

# HASHKAMA WEEKLY

פרשת תרומה

ג' אדר תשפ"ו

FEBRUARY 20, 2026

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## חכמה ב-אI תאמין?

By Reb Gemini

Consider the following "Torah" thought, generated by Gemini: Did the AI get it right? Do you find it to be accurate? Or did the technology miss the boat?

In Parshas Terumah, we are introduced to the Keruvim (Cherubim), two golden figures with the faces of children perched atop the Aron (Holy Ark). The Gemara (Sukkah 5b) explains that the word Keruv implies "like a child." Why children? Because adults, especially those who just reviewed their yeshiva tuition statements, often struggle to look at one another with pure, uncomplicated affection. The Torah commands, "U'fneihem ish el achiv"—"and their faces shall look one to another" (Shemos 25:20). The Gemara (Bava Basra 99a) notes they only faced each other when Klal Yisroel (the Jewish people) performed Hashem's will. Yet, the pasuk also states their faces angled downward toward the Kapores (Ark cover). This teaches a fundamental reality: you can only truly face your fellow Yid (Jew) with genuine love if your gaze is rooted in Torah. Without that shared foundation, your relationship isn't a spiritual bond; it's simply a networking event with slightly better herring. How does this harmony affect our daily lives? We look across the Mishkan (Tabernacle) to the Shulchan (Table), which held the Lechem HaPanim (Showbread) and represents parnasah (livelihood). The Gemara (Menachos 29a) describes the Shulchan's miracle: the bread remained as warm and fresh a week later as the moment it was baked. Given the current price of kosher poultry, sustaining a family today requires a similar open miracle. The Kli Yakar (Shemos 25:24) observes that the zer zahav (golden crown) bordering the Shulchan is spelled zayin-reish, which can be vocalized as zar (stranger). If a person is worthy, his wealth is a crown; if unworthy, his wealth becomes estranged from him. What makes us worthy of the Shulchan's sustenance? Acting like the Keruvim. When we maintain Torah-centered relationships, our livelihood remains blessed. When we turn our backs on each other, our wealth becomes zar—stale, estranged, and highly likely to be entirely consumed by unexpected plumbing repairs. **Practical Takeaway:** This week, connect your Keruvim to your Shulchan. Before obsessively refreshing your retirement portfolio or complaining about the cost of kosher cheese, do a quiet favor for another Jew with zero expectation of return. It is the only proven method to keep your spiritual bread fresh, and it is entirely tax-deductible in the World to Come.

## News & Simchos!

### ATTENTION WIVES

Next week, enjoy our extended women's section! Every man, woman, and child must hear Parshas Zachor leining. Hear Zachor at Hashkama while your husband leisurely strolls to the 8:30 Shacharis. Resist the urge to hibernate and bank on the later minyanim. Early birds get the mitzvah—and first dibs at kiddush.

## Exciting Opportunity!

If you'd like to light up our lives with a sponsorship or add some flavor with a kiddush sponsorship, please

contact Tzvi Zev Rubin:

845-252-1260



## Drasha Duty!

To give the Short Shiur after davening, please contact Rabbi Genack:

646-413-5551



## Sponsorship

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## Chestnut Ridge, NY

הדלקה 5:19 pm

שקיעה 5:37 pm

עלות השחר (16.1/72) 5:20/5:30 am

6:42:16 am נץ החמה

**שחרית 7:15 am**

8:50/9:26 am ס"ז קריאת שמע

ס"ז תפילה 9:56/10:20 am

12:09:48 pm חצות היום

12:39:48 pm מנחה גדולה (30)

מנחה קטנה (גר"א) 3:21:14 pm

פּלג המנחה (גר"א) 4:29:32 pm

**מנחה 15:00 - 16:00**

שקיעה 5:38 pm

צה"כ ר' משה (8.5/50) 6:19/6:28 pm

**מעריב (52) 6:30 pm**

6:38/6:50 pm צה"כ (60/72)



## Chestnut Ridge, NY

**1:30 pm מנחה**

5:27 pm הַדְלָקָה

שקיעה 5:45 pm

**7:15 am שחרית**

שקיעה 5:46 pm

**מעריב (52) 6:38 pm**

**Riddle: Which items, spelled with two letters, have only one unique letter in its name? (2 answers)**

**Answer:** (1) The words for vav (hook) (Shemos 27:10) (Z) and shesh (flax) (25:4 with Rash), each contain only one letter (doubled) in its name.



**Zelle:** Send to 845-252-1260

**Check:** Write Out to Bais Midrash 715

**Cash:** Hand to Tzvi Zev or Adam Edelstein

**Credit Card:** Ask Tzvi Zev Rubin for a link

**Gift Card/Bitcoin:** Do we look like

## Indian Scammers to you?

**By Reb Gemini**

***Mashal:*** Imagine a billionaire who hires a contractor to build a magnificent mansion, providing a limitless corporate credit card. The contractor excitedly heads to the hardware store, but instead of buying materials for the mansion, he uses the platinum card to construct a state-of-the-art, climate-controlled gazebo for himself, complete with a fully stocked barista station and radiant floor heating. When the billionaire arrives for the inspection, he finds a completely barren dirt lot where his mansion should be. Meanwhile, the contractor is comfortably sipping a handcrafted macchiato in his gazebo. The contractor proudly gestures around and says, "Look at this flawless craftsmanship! Aren't you impressed?" The billionaire dryly replies, "I am absolutely thrilled that you are enjoying the espresso, but where exactly am I supposed to live?" ***Nimshal:*** In Parshas Terumah, Hashem instructs Moshe, "V'yikchu li terumah"—"They shall take for Me a portion" (Shemos 25:2). Rashi famously comments on the word "li"—"lishmi," meaning the donation must be completely "for My Name." Hashem grants us incredible, limitless resources in this world: health, wealth, intellect, and perhaps most miraculously, the ability to occasionally find a decent parking spot in Brooklyn on Erev Shabbos. Yet, remarkably like that misguided contractor, we frequently take this Divine corporate card and use it to build extremely comfortable "gazebos" strictly for our own material pleasure. We invest enormous amounts of energy and capital into our custom kitchens, our vacations, and our stock portfolios, while leaving our personal Mishkan—the spiritual sanctuary we are obligated to construct for the Shechinah (Divine Presence)—as a totally neglected dirt lot. As the Alshich Hakadosh points out regarding the pasuk "V'asu li mikdash v'shachanti besocham" (Shemos 25:8), Hashem specifically desires to dwell within them—meaning within the heart of each individual Yid (Jew)—not merely within the physical architecture of the building. ***Practical Takeaway:*** This week, take a brutally honest audit of your own spiritual construction project before the Ultimate Boss arrives to audit the receipts. You must practically dedicate a specific, tangible resource purely "lishmi"—exclusively for Hashem's sake, without any ulterior motives. Whether it means committing to a new daily chavrusa (study partner) to learn Gemara (Talmud), actually increasing your tzedakah (charity) budget before deciding you desperately need to upgrade your dining room chairs, or simply praying Minchah (afternoon prayer) with genuine focus instead of discreetly checking your phone for unread messages, make sure you are actively building a proper home for the Ribbono Shel Olam (Master of the Universe). Because ultimately, while a heated, golden gazebo is a very nice luxury, it is a rather terrible and spiritually bankrupt place to spend eternity.

GOOD SHABBUS!