**Shavuos – ובאו כולם בברית יחד**

**Standing Together**

It was our greatest defining moment. Klall Yisroel stood in complete unity at Har Sinai, ready to accept the Torah – כאיש אחד בלב אחד. It wasn’t only the קבלת התורהthat made it so important. It was the achievement of each and every Yid feeling that every other person was equally important to the success of this endeavor. The competitiveness, disdain and superiority that seemed to plague Klall Yisroel from Kriyas Yam Suf and through all their other encampments, was blessedly set aside, for now. The Two-Yidden-Three-Shuls Syndrome, is not a feature of our make-up that anyone is very proud of.

My sainted grandfather, R’ ElimelechFischmanHy”d, who gave his life על קידוש ה'in Auschwitz, on the first day of Shavuos, writes in his SeferLechemAbirim, that Klall Yisroel’s unity was essential for Kabbolas HaTorah. How would it be possible to consent to fulfill all the Mitzvos of the Torah? No one person can fulfill all 613 Mitzvos. Some Mitzvos are only for Kohanim. Some can only be done in Eretz Yisroel, or in the BaisHaMikdash. There are Mitzvos for men or only for women. You need to own a house, or be a farmer or raise livestock, for a number of Mitzvos. There are Mitzvos for Rabbonim and Dayanim, or relevant only to business owners or storekeepers, or reserved for penitents who need to right their wrongs. The icing on the cheesecake of Matan Torah, was our acceptance of “Areivus” for every other Yid. An “Areiv”, co-signs to guarantee and vouch for a borrower of large sums. You and I, along with all the Neshomos present at Har Sinai, undertook to guarantee that the total sum of 613 Mitzvos, will be fulfilled, through the joint effort of every member of Klall Yisroel. This is the meaning of the declaration some say before performing a Mitzvoh, in the לשם יחוד, that we are ready to do the Mitzvoh, בשם כל ישראלand to fulfill the Mitzvoh of ואהבת לרעך כמוך. Through my הנחת תפילין, I will help you fulfill your obligation to its fullest. When you say ברכת המזון, it will help credit my bentching as having been done as required.

When the fellow in the Gemora of Shabbos, asked Hillel to teach him the entire Torah on one foot, Hillel repliedואהבת לרעך כמוך, - now go study the rest. Hillel was teaching that you can fulfill the entire Torah, if you understand that all Yidden are equal and we all need each other. The rest of the Torah will fall into place, if this becomes the underlying foundation of Kabbolas HaTorah.

Chilling are the words of Rashi in Parshas Bechukosai, on the Pasuk, וכשלו איש באחיו – זה נכשל בעונו של זה שכל ישראל ערבין זה לזה. The nightmare of the תוכחהis a consequence of our failure to work together to achieve שלימותin Torah and Mitzvos. If that fellow’s level of observance or attitude towards Yiddishkeit is wanting, it is my failure. Rather than pass judgement on his attitude and be critical of his lack of observance, I have to remember that I am his Areiv. For the sake of all Yidden, I ought to focus on raising his commitment and inspiring him, through my own deeds and conduct.

R’ Yaakov Emert Shlit”a, a distinguished member of our Kehilla and noted Magid Shiur, related about his visit to Eretz Yisroel, a number of years back. It was at this time of the year, when the Parshios were out of sync between Eretz Yisroel and ChutzL’Aretz. He came to the GerrerShtiebel in BnaiBrak on Shabbos morning. They were going to read Parshas Shelach. He had missed Behaaloscha. He had no plan for getting back on track. As expected from “Varmer Yidden” in BoteiMedroshim the world over, a number of Yidden came over to greet the “Amerikanisher” visitor in their midst. What wasn’t expected though, was the fellow who came over and inquired if he had missed out on hearing Bha’aloscha. Indeed, this was the case. R’ Yaakov was surprised when he realized by Krias HaTorah, that this gentleman was the Ba’alKoreih. He was further astonished when, without anyone asking him, the Ba’alKoreih commenced reading the entire Parshas Bhaaloscha, all the way through till Sheini of Shelach, by the Kohein’s Aliyah. What was entirely astounding, was that nobody said a word about it. It was all taken in stride. The young man is a visitor from America. He needs to hear Parshas Bha’aloscha. No matter that he was one person, and they all did Bha’aloscha the previous week. No matter that it is one of the largest Sedras that we read. Nobody thought it an inconvenience. Nobody threw a fit, screaming “TirchaD’Tzibura”. A Yid needs to fulfill a Mitzvah. That is our responsibility. This is KodeshKodoshim, sweeter than sweet. ערבין זה לזה. כאיש אחד בלב אחד.

Many people find the idea of being מקבל תורה, daunting. It is somewhat scary when people ask me if I’m ready for Shavuos. Perhaps, we should be asking ourselves instead, if we are ready to join with all Yidden, כולם כאחד, to accept doing our share for Kabbolas HaTorah, בשם כל ישראל. What an uplifting Yomtov that would be.

Have a wonderful Shabbos and a joyful, Heilig and beautiful Yomtov, yk

**L’RavchaD’Milsa Weekly Almanac**

**Thursday, Parshas Bamidbar*-3 Sivan***

***“SheloshesYimeiHagbalah”***

Destruction of the Maienz (“Magentza”) Jewish Community during The Crusades

as related in the Tisha B’AvKinos Liturgy *“MiYiteinRoshiMayim”* (1096)

**RavOvadiaBartenura** (1440-1516). He lived in Italy in the second half of the 15th century and eventually moved to Yerushalayim. He was well known for his role as a Rav in Bartinura, Italy, and for his illuminating Pirush on the Mishnah. He also wrote Omer Nekeh, a supercommentary on Rashi’speirush on Chumash. Considered one of the wealthiest mean in all of Italy, he settled in Yerushalayim in 1488.

***Sunday, Parshas Naso-6 Sivan***

***First Day Shavuos***

**DovidHaMelech**

Born and NiftarShavuosB’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 aknown Zechus, specifically *Amislaya bas Karnevo*, mother of Avraham Avinu and *Tzlelponis*, mother of Shimshon (this week’s *Haftorah*).The YalkutMe’amLoez brings down that saying the name of DovidHaMelech’smother 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 HoshanaRabbah - the Ushpizin of DovidHaMelech will fall out.

**The Ba’al Shem Tov HaKadosh**(1760)

**The ImreiEmes, R’ Avrohom Mordechai Alter of Gur** (1948)

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

**R’ Shmuel Ehrenfeld, TheMatesdorferRov**(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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