

HOW DO YOU LEIN, LEINCOLN ?



This week's Parshah, TRUMAH, reminds that story in the 50's, when USA President TRUMAN went to Brazil to visit to President DUTRA.

believe me or not, Brazil's name on that time was "The United States of Brazil" - part of the post-war American policy in South America?

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As Truman landed in Brazil, Dutra went to the airport to greet him.

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People say in Brazil (don't know if is true), that when Truman said: - "How do you do Dutra?", Brazil's President, who knews no English, did not know what to reply, so he look into Truman´s eyes and said, while shaking hands with him "- How tru you tru, Truman?".

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Well, on this month,Adar, the American people celebrates the birthday of Abraham Lincoln, a personality who□ represents all good things Americans think about themselves and their life style.

By the other hand, the Jewish people will celebrate the birthday of Moshe Rabeinu (Moses), a personality who represent all good things the Jews think about themselves and their life style.

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Moses received Torah from Sinai and taught it to all Israel.

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In order to have one of the Torah's most important commandments fulfilled, the commandment of learning it and living with it, Moshe set a decree that we should hold public readings of Torah no less than 3 times per week, at the presence of a Mynian (at least ten Jews over 13 years old).

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That's why we read Torah in Synagogue on Mondays, Thursdays and Shabbat, at least

In Yiddish we call this public reading a Lein.

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There are people who Lein in Ashkenazi style, while others Lein in Sephardic style. Many Lein Israeli style, a mishmash of both.

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What's really important when we "Lein" is to pronounce the words of the Torah correctly, even if we don't know the melody (Te'amim).

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Whatever your style is, it is always good to learn how to Lein. One day, you might be called to play Moshe's role in a Minyan and this might be a public opportunity to show your hidden talents, or at least, to promote Torah's knowledge through your Leining.

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Nevertheless, we don't know exactly how many Americans will be acting according to Lincoln's legacy on his birthday, but we can't hide our satisfaction to affirm that most, and probably all Jewish communities are still emulating Moshe's legacy, by keeping a tradition of more than three thousand years of Lein

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So... how do you Lein, Leincoln?

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WHAT'S THE CONNECTION BETWEEN THE SANCTUARY, THE SHECHINAH AND THE NEIGHBOUR?

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All of them comes from the Hebrew root: "SHACHAN" - dwelling.

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On this Parshah, Moshe is instructed by Hashem how to precisely build the MISHKAN (Sanctuary, Home) the place where Hashem will dwell with His SHECHINAH (Divine Aura) then becoming our Eternal SHACHEN (neighbor).

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Why Hashem, All Encompassing, needs a Home?

The Torah says: "Make a Home for Me and I will dwell amongst you".

Hashem dwells wherever He is welcomed.

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Hashem is welcomed where Torah study, mitzvoth and kindness happen

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Therefore, the construction of the MISHKAN starts with the TRUMAH (contributions), from all sectors of the Jewish people, according to each one's possibilities.

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The Torah continues: "Accept the TRUMAH from all those whose heart lead them to

give".

Hashem does not want to be our neighbor just to make us a favor.

The Mishkan had to be built from spontaneous acts of kindness!

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This Parshah also introduces the Menorah and the Kerubim, the Angels with wings and child face who stand over the Aron Habrit (Arch of the Covenant) where designed.

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- Mr. Tropicasher, I thought the Jews can't have idols! What's this Kerubim thing doing here?

- Well said friend, Jews can't have any idols. The Cherubim are not idols nor represent anything on Heaven.

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They are creatures themselves. They indicate the behavioral status of the People of Israel, the kind of peace we have among us.

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When a Kerub is facing his partner, it means the Jewish people lives in peace. But when they turn their face from each other, it is a sign that we should engage in doing more teshuvah (self-examination with the purpose of spiritual growth).

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Kerubim remind the Hebrew Karov (close).

If a Jew is Karov to his fellow, than Hashem is our Shachen (neighbour).

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- So how do we get closer one to each other?

- With acts of TRUMAH.

By supporting and helping those who can't make it without our resources, our time, our words, our good will, our hearts.

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In other words, what kind of Shachen are you, or, better saying...

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"...How do you do your TRUMAH"?

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