



TORAH 4 TEENS

BY TEENS

NCSY ISRAEL



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Dealing with Doubt

Have you ever had a real dilemma about something important? Have you ever had an argument with friends or a co-counselor how to do something the right way? I'm sure most of us have. Perhaps the Torah in this week's parsha as well as giving a procedure for beit din to follow when they don't know the answer to something is also giving us advice in such situations. The Torah says:

כי יפלא ממך דבר למשפט בין דם לדם בין דין לדין
ובין נגע לנגע דברי ריבת בשעריך וקמת ועלית אל
המקום אשר יבחר יהוה אלהיך בו

The word יפלא, explains the Sforno, is talking about a situation of doubt. The Torah tells us that in such a situation we must get up and go up to Yerushalalyim and ask the Kohanim, the Leviim and the Shofet what to do. The expression to get up and go up is a strange one, surely the passuk could have just said go up. The expression get up, therefore, is teaching us how to deal with doubt. Sometimes, doubt can make us down and not just doubt the answer in that situation but our whole existence all

together. Our reply is 'just forget it'. The Torah challenges us to 'get up'; being stuck with doubt is an opportunity to rise up, question more and seek the truth from wise people who can lend us insight. In other words, don't be stuck with doubt and give up, rather get up and resolve the difficulty! ■



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Rooted in Potential

When going to war and laying a siege on a city, the Torah tells us not to cut down the trees around it. Then the Torah says an interesting thing:

כי האדם עץ השדה

If we take the literal meaning of this phrase it means that man is a tree! What does that mean? How are trees and people similar. Well, like trees we start

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as something very small and then over time grow into something much bigger. Trees resemble potential, something as small as a seed, that looks so tiny can become so big and strong! The Torah is teaching us that even when we go to war we have to realize that man is a tree, and we all as humans have the potential to grow to become something much greater! Even more than that when we see that people seem small and we think we can treat them without respect we need to realize that all people can be great and must be treated with respect. May we all grow to maximize our full potential. ■

NCSY Israel is the premier organization in Israel, dedicated to connect, inspire, empower, and help teen olim with "Klita" to the Land of Israel by encouraging passionate Judaism through Torah and Tradition. Find out more at israel.ncsy.org



There's a grocer in Greenland who wants to start fresh.

(submitted by anonymous)

There's a reporter in Raleigh who's asking the right questions.

(submitted by anonymous)

There's a naysayer in Kiryat Ono who said 'oh yes!' to Torah study.

(submitted by anonymous, Bet Shemesh)

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