

## Parshas Toldos - The Divinity of the Torah

בן בג בג said: Turn it over, and [again] turn it over, for all is therein.

בן בג בג אומר, הפך בה והפך בה, דכלא בה.  
(פרקי אבות ה, יב)

At the start of creation, Hashem looked into the תורה and created the world

בגין דכד ברא קודשא בריך הוא עלמא, אסתכל  
בה באורייתא וברא עלמא  
(זוהר קסא א)

### Instructions For Teaching This Lesson:

Present to your class how amazing it is to see the Divinity of the תורה. Emphasize that the תורה is the blueprint of the world and everything is in the תורה:

#### Step 1:

Build up the concept of how the world was created using the תורה. While science continues to make new discoveries, everything is already in the תורה.

#### Step 2:

Teach the examples of the baby in the womb, שחיטה, and ברית מילה. Impress upon the students how long it took for science to catch up with the תורה knowledge.

#### Step 3:

Discuss with students how these concepts show the תורה's Divinity.

#### Step 4:

Show the Divine Fingerprints videos to help review the lesson.

<https://weteachtoreach.com/bris-milah/>

<https://weteachtoreach.com/ritual-slaughter/>

## Parshas Toldos - The Divinity of the Torah

The תורה contains infinite wisdom. The more you look into it, the more you will discover. We turn to the תורה for moral guidance and direction — but there is even more to it. The תורה existed before the world itself; it is the very blueprint of creation. A blueprint is a set of plans that shows exactly how something should be built. Hashem looked into the תורה and created the world. Therefore, anything that you see in this world can be seen and understood in the תורה!

### Awareness in the Womb

וַיִּתְרוּצֻּן הַבָּנִים בְּקֶרֶבָּהּ (בראשית כה, כב)

The children struggled in her womb.

רש"י: ויתרוצצו.... רבותינו דרשוהו לשון ריצה; כשהיתה עוברת על פתחי תורה של שם ועבר יעקב רץ ומפרכס לצאת, עוברת על פתח עבודת אלילים, עשו מפרכס לצאת.

ויתרוצצו has the meaning of running, moving quickly: whenever she passed by the doors of the Torah (i.e. the ישיבה of שם and עבר) יעקב moved in his efforts to come out, but whenever she passed by the gate of a pagan temple, עשו moved in his efforts to come out.

יומא ח, ה:

עברה שהריחה, מאכילין אותה עד שתשיב נפשה.

With regard to a pregnant woman who smelled food and was overcome by a craving to eat it, one feeds her until she recovers, as failure to do so could lead to a life-threatening situation.

רע"ב:

עובר שהריחה. העובר מריח ריח התבשיל והיא מתאוה לו, ואם אינה אוכלת שניהם מסוכנים:

The fetus smells the scent of a cooked dish and she desires it. But if she does not eat, both of them (i.e., the fetus and the mother) are endangered.

We see that a baby in the womb tastes & smells the food that his/her mother eats.

## Parshas Toldos - The Divinity of the Torah

Until recently, science knew very little about babies in the womb and what occurs during that time. In 1958, ultrasound was introduced as a way to examine a baby in utero. Ultrasound provides real-time images and videos of what is happening inside the womb, allowing doctors to observe fetal development and confirm ideas we already knew from the תורה. This breakthrough led to further research into what actually takes place during pregnancy.

Fascinatingly, researchers have discovered that babies are already learning inside the womb. They have an awareness of their surroundings and take in information from the outside world. They even respond to sounds, tastes, and smells!

Research in 1963 found that newborns learn sounds and tastes that they experienced in the womb. Two and three-day-old infants preferred hearing a story that their mother had read out loud twice a day during the last 6 weeks before birth. Newborns this age also prefer a familiar lullaby that their mothers sang while they were pregnant compared to a new lullaby.

Amazingly, In 2000 and 2001, science also found that the fetus learns about tastes and smells. For example, if a mother eats garlic while she is pregnant, her newborn exhibits less aversion to garlic than newborns whose mothers did not eat garlic. Similar results have been seen for anise and vanilla. Furthermore, when women frequently drank carrot juice during their third trimester, their babies showed less aversion to carrot-flavored cereal when they started eating solid foods six months later.

### Teach to Reach is under the guidance of:

Harav Reuven Feinstein, shlit"a  
Harav Sholom Kaminetsky, shlit"a

Harav Ahron Lopiansky, shlit"a  
Harav Shaya Cohen, shlit"a

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## Parshas Toldos - The Divinity of the Torah

### ברית מילה

Mazal Tov! It's a boy! On the 8th day we bring him into the covenant of אברהם אבינו with a Bris! This is one of our most precious Mitzvos! Even throughout the times in our history, when the גויים forbade Bris Mila, Klal Yisrael was מוסר נפש to give Bris Mila to their sons, withstanding all obstacles. Bris Mila was commanded to אברהם about 4,000 years ago, in order to commemorate the bond between Hashem and His people forever. Throughout history, skeptics of the other nations mocked Bris Mila as ancient and primitive, and harmful to the baby. Thousands of years after this Mitzva was given, with the advent of modern medicine, the world now knows that it is extremely safe and leads to a drastic lifelong reduction of the probability of contracting various infections. It also reduces the likelihood of getting sick with certain cancers chas v'shalom.

The American Academy of Pediatrics has announced that the benefits of circumcision outweigh any risks. The California Medical Association endorses circumcision as an effective public health measure. As science developed, we discovered an amazing fact: Although the procedure seems invasive, there is an astonishingly low rate of complications: 0.19% when done by doctors. This percentage is even lower when done by a Mohel. It is actually the safest surgical procedure in the world! Some more facts about ברית מילה: When there is a cut, the body needs to form a clot in order to stop the bleeding. There are two elements that control clotting. These elements are vitamin K and a protein called prothrombin. Interestingly, the body is deficient in vitamin K for the first seven days of a baby's life. On the eighth day of a baby's life it has the full amount of vitamin K. Amazingly, prothrombin as well is produced in the body - during the first seven days of life, the amount of prothrombin drops steeply, and for only one day of a person's life it spikes to 110%. This happens on the eighth day! On no other day in a person's life does the prothrombin reach that percentage. It is so amazing to see that there is such an abundance of coagulating agents on the eighth day. Obviously this shows the knowledge in the Torah is perfectly accurate and straight from Hashem!

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## Parshas Toldos - The Divinity of the Torah

### שחיטה

From the Torah we know that we have to have extreme sensitivity to the pain of others. This even extends to animals. We have the Halacha of צער בעלי חיים and we are forbidden to cause pain even to an animal.

**וְזָבַחְתָּ מִבְּקָרְךָ וּמִצֹּאֲנֶךָ אֲשֶׁר נָתַן ה' לְךָ כְּאֲשֶׁר צִוִּיתִךָ (דברים יב; כ"א)**

**And you may slaughter from your cattle and your sheep that Hashem has given you, as I have commanded you.**

We have a special מצוה to shecht a kosher animal according to Halacha in order for us to be able to eat it. The world uses different methods to kill animals for food. For example, they may use nitrogen gas or stun an animal with a pistol. According to Torah law of Shechita, we slit the animal in the throat with a sharp knife in one quick movement. This does not cause needless pain to the animal.

Over the years; however, different governments around the world have tried to ban and outlaw shechita, claiming that it caused the animal to suffer needlessly. If you look at the way Hashem created the mammals' bodies to work, you will see not only the humane nature of Shechita, but the astonishing Divine wisdom in the Torah. All mammals have two main arteries that carry blood to the brain: the carotid artery in the front of the neck, and the vertebral artery in the back. When slit with a knife, the carotid artery is severed but the vertebral artery in the back remains intact. The blood will continue flowing towards the animal's brain, keeping it conscious and in pain for a long time. This is inhumane. Amazingly, out of all the animals in the world, only kosher animals possess a unique trait. The circulatory system in KOSHER animals ONLY, is designed that both the carotid artery and the vertebral artery are in the front of the neck. When Shechita happens, both arteries are cut so it immediately stops all blood supply to the brain. The animal dies and there is no pain! Obviously, this shows the knowledge in the Torah is vast, and comes straight from Hashem!

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Rabbi Meir Shmuel Katz was born with excess fluid in his head, and doctors said that if he were to undergo surgery, he would die. Even if not, the chances were not high for him to survive. His mother traveled to the Chazon Ish together with Rabbi Rein, who was very close to the Chazon Ish. The Chazon Ish was one of the the גדולי ישראל from 1933 - 1953. When they presented the case to him, the Chazon Ish said to proceed with the surgery. The doctor who heard this was visibly upset, questioning, "An old man who never studied medicine will give me advice?"

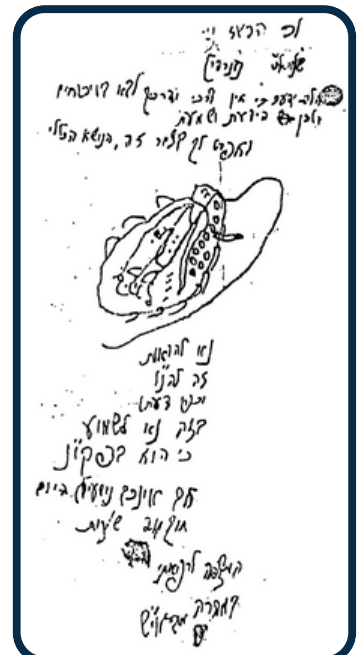
Following the mother's pleas, the reluctant doctor traveled to Bnei Brak to meet with the Chazon Ish. During their meeting, the Chazon Ish drew on a page, illustrating the brain and how to perform the dissection, where to enter, and so on. (See below.) However, the doctor claimed that he was afraid to take responsibility for such a surgery. The Chazon Ish told him, "No one asked you to take responsibility. They asked you to perform the dissection."

The surgery was carried out, and with the help of Hashem, Rabbi Katz lived another 75 years until his passing two years ago!

How did the Chazon Ish know how to advise on a complicated surgery if he had no medical training? He knew it from the תורה that he learned! Everything is in the תורה!

What does all this show us about the תורה?

The תורה knows everything! The תורה was created by Hashem and is Divine. When we see all the knowledge in the תורה, we can recognize that the תורה is very different from the work of a person. A person's work can only be based off of already known information. It cannot predict the future or know of something that has not yet been discovered. People live in this world and are confined to the restrictions of this world, therefore, their work is also confined to the restrictions of logic and time in this world. The תורה is written by Hashem. It is Divine and not restricted by this world. Consequently, the תורה never needs to be adjusted or changed with the times, because the תורה is not from this world and already knows everything!



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## Parshas Toldos - The Divinity of the Torah

אסתכל באוריינתא וברא עלמא - What does this mean?

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How does this make the תורה different from other books?

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Give two examples of scientific phenomena that show us that the תורה is Divine. Choose a topic and explain what science found to prove what we already knew from the תורה:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

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2. \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

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Why doesn't the תורה have to be changed for the changing times?

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## Parshas Toldos - The Divinity of the Torah

אסתכל באורייתא וברא עלמא - What does this mean?

Hashem looked into the **תורה** and created the world

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How does this make the **תורה** different from other books?

The **תורה** is divine and knows everything

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Give two examples of scientific phenomena that show us that the **תורה** is Divine. Choose a topic and explain what science found that agree what we already know from the **תורה**:

1. **ברית מילה** - The levels of vitamin K and prothrombin used for blood clotting are at their peak on the 8th day of a baby's life

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2. **שחיטה** - Only kosher animals have both arteries in the fronts of the neck so that when the animal is shechted, it is painless for the animals

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Why doesn't the **תורה** have to be changed for the changing times?

The **תורה** was written by Hashem and is divine. It is above anything in this world and already knew whatever is going to happen.

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