

# Yehoshuah Ben Gamala prevents the torah from being forgotten

“Turn around in it and turn around in it (the Torah) because it is all in it/ *Hafech bo vehafech bo, shehakol bo*” So says Ben Bag Bag in *Pirkei Avoth*.

Indeed, the Chachamim explain that if one knows where and how to look, and puts in the effort, then he will be able to find all knowledge in the Torah.

So it is apropos that during the run up to our annual dinner, the *Daf Hayomi* in *Bava Bathra* 21 side 1, states:

“The name of that man is to be blessed and *Yehoshua ben Gamla* is his name. For if it wasn’t for him, torah would have been forgotten from Israel.

For in the beginning, one who had a father, his father would teach him torah, (but) one who didn’t have a father, did not have anyone to teach him Torah. Then *Yehoshuah Ben Gamla* came and ordained that they should set up school teachers in each district and town, and that children should enter school at age six or seven. “

The *Shulchan Aruch Harav*, ( *Hilchoth Thalmud Thorah* , first *perek*), elaborates that :

“The *Chachamim* had made it the law that the salary of the school teachers would be paid from the community (funds) chest, for all of the children of the town, whether rich or poor.

But now the *minhag* is that each father pays for his child, if he can afford it. But if the father cannot afford it, then the community is responsible to pay for him on the authority of the Chachamim.

And the poor ones can force the richer ones to pay for their children from the community chest.

Even the rich people can force other rich people to pay for the salary of their school teachers, from the community chest, *meaning*- even those that have no children.”

He states that this was the intent of the *Chachamim/Yehoshua Ben Gamla*- to force the community as a whole, to pay for the salary of the school teachers, just like *all* of its members pay for *any other communal service*.

Baruch HaShem, we were able to help the community members fulfill this noble requirement of theirs by setting up the YES Fund.

Over the last few years, we have been able to help 200 individual community children help pay for their tuition.

With your help, we will be able to continue serving our purpose and help more children.

Indeed “Turn around in it and turn around in it “is very true.

The Torah is a living and breathing source of knowledge and inspiration for us throughout our lives. Those who learn it on a constant basis are *Zocheh* to find in it, the answers to all of their lives questions, as they come up, based on what they happen to be learning, at that time.

HaShem talks to us and answers our questions, through the Torah that we learn daily.

Truly, those who are lacking a Torah education, and are not capable of learning Torah, are lacking guidance and clarity in their lives' endeavors.

We implore all of you to open your hearts and your hands and help us to enable all of the community's children to have the fundamental torah education that they need to be capable of fully maximizing their lives.

Not simply because this was the intention of the law that *Yehudah Ben Gamla* , *Kohen Gadol* in the decade before the Roman destruction of the *Beth Hamikdash*, had enacted, but also because it is clearly the right thing to do for our community .

A community that is well to do , mature and responsible like ours, needs to make sure that it acts like a collective adult that it is, and meets the needs of its people.

We are happy to do our part to facilitate that.

Please support us generously.

