

THE CHABAD WEEKLY

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Chabad of North Beverly Hills, 409 Foothill Rd. Beverly Hills, 90210

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The name of this week's Torah reading Bo means "come." More particularly, the term is also interpreted as meaning "enter" or "penetrate." Moses was commanded to come and approach Pharaoh. As the Zohar, the fundamental text of Jewish mysticism states, he was told to enter room after room, penetrating to the very core of Pharaoh's palace.

The Zohar continues, explaining that Moses shrank at this command. He was daunted by the charge to confront evil at its very core. To reassure him, G-d told him, "Come." "Come," i.e., "come with Me," and not "go," "go alone." G-d promised that He would accompany Moses and face Pharaoh with him.

This command thus requires personal initiative, and simultaneously, promises that such initiative will be rewarded by G-d's assistance. Moses was required to act on his own, but not independently. G-d would support his efforts.

This dynamic is replayed in microcosm in the myriad spiritual struggles that we all continually face. We must confront Pharaoh - brave the challenges to Jewish involvement that the outside environment appears to present. And this includes not only viewing those challenges from afar, but penetrating to their core and looking at them from up close.

One would be foolish not to be somewhat daunted by the task. Indeed, if it is not daunting, it is not a challenge.

And yet, one's hesitation should only be temporary. We have the power to persevere in our mission.

When we do, we find out that we are not alone. G-d is with us, supporting our efforts. Simply put, we see ourselves speaking and acting with greater power than we could ever muster on our own.

And this transforms the world around us, including the challenging forces. Just as Pharaoh became the power who urged the Jews out of Egypt, so too, every element of our existence can become a positive and contributory, influence, aiding our Jewish involvement. (From: Keeping in Touch – Vol 1) - sichosinenglish.org

Yud Shevat, the tenth of the month of Shevat, is the yartzeit (anniversary of the passing) of Rabbi Yosef Yitzchak Schneersohn, the sixth Lubavitcher Rebbe.

The following story was related by Rabbi Zalman Notik of Yeshivat Torat Emet in Jerusalem:

A group of yeshiva students were on their regular Friday afternoon schedule of helping Jewish boys and men put on tefilin. The students met a group of recent immigrants from the Soviet Union.

The students were teaching the men how to put on tefilin when all of a sudden an old Russian-born Jew approached them excitedly: "You're from Lubavitch?" he asked them. "Do I have a story to tell you!

"When I was a youth back in Russia," he began, "I used to attend the secret Torah gatherings (farbrengens) of the Lubavitchers. I also used to pray with them and went to their classes.

"At one farbrengen I will always remember, the main discussion was the desire to be reunited with the Rebbe, Rabbi Yosef Yitzchak (the Previous Lubavitcher Rebbe). We sang 'G-d should give us good health and life, and we will be reunited with our Rebbe.' Our intense yearning to be with the Rebbe was almost palpable, and was growing from minute to minute.

"In the middle of the farbrengen, a few of the Chasidim suddenly stood up and decided to 'take action.' Grabbing some chairs, they turned them upside-down and arranged them in a row to make a 'train.' Just picture it - grown men behaving like kindergarten children, sitting on overturned chairs and making believe they were going to the Rebbe!

"Most of the others, myself included, stood around watching. We laughed at them and told them they were crazy. What ridiculous, childish nonsense!

"But, do you know," concluded the man in amazement, "within a short time, all of the Chasidim who rode the 'train' received permission to leave Russia, and actually did go to the Rebbe. Whereas the rest of us, the 'normal' ones, were left behind. As you can see, most of us did not have the strength to keep up our observance of Torah and mitzvot (commandments), and are only now beginning to catch up..." (From Beis Moshich Magazine, L'Chaim 5763, #752) – lchaimweekly.org

How Can Each of Us Become a Leader

It is true that not everyone can be a leader like Moses. But every person, no matter how uneducated or poor, has something to teach the wisest and richest among us. No one is incapable of being a leader in some way, and no one is exempt from the responsibility.

You may think that you were not a "born leader." But, why, then, were you created? Each of us has been given unique strengths and abilities; we have the choice to use them selfishly or to share them with others.

Every generation places particular demands on its leaders, and the leadership of every generation is likened to its predecessors. We have just as much to learn from Moses as from the leaders of the twentieth century; although the future may be vast, we can see a great distance when we stand on the shoulders of giants.

Our current generation is so hungry for meaning and direction, for spiritual nourishment, that each of us must serve as a leader. Whatever you have learned, whatever you have been touched by, you must share it with others. You cannot waste time wondering if you are truly equipped to help your fellow man. When someone is drowning, you don't take a life-saving course---you jump in the water and save their life!

So examine the areas in your life where people look to you as a leader---within your family, in your class at school, at work or at play. Ask yourself: Are you doing everything you can to influence them positively? Are you using all your abilities to inspire them intellectually, emotionally, and spiritually? Are you helping them live up to their potential, so they can become leaders in their own right?

One leader creates another and another, ad infinitum, just as one candle's flame lights another and another, until the once impenetrable darkness has turned into brilliant light. (From: Towards a Meaningful Life, the wisdom of the Rebbe by Simon Jacobson)

In these days especiall y, when by G-d's kindness we stand at the threshold of redemption, we must make every conceivable effort to strengthen every facet of our religion. Mitzvot must be observed b'hidur, with "beauty," beyond minimal requirements. Customs must be kept scrupulously, nothing compromised. It is a Mitzva and duty of every Rabbi in Israel to inform his congregation that the current tribulations and agonies are the "birth-pangs of Mashiach." G-d is demanding that we return to Torah and mitzvot, that we not hinder the imminent coming of our righteous Mashiach. (From Rebbe's Hayom yom shevatT 8).

Unwrapping

We pray and He answers with blessings. But we ask, "If you are giving us blessings, already, why in such clumsy packages with so many strings attached?"

And He answers, "If you are giving me your innermost heart and your beautiful soul in prayer, why in so many thick layers of ego? Why such coldness? Why do you hold back your tears?"

"I'll make you a deal," He says. "You unravel your souls from their packaging, and I will remove the cloudiness from around your blessings."

From the teachings of the Lubavitcher Rebbe; rendered by Tzvi Freeman.

PARTICIPATE IN WEEKLY CLASSES

<u>Sunday</u>	8:00 AM	Gemara-Tractate Shabbos (men)
<u>Monday</u>	8:00 PM	Chumash (men and women)
<u>Tuesday</u>	8:00 PM	Gemara-Tractate Makos (men)
	9:00 PM	Tanya (men and women) with Rabbi Wolf
<u>Wednesday</u>	8:30 PM	Halacha and Tanya (women)
<u>Thursday</u>	10:00 AM	Chassidus (women)
	8:00 PM	Class for Beverly Hills Highschool Students
<u>Daily</u>	6:45 AM to 7:15 AM	Chasiddus
	Between Mincha	Halacha

DAILY MINYONIM:

Shacharis: Mon-Fri: 6:00 AM and 7:30 AM
Sunday: 9:00 AM

Mincha/Maariv: 5:20 PM



Monday, Yud Shevat is the yartzeit of the Previous Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Yosef Yitzchak obm. It also marks the 54th year of the Rebbe's obm leadership.



GOOD SHABBOS!

SHABBOS PARSHAS BO

January 30, 2004

Candlelighting:(Los Angeles) 5:03 PM
Friday Mincha: 5:20 PM

LATEST TIME FOR SHEMA: 9:29 AM

SHABBAT MORNING

- **Tanya** 8:45 AM
- **Shacharit** 9:30 AM followed by Kiddush, Cholent & Farbrengen
- **Chumash** 4:20 PM
- **Mincha** 4:50 PM followed by Seuda Shlishit
- **Shabbat ends** 6:03 PM

Seuda Shlishit is being sponsored by Mr. Eliyahu Hazany in memory of his mother's yartzeit, Sara Sabi.

Yartzeits: Shlomo and Lilian Perles – Shevat 9, Sara Sabi – Shevat 9, Riva Salzberg – Shevat 10, David Greenwald – Shevat 14.

Happy Birthday to Leo Presser, Marty Biegel, Eyal Rav-Noy & Michael Tanenbaum.

The Shul wishes its condolences to Simantov Eshaghian on the loss of his mother. May he know of no more sorrow.

The Shul wishes its condolences to Sylvia Tanenbaum on the loss of her mother. May she know of no more sorrow.