



TIFERET UPDATES

This Week in Tiferet

This year, over half of Tiferet students decided to spend their four-week Nissan here in Israel. This year, we planned a host of events for our students to enjoy including a hike up Masada, a tiyul to the beautiful local stalactite caves, a tour of the Israel Museum with Mrs Schneider, matzah-baking in Beit Shemesh and an inspiring visit to “Dialogue in the Dark”, a unique exhibit promoting first-hand understanding of the visually impaired. Even more, our students were able to enjoy inspiring sederim together at the

Continued on pg. 2

תורת תפארת

And Aharon was Silent

Rav Azriel Rosner (arosner@tiferetcenter.com)

Parashat Shmini – Yom Hashoa

Parashat Shmini recounts the tragic deaths of Nadav and Avihu, the two oldest sons of Aharon Hakohen, on the first day of the inauguration of the Mishkan.

"ויקחו בני אהרן נדב ואביהוא איש מחתתו ויתנו בהן אש וישימו עליהן קטרת ויקריבו לה' אש זרה אשר לא צוה אתם. ותצא אש מלפני ה' ותאכל אותם וימתו לפני ה'." (ויקרא פרק י פסוקים א – ב)

“The sons of Aharon, Nadav and Avihu, each took their pan and placed fire in them, and they put incense in them and sacrificed strange fire to G-d, which G-d had not commanded them. And a fire came out from before G-d and consumed them, and they died before G-d.” (Vayikra 10: 1 – 2)

Despite this tragedy, the Torah writes that “Aharon was silent,” (pasuk 3) and Rashi there comments that Aharon “received reward for his silence.” There is no question that it must have been tremendously difficult for Aharon to be silent at this tragic moment. But what exactly was praiseworthy about this silence? Why did it merit a reward from G-d?

The classic explanation is that Aharon was rewarded for his philosophical stoicism. Despite the tragedy, he did not question G-d, and continued with the worship despite his sons’ deaths. This must have been a terrible trial for Aharon, and there is no doubt that his continued faith in G-d is to be admired.

But perhaps we can learn another perspective from this week’s haftara, which describes the transport of the Aron Kodesh back to Yerushalayim, after it had been captured by the Plishtim. On the way back to Yerushalayim, Uza, one of the men accompanying the Aron, thought that the Aron might fall off the wagon. He reached out and touched the Aron to steady it, and was instantly killed.

Following this tragedy, David Hamelech left the Aron where it was, instead of having it continue on its journey.

"וירא דוד את ה' ביום ההוא ויאמר איך יבוא אלי ארון ה'" (שמואל ב פרק ו פסוק ט)

"And David was afraid of G-d on that day and he said: How can the Aron of G-d come to me?" (Shmuel II, 6: 9)

Does David really leave the Aron where it is because he is afraid? Why couldn't he just be more

Continued on pg. 2



Tiferet Students on the Heritage Tour in Poland

תורת תפארת (המשך)

careful not to touch it? The Malbim explains that “David had always worshipped G-d out of love and happiness, worship that brings a surplus of kindness and mercy, goodness and happiness. Now on that day, that he was afraid of the punishment that had befallen Uza, David fell from the attribute of love to the attribute of fear of punishment, which is a much lower level...” David stopped the transport of the Aron because he had fallen spiritually from love of G-d to fear of G-d, and thus, he didn't feel worthy of continuing this mitzvah.

Perhaps this is another way to explain Aharon's greatness. Not only was he able to continue on in his work on that tragic day, not only did he refuse to question G-d's judgment, but he was silent – he continued emotionally to worship G-d from Ahava, and not from Yira.

As we commemorate Yom Hashoa this week, we see the greatness of the Jewish people. Despite the tragedies that we have experienced, not only have we continued on, not only have we not succumbed to philosophical skepticism, but we continue to serve G-d out of happiness and love. May we merit continuing in our ancestors' inspiring path.

MAZAL TOV!

Mazal Tov to Erica Langer (5769) on her engagement to Alex Kelsen! May they be zochim to build a bayit ne'eman b'Yisrael together!

Mazal Tov to Rocky Moradi (5770, 5771) on her engagement to Naftali Bitton! May they be zochim to build a bayit ne'eman b'Yisrael together!

Mazal Tov to Davida Shubowitz (5770, 5771) on her engagement to Zachary Schlessel! May they be zochim to build a bayit ne'eman b'Yisrael together!



At the Israel Museum together

This Week in Tiferet (cont.)

Rosner and Hochhauser homes. We are so pleased that so many of our students were able to experience the very holy month of Nissan together with us in Eretz Yisrael.

Many of our students were also privileged to go to Poland on the **Heritage Tour**, accompanied by our own Rabbi Michael Bramson. We know that it was an inspiring and educational experience for all of those who attended.