



## SIMCHAT SHMUEL

BY RABBI SAM SHOR  
DIRECTOR, TORAH INITIATIVES,  
OU ISRAEL

As we look forward with anticipation and prepare for *Chanukah* this coming week, I'd like to reflect upon and offer a new perspective on one of the most familiar concepts associated with *Chanukah*. We are all familiar with the formula proscribed by *halacha* as to how we are to kindle our *Chanukah* lights, by lighting one candle on the first night of *Chanukah*, and adding one candle for each subsequent night, in accordance with the opinion of *Beit Hillel*, that one must always seek to increase and ascend in holiness, rather than decrease—*maalin b'kodosh v'ein moridin*.

The great *Yerushalmi Mekubal*, **Rav Gamliel Rabinovitch shlita**, explains that our practice to increase in holiness by adding one candle each night throughout the entire eight nights of *Chanukah* actually serves as powerful paradigm for the way in which we are meant to grow in our *Avodat Hashem*. *Yiddishkeit* is not an all or nothing enterprise, spiritual growth needs to be incremental, one step at a time, rather than running too fast. Each step we take, must be given the chance to take hold, before we take the next step.

It is interesting to note that there is an alternative version of the story of *Chanukah* which

appears in the early rabbinic/midrashic collection known as the *Pesikta Rabbati*. In this account, upon entering the *Beit Hamikdash*, which was defiled by the Greeks, the *Chashmonaim* find not a small jar of oil, rather ***shmoneh shipudei barzel- eight iron spears***, which they bound together as a makeshift *menora* and lit eight lights within this makeshift *menora*.

In this version of the story, the *Chashmonaim* find the *Beit HaMikdash* in a complete state of impurity, and even the *menora* was either destroyed or rendered impure and unusable. In that challenging moment, rather than despair, they found those eight iron spears, weapons that had been used for destruction and harm, the spoils of war, and bound them together to restore light and holiness within the walls of the *Beit HaMikdash*, and the entire world.

***Reb Tzadok HaKohain MiLublin zy'a***, points to this *midrash*, and suggests that the eternal message of *Chanukah* is actually quite clear—when there is a will, there always is a way. When we put our minds and hearts to serving *Hashem*, even in seemingly trying times or difficult circumstances, we can often find new strength and discover new opportunities to achieve and bring goodness into the world.

Perhaps this depiction of what transpired when the *Chashmonaim* re-entered the *Beit HaMikdash*, is an even stronger illustration of the *halachic* principle of *maalin bkodesh v'ein moridin*—taking those weapons, those vessels intended to cause harm, and elevating



**HANDYMAN**  
Repairs · Painting · Electricity  
Plumbing  
Jerusalem & surrounding areas  
Avraham  
058-799-7833

those very vessels into something sacred, to become the conduit to restore the lights of holiness both within the *Beit HaMikdash*, and subsequently the light that lives on through each of our *chanukiyot* as well.

Ultimately the *yom tov* of *Chanukah* is meant to inspire each of us to look at the world through the proverbial lens of *maalin b'kodosh vein moridin*- to seek opportunities to transform that which might be mundane or even profane, and elevate those very items and circumstances and make them sacred.

May our *Nerot Chanukah*, inspire each of us to see the great opportunities that exist each and every day to experience growth and transformation, to sanctify the mundane and profane, and may we have the spiritual strength to persevere and rise above any of life's challenges, one step at a time, *maalin bkodosh v'ein moridin....Chanukah Sameach*. ■

**COVEN**  
**WOLGEL LAW**  
U.S. IMMIGRATION & NATURALIZATION

American Immigration  
& Naturalization Law

**Michele Coven Wolgel**

US Citizenship for Children & Grandchildren

**Happy Chanukah!**

www.wolgelaw.co.il  
lawyer@wolgelaw.co.il  
Tel: 02 590 3444  
facebook.com/uscitizenshipinfo

**KIM BASH**  
Real Estate

**ISRAEL'S PROPERTY AND COMMUNITY MATCHMAKER**

**LET YOUR JOURNEY HOME BEGIN WITH US**

**FEATURED PROPERTIES AND PROJECTS IN ISRAEL**

<p><b>HERZLIYA</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7 min walk to IDC</li> <li>• Fully renovated</li> <li>• 3 bedrooms</li> <li>• Parking &amp; storage</li> <li>• Currently rented (₪10,000/Month)</li> </ul> <p>₪4.95M / \$1.52M</p>	<p><b>JERUSALEM</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mamilla</li> <li>• 180 SQM</li> <li>• 3 bedrooms</li> <li>• Pool</li> <li>• Doorman building</li> <li>• Prime Location</li> </ul> <p>₪15M / \$4.61M</p>
<p><b>BEIT SHEMESH</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RBS Gimmel</li> <li>• Duplex Garden Apt.</li> <li>• 4 bedrooms</li> <li>• 140 SQM built</li> <li>• 120 SQM garden</li> <li>• Rental unit</li> </ul> <p>₪4.3M / \$1.32M</p>	<p><b>JERUSALEM</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• German Colony</li> <li>• Harakevet St.</li> <li>• New duplex!</li> <li>• 2 large sukkah terraces</li> <li>• Parking</li> </ul> <p>₪10.9M / \$3.37M</p>
<p><b>JERUSALEM</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>New project</b></li> <li>• Mekor Chaim</li> <li>• Garden units &amp; penthouses</li> <li>• Ready: 2028</li> </ul> <p>2 bd rms starting at: ₪3.5M / \$1.08M</p>	<p><b>CARMEI GAT</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Fantastic presale</b></li> <li>• 20% down</li> <li>• Garden units &amp; penthouses</li> <li>• Ready: 2029</li> </ul> <p>3 bd rms starting at: ₪2.2M / \$680K</p>

**For many more opportunities across Israel, please don't hesitate to get in touch.**

**+972-54-441-5704**

KimBashRealEstate.com