

DEAR PARENTS & CAMPERS,

This week's Parsha has a recap of perhaps the most climactic episode in the whole Torah, the delivery of the **עשרת הדברות**. As recounted for the first time in Parshas Yisro, all of the **בני ישראל** were waiting around **הר סיני** with bated breath, eagerly anticipating Hashem addressing us directly for the first time. And then, amidst thunder and lightning doing all kinds of wild things, the famous three words uttered by Hashem Himself... "**אנכי ה' אלקיך**," I am Hashem your G-d." But anyone who understands Hebrew grammar would be puzzled by this phrase. Because in Hebrew, the suffix on a word changes if one is saying "you" to one person, or to a group of people. So in this instance, the grammatically correct term would be "**אלוקיכם**," NOT "**אלקיך**." How could there be a simple mistake in Hashem's opening remarks to his beloved children, in perhaps the most fundamental of all our Mitzvos?!

Explains Rashi in Parshas Yisro, Hashem knew that just 40 days after this awe inspiring moment the Jewish people would be guilty of a devastating betrayal. Under the assumption that **משה** passed, we would create the **עגל הזהב** a brutal blow to our relationship with our Creator. At this moment, our very future would be hanging in the balance. We would need some kind of excuse, some mitigation of the severity of the crime, to justify our very existence. And since the word "**אלקיך**" was used, an indication that Hashem was just addressing one individual, Moshe would be able to craft the argument that perhaps we mistakenly thought the Mitzvah of believing exclusively in Hashem was only directed at him! That we never received the Mitzvah, and should therefore be absolved. While it still clearly is considered one of our most heinous sins of all time, this "excuse" was enough to stave off our elimination.

Think about it! Hashem is addressing us with the most consequential of all our Mitzvos, and **DELIBERATELY** leaves it just ambiguous enough for us to justify our mistake! Is there a greater demonstration of Hashem's love for us?! Not only is He not looking for a way to do us in after our deeply unfaithful act, he bends over backwards to give us a way out! What parent is on this level?! But Hashem knows that ultimately, we are human, and we make mistakes. And sometimes they are big. But that does not mean our Father in Heaven is not willing to give us many many second chances. Because that is precisely what a loving father does!

As it slowly dawns on me that we only have one week left (impossible!), I think this is a very impactful lesson for us as camp staff, and for all parents. We were a nation on a very high level that had **JUST RECEIVED** the Torah! The expectation was sky high. And yet, Hashem strove to find us an excuse. How much more so when dealing with innocent, precious children! Things happen over the course of a summer, and over the course of any child's upbringing. Mistakes are made, because we are all human. But nothing is unforgivable! Every mistake must be met with love and support! I hope on some infinitesimal level we were able to accomplish this with your children in our experiences together.

Have a great Shabbos!!

Rabbi Glatt



THIS WEEK IN CAMP!

Dear Parents,

This week started off with quite the literal "Splash!" That's right folks! Following our brief hiatus from complete submersion in large collections of H2O, otherwise known as the "Cool Water" break during the Nine Days, we have now returned and are even more determined than ever to enjoy some refreshing leisurely Chill Waves in the Clear Watery masses of Chlorinated Wonder. And speaking of waves, the Camp-Wide Eeshay Wave has been spreading like Campy Wildfire, with everyone lifting their hands high in the air, like they are Shloime DaChsneWr or Mordechai Ben SChWekey.

Regular davening and learning were strong, as is to be expected from Eeshay Masmidim, as were the usual Competitive Workouts, which included the senior division's brave attempts at Cured cucumber Whackball (or as some of you folk may call it PickleBall.)

In Craft Workshop, seniors continued to work on their Carved Wooden Esrog Boxes, while the rest of the camp created their own slime out of glue, shaving cream, and borax powder — also producing a delicious batch of Cwispy Wice treats.

Late activities featured Camp-Wide Photophobia, in which campers had to guess on the Correct Wesponse as to what the zoomed-in pictures really were. On Tuesday, we had our annual Counselor Wreckage (also known as "Torture the Counselor"), where counselors endured extreme Chilly Water contests performed by campers — like Dunk the Counselor, Cold Wear challenges, and Container Water filling events. Although the bus transported us to the Kramer Arena on the way there, we opted to take the Crazier Way for our return as we hiked through the streets of Chery Hill for Close to 8 Whole minutes!

Trips this week were definitely filled with some memorable highlights: Juniors headed to Castle Wonder, otherwise known as Kids Empire, which ended up being incredible — especially thanks to Shmulik and Yaakov's epic antics. They orchestrated a Climbing Web-wide tag game, used every block in the area for Construction Wonders, and even got buried under all the blocks in a true Chaotic Wackiness.

Intermediates enjoyed Club Whack (a.k.a. Top Golf), and seniors set off for the Camping Wilderness, complete with Sm'ores, sleeping bags and flashlights.

That's almost all there is for this portion of the Camp Weekly. Until next week when another rather significant C.W. will have happened...Cow Week of course! (Shabbos Nacha...Mooooo). But hay...not everything is always black and white, that's what makes life so colorful!

Wishing you all a Good Shabbos!

P.S. Please be aware that there have been rumored sightings of the Rawroloc Monster lurking around the Cherry Hill Woods area, so just be careful and keep those crayons and markers in a safe location.

Rabbi Friedler



LEAGUE STANDINGS

INTERMEDIATE

SENIOR

TEAM 1- 3-4

TEAM 2- 6-1

TEAM 3- 2-5

TEAM 4- 4-3