

DEAR PARENTS & CAMPERS,

In this week's Parsha, we have one of the few examples of a Milchemes Mitzvah, a war that we were directed to wage by Hashem Himself. After the people of Midyan were somewhat successful in wreaking havoc on our nation, Hashem tells Moshe that a response is critical. The Torah goes on to tell us that Moshe selects Pinchas to lead the troops into battle, and Pinchas carries out a highly successful mission.

The Medrash Tanchumah wonders, why did Moshe "pass the buck," and appoint Pinchas to do this job? Did Hashem not speak to Moshe directly when He mentioned this war against Midyan? Presumably the one who received the command should be the one to carry out the directive!

The Medrash Tanchumah explains that Moshe knew it should not be him leading the troops. This was because Moshe grew up in Midyan, and this presented an issue. As someone who benefited from this place, how could he take aggressive action against them? True, they deserved this punishment. But as the Medrash says, "one should not throw stones into a well he drank from." So yes, Midyan had to be destroyed, but it would have to be someone other than Moshe.

What an incredible lesson in Hakaras Hatov! Presumably none of these people who deserved to be eradicated personally helped Moshe Rabbeinu. And they stooped to the lowest level possible, ensnaring us in the worst sin for the sole purpose of annihilating us! Yet, there are no exceptions to the rule of Hakaras HaTov. Goodness, even if inadvertent, must be recognized, and must be acted upon. Midyan deserved the punishment. But a beneficiary of their hospitality could not be the one to pull the trigger.

On this note, I would like to publicly thank Rabbi Kaye for being such an incredible partner in this magical endeavor called Camp Eeshay! We came on together last year, and we have all seen first hand his talents and hard work that have made your children have an amazing summer! As excited as we are to bring Rabbi Teichman into the fold for the last two weeks, Rabbi Kaye, you will be missed. On behalf of the entire Camp Eeshay, thank you for everything, and enjoy the rest of your summer!

Have a great Shabbos, GET THOSE EESHAY RUSH TICKETS!!!

Rabbi Glatt



1. Rashi says that Pinchas was chosen to lead the war against Midyan because since he started the Mitzva (by killing Kazbi), he should also finish it. Shouldn't the best general be picked to lead a war? Why was it important to pick someone who started the Mitzva?
2. Reuven, Gad, and half of Menashe wanted to stay in areas that would be good for their animals. Clearly, Bnei Yisroel had animals! If so, why did they complain many years earlier about not having meat?

This Shabbos in The Kramer home
402 Belmont Dr
5:30-6:30
looking forward to seeing you!

ONEGI!



THIS WEEK IN CAMP!

This was such an action-packed week, I don't know how I'm going to fit all of it into just one column! I may have to elbow my way into R' Glatt's Dvar Torah...

The week started off with plenty of "Awwwww"s as we tried to guess who the adorable babies on the screen were. Camp then became progressively less adorable after that. We brought back Switch, a fast-paced late activity that divided the camp into 6 teams, as well as an obstacle course game for the Juniors on Thursday. For crafts, many campers painted on canvases and built cardboard homes; others built elaborate popsicle stick creations; others built non-elaborate popsicle stick creations. On Tuesday, we were once again joined by Rabbi Friedler who took over for the head counselor who has even bigger shoes than mine. Thank you!!

While Senior and Intermediate ran away to the Poconos on Wednesday and Thursday, the Juniors decided to visit their old mouse friend and play some arcades at Chucky Cheese. I apologize to those whose children picked the whistles as prizes. They also had a fun popsicle hunt to start off Thursday, before going to Laurel Acres Park, where they ran down hills, played soccer, swung on the zipline, complained about the heat, and walked through a very cool trail. Of course, we had to follow that up with Slurpees!! They also went to bed at a normal hour on Wednesday night, unlike some other people...

Speaking of other people who didn't sleep Wednesday night, Rabbi Kramer decided it would be fun to take Senior and Intermediate to the Poconos for a camping trip. However, he needed an accomplice. So he turned to Dr. Shlomo Levy who decided to help out on the condition that could wear ear plugs at night. In the end, the boys had a great time on a nice hike that included splashing in water, after which they pitched their tents, played beach volleyball, had a BBQ, and enjoyed a campfire with S'mores, stories, and songs - but not much sleep. Early the next morning, after only minimal animal interactions, they started off their day with - you guessed it - a spontaneous football game! Eventually, they made their way to Chabad where they davened Shacharis. Finally, they capped off their trip by going to Golf Fun, where they "golfed and had fun," to quote the eloquent words of R' Kramer, and even had enough time for a kickball game at a nearby park. Not to be outdone by the Juniors, they also decided to get Slurpees.

Although I am writing this before Friday, I already know it will be a very full day of Championship games, swimming, yawns, cholent, ices, and Eeshay Rush! Ask your local Orthodox son for details (or see the flyer).. Hope to see the boys by the Oneg!

We would like to say goodbye and a HUGE thank you to Moshe Frishman, a beloved counselor and a major help logistically to the head staff, who will be leaving for the remainder of the summer.

And finally, we would like to welcome the talented Rabbi Teichman to the team for the last two weeks as I take leave of my duties here at Eeshay for the remainder of the summer. It has been a pleasure providing your children with a fun, structured, and productive summer!

Rabbi Kaye



