**Shavuos – נעשה**

**The Courage to Continue**

Shavuos is the Yartzeit of Dovid HaMelech, as well as the day he was born. This is one of the reasons why, on Shavuos, we read Megilas Rus, which certifies the accurate יחוס of Dovid for posterity. Dovid HaMelech stands as one of the greatest Tzadikim of all time, the embodiment of the Midah of מלכות, the receptacle of all the 49 mystical levels. Dovid HaMelech was the יחיד בדורו, not only as our supreme ruler for all time – דוד מלך ישראל חי וקיים, but also as the יחיד בדורו, the uncontested conduit of Torah – ודוד משכיל...וה' עמו.

Dovid's ascendance to the throne and the establishment of the dynasty of מלכות בית דוד was not a straight path, however. To us, Dovid HaMelech is the quintessential Tzadik, he is רוח אפינו משיח ה', the נעים זמירות ישראל. Yet, none of this was in any way apparent to those who were close to him. Dovid was deemed least likely to succeed. Nobody, not his family and not even his own father, saw any indication that Dovid was destined for any form of prominence or greatness. Even after being crowned Melech Yisroel, Dovid was challenged from every quarter. Indeed, it was on Dovid's come-from-behind selection, to be anointed by Shmuel HaNavi, that the Pasuk in Hallel was said -אבן מאסו הבונים - the stone that the builders rejected, became the keystone.

The touching words of Dovid HaMelech’s Sefer Tehilim strike a chord in the heart of every Yid. For in those words, every travail, failure and fear that has ever overwhelmed any person, is poignantly expressed, through Dovid’s own predicaments. Every success, breakthrough and victory is sung and celebrated, reflecting Dovid’s own achievements. Dovid HaMelech's troubled yet triumphant life saga, is the story of Klall Yisroel in microcosm. מקימי מעפר דל - we were lifted from the dirt of Egyptian slavery, להושיבי עם נדיבים - to be seated among the most prominent, to receive the Torah at Har Sinai. Dovid's story is the story of our nation – it isn’t easy, but we will get there.

Kabbolas HaTorah at Har Sinai, or anyone's personal commitment to rise and grow in Torah and Yiras Shomayim, is not guaranteed to be a gilded, smooth path. Meforshim tell us that the shock-and-awe of the קולות וברקים at Matan Torah, hinted to fearful calamities that struck Klall Yisroel throughout the ages, many on Shavuos itself, as recorded in the קינות of Tishah B’Av. Both my parents lost so many loved ones, על קידוש ה', at this time. Who really understands, but we readily sing in Hallel, how the loss His most pious is בעיני ה' יקר. Like Dovid, we persevere, firm in our belief that we, too, will remain חי וקיים לעד.

R’ Chaim Kanievsky Shlit”a, commented that many people erroneously assume that it is possible to excel in Limud Torah and accomplish great goals, with little effort and few obstacles. When they do encounter difficulty, they lose heart and feel that they are failures. This is a terrible mistake. Success in Torah and Avodas Hashem is not a product of כשרון, of brilliance. It isn’t always the בעלי כשרון that are מצליח. Success, says R’ Chaim, comes only through התמדה - dogged persistence. Even if someone is not so endowed intellectually, if he sticks to his guns, with התמדה and Yiras Shomayim, he will achieve a breakthrough beyond anything he ever hoped for.

I just met a young man, who over ten years ago was dismissed from our summer Kiruv program, because of his recalcitrant behavior. He wasn’t particularly interested in what we were trying to do, and he always seemed determined to do what he wasn’t supposed to do. Baruch has channeled that persistence to commit himself to devote at least an hour a day to do for Hashem, by attending a Shiur and learning Torah. He has already made three Siyumim, B”H. Even when he was busy with finals for his graduate work, he stuck to his guns, never missing his daily hour for the Eibishter.

Dovid HaMelech never gave up. We will never give up. You can never give up on yourself, and we shouldn’t give up on anyone else either. The best is yet to come, בעז"ה.

Have a Simchadik Yomtov and a wonderful Shabbos, yk

***L’Ravcha D’Milsa Weekly Almanac***

***Wednesday, Parshas Naso-6 Sivan***

***First Day Shavuos***

**Dovid HaMelech**

Born and Niftar Shavuos B’Shabbos at Mincha time (One of the 3 Pesukim of *Tzidkascha* on Shabbos afternoon for this reason).

Born to *Nitzeves bas Ada’el*. Mentioning the names of the mothers of the tzadikim is a known Zechus, specifically *Amislaya bas Karnevo*, mother of Avraham Avinu and *Tzlelponis*, mother of Shimshon (this week’s *Haftorah*). The Yalkut Me’am Loez brings down that saying the name of Dovid HaMelech’s mother seventeen times (To”v) is a Segulah that your Tefillah will be heard.

The first day of Shavuos always comes out on the same day of the week that Hoshana Rabbah - the Ushpizin of Dovid HaMelech will fall out.

**The Ba’al Shem Tov HaKadosh** (1760)

**The Imrei Emes, R’ Avrohom Mordechai Alter of Gur** (1866-1948) The son of Rav Yehuda Leib (Sefas Emes) and a great-grandson of the Chidushei Harim, he was the third Rebbe in the Gur dynasty, the leader of over 250,000 chassidim in pre-WW II Poland. In 1940, he managed to escape with three of his sons to Eretz Yisrael. He began to rebuild the Gerrer community in Eretz Yisrael, but he died during the siege of Yerushalayim on Shavuos, 1948. As bodies could not be removed to the [Mount of Olives](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_of_Olives) during wartime, he was buried in the yeshiva courtyard on the condition that he would be reburied elsewhere after the war. However, his sons and successors, the [Beis Yisrael](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yisrael_Alter" \o "Yisrael Alter) and [Lev Simcha](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Simcha_Bunim_Alter), declined to go through with the reburial.

***Thursday, Parshas Naso-7 Sivan***

***Second Day Shavuos***

Moshe Rabbeinu was placed in the Nile River by his mother, Yocheved, and discovered by Pharoh’s daughter. (2368)

**The Ger Tzedek, Avrohom Ben Avrohom** of Vilna was killed Al Kiddush Hashem. R’ Chaim Voloziner was born that same day. (1749)

**R’ Shmuel Ehrenfeld, The Matesdorfer Rov** (1980)

I had the Zechus of standing next to R’ Yaakov Kamenitsky, zt”l by the Levaya. He was heartbroken, weeping like a child. R’ Yaakov cried by his Hesped, “Matesdorf is gone!”

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