications: photosynthesis, establishing roots, transferring water and minerals to its body parts, sprouting in season—all this while creating oranges and seeds that will propagate future generations of oranges. However, even though the orange seed is much larger than a computer chip, it has one incredible quality that a computer chip does not have.

It is programmed to transform itself into the very object about which it contains information.

This would be comparable to creating a computer chip that is programmed to convert itself into an iPhone, or a golf ball, or another seed. Modern computer technology is just beginning to talk about the possibility of having chips that can become something besides the chip itself.

If that doesn't pique your interest, add to this the fact that an animal or human seed is much more complicated than an orange seed, and a small fraction of the size of the smallest computer chip, and it grows to be something much more complicated than an orange tree. It has the ability to impregnate an egg, and merge its data immediately with it to be able to create a completely new type of living being (with unique features unlike any other). Put together all of this, and so much more information that we know about seeds, and we begin to realize that we are dealing with a biological creation that is truly beyond amazing in its scope, and complicated far beyond its small size.

The seed is one part of our universe that gives us a small glimpse into the infinite intelligence behind the creation and the functioning of our world.

So next time you spit out a watermelon seed, do it with respect for what that seed is.

After all, you came from one.



Have A Good Look

"...he shall be brought to Aharon the Kohein, or to one of his sons the Kohanim" (13:2)

The Torah discusses a person who is afflicted with the spiritual malady known as "tzora'as". Although it is a spiritual affliction, tzora'as manifests itself physically, in the form of a skin disease. An individual suffering from this disease must be brought before a Kohein to be diagnosed. The Seforno questions why the Kohein is the only person empowered with the ability to proclaim the affected individual either tamei – impure or tahor – pure.

In all prior situations in Sefer Vayikra where a Kohein's services were required, the Torah stated that the service shall be performed by either a Kohein or the children of Aharon the Kohein. However, concerning tzora'as, the Torah states that the metzora shall be brought to either Aharon himself or one of his children. Why does the Torah personalize Aharon's involvement in this procedure?

Very often the manner in which a person validates his own standing in life and boosts his self-esteem is by focusing on the failures and shortcomings of others. The Mishna describes Aharon's nature as an "ohev shalom verodeif shalom" – one who loves and pursues harmony. Aharon had the ability to create harmony in relationships where there had previously been enmity. Only a person who is predisposed to focusing on the positive traits of others can have this ability. Seeing the positive in others is what allowed Aharon to present a person's former enemy as an individual worthy of his friendship.

It is this quality of Aharon which makes the Kohein worthy of diagnosing tzora'as. Only a person who searches for the positive in people is qualified to evaluate their flaws. A person whose predisposition is to search out the flaws of others, cannot render an objective judgement.

It is precisely for this reason that the Torah emphasizes Aharon personally. Unlike other services that any Kohein can perform by dint of his ancestral right, the ability to diagnose a metzora stems from his non-judgmental nature, to which all Kohanim are predisposed due to Aharon's perfection of this quality.

(by Rabbi Shlomo Katz from Project Genesis at www.torah.org)

Mr. Dan Schecter
is sponsoring a Kiddush after davening this Shabbat
in memory of his father,
Moshe ben Yehudah Tzvi,
whose yahrzeit was on
29 Nissan.



Yahrzeits This Week:

Rabbi Fred Lewin	8 Iyar - Monday night/ Tuesday	for brother	Yoel ben Shmuel
Marvin Itzkowitz	11 Iyar- Thursday night / Friday	for father	Chaim Dov ben Yoseph Tzvi

DAVENING AND SHIURIM SCHEDULE

Friday, 5/2 — 4 Iyar

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

Shabbat, 5/3 — 5 Iyar

Shacharit — 9:00 a.m.
Sof Z'man Kriat Shema — 9:32 a.m.
Minchah — 7:30 p.m.
Shiur — after Minchah
Shkiah — 8:02 p.m.
Ma'ariv — 8:46 p.m.

Sunday, 5/4 — 6 Iyar

Shacharit — 8:00 a.m.
Minchah / Maariv — 7:50 p.m.

Monday, 5/5 — 7 Iyar

Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:50 p.m.

Tuesday, 5/6 — 8 Iyar

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:50 p.m.

Wednesday, 5/7 — 9 Iyar

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:50 p.m.
Tanya Shiur: 2nd part of Tanya Shaar HaYichud
V'Emunah which deals w/the nature of creation
and the unity of Hashem — 8:30 p.m.

Thursday, 5/8 — 10 Iyar

Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:50 p.m.

Friday, 5/9 — 11 Iyar

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
Shabbat Candles — 7:49 p.m.
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:00 p.m.