

DEAR PARENTS & CAMPERS,

In this week's Parsha, פרשת שופטים, the שוטרים address the Jewish army as they are on the cusp of battle. They announce the three groups of people who should leave the battlefield and go back home. "Anyone who has built a house, planted a vineyard, or who has married a lady, return home." The reason given in the תורה is that it would be particularly painful if they would perish in war, not being able to enjoy what they have been looking forward to.

But then the תורה adds a fourth category. פרק כ פסוק ח states "מיִּהָאִישׁ הַיָּרֵא וְרֵךְ הַלֵּב יֵלֶךְ וְיָשֹׁב לְבֵיתוֹ", anyone who is afraid and softhearted should return home as well." Rashi, in quoting over Rebbe Yosi Haglili, says this is referring to all soldiers who are concerned that they may have sins in their past that would make them vulnerable in war. They knew that more than battle strategy and superior weapons, a clean spiritual slate would assure victory. All people who were concerned that their misdeeds would not allow them to access Heavenly protection also left the fight.

Rashi goes on to say something amazing. As explained by the מזרחי, there was really no need to send home the first three groups in the first place! If they had no sins, they had nothing to fear! Hashem would surely protect them, and they were guaranteed to return safely home! The entire reason the תורה included them was to provide cover for group four. Imagine if they would only announce this last group. Anyone who stood up would be humiliated, as everyone would surmise he had some actions on his ledger he was not proud of. But if there was a mass exit because of four independent reasons, he could protect his honor. People would simply assume he just built a house, saving this sinner embarrassment. Incredible! The lengths the תורה goes to protect this man's self esteem! Sending back thousands of troops so these people could maintain their pride. Every person, regardless of their actions, deserves to be respected and honored.

It is so hard to believe we are at the end of another amazing summer! Thank you so much to all our staff for providing the environment for your children to thrive. But looking back, it is my fervent hope that we did our best to respect every camper. We are all the עם הנבחר, worthy of tremendous esteem. Every camper is a priceless gem, and it was an absolute honor and a privilege to play a small role in providing them with a productive summer! Thank you so much for making Eeshay your home, Hatzlachah Rabbah on the upcoming year! Have a wonderful Shabbos!

Rabbi Glatt

THIS WEEK IN CAMP!

The last week of camp brought with it a strange and wonderful mixture of emotions: highs and lows, laughter and tears, iguanas and haikus. It was a week filled with the kind of unforgettable moments that somehow make you want to laugh, cry, and check the Lost & Found all at the same time.

The Junior Division enjoyed exhilarating rides on animal scooters as they zoomed around the gym floor in sheer delight, proving once and for all that there is apparently no age at which riding an animal scooter becomes less awesome.

And then came Color War Breakout, which had everyone completely dumbfounded and thoroughly thrown off. Of course, that was only the beginning. Color War itself managed to outdo even the breakout, filling camp with energy, excitement, fierce competition, incredible ruach, and enough lost voices to require its own emergency department. (Please claim yours at Lost & Found before leaving camp.)

Meanwhile, the Intermediate and Lower Senior Divisions enjoyed a special trip across the bridge for Intercamp with Camp Rayim, where they traveled to show Dem Philly Boyz how we play hardball in the rough-and-tumble hills of Cherry. By all accounts, Eeshay emerged as the clear victor in the Battle of the Cities. We would like to thank Camp Rayim for their participation, their sportsmanship, and, most importantly, their willingness to accept the results.

And while all of camp was busy squeezing every last drop out of the summer, Senior was making sure there were still a few more unforgettable moments to add to the list.

Shabbos lamps look fantastic! Thank you Rabbi Laster! From now on Eeshay campers will enjoy the light of Shabbos... and the Darkness!

Shoutout to Senior campers Mendy and Avi for scintillating Dvar Torah presentations during Color War!

Amazing Aqua meet at color war, with the longest breath held going to Shmuel Kramer AGAIN! When I asked him how he does it, he said "I pretend I just took off my sneakers after a long day in camp!"

And just like that, the final days of summer arrived. The songs, the games, the trips, the Color War rivalries, the inside jokes, the spontaneous moments, the slightly less-than-spontaneous moments, and yes, even the lost socks somehow became part of the story of Summer 2026.

But while one door closes on another unforgettable summer, another opens... to the countdown of Summer 2027, which only promises to be more glorious, more exciting... and possibly more lost socks than ever before.

Everyone have a great Z'man, and we can't wait to see Ya All Next Year!

Rabbi Friedler



THE EESHAY BLAST

