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{ תורה צוה }

Torah
Tziva



תּוֹרַה צִוָּה לָנוּ מֹשֶׁה
מִזֶּרֶשׁ קְהִילַת יַעֲקֹב

The Torah that Moshe
commanded us is
the heritage of the
congregation of Yaakov.

(DEVARIM 33:4)

Torah Tziva — The first *posuk* is *Torah Tziva*. We say, “*Torah Tziva Lanu Moshe*,” the Torah which Moshe Rabbeinu commanded us, is “*Morasha Kehilas Yaakov*” — a *yerusha* to the whole Jewish people.

This means that the entire Torah, together with all of the parts of Torah that Moshe Rabbeinu got on *Har Sinai*, belongs to every single Yid!

The *posuk* teaches us that every Yid, even a young child, needs to know that the whole Torah is **THEIRS**, and that we should appreciate how precious the Torah is! That’s why right when a baby is born, we hang up words of Torah like *Shir Hamaalos* where the baby sleeps, and mothers sing songs about Torah, so the children will always know that “*Torah iz di beste s’chora*,” Torah is the best thing they can ever have!

Our Torah

Torah Tziva and *Shema* were chosen to be the first two *pesukim*. This is based on what the *Gemara* says, that as soon as a child starts to speak, his father should teach him to say *pesukim*. The *pesukim* the *Chachomim* tell us to first teach are *Torah Tziva* and *Shema Yisroel*!

So the very first *posuk* we start off the *chinuch* of a Jewish child with is *Torah Tziva*.

The words of the *posuk* mean that Moshe Rabbeinu taught us (“**Tziva Lanu**”) the Torah, and it is given over as a *yerusha* (“**Morasha**”) to all of the children of Yaakov (“**Kehilas Yaakov**”), all of the Yidden.

The lesson that this *posuk* teaches us is that Torah is **OURS**!

When we have a toy that is **OURS**, we put it away in a special place, we spend time playing with it and figuring out how it works.

The Torah is ours too! When we think about that, we will want to keep Torah close to us! We will want to spend time learning and understanding this special present that belongs to us.

See Der Rebbe Redt Tzu Kinder, vol. 5 p. 245

Already Ours

The very first *posuk* of the Twelve *Pesukim* starts with the words “*Torah Tziva*.” As we learned, the *Chachomim* tell us that this *posuk* should be the first thing we teach a child as soon as they can talk!

Why is this *posuk* so important for even little kids?

The Torah is “*Toras Chayim*,” a Torah of life! The Torah shows us how to have the BEST kind of life.

Torah is also called “*Toras Emes*,” a Torah that shows us *emes*! It shows us the *emes*, the truth of the way things really are in the world — it shows us that everything is here to help our *neshama* to do a special *shlichus* in the world!

The *Yetzer Hara* can come to little kids and try to make a child think, “What does Torah have to do with ME? It’s very nice that Torah can give us the best kind of life, or show us how to use everything to do our *shlichus*. But I’m just a kid! When I get older, when I’m an adult, that’s when I’ll see what the Torah says!”

The *posuk Torah Tziva* shows us that what the *Yetzer Hara* is saying is NOT TRUE!

The Torah is “*Morasha*,” an inheritance, that belongs to EVERY Jewish person. Something that we get in a way of *yerusha* belongs to us even if we are just a baby! So the Torah belongs to ALL of us, even if we are still little!

And even while we are young, the Torah is already for us! We can already

have the best kind of life, a Torah life, by learning Torah and keeping its *mitzvos*. We can already treasure the Torah which “**Tziva Lanu Moshe**,” that Moshe Rabbeinu gave to all of the Yidden as a *yerusha*, “**Morasha Kehilas Yaakov**.”

From a children's rally, Tes-Zayin Menachem Av 5744

The Whole Torah

The Rebbe explains that this *posuk* is very important for a child to know before they start learning Torah:

“**Torah Tziva Lanu Moshe**,” the Torah that Moshe Rabbeinu commanded us on *Har Sinai*, is “**Morasha Kehilas Yaakov**,” a *yerusha* to each one of us! That means that the very same Torah that Moshe Rabbeinu was given at the time of *Matan Torah* is what belongs to each of us today.

What Moshe Rabbeinu got on *Har Sinai* was not just the *Chumash*, or even just *Tanach*. It was ALL the Torah that we would ever have, including *Kabbalah* and *Medrashim* and even the Torah of *Moshiach*! And now all of that Torah is ours too!

We are able to understand and learn a lot of parts of Torah. We can learn *Chumash*, *Tanach*, *Medrash*, *Shas*, and even part of *Kabbalah*! But there are some parts of it that we AREN'T able to understand. Some parts might be too hard for us, and of course we can't learn or understand the Torah of *Moshiach* until *Moshiach* comes!

So why do we need to know that those parts of Torah are ours too?

We can understand by using the *mashal* of a tower:

Learning Torah is like building a tower. To build a tower, you need to make a strong foundation at the bottom to keep the building steady, and then you build more and more layers on top until your tower is very high!

A Torah tower can always keep growing, because there is always more Torah to learn!

But we need to make sure that our foundation is very strong. Otherwise our whole tower will be shaky!

What we learn in *Torah Tziva* is very important for our foundation, what keeps our whole Torah tower strong. We learn that we are NOT able to understand some parts of Torah, but we know that they are all part of the same Torah!

This way, no matter what part of Torah we are learning, we will know that it is true even if we don't understand it! We will have *Kabolas Ol*, and keep the Torah even if it's too hard for us to understand.

This is something we need to know right away, even before we start learning Torah. We need to know that we will do what Hashem tells us in the Torah, even if we don't understand it.

See Likutei Sichos chelek daled, sicha for Simchas Torah

Every Part of Torah

The first *posuk* of the Twelve *Pesukim* starts with the words “*Torah Tziva*.”

This *posuk* speaks about something very special that belongs to us!

“***Torah Tziva Lanu Moshe***,” the Torah that Moshe Rabbeinu commanded us on *Har Sinai*, is “***Morasha Kehilas Yaakov***,” a *yerusha* to each one of us!

That means that the very same Torah that Moshe Rabbeinu was given at the time of *Matan Torah* is what belongs to each of us today.

What Moshe Rabbeinu got on *Har Sinai* was not just the *Chumash*, or even just *Tanach*. It was ALL the Torah that we would ever have, including *Medrashim* and *Kabbalah* and even the Torah of *Moshiach*! And now ALL

of that Torah is ours too!

That means that any *sefer* on our shelf, and any *shiur* that anyone is giving, belongs to each and every Yid! And not just the Torah we know now, but all the Torah we will ever have, belongs to each and every one of us! It doesn't matter if we are the biggest *Talmid Chochom*, or the smallest baby. It is OUR Torah, and we should know what a treasure we have.

See Likutei Sichos chelek Daled, Simchas Torah

The Best Yerusha

Many times, the Rebbe spoke about a song that mothers used to sing to their little children. Part of the song is the words, “**Torah iz di beste s’chora**,” Torah is the best merchandise — the best thing you can get.

When adults go out to work, they look for things to buy and sell. They might want to have a lot of money, a big house, or a fancy car. But really, the BEST thing to have is Torah!

We all got a very special *yerusha*, something passed down for us to keep. It isn't money, it isn't land — it is something much, much better! We have the best *s’chora* in the world, the Torah for us to learn and keep!

When we say the first *posuk* of the Twelve *Pesukim*, *Torah Tziva*, we can think about this!

Torah Tziva Lanu Moshe — the Torah that Moshe Rabbeinu gave us, is ***Morasha Kehilas Yaakov*** — it is a *yerusha* for each and every Yid. And our *yerusha*, Torah, is the very best *yerusha* there could be!

The Greatest Gift

In *Torah Tziva*, we speak about how the Torah is “*Morasha*,” a *yerusha* given to each of us! The entire Torah belongs to every Jewish person, whether we are an adult or a child.

The Rebbe says that we need to understand that this *yerusha* we got is so precious!

Think about a big bag of nosh from Shabbos party. There are lollipops, winkies, jelly beans, sour sticks, taffies, chocolate, Bissli, and cookies! Yum!

But we should know that Torah is even SWEETER than all of that!

Think about an aisle in the toy store. There are remote-controlled cars, realistic dolls, huge boxes of magna-tiles, colorful fidget spinners, neat arts-and-crafts sets, scooters, and baseball bats. Wow!

But we should know that Torah is even MORE FUN than all of that!

Think about a big day in camp. The schedule says that we’ll be going to an amusement park, go-karting, roller blading, speedboating, and arcades! Amazing!

But we should know that the Torah is even MORE EXCITING than all of that!

The Torah that we have as a *yerusha* is the most precious thing in the entire world!

See Der Rebbe Redt Tzu Kinder vol. 5, p. 249

Ours Automatically

Why is the *posuk* of *Torah Tziva* so important?

This *posuk* tells us that the Torah, which was commanded to us through Moshe Rabbeinu belongs to every Yid! The *posuk* says that it is “*Morasha Kehillas Yaaakov*,” a *yerusha* for *Bnei Yisroel*. A *yerusha* is something you get automatically, just for being! You don’t have to be a certain age, you don’t have to deserve it, or even know how to use it! The Torah is OUR *yerusha*, it belongs to each of us, no matter how old we are, just because we are Yidden!

The first thing we need to know, at the beginning of our *chinuch*, is that the Torah, which connects us to Hashem, belongs to every Yid from the day he is born!