



THE RABBI BINYAMIN KAMENETZKY
TORAH LEGACY FOUNDATION
לזכרון של הרב בנימין קמנצקי זצ"ל

אמרי בנימן

דברי תורה, מחשבה וסיפורים מאנצרו של
הגאון רב בנימן קמנצקי זצ"ל

*A Dvar Torah from the writings of Rav Binyamin Kamenetzky zt"l,
transcribed by his grandson, Rabbi Shmuel Kamenetzky*

Dedicated in commemoration of the Yahrtzeit of our son
Isaac Goldberg Volkmar
Yitzchak ben Natan v'Chava, a"h
of blessed memory
by Eve Goldberg & Neil Wallin & Family

5780 - Parshas Beshalach – iBelieve

Parshas Beshlach contains the story of the miraculous crossing of the Jews over the "Yam Suf", after they departed from Egypt. After they crossed the sea through dry land, they sang to Hashem the song of "Az Yashir." Interestingly, before they sang, the Torah tells us, "And they believed in Hashem and in Moshe His servant."

Seemingly, it's obvious that they believed in Moshe and in Hashem. They just experienced the greatest miracle since creation! Why does the Torah deem it necessary to tell this to us?

My grandfather, Rav Binaymin Kamenetzky zt"l tells this story.

At the beginning of World War I, many young Jewish men were drafted into the Russian army, including residents of the city of Slutzk. Their wives, young mothers of a few children, were extremely anxious, nervous and broken. Who knew if they would ever see them again? They immediately turned to their Rav, the saintly Rav Isser Zalman Meltzer, and begged him for a blessing that their husbands would return safely.

He turned to them and said, "I am a talmid chocham, and by your request, I understand that you believe in the blessing of a talmid chocham. You have nothing to worry about. Your "emunas chachomim" -belief in a talmid chocham - should be a merit for you that your husbands return home safely." Indeed, they did.

Rav Binaymin zt"l would repeat the Mechilta which asks a simple question. Why does the Torah have to tell us that they believed in Hashem and Moshe? If the believed in Moshe, then surely they believed in Hashem? The Mechilta answers that "One who believes in the power of a leader of the Jewish Nation is considered as if he believes in Hashem who created the world."

The power of tzaddikim is never to be underestimated - and neither is the power of one who believes in them.

Good Shabbos!

Rabbi Shmuel Kamenetzky is the Director of Advancement at Yeshiva of South Shore - ישיבה תורת חיים -בית בנימן . He is currently compiling the vast storehouse of all the Torah thoughts from his grandfather. If you have any stories to share from his grandfather, you can email him at skamenetzky@yoss.org.