



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*

## **5780 - Parshas Ki Sisa - With the end in Mind**

After the last few Parshios discussed the building of the Mishkan, Parshas Ki Sisa discusses the mitzvah of Shabbos. The possuk tells us, (31:17) "Uvayom hashevi'i shavas vayinafash" - "And on the seventh day, He rested and was refreshed."

But there is an additional hidden reference in this passuk as well. The Gemara (Taanis 27b) tells us an additional lesson learned from this passuk.

When the Shabbos arrives, along with it comes a "Nechama Yesaira" - an "Additional Soul" This extra soul comes to every Jew at the onset of the holy Shabbos, and remains with him throughout the day, boosting his spiritual capacity, and enabling him to soak in the extra holiness of the day. The gemara tells us that the word "Vayinafash" hints to "Vay Avdah nefesh" - "woe to him", when this soul leaves us at the end of Shabbos, as we have lost this special additional divine boost.

Why does the Torah give us this reference in middle of the text discussing the arrival of Shabbos, rather than in midst of the discussion of the end of Shabbos?

**Rav Akiva Eiger zt"l the great Talmudic scholar, was the leader of the Jewish world in the late 1700s and early 1800s. One of his close students was getting married, and requested that his great Rebbe travel to the wedding to officiate the ceremony and rejoice with him. Unfortunately, Rav Eiger was unable to make the trip, but he assured his student that he will send a replacement to take his place. Rav Eiger asked a close disciple, Rav Ephraim Zalman Margoulis, author of Sefer Beis Ephraim and noted rabbi and scholar in his own right, to take his place and travel to the wedding, which he gladly did.**

**At the wedding, Rav Margoulis officiated the ceremony, enjoyed the festive meal, and rejoiced with the groom. However, even after most of the guests had left, Rav Margoulis stayed at the wedding. As the wedding was winding down, all the other rabbis and community leaders departed the hall, and only close family, and Rav Margoulis, remained. Noticing this strange phenomenon, one of the guests approached him, and asked him why he stayed so late at the wedding.**

**Rav Margoulis answered, "I am here as a messenger of my great Rebbe, Rav Akiva Eiger. Our sages teach us that one who sends a messenger to do a mitzvah for him, is considered as if he himself actually did it. So in essence, right now, since my rebbe sent me as his messenger, I am in his place and I am him! But I can only remain in this exalted status so long as I am his messenger - at the wedding. So I am staying here as long as I can!"**

My grandfather, Rav Binyamin Kamenetzky zt"l, quotes the Rebbe of Ger, Rav Yehuda Leib Alter, in his classic 19th century work, "Sfas Emes", who explains this quandary.

Hashem is commanding the Jews about Shabbos. Shabbos is so holy, yet sometimes it is hard to appreciate it fully - until you don't have it anymore. As the sun sets on the Shabbos, and we start to realize that we are being thrust back into a new work week, we suddenly begin to feel the pain of the loss of Shabbos. - "Woe to us" as we lose our extra spiritual boost in the form of an additional soul.

Hashem therefore tells us at the onset - don't squander the Shabbos! You will receive an extra gift of an extra soul. Appreciate it in the beginning, right at the onset of Shabbos - then you will merit to use it fully!

### **Good Shabbos!**

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