



RABBI JUDAH

MISCHEL

Mashpiah, OU-NCSY
Executive Director, Camp HASC

Dedicated L'Iluy Nishmas HaChaver
Shlomo Michael ben Meir z'l

Nothing But The Truth

Rav Avraham Yeshaya Karelitz, zt'l, the famed *Chazon Ish*, was one of the most influential and respected Torah sages of the last hundred years, and was considered a *Gadol haDor*. An unparalleled scholar and tzadik, his halachic opinions and Torah perspectives have played a major role in shaping the face of Yiddishkeit today.

There was a regular, daily *Mincha Gedola* minyan in the home of the Chazon Ish, attended by a group of Talmidei Chachamim of note. One day, they had a hard time finding ten men to complete the minyan, and the minyan was delayed, the hour growing late, until a *tsenter*, a tenth man finally came in. Noticing the time, Rav Shmuel Greineman zt'l, the Chazon Ish's brother-in-law and a respected *gaon* in his own right, was faced with a dilemma. He turned to the Chazon Ish and asked, "I made an appointment with someone at my home at this hour. What should I do? Stay here until we finish davening, or go

home to be on time for my guest?"

The Chazon Ish answered definitively: "That is not a question for someone who clings to the *midah of emes*, the attribute of truth." That day, there was no *Mincha minyan* in the home of the Chazon Ish.

TORAS EMES

Our sedra begins with Pinchas, a descendant of Aharon haKohen and the protagonist and namesake of our sedra, being rewarded by Hashem for his act of zealotry and praised for his unwavering and unpopular commitment to absolute truth. In recognition of the unilateral stand Pinchas takes against the public moral unravelling taking place in Klal Yisrael, Hashem grants him a covenant of peace and priesthood.

Regarding Pinchas, the Navi Malachi articulates the words of Hashem: "My covenant was with him, *hachayim v'hashalom*, life and peace... *Toras Emes*, true teaching was in his mouth, and injustice was not found on his lips. In peace and equity he went with Me, *v'rabim heishiv me'avon* — and he brought many back from iniquity"(2:5-6)

The Shelah haKadosh, Rebbe Yeshaya Horowitz zy'a, expounds on the way the Navi describes the actions and

accomplishments of Pinchas in restoring propriety to the community and 'bringing back many from iniquity'. Specifically, when we engage in inappropriate behavior and make choices that are not in sync with Torah values, our wrongdoing is not simply *asur* or 'forbidden', it is also 'false', as it does not express the 'real me'. Avon, 'iniquity', is rooted in choosing the temporal over the eternal, indulging an impulse or desire that does not represent who I really am. Sin is choosing falsehood over truth.

Pinchas is described by the Navi as having "*Toras Emes*" issuing forth from his mouth. A recognition of *emes* is the very root of meaningful religious belief and practice. While we may waver in our observance, make poor choices and experience ups and downs in our religious life, when we strive to live with the attribute of truth, our lives are rooted in a deep understanding of what is right and wrong, what is real.

**REBBE PINCHAS OF
KORETZ ZY'A**

The *tzadik* Rebbe Pinchas of Koretz zy'a was a contemporary and friend of the Baal Shem Tov, a member of the Baal Shem Tov's inner circle. A brilliant, humble, fierce individualist, Reb Pinchas was widely respected as being unequivocally *emesdik*, truthful. Reb Pinchas told his friend and student Reb Shneur Zalman, who would become the Alter Rebbe zy'a, that he had worked on the *midah* of *emes* for twenty one years: seven years

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on recognizing the essence of falsehood, another seven years on distancing himself from any hint of falsehood, and yet another seven years toiling to acquire the attribute of truth.

Reb Pinchas once asked Reb Dov Ber, the Maggid of Mezritch, why so many *chassidim* and followers flocked to Mezritch, while only a select few came to learn from himself. The *Maggid* replied, “We know that there are years when the *parshiyot* of *Chukat* and *Balak* are together, and so are the *parshiyot* of *Matot* and *Maasei*. *Parshat Pinchas*, however, is always separate, and is always read on its own. Like you, Pinchas was zealous and absolutely uncompromising in his demand for truth. Therefore, you have few

followers and must stand on your own.”

FINAL REDEMPTION

Parshat Pinchas begins the period of *Bein haMeitzarim*, national mourning over the destruction of our Holy City, loss of our Beit haMikdash and our descent into exile. Yirmiyahu haNavi frames the period of the *Churban* as a time when we lacked integrity, and he cried out in the name of G-d: “Roam the streets of Jerusalem, search its squares. Look about and take note: you will not find a *man!* There is none who acts justly, who seeks integrity, that I should pardon her.” (5:1) Our exile came about through collusion with ‘falsehood’.

The difference between the words *golah*, exile, and *ge’ulah*, redemption, is that there is a letter *alef* in *ge’ulah*. *Alef* stands for *emes*. Speaking of the coming Final Redemption, Hashem says, “I will return to Zion, and I will dwell in the midst of Yerushalayim; *v’nikrah Yerushalayim Ir haEmes* — and Jerusalem shall be called the City of Truth...” (Zechariah 8:3). The Gemara (*Berachot*, 58a) refers to Yerushalayim as ‘the embodiment of *Netzach*, ‘that which is eternal’, for only that which is true, is eternal.

May our pursuit of truth and living with the *midah* of *emes* join us with other like-minded seekers, and may we be blessed to daven and celebrate together in the rebuilt *Yerushalayim*, “Peace-Will-Be-Seen”, the eternal City of Truth, *Bimeheirah*. ■

SHIUR SPONSORS

Rabbi Adler’s shiur (Sunday, July 5) - was sponsored by Shimshon Granek in loving memory of his mother

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her Yahrzeit was י"ג תמוז

Rebbetzin Pearl Borow’s shiur (Monday, July 6) was sponsored by Terry and Aaron Friedman for a *Mazel Tov* on the Rebbetzin’s Birthday and the new addition to the family!

Pearl Borow’s navi class (Monday, July 13) is sponsored לע"נ Sora Simcha (Sharon Andelman Bromberg) bat Malka and Chenoach Yaakov Andelman a"h on her 7th yahrzeit on כ' תמוז by Dov and Elayne Greenstone

Rabbi Goldscheider’s parsha class (Monday, July 13) is sponsored לע"נ Sora Simcha (Sharon Andelman Bromberg) bat Malka and Chenoach Yaakov Andelman a"h on her 7th yahrzeit on כ' תמוז by Dov and Elayne Greenstone