

# Pursuit of Purpose

INSPIRING A LIFE OF MEANING AND CONNECTION

פרשת  
בלק

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## No Time To Waste!

*Based on the weekly Shmuess given by HaRav Shaya Cohen, Rosh HaYeshiva, Yeshiva Zichron Aryeh*

לעילוי נשמת גיטל בת הרב אליעזר מנח | הרב יוסף חיים בן מאיר | רפאל חיים דוב בן בן-ציון שלום | ר' ברוך בן ר' יהודה | שרה בת ר' יחזקאל | ראובן יוסף בן יהושע | לרפואה שלמה יוסף בן מלכה מטל

In this week's Parsha, Pinchas acted heroically by springing into action, and killing Zimri. The Ralbag derives the following lesson from this episode: "The sixteenth lesson is that in any situation where there is Chilul Hashem one should not give honor to the Rav, rather whoever acts first to remove the stumbling block is meritorious. This is derived from the fact that despite Moshe Rabbeinu being on the highest levels of Shleimus, Pinchas did not ask him for permission in regards to this act. Pinchas stirred himself to eradicate this evil with Zerizus, and he murdered one of the leaders of the tribes to defend Hashem's honor. Hashem rewarded him for this by giving him His covenant of life and peace, and his descendants merited to be Kohanim. In addition, he merited to live a long life....Our Sages say that he is still alive...for this reason they agree that Pinchas is Eliyahu, who we also find living for a long time..."

Generally, when we reflect on the story of Pinchas and the tremendous reward he received, we often think that this reward was due to the Kiddush Hashem that he made. However, it seems from the Ralbag that the reward was not just because of the

Kiddush Hashem, but rather was for the Zerizus with which Pinchas performed the Kiddush Hashem. It is specifically because Pinchas did not pause to ask Moshe permission that he received this reward. The fact that pausing to ask Moshe Rabbeinu permission, which seemingly would not have taken very long, would have made all the difference, is astonishing.

We can glean from here an important insight with regards to the significance of a Chillul Hashem, and the urgency to remove it. It is evident from here that not allowing a Chillul Hashem to fester and last for a few more moments, despite the fact that it will be removed anyways, is the reason Pinchas was rewarded so greatly. This indicates that to Hashem a Chilul Hashem lasting one moment longer is significant and catastrophic. Therefore, when it comes to Chillul Hashem we need to jump into action immediately and do everything possible to stop it. An attitude that can easily be developed, if one thinks of the great reward that Pinchas received for his Zerizus, of not pausing even for a moment.



## Shir HaShirim Insights

*In loving memory of Mr. Marvin Halpern*

In this week's Parsha, we find Bilam seeking to curse Klal Yisroel but can't help himself from proclaiming their praise:

**He – Hashem, did not gaze at the iniquity** – when they sin before Him, He is not exacting with them, to dwell on their sins, **in Yaakov and He did not see toil in Yisroel, Hashem their G-d is with them** - even when they anger Him and rebel against Him He does not budge from among them, **and their King's acclaim** – love and friendship, **is in their midst.** (*Bamidbar 23:21* with Rashi)

But is the above true praise of Klal Yisroel or is it merely a praise of Hashem, Who despite Klal Yisroel's sinfulness overlooks their iniquity?

A look at the Netziv of Volozhin's (Emek Davar) explanation of this Pasuk provides an answer to this question.

*He did not gaze at the iniquity in Yaakov, the iniquity in Yaakov is not intrinsically rooted in their hearts (for "gaze" means to look intensely at something's innerness) rather they sin due to a temporary spirit of foolishness. This is as Chazal teach us in Bamidbar Rabbah on the Pasuk in Shir HaShirim, (8:8) "We have a little sister..." That is the reason Hashem's love for Klal Yisroel is overwhelming even though they sin just as the nations of the world do, for their sins are like a child's without mindfulness.*

Indeed, Klal Yisroel's intrinsic greatness is the reason why, "Even when they anger Him and rebel against Him He does not budge from among them!"



## ELIEZER INSTITUTE Emunah Highlights

*A Westwood Realty Initiative*

24 Teves of this year.

*As he entered the taxi on the way to his weekly appointment in the Bais Hora'ah, it became obvious to the Rav that the driver listening to a Torah lecture on the radio was a recent Baal Teshuva. Though the speech was disturbing his own learning, he realized the driver needed the Chizuk, so he refrained from asking him to turn off the radio. The lecturer was telling a story he had witnessed take place with the Rebbe of Lohov. One Friday night, as someone entered the Rebbe's Tish he immediately called him over and whispered something in his ear whereby the person immediately left the Tish. When some Chassidim ran after the man, begging him to explain what had happened, he related that he had an argument with his wife regarding where to place the Shabbos candles, on a shelf or on the table. When his wife refused to listen, he had left the house and hearing singing coming from the Rebbe's Tish he had entered. The Rebbe immediately called him over and told him that the whole reason we light candles is for Shalom Bayis and therefore he should give in to his wife immediately.*

*When the Rav left the taxi and entered the Beis Hora'ah he was approached by a man who asked him, "What should I do? I told my wife to place the Shabbos candles on the table and she insists on placing it on a shelf attached to the wall..."*

*(Told over by the above Rav to Rav Elimelech Biderman)*

The recognition of Hashem's Hashgacha is a basis for developing and expanding our Bitachon.