

WEEK OF

Aug 20 2017

28 Av, 5777

WEEKLY PARSHA NEWSLETTER

BS"D



OHIEL  
SARA  
THE FEMALE VOICE OF TORAH & SONG

## Parshat Re'eh

By: Rabanit  
K. Sarah Cohen

PARSHA

HALACHA

STORY

Q&A

SHIURIM

JOKE

RIDDLE

QUOTES

DAVEN FOR

## PARSHAT SHOFTIM

The beginning of the parshah teaches us the mitzvah of establishing a judicial system for the purpose of honestly ruling the people: There shall be judges and policemen throughout our society. One of the rules stated, is that the judges are not allowed to accept bribes. Bribes have the ability to change a person's view. He may be the wisest of men and the greatest of scholars, but if he takes a bribe he may be blinded to the truth. (Shoftim:19).

The prohibition against accepting bribes is immediately followed by the prohibition against planting the idolatrous Asheirah tree adjacent to the Mishkan of Hashem.

Reish Lakish (a"h) derives from this combination of apparently unrelated pesukim that one who appoints an inappropriate judge is equivalent to one who planted an Asheirah tree in Eretz Yisrael. (Gemara of Avodah Zarah 52a)

Out of all the terrible things we might conjure up as an appropriate simile for an inappropriate judge, why does the Torah Hakedoshah specifically link it with planting an Asheirah tree? Many mefarshim are troubled by this. What is the connection?

One answer was given in the name of Rav Chaim Soloveitchik (a"h). He said, that a tree is a work of Hashem. It has particular charm and beauty. A large cedar, oak or redwood can take away one's breath. What could be a greater example of Hashem's handiwork?

However, it is possible to take that which one would expect to be a pristine example of G-d's handiwork and turn it into an object of idolatry. There is something particularly despicable about that. It perverts that which is fine and inspiring and G-d-like - into an abomination. There is a certain blasphemousness about such a perversion.

Who should be appointed a judge?

Certainly not the typical man on the street. A judge must be a Talmid Chacham, a Rabbi, a person who looks and acts the part and has the respect of ALL the people.

One who appoints an inappropriate person to that position - someone who acts with less than full integrity - is a blasphemous crime. It is like taking a tree and making it into an Asheirah.

Rabbi Mordechai Kamenetsky tells of an incident involving his grandfather, Rav Yaakov Kamenetsky (a"h).

REFUAH SHLEIMAH  
&  
HATZLACHAH

Yonah bat Henya  
 Michael ben Yonah  
 Ro'ee ben Rachel  
 May bat Ilana  
 Ben Tzvi ben Ilana  
 Gidon ben Esther  
 Esther bat Mazal  
 Yosef ben Devorah  
 Yaffa bat Rivka  
 Baruch Chai ben Zoya  
 Rivkah bat Malkah  
 Nissan ben Liza  
 Gavriel ben Toviyo  
 David ben Liza  
 Baila Chava  
 bat  
 Sorka  
 Freida Leah  
 bat  
 Pesha Rachel  
 Yehoshuah Mordechai  
 ben  
 Leah Gita  
 Chaim Yehudah  
 ben  
 Aidel  
 Efrat  
 bat  
 Shifra Tanya  
 Irin  
 bat  
 Sonya

There was a period when a group of unscrupulous individuals were involved in smuggling forbidden items across international borders. They smuggled the contra-band by putting them inside Tefilin. To worsen matters, they approached an unsuspecting Jew and encouraged him to do a 'chesed' by taking the Tefilin and delivering them to people who needed them in the foreign country. The person thought he was doing a great 'deed'. In fact he was involved in the crime of smuggling.

The United States Custom Service got wind of this scheme. They decided to enlist the help of Orthodox Jewish custom agents to discern the difference between honest people carrying Tefilin and smugglers.

An Orthodox custom agent faced with this assignment came to Rav Yaakov Kamenetsky and solicited his advice. The Rav advised that the unscrupulous smugglers should be dealt with in the severest of terms.

He said, "It is bad enough that they are dishonest and committing a crime, but to take one of the holiest items a Jew possesses and use it as a vehicle to commit the crime - this is the worst perversion.

This can be compared to waving the white flag in battle only to use it as a trick for follow-up attack. Everyone knows that the white flag is a symbol of surrender. Everyone knows that you can always trust the white flag. When someone abuses the white flag, he causes all of society to lose respect for the white flag. Not only did he commit a crime against the enemy by his duplicity. He has committed a crime against all soldiers in all generations by misusing the international symbol of surrender."

Similarly, using the Tefilin for smuggling is taking something holy and perverting it. There is no greater crime. Such people deserve no mercy.

Using a tree for idolatry is also a perversion. Appointing a person who is supposed to represent the ultimate in integrity, to a position where he can be a tool of corruption is a comparable perversion.

WHAT IF I DON'T?

Did you ever notice how some people move quickly as if they are always rushing to an appointment - while others seemingly have nowhere to go and nothing to do? And did you notice that whenever you are in a rush, it is the slow movers who always seem to be directly ahead of you?

"Why is it that they are always ahead of me when I am stuck in traffic or at a checkout counter? How can people be so inconsiderate of other people's time? Just because they have all day to do nothing does not mean I do!"

There was a man who was in a rush to get to a meeting on time and a car was double-parked, preventing him pulling his car into the perfect spot. He began to honk his horn patiently at first, but eventually he began pounding away violently impatient blasts.

The friend in his car said, "What is the matter with you? We are stuck here so why not just calm down?"

This upset the man even more. "You obviously don't understand," he replied. "I must get going!"

"And what if you don't?" replied the patient companion.

When one is anxiously suffering an unexpected delay, he should not lose his composure. We should think for a moment, "And what if I don't?..." And then consider the result of the delay.

It only takes one cool minute to calm down and reconsider the consequences. You may be surprised to find that it is not as bad as you thought it was. Besides, when you cannot do anything about it, it certainly does not pay to get all upset about it. Honking away at life is not going to make your accomplishment any greater.

### THOUGHT OF THE DAY

How you respond to a request for a favor, reveals your feelings about the one asking.

“Okay” - shows that you will do it - but reluctantly.

“No problem” - means that you do not mind doing it.

“My pleasure” - indicates that you are happy that you were asked and will enjoy doing for the other person.

(Unknown)

### A CUTE STORY

Bob put two bagels on the counter and asked, “How much for these 2 bagels?”

“It’s two for one dollar,” replied the clerk.

Bob then pointed to the one on the left and asked, “And how much for this one?”

“That one is 65 cents,” answered the clerk.

“Ok,” Bob said. He put a 35 cents on the counter and said, “I’ll take the other one.”

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### ANSWER TO RIDDLE

Rain

### QUOTES

\*\* “We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them.” \*\*

\*\* “The tragedy of life is what dies inside a man while he lives.” \*\*

\*\* “The high destiny of the individual is to serve rather than to rule.”

**ATTENTION LADIES**

Call us to host a learning group in your  
community.  
**(347) 430-5700**

Rabanit K. Sarah Cohen will be speaking  
on the following dates:

**Date:** August 26, 2017 - Shabat  
**Time:** 5:00pm  
**Place:** 1364 E7th - Bklyn, NY

**Date:** August 27, 2017  
**Time:** 7:45pm  
**Place:** 420 Booth Ave.  
Englewood NJ 07631

**Date:** Sep 06, 2017  
**Time:** 8:15pm  
**Place:** 902 Ocean Pkwy #6D - Bklyn, NY

**Date:** Sep 12, 2017  
**Time:** 8:15pm  
**Place:** To Be Announced  
**SPECIAL ELUL GATHERING  
IN HONOR OF ROSH HA'SHANAH**

**Date:** Sep 26, 2017  
**Time:** 8:15pm  
**Place:** 902 Ocean Pkwy #6D - Bklyn, NY

**Date:** Oct 17, 2017  
**Time:** 8:15pm  
**Place:** 902 Ocean Pkwy #6D - Bklyn, NY

**Date:** Oct 31, 2017  
**Time:** 7:45pm  
**Place:** To Be Announced  
**SPECIAL GATHERING IN HONOR OF  
RACHEL IMEINU'S YAHRTZEIT**

**Date:** Nov 14, 2017  
**Time:** 8:15pm  
**Place:** 902 Ocean Pkwy #6D - Bklyn, NY

**Date:** Nov 28, 2017  
**Time:** 8:15pm  
**Place:** 902 Ocean Pkwy #6D - Bklyn, NY

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

Audio-visual shiurim of

**Rabanit**  
*Kíneret Sarah Cohen*

Are Now Available For Viewing At

**[www.torahanytime.com](http://www.torahanytime.com)**

**Instructions:** Register for free and click on the "Ladies" tab at the top of the Home Page. Scroll down and look for Rabanit K. Sarah Cohen. Underneath the image for the Rabanit, click on the "**follow**" tab if you want to be notified via email or text about a shiur that has become available for viewing.

Shiur To Post Monday, Aug 28

**Parshat Ki Tetze**  
Preparing For Elul

Log on and enjoy the live  
lectures and be inspired.





## *Newsletter Dedication*

### **Sara Bat Mimon Ha'Kohen (A"H)**

Ohel Sara is named after this tzadikah (my grandmother). May the inspiration that women draw from this weekly newsletter benefit her neshamah in Gan Eden and may we all be redeemed as a result.



*Ohel Sara wishes all it's readers a Shabbat Shalom u'Mevorach!*



### **Candlelighting Time**

7:21PM  
NY TIME



You can now make a donation  
to Ohel Sara through Paypal:

[yourtrustedcoach@gmail.com](mailto:yourtrustedcoach@gmail.com)

*Indicate that money is for Ohel Sara.*

### **Ohel Sara Congregation**

c/o Cohen | 902 Ocean Parkway #6D | Brooklyn, NY 11230

[www.ohelsara.com](http://www.ohelsara.com) ▲ 347.430.5700 ▲ [info@ohelsara.com](mailto:info@ohelsara.com)