

To:



"The Jewish Literacy Course was fascinating, educational, and uplifting. Rabbi Katz is a gifted teacher with a knack for using metaphor and humor to make his lessons both enjoyable and memorable. My wife and I looked forward to each session and discussed what we learned for days if not weeks afterwards. I couldn't recommend the class more strongly. It's a class that every Jew - both he who is deeply familiar with his Jewishness and he who has just begun learning - can benefit from immensely."

(Oren Dekalo, CTN Participant)



## Living Life to its Fullest

### **Powerful Tools for Getting More Pleasure and Meaning Out of Life**

Jewish tradition has amazing tools that will make a real difference in your life.

*Guaranteed.*

Short, simple things to say, think and do, that will help you appreciate and enjoy all of life's gifts. And will help bring real spirituality into your busy life.

*In just seconds a day.*

*... Little things. That will make a big difference.*

Learn them at this unique seminar.

*"One of the best evenings I have had for a long time. I could not go to sleep when I got home; I was very deep in thought about your words of wisdom ..."*

**Lydia Kamerlink, Attorney at Law, Kamerlink, Stark, McCormack & Powers LLC**

*"I thoroughly enjoyed your program. The lessons you shared helped me focus hard on living life to its fullest ... I am learning something about myself and life every day. Thank you!"*

**Bob Mednick, Member, Advisory Council to the U.S. Comptroller General**

*"I had a great time at the discussion ... it will definitely help improve my life."*

**Jonathan Erlich, Medical Student, University of Chicago**

**This Monday, June 20, 2011 - 7 pm**  
**At The CTN Center, 2832 W. Touhy, Chicago.**  
*Followed by refreshments, drinks & schmoozing*  
\$10 including workbook. Advance registration required  
info@torahnetwork.org or 773.761.0400 x208  
Registration: [www.torahnetwork.org.htm/register.htm](http://www.torahnetwork.org.htm/register.htm)

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

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

VOLUME 18, ISSUE 34 FRIDAY, JUNE 17, 2011 / 15 SIVAN 5771 CANDLE LIGHTING: 8:08 P.M. SHABBAT ENDS: 9:18 (CHICAGO)

*Hang in there - Shabbos is coming!*

## TORAH PORTION: SHELACH (NUMBERS 8:1 - 12:16)

This week's CTN Shabbat Fax is dedicated by Heshy & Debbie Wengrow, in memory of Avraham Dov ben Yitzchak Menachem *HaKohain* Wengrow z"l, on the occasion of his 23<sup>rd</sup> yearzeit. May the Jewish inspiration and growth through this week's Shabbat fax be a merit for his *neshama* (soul).

### **1. I am the L-rd your G-d, Who took you out of the Land of Egypt, I am the L-rd your G-d ... (15:41)**

*It's a fundamental and pretty famous Torah verse. In fact, it's said twice in the daily prayers.*

*"I am the L-rd ...". And then again, "I am the L-rd." Which seems a little strange.*

*... Why the repetition?*

Jewish tradition says that it's not a repetition at all. That it's teaching us a very important message.

*About our relationship with G-d. Both as a People. And as individuals.*

Think about Jewish history. How there were times that G-d's presence was obvious.

*Open miracles.*

Think of the Exodus from Egypt. The Revelation at Sinai.

G-d's Presence was felt. It was obvious.

And it can be that way in a person's life too.

There are times that it may seem so clear, so obvious, that there's a G-d looking out for us.

... But then there are other times. When G-d's presence is not so obvious at all. In fact It's quite hidden.

Everyday life. When the going is tough. For the Jewish People. And for an individual.

... And so the Torah is telling us, *'Don't wait for the miracles to see G-d.*

*See Him in the birth of every child. In the beauty of every sunrise and sunset.*

*And in every breath you take.'*

*See G-d in our survival as a People.*

*Against all odds. And all predictions.'*

... Maybe it's not a *blatant* miracle.

*But it's a miracle just the same.*

Sure you'll see Him in times of *'I am the L-rd your G-d, Who took you out of the Land of Egypt.'*

But learn also to recognize Him when it's just, *'I am the L-rd your G-d.'* Period.

... *Because, He's always there.*

*We've just got to learn to recognize Him.*

▪ *The parents-to-be are looking at an ultra-sound of their baby.*

*... And the husband can't get over it.*

*"It's unbelievable. You can actually see the baby. Look at how clear it is.*

*Boy! This is some machine!"*

*... We human beings are pretty amazing!*

*We can see a picture of a baby.*

*The most amazing thing in the universe.*

*And say 'wow' about the camera!*

### STORY OF THE WEEK

*A street cleaner was sweeping the streets in Tel Aviv.*

*When he approached the entrance to the synagogue of a prominent Chassidic Rabbi, he stopped sweeping, held his broom up and passed by.*

*Then he continued sweeping.*

*An American Jew noticed and was curious. He approached the street cleaner and asked for an explanation.*

*He answered, "The Rabbi doesn't let me do it"!*

*So the American Jew got even more curious and went to ask the Rabbi.*

*The Rabbi told the following story.*

*"I was visiting Vienna in 1938, just when the Nazis entered. I was among the many communal leaders that were arrested.*

*The Nazis thought of different ways to publicly disgrace and humiliate us.*

*I was given a little brush and stood in front of the great Vienna Opera House.*

*They placed a small cleaner's hat on my head and ordered me to sweep the stairs of the building with this ridiculous brush.*

*At that time, with tears streaming down my cheeks, I whispered a prayer.*

*"G-d Almighty, please save me from these beasts and lead me to Your home, the Land of Israel.*

*And I promise you, that there I will sweep the holy streets with delight!"*

*The Rabbi concluded, "Therefore I insist that the street cleaner leave those precious few yards of sidewalk.*

*So I can sweep the entrance to G-d's home!"*



*Shabbat Shalom and have a wonderful week.*

Rabbi Moshe Katz

Rabbi Doni Deutsch

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