

Thoughts From The Lubavitcher Rebbe

The Shavuoth Festival and Mount Sinai

By Rabbi Yossi Groner

On Shavuoth we celebrate the giving of the Torah to the Jewish people on Mount Sinai.

There is a lesson to be learned from the fact that the Torah was given on Mount Sinai; in fact there is a Tractate in the Talmud which opens with the words "Moses received the Torah from Mount Sinai."

The Midrash relates that various mountains quarrelled among themselves as to which of them should merit that the Torah be given on its peak. Mount Tabor claimed this honor inasmuch as it was a high peak; Mt. Carmel maintained that it deserved this privilege. G-d ended their dispute by saying that high and lofty mountains are not the fitting place for receiving the Torah. Instead, the lowliest of all the mountains - Mt. Sinai - was to be chosen, emphasizing the virtue of

humility.

An obvious question presents itself. If humility is the trait to be stressed, then the Torah should have been given in a low valley, or at least on a plain, and not on a mountain at all. If, on the other hand, the virtue of pride is to be emphasized, then the appropriate place for the "Giving of the Torah" was surely on a peak higher than Sinai?

The explanation is, that in order to receive the Torah, and to study it and observe its laws, one must possess the two qualities of Sinai: "lowest of all the peaks" on the one hand, yet a mountain (and not a valley) on the other hand. Humility is required because Torah is the infinite Wisdom of the Infinite G-d. Man, with his finite intellect, cannot approach the study of the Torah with preconceived notions, or with an "I-know-it-all" attitude, but rather, with a feeling of humbleness. Arrogance

and haughtiness are anathemas to the Torah.

However, humility often has a drawback. Many an unassuming person allows his humbleness to outweigh his principles. He meekly "follows the crowd" although he may totally disagree on principle with their conduct. Unfortunately, many a Jew today possesses this type of humility. Desperately afraid of a spoken jibe, or even a scoffing glance, he ashamedly tries to suppress any outward expression of his Judaism.

The Torah was given on a mountain, teaching us to have an element of pride and the strength of a mountain. Indeed, the entire Code of Jewish Law (Shulchan Aruch) opens with the injunction: "Not to be ashamed in the face of cynics." Yet this pride is in no way a contradiction to the feeling of humility required of us, because such pride does not stem from one's own arrogance and self-importance. It is, rather, the pride of a soldier carrying out his King's command, the pride of a Jew carrying out G-d's orders.

Swimmer Insurance Agency, Inc.

For All Of Your Insurance Needs

Scott Swimmer
David Swimmer
Harry Swimmer

725 Providence Road
Charlotte NC 28207
704/333-6694

HADASSAH
DIRECTORIES
on sale at
Armstrong House

GAN ISRAEL

DAY CAMP

Sponsored by Lubavitch of NC



- * A camp that prides itself on the lively atmosphere that it provides for its campers who anxiously look forward to each camp day.
- * A camp where safety and responsibility is the number one concern.
- * A camp which offers a dynamic program of field trips, swimming, athletics, culture, arts & crafts, electronic game rooms, dramatics, and much more.
- * A camp where door to door transportation is available.
- * A camp that is surely worth your call!

Fun, Sports & Spirit to Savor Year Round

Featuring

- Swimming
- Baseball
- Soccer
- Basketball
- Field Races
- Bowling
- Miniature Golf
- Rollerskating
- Carowinds
- Discovery Place
- Movies
- Arcades
- Arts & Crafts
- Culture
- Discussion Groups
- Songs
- Shabbatons
- Riverbanks Zoo
- Hebrew Studies
- Jewish Education
- Petting Farm
- Horseback Riding
- Shabbos Parties

JUNE 10-21
MONDAY - FRIDAY

TINY TOTS		
3-5	\$ 90.00	9-1
PIONEERS		
6-12	\$120.00	9-3

For Information Call 366-3984

Scholarships are available. No child is turned away because of inability to pay. Confidential fee adjustments can be made by arranging an appointment with the director.

PAPERTOWN

Distributors

Paper Plastics, Allied Products and Supplies
Food and Beverage Service Disposables
Janitorial and Maintenance Supplies

Charlotte
4428 E. Independence
508-8663

Wilmington
4209 Oleander Dr.
396-1639

Raleigh
5512 Old Wake Forest Rd.
876-0215

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

10% discount on all
Bar/Bat Mitzvah supplies

NO MINIMUMS • FREE DELIVERY
COMMERCIAL ACCOUNTS INVITED

BROWNLEE
JEWELERS

Gemological Laboratory
&
Appraisal Center



Fine Jewelry Should be Appraised
For your Protection and Peace of
Mind. We Offer Written

**PROFESSIONAL
APPRAISALS**

Diamond & Colored Gemstone Jewelry

Charles Helm - Graduate Gemologist
Ernst Koehler - Graduate Gemologist

BROWNLEE JEWELERS

Park Road Shopping Center
Corner of Park Road & Woodlawn Ave.

**Free Estimates &
Consultations**

This coupon entitles you to a
special savings from prices
offered to the general public.

CONFUSED?

Any advertising salesman can confuse you with his own peculiar sales pitch on advertising rates, marketing areas, circulation, readership, etc., etc., etc.



When you slice through all the advertising mumbo jumbo there is really only one thing to remember: If YOU WANT to Reach the Jewish Market YOU MUST Advertise in the Charlotte Jewish News.

It's that simple.
Wipe out Confusion.
Call us today.
366-5007