



**RABBI SHALOM**

**ROSNER**

Rav Kehilla, Nofei HaShemesh  
Maggid Shiur, Daf Yomi, OU.org  
Senior Ra"m, Kerem B'Yavneh

## Strong Beginnings

After the transgression committed by Adam and Chava, each perpetrator is punished. The first punishment is assigned to the *nachash* (snake). It is destined to slide on its belly and be satiated with dust. There will be hatred between snakes and mankind. Then the Torah uses the following phrase - הוא יִשׁוֹפֵךְ רֹאשׁ וְאֵתָהּ תִּשׁוּפְנוּ עָקֶבּ - He will crush your head, and you will bite his heel. Literally this may be understood that man will hit the snake on the head to kill it and the snake will bite man's heel.

The *Kli Yakar* offers an alternative explanation that is quite appropriate for this time of year. The *nachash* symbolizes the evil inclination - the *satan* and the *yetzer harah*. This *pasuk* provides us with the strategy to overcome the *yetzer harah*. When the *yetzer harah* starts to entice us, he is like a spider web – loose strings through which one can maneuver. If we fight against the evil inclination from the beginning, as the *pasuk* states: הוא יִשׁוֹפֵךְ רֹאשׁ

– then man will be victorious. However, if we enable the *yetzer harah* to influence us and we follow those temptations day after day, we become entangled in a thick rope from which it is quite difficult to escape. If we wait until later to fight the *yetzer harah*, it will be difficult for us to overcome – וְאֵתָהּ תִּשׁוּפְנוּ עָקֶבּ -that is when the “snake” will be victorious.

This is the secret to overcoming the *yetzer harah*. We have to prevent its influence from the beginning. Once we are manipulated by the *yetzer harah* it is much for difficult to overcome. Often people get set in their ways. As we get older it is harder to change. This is who I am!

We are in the period known as “אחרי החגים” – it is a time on the one hand to try to get back to a normal schedule. Yet, it is also a time to reflect all the items we contemplated on Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur. The behaviors we undertook to improve our actions both *ben adam l'Makom* and *ben adam l'Chavero*. The key to accomplishing our new year resolutions is to begin implementing them immediately. To take control from the start- as the *pasuk* states: הוא יִשׁוֹפֵךְ רֹאשׁ – man will be victorious if he starts off strong!

In Sefer Shmuel (Shmuel II 7:5) in the middle of the night Hashem appears to Natan Hanavi and instructs him to

**רפואה שלמה**  
**יהודה מאיר בן יקירה**

The English Department of Herzog College is delighted to offer another fascinating course with **Prof. Murray Roston** entitled:

## Humour and Comedy: What Makes Humans Laugh?

**Prof. Murray Roston** is Emeritus Professor of English Literature at Bar Ilan University and UCLA

The course will be available to watch online from October 27th until February 4th

Cost: 350 NIS

**All welcome!**  
Don't miss this rare opportunity to study with Prof. Murray Roston in the comfort of your living room.

For details and registration please send an email to: [bryna@herzog.ac.il](mailto:bryna@herzog.ac.il)

immediately inform David Hamelech that he can not build the Bet Hamikdash. Why did Natan have to share this disturbing news with the king in the middle of the night? Rashi suggests that David Hamelech was a “doer” – מוהיר הוא”. He acts immediately. If Natan would not inform David Hamelech quickly, David Hamelech would likely initiate the construction of the Mikdash that very night.

We need to execute and not just contemplate change. As we begin the new year, lets start off on the right foot and immediately take concrete measures to implement all our undertakings. The longer we wait the less likely we will be able to successfully fulfill our pledges. Strong beginnings lead man to victory! ■

# THE FURNITURE DOCTOR

Is your furniture loose, shaky or falling apart?

**Permanent furniture regluing!**

**GUARANTEED FOREVER!**

**Professional Furniture Restoration / Refinishing**

Revitalize old or shabby looking furniture or change its color completely!

Expert repair of burns, water damage, scratches, dents and loss of color.

**Make your table LONGER and STRONGER with new heavy-duty table slides from the USA.**



Servicing  
the Entire  
Country.

**Restore your furniture to health!**

**David Shafner: 02-999-2418**

[furndoc@gmail.com](mailto:furndoc@gmail.com)