



A CAREER IN TORAH STUDY 18 Iyar – Lag B’omer Parade – 5743-1983

Since Lag B’omer is Rabbi Shimon’s Yahrzeit, first and foremost, we must learn from Rashbi’s way of life as related to us by Torah. Certainly they are not merely stories, but lessons for our daily lives.

Despite Rashbi’s greatness, which in fact, Rabbi Akiva, Rashbi’s teacher, declared to Rashbi, “Who recognizes your greatness?” “Only I,” Rabbi Akiva, Rashbi’s Rebbe, “and your Creator,” G-d.

What was Rabbi Shimon’s behavior? The Oral Torah states, and this was subsequently printed and studied, that for Rashbi, “Torah was his occupation.” He was occupied with other endeavors as well; he certainly needed to eat and drink, etc.

But what was his “occupation”? How was he raised, and how did he raise his students – and how does he raise each of us, who wishes to learn from him? That Torah should be “our occupation.” Although one is preoccupied with various endeavors, we must remember that everything else is only secondary – they are second and third.

What is the true profession, occupation and life of anyone who wishes to follow in Rashbi’s ways, is to study Torah.

This is a special, compelling and living lesson especially for every Jewish child: Regardless of which school one attends, wherever they study and are nurtured, they must know that they all have the strength given by Rabbi Shimon that if they will only try, if they resolve, to devote all their spare time to their profession and occupation in which G-d educates them. This is the meaning of “he reared Hadassah” – education.

To devote every spare moment to Torah study – just as you have now participated and recited verses of the Written Torah and passages of the Oral Torah.

With this comes another special lesson: The time is nearing when your fathers, mothers or relatives will register you for summer-camp.

When vacation begins, when you are free from school, you should choose a camp for the days, weeks or months... Request of your mother and father, – and the mothers and fathers present now, are requested in the name Rabbi Shimon – to try, and to truly strive, to register each and every child – and “Love your fellow as yourself,” to influence other children and parents, as well – to register the children in a summer camp where every spare moment is utilized to study Torah and fulfill its Mitzvos.



פרשת בחוקותי

Obviously, this applies to those who need to do so themselves, for they haven't yet decided where to register.

But this means as well, as an expression of "Love your fellow as yourself," that every boy should inquire with his friends, and every girl with her friends, where and how they will spend their summer, their vacation.

And in "serving our Creator," to give Him delight, as best possible. This means to do everything possible to spend the summer in an environment and in a camp where, as stated, every spare moment is utilized to study Torah as 'an occupation.'

