



אמרי בנימן

דברי תורה, מחשבה וסיפורים מאת רב בנימן קמנצקי זצ"ל
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 Bo - Dismissled

Parshas Bo begins with Hashem telling Moshe about His plan for Egypt. As Hashem is telling Moshe about the plagues and punishments He will bring on the Egyptians, He says, "In order that you tell into the ears of your children and your children's children how I made a mockery of Egypt..."

Interestingly, the possuk uses the words, "In order that you tell in the ears of your children." Obviously, if your children would hear a message, it would be with their ears. Why then does the possuk require, specifically over here, that "you shall tell them in their ears"?

My mother told me a humorous, but insightful story that happened this past September, as she was teaching her fourth grade class in Talmud Torah Siach Yitzchok in Far Rockaway. As she was explaining the procedure for dismissal, she told the boys, "When the bell rings, it means that it's time for dismissal. Everyone should calmly collect their belongings, and line up at the door. Then, we will all leave the building together."

As she scanned the room, she noticed how Moshe, the new boy in the class who had moved from Israel only a few weeks prior, had a terrified look on his face. He turned white, and started to tremble.

"Is everything ok, Moshe?" My mother asked. "What happened? I'm just talking about what to do when it's time for dismissal. What's the problem?"

Moshe, holding back tears, asked her in an unsteady voice, "Whenever there were missile attacks in Israel, I was scared for my life! We have to be scared of missiles here too?"

My grandfather, Rav Binyamin Kamenetzky zt"l would explain that there are many levels of understanding. The same basic concept can be understood by a child, and can be explained as a thesis for a PhD. It only depends on the one explaining, and his will to ensure that the message reaches the listener's ears.

Hashem is telling Moshe an important lesson in chinuch. There are many fundamental and important concepts in Judaism. Some are extremely intricate and complex, and some are basic. Yet every part of Torah, especially the story of Egypt and the birth of our Nation - with all its detail and drama, can be explained to a child as well.

Hashem instructs Moshe that this story must be told by fathers, into the "ears" of their children. They must explain it to them palpably, and on their level. Don't overshoot the target, and don't miss the mark.

When you talk so your children can listen, they will be all ears - and you will not be mis(sile)understood.

Good Shabbos!

Rabbi Shmuel Kamenetzky is the Director of Advancement at Yeshiva of South Shore - ישיבה תורת היים-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.