

WORDS OF WISDOM FROM RABBI YITZI

לרפואה שלימה ליוסף יצחק בן ברכה

PARSHAS V'ZOS HABRACHA

Be a Mentch

In the last Parsha, V'Zos Habracha, we read of Moshe's passing and how the Jewish men mourned his passing for thirty days. "And the Bnei Yisroel, sons of Israel, wept." In contrast, by Aaron's passing, both men and women, "all the House of Israel," wept. Why was Aaron mourned by all? Because he brought peace among friends and between husband and wife.

If peace is so special, why didn't Moshe involve himself in peacemaking as well? Didn't he himself teach that it is acceptable to twist the truth to make peace?

Moshe was the transmitter of Hashem's word, the Torah, the truth. While peace is created by bending the truth, truth is unyielding. It doesn't take feelings into account.

BEING A MENTCH IS LEARNING TO BALANCE TRUTH AND PEACE.

Moshe's main purpose was to accurately teach Hashem's Torah. He had to be a beacon

of unyielding truth. This precluded him from truth-bending, even with the best of intentions.

This is also why sometimes Torah discussions and debates could sound harsh and tactless. Because it's about

truth, and truth just is.

It is the truth of Torah that makes us who we are. It is because of our commitment to the Truth that Hashem chose us.

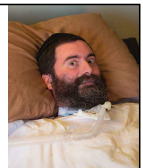
What takes precedence, truth or peace?

When it comes to Torah study, be like Moshe, truth over peace. When counseling people, be like Aaron, peace over truth.

Ultimately, truth is essential to our existence, while peace is a tool employed by our Torah of truth. Start with truth and pursue peace when it is called for.

Don't be a hard-nosed, tactless person, be a mentch. A mentch knows when to be like Moshe and when to be like Aaron.

Despite facing one of life's most difficult challenges, Rabbi Yitzi Hurwitz continues to spread joy and faith to thousands around the globe. Diagnosed in 2012 with ALS, Rabbi Yitzi is now 95% paralyzed and no longer able to speak or breath on his own. Thanks to the miracle of technology, Rabbi Yitzi continues to spread his wisdom through his eyes, focusing on each and every letter of these Torah articles. Rabbi Yitzi, his wife Dina and their seven children are the Rebbe's Shluchim to Temecula, California.



**WISHING YOU AND YOURS
A JOYOUS AND HEALTHY
SIMCHAT TORAH!**

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