

*A powerful CTN Jewish Living and Learning Workshop with Rabbi Moshe Katz*



"LIVING  
LIFE  
TO ITS  
FULLEST"

Looking to get more out of life? To make the most out of it?

Jewish tradition has an amazing tool to help you do just that!

Learn how reciting a *bracha*, a blessing, before eating food can change our lives.

How it can make us more aware of life's gifts. Aware of who we are.

And discover how a few simple words can help us infuse spirituality into our hectic lives.

All in just seconds a day!

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**WHEN:** Tuesday, July 14, 7 pm  
Followed by refreshments, drinks & schmoozing

**WHERE:** The CTN Center, 2832 West Touhy, Chicago.

**INFO:** [info@torahnetwork.org](mailto:info@torahnetwork.org) or 773.761.0400 x208

**REGISTRATION:** [www.torahnetwork.org/htm/register.htm](http://www.torahnetwork.org/htm/register.htm)

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Home for the  
Wondering Jew.™

# THE CHICAGO TORAH NETWORK SHABBAT FAX<sup>©</sup>

A WEEKLY PRESENTATION OF JEWISH THOUGHT PUBLISHED IN MEMORY OF RAE DANIEL

VOLUME 16, ISSUE 32 FRIDAY, JULY 3 / 11 TAMUZ 5769 CANDLE LIGHTING: 8:09 P.M. SHABBAT ENDS: 9:19 (CHICAGO)

*Hang in there - Shabbos is coming!*

## TORAH PORTION: CHUKKAS - BALAK (NUMBERS 19:1 - 25:9)

This week's CTN Shabbat Fax is sponsored by Gary Bain, in appreciation of CTN and all the great work of Rabbi Deutsch and Rabbi Katz.

### **1. Moses said to them: Listen to me you rebels. (2:10)**

Moses. One of the greatest people of all time.

*With what had to be one of the world's toughest jobs.*

... The leader of the Jewish People.

*He leads them out of Egypt. And they complain. And complain.*

And finally, after many years, Moshe loses control. Gets angry. And lashes out at them.

*Can we blame him? Probably not.*

... *But the Torah does.*

It tells us that by getting angry, Moshe sinned.

... *It's a very Jewish story.*

Because most religions deify their leaders. Give them some sort of infallibility.

... Judaism is different. The Torah and Jewish tradition are very honest about our leaders. And their mistakes.

*For a very good reason.*

Because imagine if Moshe could never get angry. No matter what.

*We would say that he was born some kind of saint.*

That he's not like us. Doesn't have our struggles.

... And once we say that, we lose something very precious.

*A role model. Someone who could inspire us.*

... So the Torah makes a point of telling us that Moshe was also human.

That he also struggled with things like anger. Was also capable of losing himself.

... But he worked on himself. Worked hard.

And made himself into '*Moshe, the most humble man on the face of the earth*'.

... Still capable of inspiring people 3000 years later.

▪ *The Talmud says that there were four people who never sinned. Not to man and not to G-d.*

*Who were these perfect people?*

*Abraham, Isaac and Jacob? No.*

*But the first one is Jacob's youngest son, Benjamin.*

Moses? No. He's not there either.

But the second one is his father, Amram.

What about the great Jewish king, David? Author of the Psalms.

He's not on the list either.

But his father is. Yishai. Jesse.

And the fourth? It was David's son.

The famous King Solomon? Actually not. It was another son, Kilav.

... Don't recognize some of these names?

Don't worry. You're in good company. Many highly educated Jews would be hard pressed to list all four.

... Because the four 'perfect' people are not the heroes of the Jewish People.

Jewish parents didn't tell their children "be like Benjamin, Amram, Jesse and Kilav".

Who are our heroes? Our role models?

The ones who made mistakes. But picked themselves up. Worked hard.

... And made themselves into truly great people.

### STORY OF THE WEEK

There was a very special woman – wife of a leading Chassidic Rabbi and community leader – whose home was open to all.

Their Shabbat table was always full. Rabbis, students, family friends. As well as the less fortunate.

The lonely. The homeless. And the troubled.

... For a while, one of the Shabbat 'regulars' was a man who had come on hard times. And was a bit disturbed.

One Shabbat he became quite difficult. Unpleasant. And a bit disruptive.

And someone whispered: "Why is he here? He really doesn't belong."

... She answered: "I'll tell you. One day, after I die, I hope to go to heaven.

And when I get there, I think I'll see a 'table' - with some very special people 'sitting around it'.

I'll want to join them. And I'll take a seat.

I know I'm not worthy. And someone will say:

"Are you sure you belong here? This table is for very special people."

... And I'll say: "You're probably right. I don't.


But at my table there were also people who didn't really belong. And we had them join us anyway.

... So why can't I stay here? Even if I don't really belong?"



Shabbat Shalom and have a wonderful week!

  
Rabbi Moshe Katz

  
Rabbi Doni Deutsch

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