



From the desk of
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Office of the Rabbinate of Elad, Rosh HaAyin and Herzelia

Religious Court of Elad * Batei Hora'ah * Religious Services * Marriage Licensing * Kashrut * Mikvaot * Eiruvim

TORAT

Parashat Emor

HAMELECH

Be Kind to All Beings

We are taught in the *parashah* not to slaughter an animal and its child on the same day. Yonatan ben Uziel explains that just as Hashem is compassionate, so too must we be. Rambam, Chinuch and Rabbeinu Bechaye mention this reason as well. Some add that we are to learn from here to be especially cautious not to inflict pain upon people.

Rabbi Yehudah HaNasi suffered for 13 years. When did his suffering begin? When he told a calf to go to be slaughtered, for that is why it was created. When did his suffering end? When he told his maidservant to be kind to the weasels in the yard. (Bava Metzia 85a)

Cockadoodle-do

A woman came to the Arizal and asked for a Brachah to have more children. The Arizal told her to return the ladder to its place next to the chicken coop. Apparently, while the ladder was in its place, the chickens had an easier time getting in and out of their coop. The woman had moved the ladder for her own convenience and

did not bother putting it back there. She returned the ladder and had more children.

Be Nice

In Bava Metzia (58b), we are taught to be careful not to inflict even verbal harm upon others. Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai says that to harm with words is worse than to deceive monetarily. Rav says to be extra careful not to say anything which your wife finds offensive. Women tend to be more sensitive. This is brought in Shulchan Aruch Choshen Mishpat 228:3.

“Ouch!”

Rabbi Meir taught that when a Jew is in pain, then, *kivayachol*, the *Shechinah* is in pain as well. In fact, *pesukim* speak out this idea. In Tehillim (91:15) we find, “I am with him in [his] distress.” Yeshaya (63:9) teaches, “In all of their difficulties, it is difficult for Him [as well].”

Uninvited

Boaz had thirty sons and thirty daughters. When each got married, Boaz prepared two wedding banquets, one in the home of the bride's family, one in the home of the groom's family. Each of



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these 120 banquets was well-attended. But someone was missing. There was a man called Manoach and Boaz deliberately excluded him from the invitation list. Why? Well, you see, this Manoach had no children, and Boaz did not want him to feel uncomfortable coming to someone else's wedding realizing that he would not be able to return the favor. So Boaz just did not include him.

Now, although Boaz did so out of his sensitivity, nonetheless, it was expected of such a great personage to be more in touch with Manoach's feelings, and Manoach was the type of person who would have appreciated an invitation anyways. This omission cost Boaz dearly. Due to it, Boaz had to sit *Shivah* for each one of his sixty children in his lifetime! (Bava Batra 91a) We see how important it is not to slight another!

Tears of a Sage

Rabbi Yishmael and Rabban Shimon ben Gamliel were being taken out by the Romans to be executed. Rabbi Yishmael wept bitterly. Rabban Shimon tried to console him that in just a few moments they will merit eternal bliss. Rabbi Yishmael explained that he was disturbed that he

had to be executed in such a degrading manner. He was trying to figure out what sin he had committed to deserve this.

Rabban Shimon tried, "Maybe you were dining or sleeping and someone knocked on your door with a *shailoh*, a question in *Halachah* and the butler told them that you could not be disturbed at that moment. Maybe the person with the *shailoh* felt pained." (Masehet Semachot 8:9)

Apparently, our saintly Sages understood the gravity of causing pain to a fellow Jew.

Hold That Thought

Here we are, in the days of Sefirat HaOmer, when 24,000 *talmidim* perished due to a minor infraction in *bein odom lachaveiro*. It is not easy, but it is our obligation and worth our while to do our utmost not to inflict pain upon others. Let us start at home with family members. Let us learn to hold our tongues, even when we feel wronged or under pressure. Let us not allow insults or other offensive comments escape our lips.

It is not easy, but it is well worth the efforts. If we do our best, Hashem will help us succeed.

Shabbat Shalom

Mordechai Malka