

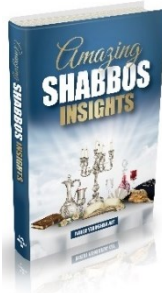
Fascinating INSIGHTS

יא' סיון תשפ"ב
June 10, 2022

פרשת בהעלותך
10th year, edition 439

To purchase any of the author's books (hardcopy or e-book) and get it delivered to your door, please send an email to yalt3285@gmail.com or visit <https://amzn.to/3eyh5xP> (where you can also see the reviews).

As we have arrived at the final stages before publication, this is the final opportunity for dedications for the book about Shabbos titled "Amazing Shabbos Insights" (the cover is attached below). Don't miss out on the Dedication Opportunities, which can be given from Maisei money. It can be L'ilui Nishmas, L'Refuah Shleima, an advertisement for a business, in honor of a special occasion or any other dedication that your heart desires. This is in addition to sharing in the merit of the Torah learned by each reader. For more information or if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at yalt3285@gmail.com. Donations can also be given via credit card by clicking "Donate" at <https://bit.ly/392t1Zk>. Any amount is welcome.



SPREADING FASCINATING TORAH INSIGHTS ACROSS THE GLOBE

Argentina • Austria • Australia • Belgium • Brazil • Canada • Chile • China • Czech Republic • England • France • Germany • Gibraltar • Holland • Hungary • India • Israel • Italy • Mexico • Panama • Poland • Russia • South Africa • Switzerland • Ukraine • United Arab Emirates • United States • Venezuela

To join the thousands of recipients and receive these insights free on a weekly email, obtain previous articles, feedback, comments, suggestions (on how to spread the insights of this publication further, make it more appealing or anything else), to sponsor this publication which has been in six continents and more than forty countries, or if you know anyone who is interested in receiving these insights weekly, please contact the author, Rabbi Yehoshua Alt, at yalt3285@gmail.com. Thank you.

The weekly Fascinating Insights sheet is also available in FRENCH and HEBREW. To view or download them in these languages, send an email to yalt3285@gmail.com or visit <https://bit.ly/3FJ8uEc>.

This newsletter can also be viewed in English at <https://bit.ly/3z9qF5E>.

דעם נודלעטער קען מען אויך זען אויף יידיש ביי <https://bit.ly/38RvdTI>

Pour voir ou télécharger la version Française: <https://parshasheets.com/?s=Fascinating+Insights>.

אפשר לקרוא את עלון זה בעברית באתר דרשו: <https://bit.ly/3mGmEOZ>

Archives: <https://parshasheets.com/?s=Rabbi+Yehoshua+Alt>

To view these essays in German, please visit <https://judentum.online/>

Please feel free to print some copies of this publication and distribute them in your local shul for the public, thereby having a hand in spreading Torah.

Familiar Family

R' Yehudah Aryeh of Carpentras¹ traces the word משפחה to the trilateral root ש/פ/ח, attachment. This is because a family is a group of people who share a common lineage and are thereby attached to each other.³

Let's now pivot to another point. Each Jew corresponds to a letter in the Sefer Torah, as there were 600,000 root souls at Har Sinai and 600,000 letters in the Torah. Indeed, יש ששים רבוא אותיות ישראל, there are 600,000 letters in the Torah. Those from the same family are in that family because their letters are from the same word in the Torah!

R' Yehonasan Eibshitz⁴ teaches that the souls of relatives are like a single נר, light, that is placed between two pots and lights up both of them. When one's relative dies, his own light is also extinguished a little and therefore he himself is טמא, ritually impure.

Counterfeit Currency

A person who works on Shabbos assumes he is earning money on Shabbos. This is an erroneous fact as we will explain below.

The Shulchan Aruch⁵ writes that one who performs melacha from Mincha onward on Erev Shabbos

¹ In his sefer Ohalei Yehuda. He lived in France in the early 18th century.

² א ש and ח are interchangeable in Loshon Hakodesh (see Shemos 25:5, Rashi).

³ Similarly, the word שפחה, maidservant, a female slave, is someone that is attached to her mistress in the sense that she attends to the household

needs (see Haksav V'hakabbala to Breishis 24:38 and R' Shamshon Rafael Hirsch to Vayikra 25:5).

⁴ Ahavas Yehonasan, Emor, s.v. ואל. See also Tiferes Yehonasan, Emor, s.v. כי אם לשאר.

⁵ Orach Chaim 25:1.

will not see bracha from it. The Mishna Brura⁶ explains that even if he gains profit from it, he will lose it elsewhere. To this we can apply *והמשתכר משתכר אל צרור נקוב*, whoever earns money earns it for a purse with a hole.⁷

Imagine a person finds money in public on Shabbos and desecrates Shabbos in order to keep the money. Then later he finds out the money is counterfeit. What a waste he thinks to himself.

The same applies to a person that does an act against the Torah such as keeping his store open on Shabbos in order to earn more money. Even if he gains a profit, that money is counterfeit because that money will be lost in some way whether through doctor bills, repairing appliances and the like.

In this way we can understand *לא תגנובו*, you shall not steal, and *לא תגזול*, you shall not rob⁸ as it is written in the future tense. This makes it a statement, not a commandment. This means that there will never be a situation of stealing ever since everyone receives what is due to them.

Let us conclude with the words of R' Moshe Kasserov.⁹ "No one will ever gain or lose money — from the beginning of the world's existence until its end. Whatever money one has, cannot be taken from him by anyone. Whatever he is supposed to earn, he will. What about if one steals from him? The truth is that the stealer in essence stole from himself because he will lose that money some other way. If one steals \$1,000 from another, he will lose the money elsewhere."¹⁰

Somersaults

There were great Chassidim leaders that had the custom of doing somersaults. There were two main explanations given. One was that this was done to combat depression and replace it with joy in Divine service. Another was that it was an attempt to minimize ego and pride, replacing them with submissiveness and humility.

R' Avraham Yehoshua Heschel of Apta (1748-1825), known as the Apta Rav, once somersaulted into the Lublin Beis Midrash via the window on Shabbos!

The custom of the Tolner Rebbe, R' Yochanan Twersky (1906-1998), was to do cartwheels/flips at different times. He had a designated time each night to do this. Other times he did this include prior to holy ritual acts such as Kiddush, before lighting Chanukah candles, before reading a particularly difficult *kvitel* (letters of request for assistance from petitioners) and at a wedding to gladden the chosson and kallah.

Why would he do this? As a form of self-erasure, known as *bitul ha'yeish*. Sometimes he would explain himself in words of rebirth and renewal, a nullification of the past and open reception for the future. Sometimes, afterwards he would say the pasuk *כי ששת ימים עשה ה' את השמים ואת הארץ*, all of my bones will say, "Hashem who is like You?"¹¹ When he would somersault during the processions on Simchas Torah, he would proclaim *bitul ha'yesh*, and encouraged others to do so as well.

R' Kalonymus Kalmish Shapira (1889-1943), known as the Piasezna Rebbe, wrote in his personal diary¹² about this practice that he performed. He describes an occasion when he somersaulted at a Torah Scroll dedication ceremony.¹³

Piasezna Chassid R' Nesanel Radziner¹⁴ recalled, "I remember the dancing on Simchas Torah... the *bachurim* who were called up to the Polish army would come up to the Piasezna Rebbe to mention their names, and the Rebbe would tell them to do somersaults during the dancing. In fact, the Piasezna Rebbe himself did somersaults."

Revitalized

The pasuk states *כי ששת ימים עשה ה' את השמים ואת הארץ*, that [in] six days Hashem made heaven and earth.¹⁵ Shouldn't it say *בששת ימים*, in six days?

Shabbos brings bounty to the world. The first Shabbos of existence gave only enough energy for the existence of the world for just the following six days. The same applies to each week: By the time Shabbos arrives, there is no more energy left for the world to continue to exist. Shabbos only gives energy to the world for the upcoming six days.

This is analogous to a battery. Once there is no more power in it, the object ceases to continue to work. However, if the battery is recharged, the object can continue to be functional.

Based on what we said, we can explain why it says *כי ששת ימים* and not *בששת ימים*. This is because Shabbos gives the power for the upcoming week.

Listen to the short Fascinating Insights podcast at <https://jewishpodcasts.fm/fascinating-insights>, where it can also be downloaded!

Rabbi Alt merited to learn under the tutelage of R' Mordechai Friedlander ztz"l for close to five years. He received semicha from R' Zalman Nechemia Goldberg ztz"l. Rabbi Alt has written on numerous topics for various websites and publications and is the author of three books including the recently released *Extraordinary Insights*, in addition to being the host of *The Fascinating Insights Podcast*. His writings, some of which have been translated into Yiddish, Hebrew, German and French, inspire people across the spectrum of Jewish observance to live with the vibrancy and beauty of Torah. He lives with his wife and family in Kiryat Yearim (where the Aron was for 20 years [Shmuel 1, 7:1,2]) where he studies, writes and teaches. The author is passionate about teaching Jews of all levels of observance.

⁶ 251:2.

⁷ Chagai 1:6.

⁸ Vayikra 19:11,13.

⁹ Amud Havoda, Drush Habitachon, 9-13.

¹⁰ Likewise, if one gives for example \$5, the recipient did not gain because he would have received that money from elsewhere if that person didn't give it to him.

¹¹ Tehillim 35:10.

¹² Tzav V'ziruz, 27.

¹³ These are his words: "If a Jew makes up something new from inside himself, a holy way to serve Hashem, then all that he does, even if he invented it himself to serve Hashem, becomes a holy act, and his body

will also boil over with holiness. For why was I so affected when I decided to somersault at the Torah dedication? Why am I so overcome with emotion whenever I see the place where I danced and flipped, and my whole body trembles? ... Since that time, this simple act that I invented has become holy and special for me, and I annul myself before it. For when I just began to think about doing the somersaults, my thoughts and soul burned with a sense of self-sacrifice. In my mind these were no simple somersaults, rather I saw a burning altar in front of me, my blood boiled and the tears poured from my eyes."

¹⁴ Hamodia, February 22, 2008, Magazine Section where it records an interview with him.

¹⁵ Shemos 31:17.