

From: The Rabbis at Chicago Torah Network

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To:



# Striving for Perfection

Balancing  
our obligations  
between man and G-d &  
between man and man.

A Special Evening of Torah Study from Jerusalem,  
right here in Chicago, with one of Jerusalem's most  
popular teachers, Rabbi Yitzchok Shurin

*Rabbi Yitzchak Shurin is a noted Torah scholar and Dean of Jerusalem's Shapell's College for Women. He has helped thousands of Jewish women with advanced secular educations but limited Jewish studies become more educated and inspired Jews. Widely known and loved for his warm, inspiring and engaging presentations, Rabbi Shurin has a special way of making Torah relevant to Jews of all backgrounds.*



## Striving for Perfection

Wednesday, November 18, 8:15 pm

At the CTN Center, 2832 West Touhy, Chicago

There is no charge for this class but advance registration is suggested.

Register online at [www.torahnetwork.org/register.htm](http://www.torahnetwork.org/register.htm)

Info: 773.761.0400 x201 or [info@torahnetwork.org](mailto:info@torahnetwork.org)



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 17, ISSUE 4 FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2008 / 19 MAR CHESHVAN 5770 CANDLE LIGHTING: 4:18 P.M. SHABBAT ENDS: 5:27 (CHICAGO)

*Hang in there - Shabbos is coming!*

## TORAH PORTION: VAYAIRA (GENESIS 18:1 - 22:24)

*This week's Shabbat Fax  
is dedicated by Zvi and Esti Schayer,  
in honor of our second anniversary.*

### 1. **And G-d said to Abraham. (12:1)**

Abraham. Possibly the most influential person in history.

*He taught the world about G-d.*

That there's a G-d Who demands morality. And ethics.

*And Abraham also taught the world about man. About human dignity.*

How every human being is created in the Image of G-d.

... Us? We may not change the world.

But the Talmud (*Ethics of the Fathers*) teaches another way to be like Abraham.

*... By changing ourselves.*

By being generous. And humble.

*Because with all his accomplishments, that's how Abraham was.*

... It's something to think about.

When we think about the things that we have accomplished.

And sometimes we may get a little too proud. And a little too demanding of others.

*... Then it's time to be more like Abraham.*

▪ *Rabbi Aaron Rokeach was known for his tremendous humility.*

*... Once, as he was getting into a taxi, he turned to his students with a smile.*

*'See how a person has to bend down to get into a taxi?'*

*... Life is like that too.*

*If you want to get anywhere - you have to be willing to bend down.*

*To lower yourself.*

*That's the only way.'*

### 2. **And Abraham said to Lot, Please let there not be a dispute between us ... (13:8)**

It's one of the so-called *little* lessons for life that we learn from Abraham.

*That's bigger than we think.*

Something that's really obvious to us.

... But somehow it's the obvious things that we tend to forget.

*Like how it doesn't necessarily matter whose fault it is.*

*And it doesn't always matter if it will cost me a little.*

*Maybe some inconvenience. Time. Or money.*

*... Avoiding an argument is worth a lot.*

▪ *A man went to a famous Kabbalist in the Israeli city of Safed. He had heard that the Rabbi had 'miracle water.' Water that the Rabbi blessed and was supposed to help people deal with their challenges. Especially, it was said, in terms of their relationships.*

*He told the Rabbi that he had a problem.*

*'It's my marriage. Somehow, we don't have 'shalom bayit' - peace and harmony in our home. It seems like we're always arguing.*

*I really need some of that 'holy water'.*

*The Rabbi said the water could help. And gave him a bottle.*

*The man asked if there were any special instructions. Any special way to take it or deep thoughts he should have.*

*The Rabbi smiled. 'Yes. Here's what you do.*

*Next time you see that you are about to say something you will probably regret, quickly take a drink of the water.*

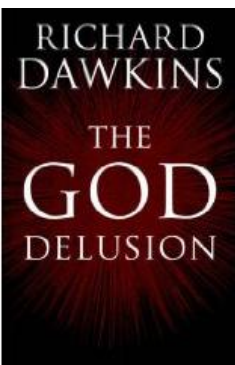
*But do not swallow it yet.*

*Keep it in your mouth. Hold it there. Until you calm down.*

*It will work wonders.*

*Guaranteed.'*

## DECEMBER 7: "EVOLUTION, DARWIN, DAWKINS, DINOSAURS, AND THE TORAH",



Richard Dawkins is not only a famous scientist. And not only an atheist.

... He's anti religious.

In his book, The G-d Delusion, he sets out to destroy religion and to do away with the need for G-d. And he's quite blunt about it. According to Dawkins, anyone who thinks we need G-d to explain how we got here ... and how such a complex and beautiful world came into existence ... just doesn't know their science!

Okay, now that we know what Dawkins thinks, it's really worth meeting and hearing Professor Nathan Aviezer of Bar Ilan University.

A world renowned scientist, who is also a believing and practicing Jew, Dr. Aviezer is brilliant, he is clear and he is funny.

**Please mark your calendars for Monday Dec. 7 for an evening with Dr. Nathan Aviezer, and see next week's Shabbat fax for complete details about this very special event.**

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*Shabbat Shalom and have a great week!*

*Moshe*  
Rabbi Moshe Katz

*Doni*  
Rabbi Doni Deutsch

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