



BADERECH

RABBI JUDAH MISCHEL

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CAMP HASC
AUTHOR OF BADERECH SERIES

Balak: Saddle Up!

The legendary Rosh Yeshiva and author, Rav Shimshon Pincus, zt'l, was a *talmid chacham*, *ba'al avodah* and *tzadik*, who served as Chief Rabbi in the Negev city of Ofakim with self-sacrifice and love.

A talmid of Rav Pincus suffered from an acute dental condition. Numerous infections had caused him to lose teeth and painful gum inflammation. Not wanting to trouble anyone, the young married man, an *avreich* in Ofakim, tried to hide his condition and downplayed the perpetual discomfort he was experiencing.

One day his wife approached Rav Pincus and shared her husband's suffering with the Rav. He was unable to chew and was in such pain that he could barely sleep. Exhausted and racked with pain, he was losing weight dangerously. Without hesitation, Rav Pincus excused himself and returned a few minutes later with several thousand shekel. He then spent some time making phone calls to various contacts to help the *avreich's* wife find an oral surgeon who could help.

The Pincus family lived very modestly and the incident took place at a particularly difficult time with regard to their *parnassa*. A friend of the *avreich* who was aware of the situation asked the Rav how he could give away such a large sum of money when he himself was struggling to cover his growing family's needs.

Rav Pincus looked quizzically at the *talmid* for a moment, and replied with a wide smile and a wave of his hand. "This *avreich* can't sleep! He can't eat... Tell me, if it was my son, and he needed emergency dental work, would you understand the expense? What's the difference if it's my son, your son, or the *Ribbono Shel Olam's* son?"

ויקם בלעם בבוקר ויחבוש את אתונו

"And Balaam rose in the morning and saddled his donkey... (*Bamidbar*, 22:21)

Our sedra describes how Balak, king of Moav, contracts the evil prophet, the respected and powerful sorcerer Balaam, to curse *Am Yisrael*. Rashi points out an important lesson in the alacrity with which Balaam responds to the invitation: "From here we learn שהשנאה מקלקלת את השורה — that hate causes a disregard for the standard of dignified conduct, for Balaam saddled his donkey *by himself*." As a result of his intense, irrational hatred of Jews, Balaam didn't wait for his servants, and rushed to saddle his donkey on his own, relishing the opportunity to embark on this mission to cause harm to *Am Yisrael*.

Rashi continues by juxtaposing Balaam's actions with Avraham Avinu's at the *Akeidah*:

Mazal Tov to
Arlene Saslow and family
on the engagement of
her grandson

“Hakadosh Baruch Hu said (to Balaam), ‘*Rasha*, Wicked one! Their father Avraham has already preceded you, as the *pasuk* says, וַיִּשָּׁכֵם אַבְרָהָם בַּבֶּקֶר וַיַּחֲבֹשׁ אֶת־הַמֹּרֶן — Avraham arose in the morning and saddled his donkey.’” (*Bereishis*, 22:3)

When Avraham Avinu rose early in the morning, eager and prepared to fulfill Hashem’s will at the *Akeidah*, he was נְדַדְרָז לְמַצְוָה ‘alacritous to perform the commandment’. This, the Gemara explains (*Sanhedrin*, 105b, Rashi), is an example of how אהבה מקלקלת את הדולה, שורה של גדולה, “Love negates the standard conduct of those of prominence.” In this case, Avraham Avinu’s passionate dedication and love for Hashem negated his normal conduct, and he rushed to bind his son on an altar.

This coming week begins the period of *Bein haMeitzarim*, when our focus intensifies on making a *tikun* for the destruction of the *Beis haMikdash*. It is a time for us to consider our dedication to both our brothers and sisters, as well as our passion and fervor in *mitzvah* observance. Perhaps it is a time as well for us *l’kalkeil shura*, ‘to break the rules of conduct’ in our Ahavas Yisrael and go beyond our typical standards of giving and doing on behalf of others.

May we learn from the opposite examples of Balak, and *lehavdil*, Avraham Avinu — as well as the holy actions of Rav Pincus, zt”l — and may we do whatever it takes to help others and fulfill Hashem’s will.

.....
Excerpt from Baderech: Along the Path of the Torah, forthcoming (Mosaica Press, Elul 5786) ■

Rav Judah Mischel is executive director of Camp HASC, the Hebrew Academy for Special Children. He is the founder of Tzama Nafshi and the author of the “Baderech” series. Rav Judah lives in Ramat Beit Shemesh with his wife Ora and their family.



KIM BASH
Real Estate
ISRAEL'S PROPERTY AND COMMUNITY MATCHMAKER



ISRAEL'S PROPERTY AND COMMUNITY MATCHMAKER

LET YOUR JOURNEY HOME BEGIN WITH US

FEATURED REAL ESTATE OPPORTUNITIES IN ISRAEL

<p>JERUSALEM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rehavia • 3 bedrooms • Sukkah • Parking • Storage • Great location <p style="text-align: center;">₪8,900,000</p>	<p>HERZLIYA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3.5 bedrooms • Renovated • Balcony • Parking & storage • Close to Reichmans Uni • Price drop <p style="text-align: center;">₪4,000,000</p>
<p>NETANYA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MUST SELL • New Building • 4 bedrooms, Sea views • Rented out for ₪8,000 a month for the next year! <p style="text-align: center;">₪3,750,000</p>	<p>HADERA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Olga Beach • Penthouse • 5 bedrooms • Large terraces • Private pool, Sea views • Price drop <p style="text-align: center;">₪6,700,000</p>
<p>CARMEI GAT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presale ending soon!!! • Only 10% down • NO index! • 2, 3, 4 bedrooms • Gardens & penthouses <p style="text-align: center;">2 bdrms starting at: ₪1,880,000</p>	<p>NETANYA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New project • Only 20% down • 3 bedrooms • Sukkah balcony • Parking • Storage <p style="text-align: center;">₪3,525,000</p>

**PRESALE OPPORTUNITIES:
Tel Aviv | Jerusalem
Carmei Gat | Beit Shemesh**



+972-54-441-5704

KimBashRealEstate.com

