

## DEAR PARENTS & CAMPERS,

This week's Parsha, פרשת עקב, is right in the middle of משה's final address to the Jewish people. It is a powerful speech, packed with warnings about the past, and promises about the future. In פרק י' פסוק כ, Moshe says the famous words "את ה' אלוקיך", תירא Hashem your G-d! There is an interesting story related in the Gemarah in many places about these words.

Shimon HaEmsuni made it his life's work to expound on every "את" in the Torah. He was doing pretty well, starting from the very first Posuk in the Torah (את השמים ואת הארץ) all the way through a few Parshios in Devarim. And then he arrived at this Posuk. And he hit the proverbial wall. What could the Torah possibly be telling me to fear in addition to Hashem?! It's inconceivable that there is something else out there that demands a fear even in the same stratosphere and the fear we must have for our Creator! At this point, he put down his pen, and admitted defeat. His working hypothesis to embark on this venture, namely, that every seemingly unnecessary word must be teaching me something, was in his mind mistaken. Thus, all his notebooks filled with teachings from these "extra" אתes were written in error.

His students were astounded. They exclaimed, "Rebbe, what will be with all of those novel concepts, and the years of work, that went into coming up with a דרשה for every single את up until this point?! Are you willing to discard all of it?! At which point Shimon HaEmsuni uttered the famous words (Paraphrased) "the same way I was receiving reward for my teachings, I am also receiving reward for walking away."

What incredible self-sacrifice!! Here is a man who spent countless days, months, years on this project. But the second he felt he was no longer being intellectually honest, he had no issue saying "I was mistaken, time to pivot to a new endeavor." At the end of the day, Hashem simply wants honesty. Honesty in our learning, honesty in how we interact with others, and honesty in our service of Him. The fancy Sefer was ready to go to print, but if it wasn't grounded in 100% truth, it would be a distortion of Hashem's holy Torah. Walking away was a self-sacrifice well worth it.

It is hard to believe that we are finished our Eeshay summer 2025! What an INCREDIBLE ride! It was an absolute Zechus to be a part of such a dedicated, committed team, and we thank you for giving us the opportunity to enrich your child's summer, I hope we did a satisfactory job! But this is something we have all seen over the last magical eight weeks. Genuine, sincere עובדי ה'. Kids who are true to who they are, and serve Hashem in a respectful, real way. What a privilege to be a part of this special, special group!

Have a wonderful Shabbos, a year filled with Bracha and Hatzlachah, and we can't wait for Camp Eeshay, 2026!!

*Rabbi Glatt*





## THIS WEEK IN CAMP!

Dear Parents

As I sit here at my proverbial writing desk watching the seconds tick closer and closer moving towards that fearful and dreaded moment when the hands of time slowly converge towards the premediated center point, signaling the beginning of a new day. The beginning of the last day of camp. The beginning of memories being forever crystallized in proverbial snow globes of nostalgia and warmth. Looking back at a summer filled with amazing memories and real growth I become pensive and reflective. And so, I bravely walk camp around with my Eeshay microphone asking a few fellow campers about how they felt they gained over the summer. Here are a few responses: "When I first came to Eeshay, I was a single, lukewarm French Fry, lost at the bottom of a soggy takeout bag from Mia's Falafel. Now, I am a fully operational, self-cleaning toaster oven, capable of crisping bread to a perfect golden-brown on both sides." - Anonymous from Dunior Jivision. Another camper replied while wiping away a few tears from his eyes: "When I first came to Eeshay, I was a forgotten tube of glitter glue, crusty and clogged in a drawer of broken crayons hiding from the claws of the venomous and greedy Rawoloc Monster. Now, I am a high-powered industrial laser, capable of etching 4D designs onto my shtender and Esrog Boxes." -Anonymous from Upper Senior Division. One of the more poignant ones though came from an intermediate camper who through spats of sobs admitted that "When I first came to Eeshay, I was like a decomposing piece of red meat, forgotten in the corner of a dirty plate containing leftovers from Great Uncle Alvin's 2 nd Bar Mitzva party, and now I am a meticulously engineered blimp, soaring through the skies, sponsored by a major brand of blue gourmet cheese puffs. Whatever your personal journey was like, one thing is for certain. THIS SUMMER TOTALLY ROCKED! I mean camp ended with such a bang I thought Purim came early this year and we were up to Haman at the Megilla! With color war fakeouts flying all over the place like illegal drones, no one knew what to expect when color war finally broke during Who's Line! And the surprise cameo by Peretz as the monkey like Rawoloc Monster! Wow! Is all I can say. Team spirits were high, as we sang, and yelled our cheers and songs. Sports events were competitive, aqua meet went swimmingly well, and that basketball all-star game! My goodness, I was on the edge of my proverbial bleacher seat the whole time! 2 nd day only got better with field events, team meetings and grand finale featuring comedy skits, banners and cheers. The breakout twists were not quite over yet though, because as "Peretz" walked in during the final scores wearing his monkey hat, he pulled it off to reveal that it was really.....Rabbi Friedler! The real Peretz then stood up and yelled his resounding rally cry before excitedly announcing the winners! Congratulations to the blue team! Each team though put all their heart (Lev) and brains (Seichel) into making this the most memorable and heartfelt color war of all time! And now before signing off for the last time this year, there is just 1 question that needs to be asked...

ARE.....YOU.....READY.....FOR.....EESHAY.....2026?!.....YEAH!!!!!!

*Rabbi Friedler*

