



אור בישראל

A LIGHT FROM WITHIN ISRAEL פרשת וישב

כי כסלו תשפ"ה 21.12.24

עם סיוון רהם-נאיר

1 This week's parsha is Vayeshev, the ninth parsha in the book of Genesis. The parsha has the beginning of the story of Yosef and his brothers, which will continue until the end of the book of Genesis.

Yosef's story teaches us about conflicts between siblings, and the importance of unity within the family and within the entire Jewish people. There is a beautiful saying that states: The Jewish people are the smallest people - but the largest family. From Yosef's time until today, this is our challenge to maintain unity within the family.



There is a connection between the parsha and Chanukkah – Yosef struggles with a foreign culture in Egypt and succeeds in overcoming the test, and Chanukkah is a holiday of fighting against the foreign Greek culture, in favor of Jewish culture.

On Wednesday evening, next week, we will light the first Chanukkah candle throughout the Jewish world. Especially this year, we pray and act – so that the Jewish light will continue to grow and will defeat the darkness!



A STORY FOR SHABBAT

WHEN THE LIGHT WENT OUT

At Teddy Stadium in Jerusalem, the show was about to begin. The singers and speakers were on stage and getting ready to start their performance, when suddenly the lights went out. It was pitch dark in the stadium-no screens, no sound system and no orchestra-due to an electrical malfunction. The thousands of people in attendance started to whisper among themselves. There were even some people who took photos; it isn't every day that you see a stadium filled with people that is completely dark. But after a few minutes, people started to get restless. The electricity was not coming back on. I was sitting in the audience and debating what to do. Should I just go home? We were all trying to find out what happened and if the performance would start, when suddenly we caught sight of a small black and white dot on the field. Someone had run to the middle of the field and the sound of music could be heard. It was the singer Avraham Fried. He had come down from the stage and was standing on the field. Without musicians to accompany him, and holding a small microphone that was somehow still working, he started to sing. Only the emergency laser projector lit up the stadium, but if you focused, you could see and hear Fried. He asked the audience to join him in singing and thousands of people in the audience started to sing along. Fried started off with a soothing song, "Eli Ata Ve-odeka-You are my God and I will praise you" from the Book of Psalms (Tehillim). He stood on one side of the stadium and thousands sang along with him. He then ran to the other side of the field and sang another song. The experience was so powerful; on the one hand, the stadium was completely dark because of the power malfunction, but on the other hand, there were now thousands of people singing a sweeping melody with a singer who was making a great effort to sing and dance. In fact, you could now feel a lot of "electricity" in the air... In the end, the electricity was restored and the show resumed. But what was everyone talking about? After the

lavish event was over, what remained in peoples' memories was Fried's unrehearsed show that had taken place in the dark. Realizing the situation, he had decided to sing and rejoice and to do the most with what he had.

(From the "Ligdol" book series)

Food for Thought

One of the great messages of the Hasidic movement is to utilize every situation for good. We are never stuck, and we are never anywhere by chance. In every situation we find ourselves in, at any given moment - and perhaps especially in moments we did not plan - we can do something of value, look for the mission for which we are there.

When we face a challenge, we need not only to pass through it somehow safely, but also try to leverage it in order to create something new and good from it.





Rav Shaul Moyal HY"D with his student, Eli Barkatz (Photo: Private Album)

FROM THE DIARY OF A CHEMED STUDENT

A TEACHER FOR LIFE

In Hebrew, there is an expression- "Moreh L'Chaim", "A Teacher for Life". This is a teacher who not only teaches the material well, but challenges his students to be the best they can be and inspires them by the way he acts and lives his life. My "Moreh L'Chaim" is Rav Shaul Moyal. He was killed in the war in Lebanon on October 26th, 2024. He was only 47 years old, and had ten kids. The reason I chose Rav Shaul is because he helped our class learn and understand science in a different and interesting way, mostly by drawing the things he taught us. For instance, when he taught us about the human eye, he drew it from the inside out and it helped us understand it very well. In addition, he was a very happy teacher and a very serious teacher at the same time, which was one of the best traits he had. Everyone in our class loved him and I think he was the best science teacher I ever had. I will always remember Rav Shaul Moyal, his lessons, and his way of teaching.

Yehi Zichro Baruch.

Ido Pariente, 9th Grade, Kfar Batya

Around the Shabbat Table

- Give examples from your daily lives or from your close environment of actions that express "a life of Shlichut (mission)"
- What can we learn from these two stories about the power of the People of Israel?

RESERVES OF SHLICHUT

Hi, my name is Rotem Shamai. Three years ago, my wife Shiran and I decided to go on shlichut. We took our four children and went to Philadelphia to be teachers. When I tell people this, they try to understand what it means to be a "shaliach" (emissary). So simply put, the answer is that we were sent by the World Zionist Organization to Jews living in various places around the world, to teach and tell them about Israel, to teach the stories of the Torah, about our ancestors who lived in Israel, about Yehoshua who fought so we could live in the land, and about the Jews who fought to return even after 2000 years to live in the Land of Israel. And about how important it is that we too be part of this story. When the war broke out, I left my family and community and took a flight to Israel to join my friends in battle.. Suddenly something special



happened. I was no longer just a "teacher telling stories" - suddenly I was part of the story of the People of Israel. I found myself fighting like the Maccabees. Fighting against evil day and night for many months. But I was not the only one in this story. Although I was on the front lines, my community was also mobilized. They understood how difficult it would be for my family and mobilized to help: meals, transportation, cooking, and pampering, all to

make things a little easier for my family. And then I understood that each of us is a shaliach (emissary). Each of us needs to live a "life of mission". Usually, we are not asked to go on a specific mission, but we need to look around us and look for what mission needs to be done. Who needs me, whom can I help, where can I lend a hand. In this story, my friends and I went out to fight terrorists harming the People of Israel, and at the same time, there were people taking care of the "home front", who immediately thought about how they could help so that I could do my mission (my shlichut) with a "calm head". Think about it, why is it called "Miluim" (reserves)? The root of Miluim is "lemaleh" (to fill). What are we filling here? I felt that my brothers were filling my heart. I am not fighting alone. When everyone mobilizes and fights together on the front and home front - only this way are we a strong people, full of strength and love. And like this - together - we will win.



דף הפרשה מוקדש לעילוי
נשמת החיילים הקדושים
מיכאל בן חמו ואייל טויטו הי"ד



Translators: Janine Muller Sherr and Yehoshua Siskin

Send responses to: office@sivanrahavmeir.com

To contact the National Chemed Counselor: maazarishif@gmail.com

To contact the education department: Morim@wzo.org.il