

DEAR TORAH TIDBITS FAMILY

RABBI AVI BERMAN

Executive Director, OU Israel



It is hard to believe that the month of Nissan is almost over. Having spent the weeks leading up to Pesach preparing, cleaning and finally basking in the beauty of the Chag HaMatzot, we find ourselves approaching Iyar, a time of rebirth - both spiritually and physically. Now that each of us has navigated our way through our personal Mitzrayim and celebrated our Geulot, HaShem helps us end the month with a unique Mitzvah that serves as an important reminder: **we cannot underestimate the power of potential and must appreciate the start of new beginnings.**

During the month of Nissan, Am Yisrael has a very special Mitzvah to fulfill, one that can pass us by if we are not careful, and can only be fulfilled once each year. The first time we see blossoming fruit trees this month, we have the Mitzvah of saying Birkat Ha'Ilanot:

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם שְׁלֵמָה חָסֵד בְּעוֹלָמוֹ
כְּלוּם וְכִרָא בּוֹ בְּרִיּוֹת טוֹבוֹת וְאֵילָנוֹת טוֹבוֹת לְהָנוּת בָּהֶם
בְּנֵי אָדָם.

Blessed are You, HaShem, King of the Universe, Who has made nothing lacking in

His world, and created in it goodly trees to give mankind pleasure.

I look forward to this Mitzvah every year. Not only do I find Birkat Ha'Ilanot brings me to a deeper level of Emunah in HaKadosh Baruch Hu, it also helps me stop and appreciate the incredible world He created for us. I find that once I am able to say this Bracha, I have greater Kavannah during Shmonah Esrei, specifically when I say,

"...בְּרַךְ עָלֵינוּ ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ אֶת־הַשָּׁנָה הַזֹּאת וְאֶת־כָּל־מִינֵי
תְּבוּאָתָהּ לְטוֹבָה"

For those of us fortunate to live in Eretz Yisrael have seen the power of our Tefillot over the past eight months when we said, "מְשִׁיב הַרוּחַ וּמוֹרִיד הַגֶּשֶׁם." We certainly had our fair share of a rainy and cold winter that watered our crops and filled lakes and rivers throughout the country. Now, as Pesach ends and Spring settles across Eretz Yisrael, a time of rebirth spreads across this holy land.

It is important to note that we do not wait to say Birkat Ha'Ilanot until the trees are in full bloom. Rather, we say the Bracha only when the trees just begin to form buds. **By stopping to appreciate the blossoming of the trees and reciting Birkat Ha'Ilanot, HaShem helps us see the**

משפחת או יו ישראל שולחת תנחומים
לאודליה ודוד בר-אל ומשפחתם
על פטירת אביה

הרב כרמי מצליח ז"ל

המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים

תנחומים

לחיים מרגוליות על פטירת

אמו ע"ה

המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים

potential in nature, in ourselves and in others.

Perhaps this Mitzvah resonates with me so deeply because I am Zoche to be a parent. I can still recall in vivid detail the first ultrasound my wife and I went to when she was pregnant with our oldest child. I remember seeing his tiny body form as each week passed, marveling as he reached each stage of development. Tiny little hands, little toes, a nose, eyes, a small heart that began to beat. His size grew from a few millimeters to a body that is now healthy, big and strong. As I look at the blossoming trees around Eretz Yisrael, I remember that first ultrasound and appreciate the brilliance of HaShem who helped a little fetus grow into a human being. Today, my oldest son is 24, and as a father of his own children, undoubtedly finds himself in awe as each one grows with the careful guidance of the Borei Olam.

Beyond appreciating the beautiful world that HaShem made for us, Birkat Ha'Ilanot is also a time of self-reflection. Each and every tree has so much potential inside of it. Potential that we will only see in the coming weeks as they bloom and form delicious fruits of all kinds that will fill supermarkets and line the alleys of Shuk Machaneh Yehudah - a place I enjoy visiting every Erev Shabbat. Now is the time to praise HaShem for the world around us that continues to provide lessons for life.

Condolences to Passy Brill and family
on the passing of her husband

Cyril Brill z"l

המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים

For just like the budding trees, we each have tremendous potential inside ourselves. Some of us might



have already begun budding, others blossoming, others in need of pruning, others in need of uprooting and replanting to a place where we will ultimately grow to our potential.

For those who have yet to fulfill this Mitzvah, make sure you don't miss out! Now is the time to appreciate the world that HaKadosh Baruch Hu made for us and recognize the power of a new beginning.

Wishing you all an uplifting and inspiring Shabbat - and a healthy Spring!

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May the learning from
this issue of TT be לעילוי נשמת
הרב אברהם ישעיהו דולגין ז"ל
Rabbi Simon A. Dolgin z"l

On his 18th Yahrzeit, 28 Nissan

*The Dolgin, Glasser, Weinstock
and Slomiansky families*