



MESSAGE FROM THE RAV

Dear Chevra

We hope that you had an accomplished week and wish you a relaxing and spiritually energizing Shabbat Chanuka. We are sorry that we can't be with you for Shabbat this week as we are enjoying a re-union shabbaton in Kfar Haroeh. We trust that the community is in the hands of a very efficient team who will facilitate a beautiful תפילה together.

Wow, what an action-packed parsha we have in front of us this week. From Yosef and his dreams to being sold by his brothers; Yaakov's reaction to the news; the story of Yehuda and Tamar; to Yosef in Potiphar's house, involved with Potiphar's wife and landing up in jail; and finally, Yosef as the dream interpreter par-excellence! The only missing party seems to be HaKadosh Baruch Hu! The Midrash sheds light on this glaring apparent omission:

The tribes were involved with the sale of Yosef; Yosef was immersed in mournful thoughts about his separation from his father; Reuven was involved with mourning over his sin; Yaakov was mourning for Yosef; Yehuda was busy taking a wife for himself (Tamar); And the Holy One, Blessed is He, was busy creating the light of Mashiach. (Bereishit Raba 85:2)

From a narrow perspective, each disconnected event of our parsha, when taken individually, seems tragic. Yosef is sold into slavery. Yaakov becomes the inconsolable mourner. Yehuda consorts with a harlot. Yosef is demoted and becomes a forgotten prisoner. Yet, each of these events was necessary to bring about Hashem's greater plan. Even more so, the protagonists themselves were unwittingly sowing the seeds of redemption.

The story of Yehuda and Tamar seems problematic, to say the least! However, Yehuda unknowingly became the father of the Mashiach by "accidentally" taking his past

daughter-in-law, Tamar, as a wife. Later in history, even Mashiach ben David (a descendant of Yehuda's relationship with the aforementioned Tamar) emerges from the unusual background of Ruth the Moabite. Redemption, not by chance, always emerges from the darkest of places. Why is that?

The underlying principle needed to unlock this dilemma is phrased by Shlomo Hamelech, the wisest of all men, in Mishlei 19:21: רבות מהשבות רבות מהשבות ה' היא תקום בלב איש ועצת ה' היא תקום – many thoughts are in the heart of man, and/but Hashem's idea will prevail. Throughout history, the Jewish people have, unfortunately, often had the opportunity to think that their destruction is looming just around the next corner. But it's exactly at that moment that Hashem saves us in the stories of Yetziat Mitzrayim, Chanukah and Purim. This principle is built into creation too. A seed has to be planted and rot in the ground, almost to the point of disintegration before it can begin to sprout. So too, the seed planted into the womb, a dark and gloomy place where seemingly nothing could grow, suddenly makes contact with an egg and flourishes into a human being – the pinnacle of creation.

We may think that we are in control in this world. Though, as we know, the Hand of Hashem is present every step of the way. The challenge is to see that Hand and not say כחי ועצמי ידי עשה לי ה' את החיל הזה. Recognising Hashem's Hand in the world is more than merely a recognition of His presence; it gives us the ability to imbue every moment with the Kedusha of being borne by הקדוש ברוך הוא!

So too regarding the final redemption, may it come speedily in our days! The Gemara in Suka 52b teaches that there will be a Mashiach from the descent of Yosef who will facilitate the physical redemption heralding the final arrival of the Mashiach ben David (from the tribe of Yehuda) who will build the third Beit

Hamikdash and in whose time world peace will be achieved and all Jewish exiles will be ingathered to the Land of Israel. Yosef functions as the physical provider for the entire world during the years of famine in Egypt and is thus the prototype for the ultimate physical redeemer. He also initiates the events leading to the creation of the Jewish Nation when they later leave Egypt to receive the Torah at Har Sinai. But Yosef is also Yosef Hatzadik who says בלעדי – it is not me, but Hashem who interprets dreams and actualizes their interpretations.

It is always at that moment of decision when the potential darkness of selfishness and self-focus can destroy the outcome of the situation. Alternatively, the light of being focused on Hashem not only maintains a situation's momentum, but thrusts it forward with the power of creation and קדושה.

When Shabbat and Chanuka coincide, we have the ability to connect not only to the light of the 7 days of creation invested into the world by Hashem (התאוררות דלעילה); but also to our contribution – the light of the menorah that was lit by human beings in the בית המקדש (התאוררות דלתתא). May our lighting of the chanukiya bring about the lighting of the menorah in the בית המקדש speedily in our days.

Shabbat shalom
Rav Shmuel and Taly

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"WHEN IT IS DARKEST, MEN SEE THE STARS."

RALPH WALDO EMERSON



PARASHAT HASHAVUA

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VAYESHEV BY RAV SHMUEL BLOOM

THE **LLM**
10
IS
YEARS OLD

MEALS FOR 8 NEXT WEEK PARASHAT MIKETZ

WE'VE SET THE DATE
WE WANT TO SEE YOU- WE CAN'T WAIT !!
PLEASE REPLY- DON'T BE LATE!

WHEN: FRIDAY NIGHT 22ND DEC
RSVP: TUESDAY AFTERNOON, DEC 19TH 4:00PM.
LET US KNOW IF YOU WANT TO HOST OR BE HOSTED.

TO SEND AN EMAIL TO:
GALI@TALI.ORG.IL - EVENTS COMMITTEE

TAKE A GAMBLE WITH US ON CHANUKA

DATE: WEDNESDAY 20 DEC

TIME: 8PM

EARLY BOOKING & PAYING BY MONDAY, DECEMBER 18TH:

30NIS PER PERSON,

PRICE AT THE DOOR: 50NIS PER PERSON,

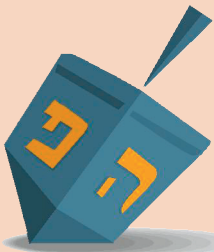
ENTRY INCLUDING TOKENS FOR GAMES,

PART OF THE PROCEEDS WILL GO TO CHARITY.

WHERE: LIVNOT ULEHIBANOT, 27 BEN ZAKAI ST.
REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED....

TO RESERVE A PLACE, PLEASE EMAIL:

GALI@TALI.ORG.IL **EVENTS COMMITTEE**



CASH OR CHEQUE FOR "LLM"
SHOULD BE DELIVERED TO:
TAMMY WILSON, 7/7 BILU OR
DANIEL GREENSPAN, 6A BRODI
LAST DAY FOR EARLY BOOKING:
DEC. 18TH

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

*IF ANYONE NEEDS A PLACE FOR LUNCH, OR IF ANYONE HAS A SPARE PLACE AT THEIR TABLE, PLEASE SPEAK TO RAV SHMUEL AND TALY BLOOM AFTER SHUL, AND WE WILL DO OUR BEST TO ACCOMODATE EVERYONE.

*FOR COMMENTS ON THE PARSHA PAGE OR QUESTIONS FOR RAV BLOOM PLEASE E-MAIL: RABBI@LATEMINYAN.COM

*IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT A DVAR TORAH TO THE PARSHA PAGE - IN HEBREW OR ENGLISH - PLEASE SEND IT TO RAV BLOOM BY MONDAY.

*IF ANYONE WOULD LIKE TO SPONSOR THIS WEEKLY PARSHA PAGE IN MEMORY OF A CLOSE ONE OR IN HONOUR OF AN UP-COMING SIMCHA, PLEASE CONTACT TAMMY WILSON AT: 02-5671289

*IF ANYONE WOULD LIKE TO SPONSOR A KIDDUSH IN HONOUR OF AN UP-COMING SIMCHA, PLEASE CONTACT GALI DORN AT: GALI@TALI.ORG.IL

SHABBAT SHALOM FROM
THE LATE LATE MINYAN

KIDDUSH DONATED BY YEHUDA BLUMENFELD IN HONOR OF HIS UFRUF.
THE LATE LATE MINYAN IS WISHING YEHUDA, RACHEL AND THEIR FAMILIES
MAZAL TOV AND MANY YEARS OF HAPPINESS