

Pardes Yehuda

← Weekly Torah Journal By Yehuda Z. Klitnick →

Parshas Vayechi 5781

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שבת חזק

פרישת ויחי תשפ"א

The true secret to upbringing good children is prayer to Hashem

וַיְבָרֶךְ אֶת יוֹסֵף וַיֹּאמֶר הָאֱלֹקִים אֲשֶׁר הִתְחַלְכוּ אֲבֹתַי לְפָנָיו אֲבָרְכֶם וַיְבָרֶךְ הָאֱלֹקִים הָרַעְיָה אֹתִי מֵעוֹדֵי עַד-הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה: הַמַּלְאָךְ הַנֹּאֵל אֹתִי מִכָּל דָּעַ וַיְבָרֶךְ אֶת הַנְּעָרִים וְגו' (מ"ח ט"ו- ט"ז)

Yaakov blessed Yosef and said, "Hashem, before Whom my fathers, Avraham and Yitzchok, walked, Hashem Who sustained me as long as I am alive, until this day, May the angel who redeemed me from all harm bless the youths..." The Mefarshim question: It says in Posuk 15 "Yaakov blessed Yosef and said", But what was the blessing that Yaakov bestowed upon Yosef? Another interesting point: In Posuk 16 there is another blessing "May the angel who redeemed me from all harm bless the youths" Why is there a need for a blessing from an angel? We can understand the Pesukim with an introduction. The Gaon Rav Chaim Avrohom Orenstein, a student of Chasam Sofer, writes in his sefer Divrei Avrohom: The Chasam Sofer once bemoaned the fact that in light of his obligations to the kehillah-- answering Halachic inquiries and managing his large yeshiva --no time was left for him to care for his children. What should he do about the chinuch and upbringing of his children? Rabbi Orenstein answered the Chasam Sofer: Dovid Hamelech asks the same question and gives the answer in Tehilim "כָּל הַיּוֹם חוֹנֵן וּמְלַנֵּה וְזָרְעוֹ לְבָרָכָה" (תהלים ל"ז כ"ו) *All day long he is gracious and lends, and his seed is due for a blessing (37:26)*. Dovid Hamelech was wondering, if a person is constantly busy helping other Jews with loans and chesed-activities, what will be with his children? The answer is; Hashem will bless and take care of his children. [The reason might be, since by doing Chesed to a Yid, you become the messenger of Hashem, hence, Hashem will guard your children.] Therefore, continued Rav Orenstein, "if you continue serving the public, causing them to walk in Hashem's ways, as did the Avos, Hashem will take care of your children." The Chasam Sofer was so delighted to hear this answer that he repeated and expounded on this Dvar

Torah to his students at Shalosh Seudos. The same idea happened by Yosef. He was busy feeding the land of Egypt as well as doing other Chesed, therefore, Yaakov blessed Yosef: Just as your forefathers were busy with helping and guiding others, and Hashem watched over their children, the same applies to you. Hashem will likewise bless and take care of your children. Yaakov also saw the children of Yosef, and realized they were at a high level of Kedusha and therefore said: אֶפְרַיִם וּמְנַשֶּׁה כְּרֵאוּבֵן וְשִׁמּוֹן יִהְיוּ לִי: Efraim and Menashe shall be mine like Reuven and Shimon. However, in order to have his children survive in the atmosphere of Egypt with the impurity of the land, Yaakov had to have angels bless the children, and be their guardian, as Dovid Hamelech states in Tehilim 91:11. כִּי מַלְאָכָיו יִצְוֶה לְךָ לְשֹׁמְרֶיךָ בְּכָל: For Hashem will command His angels on your behalf to guard you in all your ways. The success of Chinuch is only from Hashem. I heard from a Yid who asked the Satmar Rebbe, Reb Yoel, "What is the secret to having good children"? The Rebbe answered: "בעמך בעמך בעמך וויינען וויינען" "Crying, Crying, Crying, Praying, Praying, Praying,"! Parents have to pray to Hashem to grant them fine children, just as prayer is beneficial for every step in life. Hashem listens to every prayer. The prayers of mothers at candle lighting for Shabbos, is exclusively for good children. That is the reason there is a resurgence in Yiddishkeit in Russia after years of communism that sought to eradicate any Yiddishkeit, yet boys and girls are thriving in Torah and Mitzvoths. Many have become giants and leaders. This is attributed to the prayers of their grandmothers, who drenched their siddur with tears, praying for generations of Torah and Yiras Shamayim. Yaakov gave to Yosef this Bracha; of praying for good Children, because for Chinuch we need the help of Hashem. (Yehuda Z. Klitnick)

STORY OF THE WEEK (By Yehuda Z. Klitnick)

***** *The Yismach Moshe's pipe saves a Yid from financial ruin* *****

The holy and renowned Rav Moshe Teitelbaum is known for posterity as the "Yismach Moshe. He brought about salvations for Yidden of all standings in ways beyond the usual laws of nature. He had a loyal follower named Shulem, a pious, honest and unpretentious man who earned his livelihood by working as a skilled tailor. Living in a village just outside Ujhel, he plied his trade out of a shop on the main market street of town, where his tailoring brought in enough for the coming Shabbos, and a small bit extra to lay away for emergencies or other expenses. For years running, Hashem guided his affairs and he was more than

satisfied with his station in life. He rented his own modest house, from a poritz landowner who treated him kindly, charging a bargain rent and even overlooking the months when Shulem was unable to pay. He knew full well that Shulem was running as fast as he could to stay in one place and at times simply could not pay his rent. One winter was unusually cold and blustery. For weeks on end, few people were out and about, and foot traffic from the street in town was far below the usual levels. The little tailor shop's profits were barely enough to cover Shabbos expenses, not to mention what Shulem needed for basic

expenses in the week. He was very depressed and worried about his parnassa situation. Shulem and his loyal wife had always been content with their meager standard of living, confident in their faith that Hashem would always sustain them. But now they faced a crisis. There simply was no money to meet their baseline expense: the weekly house rental due the poritz. Since he had always managed to meet the rent even if a little late sometimes, the poritz tended to be lenient with them. This time though, three weeks had passed in arrears and the poritz's patience ran out. He sent word to Shulem that if he didn't pay up his entire rent due, with all arrears, he fully intended to evict him into the street. And the tone of the message showed that he meant business. Shulem sent back a reassuring answer and promised to settle his accounts the following week.

Our hero virtually lived on Bitachon and headed back to his tailor shop. But the weather remained frigid and forbidding and absolutely no one brought in any mending or tailoring work. By Thursday night, Shulem saw that his take-home from the business would not cover what he needed for Shabbos. But worse, he still could not pay his current and back rent to the poritz and realistically faced eviction into the snow. He sat down to rest on the way home and broke into bitter, heart-rending tears and wails that would have melted any stone.

A traveling wealthy businessman couldn't help but notice Shulem's cries of despair and took pity on him. Somehow, on scant personal evidence, he sized him up as a capable manager and offered him an unexpected business deal which promised to fully bail Shulem out of his predicament -- but with a catch. "Shulem, I want to help you, so I'm offering you a partnership in a new business which you will design. First, I will lay out the rent you owe the poritz for the short term but I'm also proposing a sizeable loan for five years, which you can use as start-up capital. You'll do well, I'm sure, but these are the terms: I'll get 50% of your ongoing profits, as your silent partner, and at the end of the five years, you repay the entire principal of the loan. But if at that time, chas ve'sholom, you are unable to pay, then you will become my indentured servant. Sholom's head was reeling from this unexpected turn of events and he signed the partnership contract which his Heaven-sent benefactor drew up and laid in front of him. The partnership was signed, sealed and delivered and Shulem blessed Hashem for His good fortune.

Shulem could scarcely wait to break the news to his loyal wife, who was cautiously overjoyed to hear it. He headed straight to the poritz and settled his past balance. After Shabbos, instead of returning to his tailor shop, Shulem approached wealthy magnates in the region, told them that he had working capital in hand, and asked if they might have

any investment opportunities for him. Indeed, a few were suggested. He followed through on them, diversifying his investments through shrewd business management. Before long he was able to shutter his tailoring business and attend full time to his new business ventures. He became a successful trader and basked in his new reputation.

By the time the fifth year rolled around, with the settlement upcoming with his original backer, Shulem became greedy. He wanted to close out the year with a major killing in the markets, so he transferred all his assets into a new venture which seemed like a sure bet. But, sad to say, the markets shifted and his new venture went "sour." In the blink of an eye, Shulem was facing financial ruin in the face. Yes, he could still put together a suitable Shabbos tisch, and even pay the ongoing house rent for the poritz. But he reckoned clearly that coming up with the large partnership repayment was not going to happen. Two weeks ahead of the deadline, emissaries from his partner informed him of the time and place for a meeting with the "Big Man."

Reb Shulem, trembling from fear, made a trip to his Rebbe in search of a way out of his upcoming financial crisis. The Yismach Moshe heard him out and calmed him down. "Shulem, my son, you don't worry. The threat from this man will disappear like the morning mist. Return home and await the day of reckoning." And so he did.

A day before the appointment, the Rebbe summoned Shulem to his private room. The rich man set out to follow him, fully intending to confront him in the Yismach Moshe's house if need be. And so it happened. Shulem was inside with the Rebbe and the door shook from furious knocks from the rich man. The Yismach Moshe resorted to his own kind of "chemical warfare." He took out a briar pipe from his vest, filled it with tobacco and commenced to smoke. So much white, redolent smoke billowed out that the attendant opened the door to let in air. The man was on the other side. The cloud of smoke hit him square in the face and he was seized by an otherworldly terror. He feared to approach Shulem to press his claim -- and retreated. The Rebbe promised Shulem, "This man will be afraid to approach you ever again. But make no mistake, Shulem. What you have gained is no more than some breathing space. You are 100% obliged to repay every kopeck that the man advanced to you in your time of need five years ago. I will not tolerate a *chilul hashem* at my hands." "I fully understand, Rebbe." "In that case, I gladly give you a brocho for success in business and *Im Yirtze Hashem* all will go well for you." Truth be told, Shulem really only needed a respite in his affairs to get himself back on his feet. In a few weeks' time all his debts were settled, thanks to the emergency brocho he received from his Rebbe, the Yismach Moshe.

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