

Fascinating INSIGHTS

יא' תמוז תשפ"ג
June 30, 2023

פרשת בלק
11th year, edition 488

To purchase any of the other 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).

Exciting News! The newly released book "Dazzling Money Insights: Illuminating Torah Essays about Money" is now available (as a paperback and Hardcover) for purchase and delivery on Amazon at <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0C6P6H5B1> or by sending an email to yalt3285@gmail.com. Alternatively, you can call 054 849 5217 or 917 732 2371. This comprehensive book tackles many questions, with life-altering insights. The more than 60 essays found within present the Torah approach to earning and managing money. It makes a great gift for friends, relatives, business associates and learning partners. Purchase it at <https://amzn.to/3eyh5xP>. Please spread the word about it.

Some of the questions discussed in this book are the following.

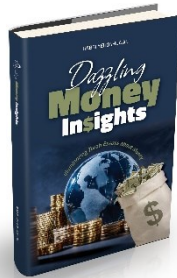
What is a tried and tested method for a person to increase his revenue?

Which mitzvos can a person fulfill through his profession?

What is the correct way for a person to react when he undergoes a loss of money?

Is saving money for the future a Torah ideal?

How can a person transform transient money into an everlasting asset?



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.

לעילוי נשמת שמואל אביגדור בן יצחק מאיר

The weekly Fascinating Insights sheet is also available in FRENCH, HEBREW and YIDDISH. 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 נוזלעטער 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>

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.

Soul Music

Music has the power to bring us close to Hashem. In fact, R' Uri, the Saraf of Strelisk, writes that if a person is incapable of drawing himself close to Hashem, then through the היכל הניגון, Chamber of Music, it is possible for him to draw close.¹ The Sefer Hachinuch² writes that since a man is of a physical

nature, he needs spiritual awakenings to connect to the spiritual. Otherwise, in his natural state, he will remain asleep. There is nothing greater than a *nigun* to accomplish this.³

¹ Imrei Kodesh 84. The Shomer Emunim (Maamar Tzahali V'roni 2, p. 381) writes that the Chamber of Music is one of the closest Chambers to us; yet it goes higher and higher, to the highest of chambers.

² 384.

³ The Piasezna Rebbe writes (Hachsharas Havreichim, 9) that music is a form of revealing the soul and its feelings... Music is one of the keys to the soul, which arouses it and its feelings.

The Vilna Gaon⁴ tells us that if our souls have stooped to the dust through pain and despair that have descended upon us, we can still invigorate our hearts through זמר, song.⁵ To unshackle oneself from sadness and despair, music is a useful technique to use as the Shomer Emunim⁶ writes that one who is consumed with sadness and wants to become stirred to happiness should strengthen himself and sing a joyous song for some time, until his heart will transform — against its will — to joy. He will see wonders from this.⁷



Why do we get such pleasure from music? R' Aharon Berachya of Modena⁸ writes that the soul derives pleasure from music because it is accustomed to music through the songs of the מלאכי השרת, ministering angels, and the song of the Heavenly circuits. Due to this, when it is in the body and hears music, it gets pleasure, just as it was accustomed to when it was attached to its Source.⁹ In a similar vein, R' Shlomo Alkebatz¹⁰ writes that music is something יערב לנפש, pleasing to the soul because it was accustomed to listening to it while it was still up on high.

Let us conclude with the unbelievable words that R' Yisrael of Shklov¹¹ (1770-1839) writes from his rebbe the Vilna Gaon (1720-1797). The Vilna Gaon praised greatly חכמת מוסיקה, the wisdom of music. He would say that *most explanations of the Torah, the secrets of the songs of the Levijim and the secrets of the Tikunei Zohar cannot be comprehended without it. One can revive the dead with its secrets that are concealed in the Torah* (ויכולים להחיות מתים בסודותיה (הגנוזים בתורה)). Numerous songs and measures descended from Har Sinai by Moshe Rabbeinu. The remainder are mere hybrids.

Letter to Mothers

At the end of a letter that the Maharam Shick¹² wrote to his son when he was learning in yeshiva in the city of Tzahalim, he writes: "Write to your mother in German a separate letter or at the bottom of a letter because she will be delighted in reading it herself since she doesn't understand the language Lashon Hakodesh that you wrote me."

⁴ While sojourning in Eretz Yisrael more than 200 years ago the student of the Vilna Gaon wrote: "Truly, how glorious is the settlement of our good land; how wondrous is the adoration of our land; truly, how pleasant the holiness, the glow of the glory of her settlement and her ways, her sitting and her rising, her peace and her completeness. **Even in her destruction, she has no parallel; in her desolation there is none like her** — the wondrous extent of her Torah, the abundance of her mitzvos, the goodness of her pure holiness, of walking of her four amos" (cited in Igros Eretz Yisrael, 51).

⁵ Siach Yitzchak, Siddur Hagra, p. 76.

⁶ Maamar Tzahali V'roni, 9.

⁷ The Steipler writes (Chayei Olam, 1:1) that the benefit of song is great, aside from the physical pleasure, because song arouses the heart toward drive, diligence (התמדה), deep study (עיון) and awakening (התעוררות).

⁸ He was a student of the Rema Mipano and passed away in 1639.

⁹ Maavar Yabok, Sifsei Tzadik 31.

¹⁰ Manos Halevi 1:8. The Shu"t Ginas Vradim (Yoreh Deah 3:8) relates what occurred in the city of Tzefas when the Rav of the city passed away, leaving a son who was a katan (before the age of 13). The congregation voted to appoint R' Moshe Alshich (known as the Alshich) who was around 60 at the time. They began to sign the *shtar rabbanus* but then R' Shlomo Alkebatz said to wait until the child of the deceased Rav becomes bar mitzva. They waited and they ended up appointing this son of the Rav in place of his father. A similar story took place which is cited in the Sefer Elef Kesav (58) authored by R'



R' Mordechai Aryeh Halevi Horowitz in his sefer B'shem Mordechai,¹³ writes about his father R' Avraham Halevi Horowitz (1864-1942):¹⁴ "Every Erev Shabbos my father would write to his mother. Once he wrote to her that he is careful in doing this (i.e., writing letters to her) like putting on tefillin. I remember times when there weren't any cards in the house. He would then stand outside in the rain and snow to find someone that could bring him cards in order to fulfill the mitzva of *kibud av v'eim*. It's the right thing for you to also be careful to write each week a letter to us."

His grandson added¹⁵ that the great Belzer chassid, R' Eliezer Rosen, who was a student of the B'shem Mordechai, related that during World War One there was no mail and he wasn't able to send letters to his mother. What did he do? He wrote a letter each week to his mother like he was accustomed. He would then put them in a closet for safekeeping until he was able to show these letters to his mother.



The Munkatcher Rebbe related that R' Nossen Dovid Rabinowitz of Partziva¹⁶ (1866-1930) was accustomed to sending a letter each week to his mother who was the Biala Rebbitzin. In the letter, he would ask her how she was doing and wished her a good Shabbos. On the day he passed away, R' Nossen Dovid called his daughter and showed her a package of letters that were written and prepared a while before. He instructed her to continue sending a letter each week to his mother in order that she shouldn't feel that he was gone which obviously would cause her pain. The package of letters that he prepared was exactly enough for three months. After those three months, when the letters were all sent, his mother passed away.

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 six books including the recently released Dazzling Money Insights. 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.

Yitzchak Weiss: "R' Dovid Neiman, the Raavad of Pressburg told me in the year 1800 that R' Mendel Katz showed him a *shtar rabbanus* of the Pressburg community written for a 13-year-old, whom they wanted to appoint as the Rav of Pressburg."

¹¹ Pe'as Ha'shulchan, Introduction. He was a student of the Vilna Gaon for less than a year. R' Yisrael of Shklov became the head of the German and Polish congregations of Tzefas and later of Yerushalayim. After living in Eretz Yisrael for several years, he traveled to Europe as a *shadar* (emissary of the rabbis) to collect charity for the poor Jews residing at the Yishuv Hayashan. On his return to Eretz Yisrael he wrote the Pe'as Ha'shulchan, which was intended as a kind of supplement to the Shulchan Aruch, supplying all the agricultural laws obligatory only in Eretz Yisrael, omitted by R' Yosef Karo. He also incorporated in this sefer the notes of the Vilna Gaon to the order of Mishnayos Zeraim.

¹² Maharam Shick Al Hatorah at the beginning of the sefer.

¹³ Letter 9.

¹⁴ He was regarded as one of the greatest halachic authorities of his time. He received semicha from the Maharsham and the Kochav Mi'Yaakov. In 1889, following the endorsement of the Belzer Rav, he accepted the post of Rav of Probinzhna, a position which he held for over a half-century. Among his famous works is his two-volume Shu"t Tzur Yaakov. Following the passing of R' Meir Shapiro, he was appointed Rosh Yeshiva of Chachmei Lublin where he delivered shiurim for a short period of time. The Shevet Halevi once remarked: "There is not a line in the Beis Yosef or Beis Shmuel that R' Avraham Horowitz does not know by heart." He, his five daughters with their entire families perished in the Holocaust.

¹⁵ In a comment on the sefer B'shem Mordechai, p. 180 in the name of the sefer Nafshos Chasidav, Volume 2, p. 117.

¹⁶ He was the son of the Biala Rebbe known as the Divrei Bina (1847-1905).