



## DVAR TORAH PARSHAS VA'EIRA



By: Rabbi Aryeh  
Gitlin

### Gratitude Beyond Results

Although Moshe Rabbeinu was chosen to lead Klal Yisroel out of Mitzrayim, the first three makkos were performed by Aharon. Rashi (Shemos 7:19) explains that Moshe could not strike the water for the first two plagues - blood and frogs - because the Nile had protected him when he was placed there as an infant. Regarding the third plague of lice, Rashi (Shemos 8:12) explains that Moshe could not strike the ground, since the earth had protected him when he killed the Mitzri and hid him in the sand.

The Torah is clearly teaching a lesson in hakaras hatov. Gratitude is required even toward inanimate objects that provide benefit.

This raises an obvious question. The water clearly saved Moshe's life. The sand, however, seemingly did not help him at all. Dasan and Aviram witnessed the killing and reported Moshe to Pharaoh, forcing him into exile for sixty years. Gratitude is generally owed either for good intent or for an actual benefit. In the case of the sand, neither seems present. There was no intent, and the outcome was disastrous.

The Maharzu, Rabbi Zev Wolf Einhorn, in Shemos Rabbah 10:7, answers that Moshe did in fact receive a benefit. For twenty-four hours, Moshe believed the matter was concealed. During that time, he experienced peace of mind. He felt safe. Although this feeling was short-lived, it was real, and that benefit alone warranted gratitude.

This idea is reinforced by the Da'as Zekeinim on Shemos 22:30. The Torah commands that the carcass of an animal killed by predators be given to the guard dog, even though the dog failed to protect the flock. Why reward failure? Because the dog attempted to defend it, and because the owner benefited from the sense of security that came from knowing the dog was on guard.

The Torah is teaching a refined sensitivity to gratitude. Even when the benefit is incomplete, appreciation is still required. Even when expectations are not met, good was still received.

This outlook can transform a person's life. When we train ourselves to notice even the smallest good, our relationships improve, especially within the home. Gratitude shifts our focus away from disappointment and toward recognition.

The next time something does not work out because someone fell short, look for something to appreciate. It may be their intent to help. It may be their effort. It may even be the brief comfort you felt knowing someone cared. That moment itself was a gift. If the goal is later achieved, that is an added bonus but the first gift should never be conditional on the final result.

May we follow in the ways of Moshe Rabbeinu and learn to appreciate every gift, great and small, that Hashem places in our lives.



By: Rabbi Roey Tal

# HALACHA CORNER



## EATING AND DRINKING BEFORE KIDDUSH ON FRIDAY NIGHT

**Shabbos has arrived and Kiddush has not yet been made. May one take a quick drink? Does this restriction begin only after Maariv or immediately when Shabbos starts? How does halacha treat situations of discomfort or health needs?**

There is a Mitzvah Deoraisa to sanctify the Shabbos verbally. The pasuk<sup>1</sup> states, "Remember the Shabbos day to sanctify it". Chazal<sup>2</sup> taught that this verbal sanctification should be recited over a cup of wine prior to the Friday night seudah.

After sunset on Friday, there is a prohibition to eat or drink (even water) until Kiddush is recited.<sup>3</sup> If one accepted Shabbos early, the prohibition begins at the moment of acceptance<sup>4</sup>

There are several leniencies to this prohibition. In cases of need, when one is very thirsty or hungry and unable to make Kiddush, one may eat or drink before Kiddush as long as it is still before nightfall.<sup>5</sup> If necessary, medication may be taken with a small amount of water before Kiddush.<sup>6</sup> One may also rinse one's mouth before Kiddush.<sup>7</sup>

1. Shemos 20:8
2. Pesachaim 106a
3. S.A. O.C. 271:4
4. M.B. 271:11
5. Maharsham Daas Torah 271:4
6. Minchas Yitzchok 8:18
7. M.B. 271:13



### DAILY SCHEDULE

Morning and Afternoon  
Kollel (M-T)

Amud Yomi with Rabbi Smith  
**7:40am - 8:30am**

Open Beis Medrash and Chavrusa learning  
**7:40am-8:30am**  
**1:15pm-1:35pm**

Kollel Zmanim  
**9:30am-1:00pm**  
**3:30pm-6:00pm**

Night Seder (S-T)

Open Beis Medrash and Chavrusa learning  
**8:30pm-10:00pm**

Daf Yomi with Rabbi Smith **9:15pm-10:00pm**  
Kinyan Mesechta with Rabbi Eli May  
**8:20pm-9:00pm**

MDY Daf Yomi **9:00pm** (English)  
**2:00pm** and **8:00pm** (Hebrew)

### WEEKLY SHIURIM

Monday

MNSGA with food & drinks  
**8:30pm - 10:00pm**

Tuesday

SCP with Rabbi Freeman  
**8:30pm-10:00pm**

Wednesday

Rabbi Hassan on Chupa V'kiddushin  
**8:30pm - 10:00pm**  
Rabbi Peled on Sefer Yona  
**9:15pm-10:00pm**

Thursday

Shovavim shiur from Rabbi Peled  
**9:00pm-9:40pm**  
Guest speaker  
**9:45pm-10:00pm**

Kids Programs

Avos u'Banim and Sparks  
Motzei Shabbos  
**7:30pm-8:15pm**

Mishna with Rabbi Altusky  
Tuesday Nights  
**6:15pm-7:00pm**

Contact Rabbi Freeman at 404-985-7363 for chavrusa  
Contact Shauly Roth at 786-948-5677 for sponsorships



#### Mens Taharas HaMishpacha Refresher

Throughout the 6 Weeks of Shovavim, Rabbi Noach Peled will review the primary topics in Hilchos Taharas HaMishpacha

# SHOVAVIM

The group will meet  
Thursday Nights 9:00-9:45

*A great opportunity to learn/sharpen your knowledge of these vital topics*

Starts Jan 8

For sponsorship opportunities, please visit our website [kolléhollywood.org](http://kolléhollywood.org)