



Table Talk



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13th February 2009

Birthdays



Sarah	Kostick
Daniel	De Wijze
Lecia	Jacobs
Ariel	Ben David
Alexander	Rosenberg
Danny	Stapleton
Liat	Kasuto
Georgina	Lichtenstein
Leonie	Jackson

A Bite of Inspiration

Parashat Yitro

The fifth of the Ten Commandments is honouring parents. The Talmud tells the story of Dama ben Netina, whose scrupulousness in honouring his parents led G-d to reward him with a para aduma (red heifer), which he sold to the Sages for a large sum. Honouring the people who brought you into the world is something that common sense would mandate. As a result of his fulfilment of the rational mitzva of honouring parents, Dama's reward came through the classic incomprehensible mitzva, para aduma. Through this combination of the two, one reaches the complete existence of Judaism. This connection between tzedek (justice) and the mitzvot which are incomprehensible and therefore require a Divine command in order to mandate their fulfilment is also relevant to the first part of this week's parasha, the story of Yitro's advice to Moshe. When Yitro advises Moshe to set up a justice system instead of judging everyone himself, Moshe is hesitant. Moshe points to three separate aspects of his role as leader. The first is that

they come to him "lidrosh Elokim" - to ask Moshe to pray on behalf of sick and solve their problems. The second role is that he judges cases that come before him, playing the role of the source of justice. The third function Moshe points to, is that he teaches the people the Torah - the laws. Moshe wanted to keep these roles united, to emphasize the idea that interpersonal justice and moral action come from the same source as divine command and religious observance. He wanted to make it perfectly clear that to be a complete Jew, one is required not only to follow ritual law, but also to act properly toward one's fellow man. This is precisely the message that is being stressed both by honouring parents and by Moshe issuing justice himself. It is the requirement of every Jew to follow those mitzvot which come naturally, even without command, as well as those which come exclusively through Divine command.

After Dinner Joke

Two kids are talking to each other. One says, "I'm really worried. My dad works twelve hours a day to give me a nice home and good food. My mom spends the whole day cleaning and cooking for me. I'm worried sick!" The other kid says, "What have you got to worry about? Sounds to me like you've got it made!" The first kid says, "What if they try to escape?"



שבת
שלום

Side Dish

Maths News

On Thursday 5th February some of our Year 10 students sat an Intermediate Maths Challenge paper. This is a nation-wide test involving challenging mathematical questions and students can be awarded Bronze, Silver or Gold certificates if they do well. Students who do exceptionally well can then progress to regional and even a national contest against the brightest mathematical

brains of their age group in the country. We will keep you posted with results when they are notified and well done to those who were selected to sit the challenge in the first place!

Puzzle: Using the digits 2, 4, 6 and 8, **once each only**, and the usual arithmetic operations, can you produce a sum whose answer is 25? Solution next week!

Celebrating Success



Sharon won the inter house football tournament.

Dayna Rosenthal for achieving 98% in her mock Business studies exam.

Rachel Miller excellent work in Drama.



מזל טוב