

Alumni Reflections

Impact of Limud HaTorah

Torah Fusion

By: Rabbi Moshe Weinreb

Then



In this week's parsha, Parshas Matos, the Torah tells us of a man by the name of Novach who built a city and called it... Novach!

Rashi derives from this possuk that the city did not last.

Prior to detailing Novach's futile project the Torah tells us that Yair ben Menashe built cities and self-named them Chavos Yair, Cities of Yair. Unlike Novach's failed venture, these cities are described as "still here today" in the book of Shoftim.

Why was Yair successful in his endeavor while Novach ultimately failed?

R' Shimon Schwab explains that the answer lies in the names they called their cities. Although they both seemingly named their cities after the founder, there is one small but significant change.

While Novach named his city Novach, Yair added a preface, the Cities of Yair. R' Schwab explains that while a person's possessions are important, they aren't him. A Jew and what he owns are two separate entities. A person is not his car, his house, or his boat. They may belong to him, but they don't define him.

Yair recognized this and named his metropolis the Cities of Yair. Novach, however, mistakenly confused his own identity with that which he created and called his city with the very name he called himself- Novach.

When it comes to a person's spiritual possessions, explains R' Schwab, this

is not true. The possuk states, "Ki im b'Toras Hashem Cheftzo, U'vsoras yehge yomam v'layla, [praiseworthy is one] whose sole desire is in the Torah of Hashem and he toils in his Torah day and night."

As one sets out on a path of Torah study, the Torah is termed Toras Hashem, the Torah of Hashem. As he progresses, however, it becomes, Toraso, his Torah.

The more we learn the more the Torah fuses into us, until we and the Torah are one and the same.

"How foolish are people who stand up for a Sefer Torah (Torah Scroll) but not for a Talmid Chacham (Torah scholar)-who is a living Torah!" (Talmud)

Learning Torah is not an external activity but an internal transformation!

When we are given an opportunity to use our time and energy to build ourselves, we can't waste it on external and transient pursuits. May we merit to grow individually and collectively and see the building of the Bais Hamikdash- speedily in our days.

Have a good Shabbos.

Now





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Rosh Kollel

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Menachem Frank,**
Rosh Kollel, 2005-2011

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Alumni Profile

Rabbi and Mrs. Moshe Weinreb

Members of the Kollel: 2000 - 2005



Yeshivas Aish Kodesh of Norfolk, VA



Rabbi Weinreb and the boys

Personal Reflection

We are very grateful for the five years we were zoche to spend in Minneapolis. Even though we left ten years ago, we have not yet moved back to the "big city." The wonderful people of this community, and especially Rabbi and Rebbetzin Gibber, are amazing role models who inspire us to navigate the challenges and opportunities of out-of-town living. We treasure the friends that we made even if we don't keep in touch nearly enough.

Highlights

- Rabbi Weinreb is a twelfth grade Rebbi in Yeshivas Aish Kodesh in Norfolk, VA
- The older Weinreb boys are in Yeshiva in Philadelphia and Ner Yisrael
- The rest of the Weinreb children attend Yeshivas Toras Chaim in Norfolk.

Keep in touch with the Weinrebs

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