



On the occasion of the first Yahrzeit of his mother, a renowned Torah scholar in Jerusalem, American-born Rabbi Yisroel Berle, published a distinguished commentary on prayer. In his introduction he includes the following story about his mother:

More than half a century ago U.S. President Harry S. Truman decided to give a series of weekly radio talks to the nation in imitation of the famed "fireside chats" of his predecessor. The time chosen was Friday evening. Fearful that some Jews would be so anxious to hear the President that they would put aside observance of Shabbat in order to do so, Mrs. Berle dashed off a letter to the President calling his attention to the fact that Jewish Sabbath observers would be denied the privilege of hearing him if the broadcast were on the Sabbath eve.

Her efforts were rewarded with success. A letter from the Presidents secretary informed her that her letter was being given serious attention. Ten days later an announcement was made that the Presidents talks would be switched from Friday night to Tuesday.

[Source: Ohr Somayach Institutions www.ohr.edu . Printed with permission]

**Hints & Answers\*** **HALACHA CHALLENGE:** Sefer Shemiras Shabbos Kehilchosa (26:2) teaches: "A flower pot is muktza, and [thus] it is not permitted to move it [on Shabbos and Yom Tov]. This is true even in a case where the bottom of the flower pot is not perforated." (For further study on this topic, see Sefer Shemiras Shabbos Kehilchosa ch. 26, note 6.) **RHYME:** "say" **PARSHA RIDDLE:** עבד עברי (see Rashi's commentary to Vayikra 25:42). | \*Menucha answers are not to be taken as final decisions in halacha.



## Halacha Challenge



### Moving a Flower Pot



On erev Shavuos, the Cohen family heard a knock on a door. When Mr. Cohen opened the door, he saw Moishy—a *bochur* whom they invited for the *leil Shavuos seuda*. "This is for your family!" said Moishy, as he handed a flower pot to Mr. Cohen. "Thank you so much, Moishy," said Mr. Cohen, "This will be a beautiful decoration for our house on Shavuos!" Mr. Cohen took the flower pot, and placed it on top of the bookshelf.

When Shavuos arrived, Mrs. Cohen thought to move the flower pot from the bookshelf and place it on the table. But as she was about to take it, she thought to herself, "Wait a second? Is this flower pot muktza? Well, I know that a vase with flowers is not muktza. Do we say the same for flowers in a flower pot? On one hand, both are designated to decorate the house. But on the other hand, the flowers in a flower pot are planted in soil..."

**Question:** Is that flower pot muktza?

(The "Hints & Answers" section is on page 4)

Dedicated anonymously for yeshuos and refuos to all Klal Yisroel





## Parsha Pearls

אַם־בְּחַקְתִּי תֵלְכוּ... [ויקרא כו:ג]

*If you will walk in my statutes... [Vayikra 26:3]*

Based on a Midrash, Rashi comments that due to the fact that the last part of the verse mentions performance of the mitzvos, then it must be that the first part of the verse - אַם־בְּחַקְתִּי תֵלְכוּ - means “if you will toil in learning My Torah”. The question arises why does this Midrash use the phrase “if you will toil in learning Torah”, instead of just saying “if you will learn Torah”?

The Maharal [Gur Arye, Bechukosai] explains that this *drasha* is based on the word תֵלְכוּ (*will walk*) in our verse. Just like when a person walks, he goes from one place to another, so too, when a Jew learns Torah, he should continually go from one level of learning to a deeper one. That is called “toiling in learning Torah”.



## Ask Around Your Shabbos Table

...וְאִם־לֹא תִשְׁמָעוּ לִי... - “But if you will not listen to Me...” (Vayikra 26:14)

Parshas Bechukosai has the chapter of *tochacha*. According to the *halachos* of *Kriyas HaTorah*, *tochacha* is not divided into multiple *aliyos*.

**Ask around your Shabbos table:** What do you think is the reason for this *halacha*?

**Answer:** Midrash Devorim Rabba teaches that the *tochacha* needs to be read by one person because Hashem says, “I have written about Myself (*Tehillim* 91:15), “עִמּוֹ אֲנֹכִי בְעָרְהוּ” - “I am with him (i.e., with Klal Yisroel) at the moment of his distress.” It is not proper that curses should be read to My children while I am being blessed [by a person who came up for an *aliya*].”



## Rhymes for Kids



וְלֹא תוֹנוּ אִישׁ אֶת־עֲמִיתוֹ... [ויקרא כה:יז]

“And a man should not oppress his fellow Jew...” (Vayikra 25:17)

כִּי־אֵין הַנְהִיר עַל אֹנְאָת דְּבָרִים [פירוש רש"י].

Here, the Torah cautioned us against hurting each other with words [Rashi's commentary]

I know the Torah way:

Hurtful words we cannot \_\_\_!



## Parsha Riddle



What are you allowed to sell but cannot advertise in Classifieds\*?

\*[Hint: This prohibition is found in this week's parsha (Behar)]

## ? DID YOU KNOW THAT ?

**You probably know** that just like when we left Mitzrayim Hashem purified us from the 49th level of *tumah* so that we could receive the Torah, so too during *Sefiras HaOmer* - the seven cycles of seven days - Hashem purifies us so that we can receive His Torah, as is indicated in the tefilla that we say after *Sefiras HaOmer* each day. **But did you know** that there is verse in Tanach that teaches us the concept that “seven cycles of seven” has the power to purify? It is a verse in *Tehillim* (12:7)

אֲמָרוֹת ה' אֲמָרוֹת טְהוֹרוֹת כֶּסֶף צְרוּף בְּעֻלֵּיל לְאֶרֶץ מְזֻקָק שְׂבַע־עֲתִים:

*The sayings of Hashem are pure sayings, like silver refined, exposed to the earth, purified sevenfold.*