



THE RABBI BINYAMIN KAMENETZKY
TORAH LEGACY FOUNDATION
לזכרון של הרב בנימין קמנצקי זצ"ל

אמרי בנימן

דברי תורה, מחשבה וסיפורים מאוצרו של
הגאון רב בנימן קמנצקי זצ"ל

*A Dvar Torah from the writings of Rav Binyamin Kamenetzky zt"l,
transcribed by his grandson, Rabbi Shmuel Kamenetzky*

5779 - Shavuos - A Step Up

The Chag of Shavuos is all about Matan Torah - Hashem giving us the Torah. Yet, in the Torah, Hashem does not refer to this Holiday as such. **The Torah calls Shavuos "Chag Habikkurim"** - The holiday of the first fruits, which were brought up to Jerusalem at this time of year. **It is also referred to as "Chag Hashavuos"** The Holiday of "Weeks" - referring to the seven weeks we count between Pesach and Shavuos. Seemingly, the Torah is hinting to us that these yearly events are more worthy of being commemorated during this holiday, and much less, the anniversary of Matan Torah.

Why is that? The Torah establishes the holiday of Pesach as a reminder of our exodus from Egypt. Similarly, other holidays commemorate events in Jewish history. Why then does the Torah not establish the holiday of Shavuos to commemorate the awesome event of Hashem Himself giving the Torah at Har Sinai, which happened on the sixth day of Sivan - the day of Shavuos?

Rav Binyamin Kamenetzky zt"l would tell a memory from his youth, and with it, teach many valuable lessons.

His father, the Gaon and then Rav of Tzitivyan, a small village in Lithuania, would sometimes ask him to mail a letter in the post office, a far walk from in Tzitivyan. He was frequently reluctant to go, as a long walk to the post office was not exactly his idea of relaxing after a day in cheder! Rav Yaakov noticed his hesitation, and asked him why he was reluctant to go. He told his father that the walk was too long for him, and he simply could not do it. Rav Yaakov answered him with a lesson he would remember forever.

"The road to the post office is lined with lamps, evenly spaced along the way." Rav Yaakov said. "Imagine that you only have to walk to the first lamp. It's easy, as you can already see your goal. When you get to the lamp, look at the next lamp as your next destination. Again, it is easy, since it is already in your sight. Do this the entire way until you reach the post office! You will see that if you break up your journey into a few smaller trips, it will be easier for you!"

My grandfather, Rav Binyamin Kamenetzky zt"l would repeat a fascinating insight which he learned from Rav Aaron Kotler zt"l, Rosh Yeshivas Beth Medrash Gavoha. **Other holidays signify event which happened.** The exodus from Egypt happened in the past. Passover commemorates that. The Jews travelled in the desert, protected by the clouds of glory. Succos commemorates that miracle. **But the holiday of Shavuos is different.** Yes, Hashem gave us the Torah on Shavuos. But that is not an event which happened, **rather, it is still happening!**

The gemara tells us that one must learn Torah as if Hashem gave it to us on this very day. The giving of the Torah did not simply happen many years ago, but until this very day, it continues. **Each and every Jew who learn the Torah is considered to have accepted it that very day!**

Every Jew has a responsibility to constantly learn and grow in his knowledge and understanding of Torah. Yes, it is a long journey, but each and every day is a small trip on the big journey. **Each and every day, in essence is a new day of accepting the Torah.**

The Torah does not give a day to commemorate the giving of the Torah, because we accept the Torah every single day, **as each day we take a step up in our growth through Torah.**

Good Yom Tov!

Rabbi Shmuel Kamenetzky is the Director of Advancement at Yeshiva of South Shore - ישיבה תורת חיים - בית בנימן. He is currently compiling the vast storehouse of all the Torah thoughts from his grandfather. If you have any stories to share from his grandfather, you can email him at skamenetzky@yoss.org.