

# DEAR TORAH TIDBITS FAMILY



**RABBI AVI BERMAN**

Executive Director, OU Israel



As children of the *Borei Olam (Creator of the World)* we each have stories to share when we realized Hashem was watching over us. I have gained tremendous *chizuk* (strength) from stories I have heard when Hashem's hand was clearly seen, and would like to share a story of my own. Exactly two years ago, I had an experience that helped me feel the presence of Hashem in my life, and it all started because of *Shnayim Mikra* which I said for this week's parsha.

*Shnayim Mikra* derives its name from "*Shnayim Mikra v'Echad Targum*," which means, "the text twice and the translation once." This idea of reading each *Torah* portion twice in its original Hebrew, and once in the *Targum* (explanation), stems from a well-known *Gemara* in *Brachot* that states:

"A person should always complete his [study of the] parsha with the congregation - [by studying] *Shnayim Mikra v'Echad Targum*. Anyone who does this will have

extended days and years."

*Shnayim Mikra* requires review of the parsha, broken down into seven *aliyot*, which can be said on each day of the week leading up to Shabbat. *Shnayim Mikra* is part of my daily learning, which begins with the day's *Shnayim Mikra*, followed by the *Daf Yomi*. Although it is a repetitive practice, I have found *Shnayim Mikra* to be a meaningful tradition in my life. Every year my latest experiences shape my perspectives and connection to the parsha, and I often find new concepts to relate to that I had not previously considered. But truthfully, *Sefer Vayikra* can be challenging in this area.

Throughout *Sefer Breishit* and *Sefer Shemot*, the Chumash takes a narrative tone and tells us the stories of the creations, our forefathers and foremothers, the Exodus from Egypt and receiving the Torah. In contrast, *Sefer Vayikra* focuses mostly on detailing mitzvot relating to the *Mishkan* and the *Beit HaMikdash*. It can

May the Torah learned in this issue of Torah Tidbits be לעיני our beloved husband/father/grandfather/great grandfather

**Rabbi Yitzchak Pechman** ז"ל

הרב יצחק בן דוב ז"ל

ב' ניסן Yahrzeit on his seventh

*Pechman - Perlman - Weinberg Families*

May the Torah learned in this Torah Tidbits be לעילוי נשמת הענדלא בת מאיר ומערכה ז"ל

נלב"ע ראש חודש ניסן

In loving memory of

**Henny Hirsch** ז'ל

on her 9th yartzeit

Rosh Chodesh Nissan

אשת חייל מי ימצא... ויהללוה בשערים מעשיה

*You are missed by us all*

*Your Daughter, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and friends*

therefore be difficult to find ways to personally connect to the themes within, and yet my experience with this week's parsha couldn't have been more personal...

Two years ago I was admitted to *Hadassah Ein Kerem* for a kidney operation that was scheduled for an early Tuesday morning slot. Although prepped and ready to be brought into the OR, my operation continued to be delayed in order to accommodate emergency operations. Grateful to not be in an urgent situation I decided to use the time I had to learn.

I began with my daily *seder*, and reviewed Tuesday's *Shnayim Mikra* for Parshat Vayikra, followed by the *Daf Yomi*. With further delays I decided to turn to Wednesday's *Shnayim Mikra* in the event that I would be too weak to complete it the day after the operation. I couldn't help but notice a theme in both the third and fourth aliyot...

Four times the verse say:  
וְאֵת שְׁנֵי הַכְּלָיִת וְאֵת הַחֹלֶב אֲשֶׁר עַל הֶהָרֶן אֲשֶׁר עַל הַכֶּסֶּלִים  
וְאֵת הַיִּתְּרֹת עַל הַכְּבֵד עַל הַכְּלָיִת יִסְרְיָהּ:

the two kidneys and the fat that is on them, that is at the loins; and the protuberance on the liver, which **you shall remove with the kidneys.**

Each time I uttered these words, I couldn't help but feel that *HaKadosh Baruch Hu* was with me. I felt a sense of calm wash over me, and when I finally entered the OR, I did so with a deep feeling of faith. This year marks

In loving memory of our son,  
grandson and brother  
**Yehuda Aryeh Brand z"l**  
**יהודה אריה ברנד ז"ל**  
on his 24th yahrzeit  
Rosh Chodesh Nisan

two years since my kidney operation which *Baruch Hashem* went smoothly. I'd like to once again publicly thank *Hashem* for the miracle He did for me and for my health, the blessing of being with my family, and the ability to continue to serve *Klal Yisrael*. I remain grateful for the reminder of how closely I felt Him in those final minutes leading up to my surgery, and feel fortunate for the opportunities I have to connect to Torah each week and further my connection to the Almighty.

For those of you who interested in exploring *Shnayim Mikra*, I invite you to listen to the OU's *Shnayim Mikra* series, with insights and commentary led by master educators including Rabbi Dr. Tzvi Hersh Weinreb, Rabbi Menachem Leibtag, Rabbi Yitzchak Etshalom, Rabbi Dr. Gidon Rothstein, and others. You can find more information here: <https://outorah.org/series/12/>.

May we all feel the presence of HaKadosh Baruch Hu in our lives and be successful in our efforts to connect to Him.

Wishing you all an uplifting and inspiring Shabbat,



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May the Torah learned in this  
Torah Tidbits be לעילוי נשמת  
**יהודה אריה בן עזרא הלוי ז"ל**  
**Leopold Edelstein Halevi z"l**  
on his 28th yahrzeit  
ז' ניסן תשנ"ח  
We miss you very much  
*The Rosner, Edelstein and Sokoloff families*