



Parashat Ki Tisa 5769

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Remember Our Brother Jonathan Pollard

[from "Ma'ayanei Ha-Yeshua" – Parashat Tetzave 5769]

Our brother, Jonathan Pollard,
We are extremely distressed that we did not succeed in freeing you.
You are surely also extremely distressed. We are distressed for you.
We are distressed for the Nation of Israel. We are distressed for truth and justice.

But nothing has changed. We continue to fight for you.
The United States did not reject the request. It is still open.

Nothing has changed, it is just more difficult.
But this is our obligation, our eternal ethical obligation,
Our eternal national obligation and our eternal communal obligation.
Pollard is not just a person. He is also a banner and an ideal,
And we will struggle until we are victorious.
All of our efforts were not for naught.
We are grateful for all of the toil, all of the prayers and all of the phone calls.
The senior American officials support a pardon based on humanitarian reasons.
If so, why didn't we succeed? It has been clarified that we lacked one thing:
The support of the Israeli Government, a request from the Israeli Government.
The President therefore did not see why he should free him.

We are now working on various fronts:
We continue to pray for our brother who is in distress and captivity.
We talk about Jonathan at every opportunity to galvanize the Nation and the Government will follow the Nation. We demand that the Government definitively and clearly work for his release: by including his name among those in captivity and making an official request to the US that he is an Israeli citizen and was an Israeli spy.
The current Government contains many high-ranking officials who support his release.

Please turn to the Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu.

His fax in the Knesset: 02-649-6659. His office in the Likud: 03-538-7165.

Please write to Jonathan with encouragement, support and love.

It is physically and emotionally difficult for him after he saw his freedom before his eyes.

Our letters give him oxygen.

When he sees that the Nation is with him, this is what gives him strength to hold fast.

Yes, we the Nation of Israel has not forgotten him.



Text Message Responsa



Ha-Rav answers hundreds of text message questions a week. Some appear in the parashah sheets "Ma'ayanei Ha-Yeshu'ah" and "Olam Ha-Katan." Here's a sample:

Q: Is it permissible to shoot off fireworks on Purim?

A: It is certainly forbidden. They cause all sorts of injuries during year and very severe ones. This is not including the fear they cause. Purim is a day of the love of Israel and not a day to cause pain to Israel.

Q: Is it permissible for me to give my "ma'aser" money to my parents who are experiencing financial difficulties?

A: Certainly, and even more than this.

Q: If I do not have Tefillin, which is preferable – davening at the right time without Tefillin or after the right time with Tefillin?

A: At the correct time.

Q: There is a bird of my windowsill. Should I shoo it away to fulfill the mitzvah of "Shiluach Ha-Ken" (one must send away the mother bird before taking her young or her eggs)?

A: No, it must be in an abandoned place and not your own property.

Q: Can you tell if a match will be successful based on the names of the couple?

A: The names do not matter; it is based on compatibility, out of respect and love.

Q: Is it permissible to help a blind Arab cross the street?

A: Certainly, one should be kind to all.

Q: Which is preferable – a friend's engagement or a family wedding?

A: Family comes first, it is natural.

Q: I took money from my brother without him noticing. How can I return it without embarrassment?

A: Return it secretly.

Q: Hashem is the source of goodness, why then did he create non-Jews?

A: Non-Jews are also created in the image of G-d, and everyone will repent in the end as we say in "Aleinu."

Q: Is it permissible to recite a blessing on separating challah when the dough was made by two women together?

A: Yes, they should have the dough attached to one another.

Q: Why don't Torah scholars wear Tefillin all day long?

A: It is very difficult not to take one's mind off wearing Tefillin, i.e. from thoughts which are not so serious (Shulchan Aruch). And the Arizal says that the essential mitzvah is during Shacharit (Kaf Ha-Chaim).

Q: A person collecting for Tzedakah cursed me that I should be sick when I refused to give her. What should I do?

A: Nothing. It has no effect. Hashem should have mercy on her. In general, 90% of Tzedakah collectors are swindlers.

Q: What is "The Days of the Messiah"?

A: The return of kingship. Rambam, Hilchot Teshuvah, end of chap. 9.

Q: We are married for a year and my husband wants to be drafted into a combat unit in Tzahal. I agree with all of my heart. It will be difficult for me to be alone, but I want this. What is Ha-Rav's opinion?

A: You are a great righteous person. May those like you increase. You are fortunate.

Stories of Rabbenu — Our Rabbi, Ha-Rav Tzvi Yehudah Ha-Cohain Kook

Purim

Control over the intellect

On one Purim, the students brought all types of alcoholic drinks to our Rabbi and he drank them all, but it did not affect him and he did not say a word. At the end of the meal, they davened maariv and it was as if he had not had anything to drink and he was as usual. (Ha-Rav Yosef Kelner)

On another Purim, the students gave our Rabbi two bottle of Vodka to drink, but it did not affect him at all, and he continued his class in "Olat Ha-Re'eiyah" (thoughts of Maran Ha-Rav Kook on the siddur). (Ha-Rav Mordechai Sadeh)

Shtreimel

On Purim, a drunken student asked our Rabbi: "Where is the shtreimel of Maran Ha-Rav? We also want a Rebbe with a shtreimel!" Our Rabbi smiled and responded: "One for whom it is proper to wear a shtreimel has a shtreimel."

A blessing

On Purim, a drunken student asked our Rabbi to give him a blessing that he should merit the trait of truth. Our Rabbi smiled, but did not bless him.

The Jew who imitated Rav Shlomo Goren on Purim

On Purim, a tall Jew entered dressed in the uniform of a general of Tzahal: "Shalom, my master, Ha-Rav, I am Rav Goren," and he began imitating Rav Goren, and stating all kinds of halachic rulings. Suddenly, our Rabbi, burst out in awful screaming regarding shaming Torah scholars, and harshly scolded him.

Stupidity on Purim

It once happened that our Rabbi left in the middle on the Purim party. The students ran after him and asked him why he left. He said: "You also need to have awe of Hashem on Purim." (Ha-Rav Binyamin Eisner – Iturei Cohanim #196)

It once occurred on Purim that a student began to say "Purim Torah" and said "Rashi is a woman and Tosafot is a man because it says 'The entire glory of the princess is on the inside' (Tehillim 45:14) and Rashi's commentary always appears on the inside of a page!" Our Rabbi scolded him.



Shut She'eilat Shlomo - Questions of Jewish Law

Water Conservation

Question: Can the water from "Netilat Yadayim" be saved and used for watering the garden? If so, could it be saved on Shabbat for later use?

Answer: It is permissible to use it to water a garden. The Halachah does mention not stepping on the water after "Netilat Yadayim," but here the water is absorbed into the ground. It seems that saving the water from "Netilat Yadayim" on Shabbat is insignificant and there is no need.



Family Matters - Ha-Rav writes weekly for
the parashah sheet "Rosh Yehudi" on family relationships

You are One Person

Question: My wife wants to travel to her parents after giving birth and have the Brit Milah there. But my family is opposed because of the far distant. My wife says that I need to support her, but what about me honoring my parents?

Answer: This question is not phrased correctly. You do not support your wife. You and your wife are one person, as the Torah says that you are "One flesh" (Bereshit 2:24). You must obviously respect your parents, but you were first a part of your parents and you are now a part of a new being which is made up of you and your wife. "A man therefore leaves his father and mother and cleaves to his wife, and they become one flesh" (ibid.). This is not an impingement on the honor of your parents. Honoring one's parents does not include the obligation to hold a Brit Milah where they want it. It is true that it is a burden for them to travel a far way for the Brit Milah, but may it be Hashem's will that all grandparents have many such burdens. Even though you are one being with your wife, your wife is the one who is giving birth and she needs to rest. It is certainly not easy for you to understand what it is like to be pregnant, give birth and care for a baby. You should therefore give in to your wife's in this area – after all, you are one.

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