



Tiferet

ת פ א ר ת



TIFERET UPDATES

This Week in Tiferet

The "Surfing Rabbi" Comes to RBS – This past Shabbat, Tiferet was privileged to host Rabbi Yom Tov Glaser of Aish Hatorah – more famously known as the Surfing Rabbi – as our guest speaker. Rabbi Glaser regaled our students with his life story, and the path he took from college student, "majoring in surfing," to prominent magid shiur in Yerushalayim.

Northern Exposure – Tiferet travelled Northwards this week to the Golan, where we hiked down the cliffs of the Arbel, toured the battlegrounds of the Yom Kipur War, sledged on the snow of Mt. Hermon and sang and danced to Simply Tzfat!

תורת תפארת

"Handle With Care"

Sara Weinberger (Tiferet 5772)

At first glance, Parshat Mishpatim seems to be misplaced. In the preceding parsha of Parshat Yitro the Torah has just reached one of the most climactic points in the history of the Jewish people, the ten commandments. In the parsha that follows it, Parshat Terumah, the Jewish people are introduced to the Temple and its vessels, the House of holy service to Hashem. In other words, these Parshiyot introduce the Jewish people to their seemingly holiest 'what' and holiest 'where'. Interposed between them is Parshat Mishpatim, full of seemingly mundane laws pertaining to damages, slaves, etc. Why does the Torah interrupt its flow of 'kodesh' (holy) topics with such an extensive discussion of 'chol' (mundane)?

The answer is that in Jewish law there really is no such thing as chol. Judaism, with its unique set of laws pertaining to every facet of our lives, strives to elevate everything we do to the level of holiness. Justice, honesty and godliness are supposed to pervade our lives even when dealing with livestock, borrowing and lending and financial disagreements, all things dealt with in Parshat Mishpatim. The Torah also demands and conveys the proper conduct that we must pursue when dealing with others- whether they be slaves, orphans or widows, all of whom are discussed in Parshat Mishpatim.

The end result is that Parshat Mishpatim is really no interruption in the flow of the Torah whatsoever. Instead, it introduces us to the concepts of infusing all aspects of life with holiness and treating both our business dealings and our civil matters with the utmost focus, care and responsibility.

Ritual matters and civil matters are both given incredible priority and stature under the law. Har Sinai and its teachings were a time when G-d revealed himself not only as a G-d of the "holy" matters of life but also the mundane. As Parshat Mishpatim correctly conveys, in Judaism there really is no distinction between the two.

MAZAL TOV!

Mazal Tov to Zev and Brie Reich (Tiferet Rakezet) on the birth of a baby girl! May they be zochim to raise her l'Torah, l'chupa, u'l'maasim tovim!



Tiferet in the Golan!