

# THE COMMUNITY PARSHA SHEET



PARSHAT KI TEITZE

London's Leading Young Professionals Platform and Jewish Communal Centre



**RABBI JONATHAN TAWIL**  
TAL Founder & Director

## TWO WIVES!

Are you married? No? What you waiting for, join the club!

Yes – for how long? Has it been a while since you were under the chupa with your spouse to be? How's married life treating you?

When we are young we all desire to settle down with the perfect spouse. Yet when we hear adults talking about married life, it doesn't seem all that desirable. In a generation of high divorce rates and many singles around, how can we put the impetus back into marriage?

This week's parsha relates the law of a man who married two wives. The Torah hints that in such a case, one of the wives will be loved and the other despised. It's not an ideal situation.

The Torah continues to discuss the laws of the children of these two wives. When both these wives have children and the father wishes to give his inheritance to the Bechor (first born), it is to the first born of the despised wife – Vehaya Ben Habechor LaSenia. The Torah does not say 'Im' – if the first born is born to..., rather it states 'Vehaya' – the first born will be born to the hated wife.

What is the Torah teaching us?

Hashem is Kel Rachum Vechanun, a merciful G-d. He is a G-d full of love and care. We are taught VeHalachta Bedrachav – that we should emulate His deeds, just as He is loving and merciful so too should we be. Hate should not exist between us, especially between husband and wife.

The Sefer Tomer Devorah is relatively small yet it is embalmed with potent words of

wisdom. The Sefer authored by the Sainly Rabbi Moshe Kordovero is built on the 13 attributes of mercy mentioned at the end of Micha. (Mi kel Kamocha). The Tomer Devorah explains that the twelfth mida is Asher Nishbata Lavotenu – The Merit of our Forefathers – Zechut Avot. Hashem looks down towards us with certain aspects of mercy. There are times that we are not worthy, and all we have going for us is the Zechut Avot. Our forefathers merits' have weight until today, and help carry through even those that are not worthy. We are taught to emulate Hashem's attributes. Thus we are also obligated to view others, (even if we think they are not worthy) as worthy. For they carry the merit of their fathers. This is how Hashem's mercy extends towards us and this is how we should view others. When we don't like a certain person, when we think that they are worthless, we should remember that they too descend from Avraham Yitzchak and Yaakov, they too carry this merit and we must love them as Hashem loves them. There exists a further attribute of mercy. The Thirteenth attribute is Mimei Kedem. What does that mean? Mimei Kedem refers to the early years. Observing children can be fun. They are so cute and innocent. Their early years and limited understanding cause us to look favourably upon them. It's difficult to really punish a cute child. Hashem says, when you sin, I don't punish you straight away, I take into account your youth. I remember your cute early years – when you were relatively innocent and free from sin. Similarly, we too are taught to look favourably at others, to remember that not long ago in the early days of our relationship we viewed them differently. Do you remember the first date? The man

This weeks Parsha Sheet is sponsored Lirfuat  
*Moshe Ben Mazal*  
Betch Shaar Cholei Yisrael

Do you enjoy the popular weekly Torah Insights?  
If you would like the opportunity to sponsor in the name of a loved one or for a Simcha please contact us on:  
info@torahactionlife.com 07792 460986

11TH ELUL 5784  
SHABBAT BEGINS:  
19:05pm  
SHABBAT ENDS:  
20:05pm

To receive weekly emails from TAL with all our programs and exciting updates please subscribe to our email:  
<https://torahactionlife.com/subscribe/>

**DVAR TORAH**  
Two Wives!  
By Rabbi Jonathan Tawil

**DVAR TORAH**  
Parshat Ki Teitze  
By Rabbi David Baadani

**DVAR TORAH**  
Shiluach Haken  
By Rabbi Yehonatan Salem

**HALACHOT**  
By Rabbi Eli Mansour

**KIDS ZONE - QUIZ**

This newsletter contains Divrei Torah and may contain Sheimot - Please dispose of accordingly

THE ORIGINAL COMMUNAL PARASHA SHEET, SERVING THE COMMUNITY FOR OVER 12 YEARS!

probably got out of the car and opened the door for the lady. He listened to every word she had to say that night. She was so excited to speak to him. They saw the potential of building a great family together. That potential several years later still exists and should be close to reality.

Hashem deals mida kenege mida (Sanhedrin 90). In the same way as we judge others, we will be judged. Thus, when we look favourably upon others, Hashem looks favourably upon us.

When we get into an argument with our spouse, children or friends, do we look at them with the eye of these attributes. Do we remember their Zechut Avot, does it enter our minds at the heat of an argument to remember that these are holy individuals who were once free from sin (mime Kedem).

Does a husband remember the days when his wife followed him with trust of his every move. Does he remember

the difficulties she went through to serve him and respect his every wish. Does he recall the pain of pregnancy. Does the wife remember the way the husband turned his timetable upside down to please her, how he spent his monthly salary delighted to please his wife?

These are the Yemei Kedem. This is the way Hashem deals with us. It's difficult, but it's not impossible. If we look at people with a different light, then many of the futile arguments and problems fall aside.

When Yaakov was conned into working seven years for Rachel, the Torah states (Bereishit (29:20)) they were in his eyes like yamim achadim – they passed by quick with his love for her.

Our sages are surprised by this statement. If you love someone and are told you have to work seven years, then time passes by very slowly, it should have said that the years were like forever for Yaakov who was eager to

get married. Why does it say they passed by quickly?

The answer is that for Yaakov, due to his love of Rachel, seven years for him were a cheap price to pay for such a wonderful kalla! He appreciated her so much that the time was worth it and passed by quickly.

Rav Dessler Z'tsl used to give sound advice to every Chattan and Kalla. So long as you think about giving to the other person, your marriage will be constantly steady and successful. The moment either side thinks about taking that's when the challenges come.

In an age where singles are the norm and marriages need fortifying, let us take the message from the Torah; let us emulate Hashem. Open your eyes, remember that first love, remember the merit of our forefathers, respect our spouses and build wonderful families for the next generation. Let us shine new light on our marriages and may Hashem deal with us in kind. Amen.



## RABBI DAVID BAADANI

Director - TAL Chazanut Program

### PARSHAT KI TEITZE

This week's Parasha the Torah describes to us the episode of בן סורר ומורה, the rebellious son who steals, takes meat and wine and eats it in a terrible fusion. In the end he was sentenced to death because of what he eventually is going to become.

The Gemara in Sanhedrin tells us that the case of בן סורר ומורה never happened and never will happen.

What is the purpose of teaching us a הלכה about a person that never did and never will exist?

The answer is as follows: The Torah is teaching us an unbelievable idea and that is, a person for which there's no hope will never exist! If you were created, if you exist it means that you can accomplish, and that you can do something.

The problem is that we often stumble, we often fall. In these last few weeks of the year, in Elul, we look at the year behind us, the year we just experienced and we see how

many times we stumbled and fallen but we must realise that stumbling is not a sign of failure, rather it's an opportunity for greatness. Each time you fall you should keep in mind that you're one step closer to becoming great.

This Parasha about בן סורר ומורה teaches us that such a person, a person that has no hope, never did and never will exist. Every single one of us that was created has the potential for tremendous greatness, We just need to hold on to that hope and keep striving higher.



## RABBI YEHONATAN SALEM

### SHILUACH HAKEN

This week's parashah lists numerous

mitzvot, both positive and negative. One of them is the special mitzvah of shiluach haken. This may be fulfilled by either men or women, when chancing upon a nest where a mother bird is

sitting or even hovering (while touching the nest) over her eggs or chicks. The mitzvah is to send away the mother bird and take the eggs or chicks. The bird must be a kosher one,

for example, a dove, pigeon, sparrow, or a chicken in the wild, and have chicks or eggs that are fertile. The mitzvah should be performed between nightfall and sunrise, when the mother bird generally sits on the nest (to guarantee that the bird that we are sending away is in fact the mother, and not the father). One should send away the mother bird and not take her! Some opinions say that one must take hold of the mother bird and simultaneously send her away, whereas others say that it is enough to shake the nest or its surroundings, having in mind that this will cause the mother bird to fly away. It is often difficult to send her away, as she will instinctively fly away of her own accord. One should therefore have in mind that any noise or movement that may cause her to fly away is the performance of the mitzvah. Then, one should take at least one of the eggs/chicks. One should either take it, or raise it thirty centimetres to acquire it, and then put it back into the nest. Someone else may then also perform this mitzvah by taking the

other egg/chick. (He should pick up both eggs to ensure that he is taking the second one.) Delving Within 117 The 613 Mitzvot What is the reason behind this mitzvah?

Even though, like all other mitzvot, we cannot understand the far-reaching wisdom of Hashem, our Sages do offer some explanations, as follows: Rabbenu Bachye suggests that Hashem does not want any species to become extinct. He therefore ordered us to send away the mother bird before taking the children, and not to take both. The Ramban compares the prohibition of taking a mother bird and its chicks together to that of slaughtering a mother animal and its young on one day. Just as a human mother naturally feels pity for her child, and would be deeply pained to witness any harm to her child, similarly, with animals and birds. Thus, one should first send away the mother bird before taking the children. The Ramban learns that this commandment is to teach us the trait of mercy, and to prevent the

eradication of any species. However, other commentators offer a deep kabbalistic explanation as well. When one sends the mother bird away, she is so pained by the loss of her nest that she wants to commit suicide. Seeing this, the heavenly angel appointed over the mother bird begs Hashem for mercy, to save her. When G-d then acts mercifully towards her, this is not only restricted to the mother bird, but to all His creations who merit mercy as well. As a result, evil decrees are withheld from us. Accordingly, even if one does not need the mother or chicks, it is still important to perform this mitzvah for the good of our nation. Moreover, its performance brings our long-awaited Mashiah and the ultimate redemption closer. And on a private level, the merit of this mitzvah may help one find a wife or have children, a new house, vineyards, or cattle. Let us pray to have the opportunity to perform this mitzvah and bring about much-awaited mercy and salvation.

Shabbat shalom



## HALACHOT BY RABBI ELI MANSOUR

### The Ideal Strings for Sisit

When buying Sisit, a person should know what to ask for. Some features are integral to the Misva and some are Humrot-stringencies to enhance the Misva.

The Shulhan Aruch clearly states that the strings must be spun L'shma-for the sake of the Misva. Therefore, strings manufactured by non-Jews, even if a Jew oversees the process, are invalid. However, the stages before the spinning, including the "Niputz"-the combing of the wool, do not require L'shma, according to most early authorities. However, the MaHaram M'Rotenberg did require that even the Niputz be done L'shma. Therefore, if possible, one should try to obtain strings that meet the stricter standards of the MaHaram. Such strings are available today in stores for a few extra dollars.

There is a controversy whether the Sisit may be spun by machine. Hacham Bension held that such strings are

invalid, and therefore one should make an effort to obtain Sisit spun by hand. The next stage in making Sisit is "Shezira"-twisting several thin strings into a single cord of Sisit. If you look closely at your Sisit, you will notice that each string is comprised of several thinner strings twisted together. The Rambam holds that Shezira is optional. However, Maran rules in accordance with the majority opinion that Shezira is mandatory, and it must be done L'shma. Minimally, Shezira requires only two threads be twisted into one. However, The Ramah MiPano, as well as the Ben Ish Hai (Rav Yosef Haim of Baghdad, 1833-1909) in Parashat Noach rule that it is best to have each cord made of eight thinner threads twisted together. This results in a total of 256 individual strings in every Tallit: 8 thin strings comprising each of the eight strings for each of the four corners. This corresponds to a certain mystical intention alluding to the wings of the angels, as elaborated by the Ben Ish Hai.

Sometimes the strings that are twisted together become unraveled.

Technically, this is not a problem as long as four centimeters remain. In order to prevent this, some have the custom to tie a little knot at the end of each string. This was the practice of the Rabbenu HaAri (Rav Yishak Luria of Safed, 1534-1572), and is cited by the Rama. However, today this is usually not necessary as our strings are generally twisted very tightly and rarely become unraveled. There is a disagreement amongst contemporary Poskim whether one may apply a bit of glue to the tip of the string to prevent it from becoming unraveled. Hacham David, in his Halacha Berura, permits it, whereas Rav Wosner, in his Shebet HaLevi, opposes this, since this was not the traditional practice in previous generations.

#### SUMMARY:

The ideal Sisit should be combed and spun L'shma and be twisted with 8 thin strings.



## WEEKLY PARSHA OVERVIEW

### Parshat Ki Teitze

The Torah describes the only permissible way a woman captured in battle may be married. If a man marries two wives, and the less-favoured wife bears a firstborn son, this son's right to inherit a double portion is protected against the father's desire to favour the child of the favoured wife. The penalty for a rebellious son, who will inevitably degenerate into a monstrous criminal, is stoning. A body must not be left on the gallows overnight, because it had housed a holy soul. Lost property must be returned. Men are forbidden from wearing women's clothing and vice versa. A mother bird may not be taken together with her eggs. A fence must be built around the roof of a house. It is forbidden to plant a mixture of seeds, to plow with an ox and a donkey together, or to combine wool

and linen in a garment. A four-cornered garment must have twisted threads tzitzit on its corners. Laws regarding illicit relationships are detailed. When Israel goes to war, the camp must be governed by rules of spiritual purity. An escaped slave must not be returned to his master.

Taking interest for lending to a Jew is forbidden. The Jewish People are not to make vows. A worker may eat of the fruit he is harvesting. Divorce and marriage are legislated. For the first year of marriage, a husband is exempt from the army and stays home to rejoice with his wife. Tools of labour may not be impounded, as this prevents the debtor from earning a living. The penalty for kidnapping for profit is death. Removal of the signs of the disease tzara'at is forbidden. Even for an overdue

loan, the creditor must return the collateral daily if the debtor needs it. Workers' pay must not be delayed. The guilty may not be subjugated by punishing an innocent relative. Because of their vulnerability, converts and orphans have special rights of protection. The poor are to have a portion of the harvest. A court may impose lashes. An ox must not be muzzled while threshing. It is a mitzvah for a man to marry his brother's widow if the deceased left no offspring. Weights and measures must be accurate and used honestly. The Torah portion concludes with the mitzvah to erase the name of Amalek, for, in spite of knowing about the Exodus, they ambushed the Jewish People.

**Rabbi Sinclair,**  
Seasonsofthemoon.com



**Q**

1. What fraction of the inheritance does a first-born receive if he has a) one brother, b) two brothers?
2. What will become of a ben sorer u'moreh if his parents don't bring him to court?
3. Why is it a degradation to G-d to hang a criminal's body on the gallows overnight?
4. What do you do if you find a lost object that costs money to maintain?
5. Why does the Torah forbid wearing the clothing of the opposite gender?

**A**

1. 21:17 - a) 2/3 b) 1/2
2. 21:22 - He will eventually rob and kill to support his physical indulgences.
3. 21:23 - Because humans are made in G-d's image; and because the Jewish People are G-d's children.
4. 22:2 - Sell it and save the money for the owner.
5. 22:5 - It leads to immorality.

## THE TAL FAMILY FUN FAIR

*An unforgettable day of fun and interactive Jewish experience!*

**SUNDAY 22 SEPTEMBER | 12:30-6:30PM**

**Fire Show**

**Torah Island**

**Bubble Workshop**

**Craft for Israel**

**Fun Fair Rides**

**Inflatables**

**Food Stalls**

**Magic Show**

**Circus Workshop**

**Face Painting**

**Meet the Fire Brigade**

**Lots More!**

**AT HASMONEAN GIRLS NW7**

Book now: [www.torahactionlife.com](http://www.torahactionlife.com)

**EARLY BIRD SPECIAL:**  
Kids £5 | Adult £2 | Family\* £20

(NORMAL PRICE)  
Kids £7 | Adult £3 | Family £28

Part of the proceeds going to support widows of the war in Eretz Yisrael

Entrance fee includes Magic & Fire Show Entry & Torah Island \*Family - 2 Adults + 4 kids