



### Thoughts on the Parsha

Rabbi Shmuel Wasser

There is an unbelievable lesson on life that we can learn from this week's parsha. At the end of the parsha, the passuk states that Avraham Avinu dies זקן וטובע - at an old age and satisfied. The Ramban comments that this passuk is communicating a specific point. While many people are never happy with what they have and always want more, Avraham dies completely satisfied. Upon reflection, the necessity of this statement is puzzling. Normally, we would understand the excitement of ending a life satisfied, as we are all familiar with our petty jealousies and aware of many things that we don't have. However, when we reflect on the life of Avraham Avinu, it is hard to understand why the passuk would describe him as satisfied. Wouldn't that be obvious? We are told by chazal that Avraham was an extremely wealthy person who had access to all material things if he wished. Additionally, he was treated with great honor, as we see at the beginning of the parsha when he is referred to by the Bnei Cheis as a prince. Furthermore, Avraham developed himself and experienced unparalleled success in his life as a spiritual giant. He

### MTI Recent Happenings

Yosef Chaim Weil  
 10th Grade

In addition to the Torah and general studies classes, MTI has an exceptional electives program. There have been many electives over the years and many new skills have been learned and interests pursued. From archery to makerspace to woodworking, robotics to fitness to chorus, there have been a number of really productive and educational yet fun programs that have been run. Each year, new offerings are developed based on the interests of students.

Recently, a new "Guitar Band" elective began, under the supervision of MTI alumnus Shmuel Meth. There is an intermediate class and a beginners class. Since I have taken guitar lessons before, but I still have a lot to learn, I joined the intermediate. We've had a couple sessions so far and I have really enjoyed it. Each session we focus on a new idea, such as a new strumming pattern or a creative way to accompany songs. My

### Featured Torah Message

Zecharia Dimbert  
 9th Grade

After Sarah Imeinu died, Avraham came to Ephron to purchase the Maaraas Hamach-peillah as a burial place. The Ramban explains that Ephron set an incredibly high price for the plot knowing full well that Avraham had to pay it, and then Avraham paid the entire sum בנדבת לבו - with the generosity of his heart.

Avraham had no choice but to pay the price that reflected the exclusive nature of the cave, so how was Avraham being generous? His generosity was expressed in the way in which he paid for the Maaraas Hamach-peillah. He knew that this was the place in which Sarah was supposed to be buried, and after he had determined the purchase was necessary, he did it without regret; the fact that he was paying an outlandish price did not affect Avraham's feelings.

Avraham's actions show us that money is a gift from Hashem, meant to be used to fulfill mitzvos. It should not be frivolously spent, nor should we be cheap and not spend it when neces-

### Sparks of Mussar

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**Reb Yisroel Salanter** went to Warsaw to visit R' Yitzchok Meir of Ger, the Rebbe honored him greatly, and when R' Yisroel left, the Rebbe escorted him to the street.

Word quickly spread among the chassidim that a great man had come to town. No sooner had R' Yisroel stepped into shul to doven Minchah than the building became filled to capacity with chassidim who wanted to see him.

How disappointed they were that this Lithuanian tzadik dovened as quickly as any ordinary person and was one of the first to finish Shemoneh Esreh! Seeing their wonderment, R' Yisroel explained: "I saw that many people had stopped work on my account. The shoemaker left his awl, the tailor his needle, the blacksmith his bellows. If I were to draw out my prayers, I would be guilty of causing Jews monetary loss."

knew he had been selected as the patriarch of ה' s chosen people. If any of us had a fraction of what he had, we would certainly be satisfied with our lives!

Apparently the Ramban is communicating an incredible lesson. Satisfaction is not dependant at all on what you have. It is a frame of mind that we must each actively apply to our situations, understanding that ה' gives us everything exactly as we need it. We will never attain satisfaction by merely working a little harder to just get a little more. It doesn't work that way. We must work on developing the character trait of being satisfied with what we have, allowing us to truly internalize the simcha that comes with being שמח בחלקו!

personal goal is to be able to play any song by ear; I'm really looking forward to the remaining sessions.

Recently a new elective was proposed... a Chemistry Club! This will provide some hands-on science fun for students who join. Throughout the year many new electives will be offered - stay tuned!

sary. We see this philosophy exemplified in Yaakov Avinu's behavior: when he first met Rachel he had no money because he had voluntarily given all of his possessions to Elifaz. On the other hand, he retraced his steps to retrieve inexpensive pottery vessels.

Our success in life is measured by what we do with the beautiful lives and possessions that Hashem gave us, and not by the amount of money in our bank account or the size of our house or office. With this generosity of heart in mind it will be easier for us to use the money Hashem gives for the right purposes.

## Mazel Tov!

Rabbi & Mrs. Mendy and Daniella Rosner on the birth of a girl!

Rabbi & Mrs. Shimshon and Miriam Gewirtz on the בר מצוה of their son Avraham!

### ALUMNI SIMCHOS

Menashe Brown on his marriage to Ms. Liba Yelizarov of Detroit, MI!

## ONGOING COMMUNITY LEARNING

### ORCHOS TZADDIKIM FOR WOMEN WITH MRS. TOBY GOLDMAN

Tuesdays 8:00 PM  
Nov 17, 24 | Dec 1, 8, 22  
(Chesterfield Group)

Sundays 8:00 PM  
Nov 15, 22, 29 | Dec 6, 20, 27  
(U. City Group)

Zoom ID- 525-786-3657

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with Rabbi Shmuel Wasser

short thought on **Tefilla**  
with Rabbi Shmuel Wasser



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