

SHULWEEK

D'Var Torah - Shavuos by Rabbi Baruch Lederman

Rabbi Eli Rosenholtz told me that Reb Dovid Leibowitz ztz"l, Rosh U'meyaseid Yeshivas Chofetz Chaim (RSA), used to cite the Talmudic dictum, that one should learn not only from the teachings of his rebbi, but from his actions.

Reb

Dovid would then exhort his talmidim (students): It looks like this speaking to the talmidim, telling them to observe and learn from their every facet of their Rebbi; but it is also speaking to the Rebbi, it is saying that we must strive to be the type of Rebbi that our talmidim can learn from all our actions.

Rav Shlomo Heiman ztz"l was a Rebbi in New York. One day there was a blizzard, so when he arrived to give his shuir (lecture), his normally crowded shiur had only four boys. As was his custom he gave a dynamic, booming, dramatic discourse. He was as animated as if he were giving the shiur to a huge assembly. One of the boys asked him why he gave such a powerful presentation when there were only four boys present. He answered, "Do you think I was giving the shiur only to you? I was giving it for you and all your talmidim and talmidim of your talmidim. I was giving it for the generations to come. I had to give my all."

The following story from the Talmud (Brachos 11a) illustrates both of the above principles. Reb Yishmael and Reb Elazar ben Azariah were lodging at an inn. While they were dining, Reb Yishmael was reclining and Rab Elazar was standing up. When it came time to say the krias Shema, Reb Elazar reclined. Suddenly, Reb Yishmael rose upright and stood to recite the Shema. Reb Elazar asked him why he suddenly stood up. It puzzled Reb Elazar that as soon as he reclined, Reb Yishmael rose up. What's more, the halacha is that you are allowed to say Shema lying or standing. Why did Reb Yishmael see a need to stand up?

Reb Elazar commented, "My brother Yishmael, your conduct reminds me of a person who receives compliments on his beard and responds by shaving it off."

Reb Yishmael replied as follows: "We all know that there is a dispute between the sages of Bais Shammai and the sages of Bais Hillel regarding the recitation of Shema. Bais Shammai says that uvshacbcha uvkumecha (in your reclining and in you arising) means to say the morning Shema upright and the evening Shema reclining. Bais Hillel holds that uvshacbcha uvkumecha is not telling us what position we need to be in, it simply means to describe the times

we say Shema: uvshacbcha means evening (when you recline) and uvkumecha means morning (when you arise). But the Shema can be recited in either

position.

Since both you and I were reclining during our recitation of Shema, I was afraid that the talmidim might observe us and assume that we ruled like Bais Shammai, which would be an error as we do not poskin (rule) this way. I arose so that they would see us each in a different position and realize that the halacha

is in accordance with Bais Hillel that you may recite Shema in whichever position you choose."

Rebbi Yishmael was ever aware that his students would be learning and making conclusions from his actions. He realized that his actions, though perfectly valid, could cause confusion amongst the students, for the students are always watching, observing and absorbing. He also realized that the students would go on to teach others. A momentary confusion could turn into an error in Jewish Law that could last for generations.

We all are teachers in one way or another, whether as a Rabbi with talmidim, a parent with children, a faithful active Jew within our community. It means so much for us to realize that our actions have a far reaching, long lasting effect on others. We can strive to be the type of person whose actions and whose very essence provides illumination and inspiration to others.

Dedicated by Simcha Gleich, l'zecher nishmas Yehudis bas Elchonon.

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Like to honor or remember a loved one? You can dedicate a Dvar Torah that will teach and inspire thousands of people. Dvar Torah Dedications: \$180.

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SHAVUOS LEARN-A-THON: Tuesday June 7, 2011, CKT is holding an all night LEARN-A-THON at 14133 Via Alisal; San Diego, CA 92128, beginning at 11:30PM until Shacharis at dawn. Relive the thrill of receiving the Torah at Mount Sinai. Everyone is invited. Refreshments served throughout the night.

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SanDiego CandleLighting, schedule of services, classes, events: Go to [www.kehillastorah.org/shulweek.html](http://www.kehillastorah.org/shulweek.html).

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SHATNEZ CHECKING: For suits or dresses that need to be checked for Shatnez, contact trained Shatnez checker Debbi Lederman, 858-613-0222, [debbilederman@yahoo.com](mailto:debbilederman@yahoo.com).

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To book Rabbi Lederman for a speaking engagement, please call 858-829-9648.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Rabbi Lederman, You presented a very good story this week. It just makes me wonder if there is anybody, in our time, of the caliber and with the wisdom

of Rabbi Reuven Itzrobel, who could convince the people of San Francisco and the Bay Area to get the question of banning Bris Milah off the ballot? I would never have imagined that this could garner enough signatures on a petition but it did, and it will be on the ballot. The Ribono Shel Olam does not let us forget that we are in Galus. May we hear Besuros Tovos. Mrs. Aranoff, Brooklyn, NY

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Dear Readers, It is presumed that your emailed comments are meant for publication. If you do not wish them to be published or wish them to be published anonymously, please let us know.

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DO YOU WANT YOUR EXCEPTIONAL CHILD TO SUCCEED? Is your child more advanced in some, but not all, subjects for his age? Does your child spend more time with his special interests than with people? He may qualify for our Gifted program! Our Gifted Cohort provides an individually-tailored curriculum combining secular and Judaic studies. We are the only non-affiliated Jewish Orthodox school offering this program to a qualified group of eight boys, age 13

and up. Contact us for Gifted Cohort Program qualifications and testing requirements. Call 305-945-7443 or email [info@aaceschool.org](mailto:info@aaceschool.org).

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No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery.

A dog gave birth to puppies near the road and was cited for littering.

Atheism is a non-prophet organization.

I wondered why the baseball kept getting bigger. Then it hit me.

A small boy swallowed some coins and was taken to a hospital. When his grandmother telephoned to ask how he was, a nurse said 'No change yet.'

The soldier who survived mustard gas and pepper spray is now a seasoned veteran.

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Puzzle: Suppose you have a 12-hour digital clock where the number representing the hour is always the same as the number representing the minute. That is, the clock can only show times like 8:08, 9:09, 10:10, etc. What is the smallest time difference between two such times?

Answer to last Puzzle [How can you throw a ball as hard as you can and have it come back to you, even if it doesn't bounce off anything? There is nothing attached to it, and no one else catches or throws it back to you.] Throw it straight up in the air.

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