

A Look Inside: Kollel Chatzos ~ The Torah Knights of Klal Yisroel

A RISING IN THE SHADOWS OF DARKNESS. ENTER KOLLEL CHATZOS.

By: L. Moses

Let us catch a glimpse of some of those special contributors in our community; who keep us afloat with Torah learning 24 hours a day, and beseech yeshuos on behalf of Klal Yisroel.

Why did you join Kollel Chatzos? What motivated you to enter our realms?

R' Chaim: I have the zchus of teaching Torah throughout the day which doesn't leave me much time to learn. Therefore, I joined Kollel Chatzos to learn at night with peace of mind and serenity.

R' Avrum: As is written in multiple seforim; The predawn hours is the holiest of time, when the presence of the shechina envelopes. Therefore, the Gemara states that those who learn at night, will merit an extra blessing in all their endeavors.

R' Nuchem: I always arose at dawn, but to me, the concept of waking at chatzos meant a non-functional day. After trying it once, I realized it was feasible!

What was the reaction of your wife and children?

R' Nuchem: They were enormously encouraging and happy to be part of such a mitzvah! The whole atmosphere in the house of a Kollel Chatzos member is indescribable to those who have never experienced it! It is an ambiance that can only be seen and felt. Not explained.

R' Avrum: It is a strong pride for my wife and children knowing that their father is occupied in such spiritual manners.

R' Shimon: At first, we thought it was too much for us to embrace, but, when taking a closer look and weighing our options, we realized that it is quite feasible and appealing.

In what way do you see the learning at night differ from that of the daytime hours?



The Monsey Kollel at 1:30AM. Located in The Toshnod shul.

R' Nuchem: The Yavetz says, "An hour at night is equivalent to six hours during the day." I see that as a fact. The achievements at night are a special gift from above! As someone who has tried it, I can attest that learning is much more accomplishing at night than during the day.

R' Shimon: My nights provide me with hours of learning without any interruptions. There are no Doctors' appointments, no phone calls etc. therefore, to master anything during the night requires much less strenuous concentration than during the day!

What is the connection between the donors and the Talmidei Chachamim in Kollel Chatzos?

R' Nuchem: When praying for those in need of yeshuos, (to overcome their hardships,) it brings great emotion upon us, developing a special connection.

R' Avrum: The greatness of the Tefillah for a fellow yid is powerful. Yet, praying at this holy time (as stated in the Zohar many times) for our donors multiplies the power of the tefillah, hence the results.

Our goal is to establish a Kollel Chatzos in every city. How would you advise a youngerman who is contemplating to join?



Kollel Chatzos Opens World's first Nighttime Bais Horaah

R' Nuchem: Not only should he consider it; he should DO it! He will become a new person! Not only will he be matzliach in his learning, the Hatzlacha will overflow into everything he does -b'ruchniyus and b'gashmiyus! Try it! I'm talking from experience!

R' Chaim: Like all the beginnings, it's not easy. But the mesiras nefesh (sacrifice) for Torah gives you the drive to wake up and learn at Chatzos with passion.

"It's inspiring for me to watch such chasuva yungerleidt dedicate so many hours of their night learning and growing to unprecedented heights with the support of their devoted wives!"

- Rabbi Nechemye Hoffman, Founder

THE WIVES OF KOLLEL CHATZOS: SUPPORTING A HUSBAND WHO LEARNS THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT.

By: Shoshana Bernstein

For months I have been curious what life is like for the wives of the chashuve talmidei chachomim of Kollel Chatzos, men who learn for hours and hours throughout the day and night. Though the three wives* I spoke to are quick to deny it, they exemplify nshei chayil and it was an honor to meet them.

SB: What was your reaction to your husband joining Kollel Chatzos?

Raizy: The wife has to sign the application that she agrees to have her husband join. It was hectic when my husband started learning there, I had just recovered from surgery and was staying at my mother's house for a while. But, once we got back home it was already routine.

Miriam: I actually have a friend whose husband is part of Kollel Chatzos. I would be on the phone with her and hear her waking up her husband at 12 am to go learn. I always thought it was a little unusual, but okay, it's her husband, not mine! *(Everyone laughs).* Then my husband came home and said he'd like to give it a try!

SB: How did you adjust to your husband's new schedule of learning at night?

Raizy: When we stayed at my mother's house, it was much easier, because I had a lot of help. Once we moved back home it was very hard for him. We have little kids and my husband wanted to help, but he needed to go to sleep. I felt bad for him!

SB: You see! You're feeling bad for him! I'm telling you, you are all

noshim tzidkonius!! *(Murmurs of denial all around).*

Miriam: My husband is the type that needs his sleep. But after the first night he was up and learned in the Kollel he was so inspired. The learning is so unlike anything he has ever experienced before. There's such a purity to the quality of learning. It makes everything worthwhile.

SB: How do your children and other family members feel about your husband learning in Kollel Chatzos?



An evening of Chizuk and appreciation for the wives of Kollel Chatzos, our strongest supporters

Fraidy: My children are extremely proud. The kids and my husband go to sleep at the same time! (It's a great way to motivate the little ones to get into bed.) Yet, it's harder for my older sons because they come home later and don't get to see him. My brother in law learns in the Kollel in Monroe so my mother in law was used to it.

Miriam: My family was so amazed by how special it is. My kids are bursting with pride. I remember wondering how my friend manages to sleep home on her own on shvuus night. However, now that I'm in it I realize that it's different because unlike on Shavuos, I have the ability to call if there is an emergency.

SB: The goal of Kollel Chatzos is to establish a kollel in every community.

What would you say to women whose husband is considering joining?

Fraidy: I feel like it changed my life and my idea of what living a life of Torah is all about. And you really see amazing yeshuos. (Buroch Hashem I didn't go to the doctor with any of my kids the entire winter.)

Miriam: My children are able to have an amazing relationship with their father. My friend recently pointed it out to me. She said 'My husband works, he comes home after the kids are in bed, he goes to sleep exhausted, I barely see him. Although your husband is never home at night, he is calm, he spends time with you and the children in an unusual way, at the same time he provides us with the zechusim of the Torah he learns all night long!'

Raizy: Everyone's challenges and benefits are individual. But, we all see that the Torah our husbands are learning is beyond comparison, and is well worth the effort.

We end with everyone whole heartedly agreeing that no one would want their husband to stop learning at Kollel Chatzos. For me it has been an eye opening hour into new vistas of being moser nefesh for Torah learning and the sweetness, bracha and zechusim inherent within.

*names were changes to protect privacy

הגית בו יומם ולילה
כולל חצות
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