

Chatzos – Wonders of the Night

Chatzos — midnight; a crisp, opaque fog blankets the city of Beitar Ilit. All is quiet and serene. Suddenly, from all sides, footsteps are heard rushing along the damp pavement and almost instantaneously a deserted building turns into a beehive of activity. The beautiful sounds of *limud Torah* and heartfelt *tefillah* resonate through the Judean Hills, shaking the very *Kisei Hakavod*.

Ten years ago a group of five young Torah scholars led by Rav Yehoshua Meir Deutsch, *shlita*, did something that at the time seemed revolutionary — they followed our Sages' advice and arose at midnight to recite *Tikkun Chatzos* and learn Torah. Before long, other scholars joined them. A small caravan was found to house them, and a donor offered to support them, and *Kollel Chatzos* was born. Today, that original group has grown to become a large community of over 60 members, who devote the quiet and undisturbed hours of the night to attaining great heights in Torah. Without telephones, newspapers or politics, there is but one thing — pure unadulterated *avodas Hashem!*

As incredible as it may sound, every night over 70 Torah scholars from Beitar, Beit Shemesh and Yerushalayim gather together to learn Torah at *Kollel Chatzos*, concluding with an inspirational *Shacharis* at sunrise. One of the *kollel's* scholars has been following this rigorous schedule for over 40 years, even before the advent of *Kollel Chatzos*. Every night this hidden *tzaddik* takes the last bus from Yerushalayim to Beitar to learn in *Kollel Chatzos*. After *Shacharis*, he returns home to begin his regular workday!

Hashem's Blessing

The Sephardi *tzaddik*, Rav Chaim Palagi placed such importance on praying at *chatzos* that he wrote, "One who is incapable of arising at *chatzos* should hire someone to do it for him." The *Chutzos Damesek* commented that "he who cannot rise at mid-



A beautiful Yissaschar-Zevulun contract.

night should support one who does rise, and he will have a share in the learning."

Reb Nosson of Breslov once heard of a seemingly simple *Yid* who was known to have the power to bestow *brachos*. Curious as to the source of this unique ability, he inquired about this man's lifestyle. What special quality would give him such incredible *kochos*? But when Reb Nosson discovered that this *pashuta Yid* arose each night at *chatzos* to study Torah, he was not at all surprised. After all, he explained, the *Zohar* teaches that at midnight, *Hakadosh Baruch Hu* calls to his angels and says: 'Let's go down to Earth to see who is learning Torah at this time. ... Whoever they will bless, we will bless, whatever they request, we will fulfill. ...'

Today, as well, we see *yeshuos* in the merit of *limud Torah* at *chatzos*. Recently, one of the *kollel's* supporters requested that the *kollel* pray for 10 childless women. At the end of the year, when the *rosh kollel*, Rav Yehoshua Meir Deutsch, *shlita*, contacted the donor to ask if any names should be changed or added, he was told that every single one of the 10 childless women had been blessed with a child.

You, too, can attain that blessing. On the night of a *yahrtzeit*,

before a wedding or *bris*, or even before closing an important business deal, you can access that *brachah* of *limud Torah* at *chatzos* through dedicating a night or week of learning at the *kollel*.

Opportunities for Yissaschar-Zevulun alliances are also available. Through supporting a *Kollel Chatzos* scholar's Torah study, his study becomes your heavenly advocate as he learns in your merit and prays for your success. Our sages tell us about the business deal between Yissaschar and Zevulun. The tribe of Zevulun engaged in commerce and gave half their profits to the tribe of Yissaschar, enabling Yissaschar to study Torah without financial worry. In return, the tribe of Yissaschar shared the eternal reward of their Torah study with Zevulun. The partnership brought the two tribes great success. Yissaschar's Torah study flourished, while Zevulun's business affairs thrived. But Zevulun was rewarded with much more than financial success. Although he was unable to devote much time to Torah study, he was granted an equal share in the spiritual reward of Yissaschar's Torah study. Through arranging a Yissaschar-Zevulun contract with one of the *kollel's* Torah scholars, you, too can make one of the most prosperous deals of your life!

Once a week, the *kollel* davens at the *Kosel* and *Kever Rochel* for the success of its donors.

For more information, and to see a video of the *kollel*, go to www.kollelchatzot.com

The *rosh kollel*, Rav Yehoshua Meir Deutsch, *shlita*, is presently in New York. He can be reached at:

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Limud Torah at *chatzos*.