

# Acharon Shel Pesach

Yizkor/Shir HaShirim/Pirkei Avos

21-22 Nissan 5775 / April 10-11, 2015

Daf Yomi: Kesuvos 67-68; Nach Yomi: Psalms 112-113

## Weekly Dvar Torah

A project of the

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF YOUNG ISRAEL**

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ROCHESTER, NY, CLEVELAND, OHIO, CIRCLEVILLE, OHIO*

## The Last Days of Pesach

Rabbi Naphtali Burnstein

Mara D'atra, Young Israel of Greater Cleveland

As we reach the last days of Pesach, conflicting thoughts may cross our minds. On the one hand, we may be looking forward to tasty Chometz, or to the comfort of routine disrupted by the long preparation for Yom Tov. On the other hand, we yearn to hold on to some, if not all, of the inspiration that Pesach brings.

This idea is highlighted by the additional mitzvah of *Aliyah L'Regel*, the mitzvah to go up to Yerushalayim and the Bait HaMikdash, with special Yom Tov sacrifices on Pesach, Shavuot, and Sukkot. One aspect of this mitzvah is that its performance significantly aided in increasing the lasting impact of the holiday – spending Yom Tov in Yerushalayim near the Bait HaMikdash was an experience leaving a powerful impression on participants.

Horav Shimon Schwab, zt'l, in his sefer, *Ma'ayan Bais Hashoava*, suggests that this concept can be seen in a verse of *Shir HaShirim* as well as a line from the Musaf Tefillah on Yom Tov.

In *Shir HaShirim* (7:2) it says: *Ma Yaffu P'amayich Ba'Nialayim, Bas Nadiv*, – “Your footsteps were so lovely when shod in Pilgrim’s sandals, O daughter of Israel.”

The Gemarah in Maseches Chagiga (3a) explains this verse to mean that “Good are the feet of the children of Israel when they go up to the Bait HaMikdash on Yom Tov.” Rav Schwab, however, points out that contrary to this interpretation, such a verse could not be referring to the Jewish people coming to the Bait HaMikdash on Yom Tov, as one was not permitted to enter the Har HaBayit wearing shoes.

For clarity, he recalls a statement from the Musaf Tefillah on Yom Tov: *V'Hoshaiv Kohanim L'Avodosam V'Leviim L'Shiram U'Lizmiram V'Hoshaiv Yisroel Linvahem* – “Restore the Kohanim to their service and Leviim to their song and music, and restore Israel to their dwellings.”

Why, asks Horav Schwab, do we connect the Jews to their dwellings only *after* mentioning the Kohanim and Leviim and their respective responsibilities? In answer, he notes that this verse emphasizes our **return home following** the Yom Tov experience of Aliya L'Regel, revealing our effort to bring inspiration into our dwellings as Yom Tov concludes.

He suggests an illumination of the verse in *Shir HaShirim*, translated as “lovely are your footsteps as you **return, after** Yom Tov (with your shoes on).” The Gemarah in Chagiga comments on the footsteps of Bnai Yisrael on their *return* from Yerushalayim and the Bait HaMikdash, referencing the shoes on their feet, as they are returning from the Aliyah L'Regel experience wearing shoes. It is therefore the return journey that attracts praise, as it reveals the desire of those returning to add lasting impact of the Kedushah (holiness) of Yom Tov

by having traveled to Yerushalayim.

How wonderful it would be to take a little of the inspiration of Yom Tov with us after Yom Tov ends.!

Over the course of Yom Tov, it is hoped that we shared or heard new insights into the *Haggadah*, learned new Neginim of Regesh (feeling), and spent quality time with our family and friends. All these experiences are sure to leave us more motivated for Tefillah, learning, or with greater enthusiasm for our mitzvah observance.

As this Yom Tov draws to a close, let us try to hold on to some of Yom Tov's taste. As we pack away the Pesachdik dishes and take out the Chometz once again, may we keep the Yom Tov flavor on our tongues and minds, just a bit longer.

*Chag Samayach and Shabbat Shalom*

## **We Wish You a Chag Kasher V'samayach**

*Dear Young Israelites,*

*I am writing to give you an update on the elections thus far.*

*To date approximately 30,000 individuals have voted in the World Zionist Congress elections. Only 30,000!*

*IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT EACH OF US - AS DELEGATES AND COMMUNAL LEADERS reach out to friends and family members and encourage them to VOTE TORAH. If each of use secures an additional 50 vote we have the power to change the outcome of the elections.*

*\*\*\*It would ensure a continued voice for Torah in the deliberations of the World Zionist Congress.*

*\*\*\* It would ensure a strong Torah voice in the funding and policy decisions of the World Zionist Organization, The Jewish Agency for Israel and KKL.*

*\*\*\* It would ensure funding for Torah and Zionist educational actives in our own communities*

*TIME IS RUNNING OUT.*

*The elections end on April 30, 2015.*

*YOU have a place on the Vote Torah Slate because YOU are a leader of the Orthodox community committed to the ideals of the Vote Torah campaign.*

*PLEASE:*

*If you have not already voted, VOTE NOW! Go to [www.Votetorah.org](http://www.Votetorah.org) and make your voice heard.*

*If you have lost your registration number please contact [Bini@votetorah.org](mailto:Bini@votetorah.org) for help.*

*URGE the rest of your family members, your friends and your constituencies to do so as well. Send them the [www.votetorah.org](http://www.votetorah.org) link to with a personal note.*

*I cannot overstate how critical this final push is.*

*With so few votes cast every vote YOU inspire can have an enormous impact.*

*Please let me know that you have voted and that you have contacted the rest of your fiends and family to do so as well.*

*Having entered Rosh Chodesh Nisan and with the approach of the festival which commemorates our freedom and nationhood, take the time to stand up and be counted, as we were in the Midbar.*

*Best regards for a Chag Kasher v'samayach.*

**NCYI Divrei Torah Bulletin - a Project of the Young Israel Council of Rabbis**

National Council of Young Israel  
50 Eisenhower Drive  
Suite 102  
Paramus, New Jersey 07652  
US