

05

Parshat Vayeishev

FISCHER'S FARBRENGEN

Utilizing the world for personal growth can bring one to Deveikus with Hashem just as the performance of an actual mitzvah can.

WORKING IN

IT'S 11AM AND YES, I AM STILL FLEISHIGZ

BY HUDA KRUPKA



HEAD UP HIGH

BY SHAYA LEXIER

Within this fascinating Parsha of dreams, we find a specific story of two dreams that took place in a dark dungeon in one of the most depraved places that has ever existed on the face of this planet: It was on an ordinary day during Yosef's brutal incarceration deep down in the pits of ancient Egypt, that the mighty Pharaoh got super triggered and threw two of his officers in prison. One of these guys was the **שר ההופים**, the baker, while the other was the **שר המשקים**, the cupbearer, otherwise known as the alcohol refiller. The Torah proceeds to tell us that these two men had dreams and they related them to Yosef. Unlike the manner in which they were referred to in the previous verses however, the Torah merely calls them **המשקה והאפה** and leaves the word **שר-officer** out of the **פסוק**. The Sforno points out that the word officer is left out because these men were broken, they were no longer officers in their own minds. Their demotion and imprisonment aggrieved them, broke their spirits and they ultimately lost themselves to despair.

Yosef, on the other hand, the mocked "dreamer boy" who's life was studded with rejection and pain, who was sold into slavery by his very own brothers, who sat in a dungeon for a crime he didn't even commit, yes, this very Yosef who had every excuse in the books to simply hang up the boots and call it a day, this Yosef, did not fall into despair, he instead did just the opposite and fell right into the cushions of his golden throne wearing the crown of Egypt. Yosef Hatzadik teaches us that regardless of what the world may shout at a person and no matter how dark one's circumstances may seem, a Yid must always hold his head up high, remember who he is, remember his dreams, his goals and aspirations and through continued persistence he will surely merit redemption.

THE REAL REWARD

BY SHIMON GOLDSCHHEIN

Have you ever had a really rough day where you're on the verge of bugging out, and you finally get home to relax, and then something else happens that just pushes you past the breaking point? Well that's pretty much what happened to Yaakov in this week's Parsha. After working for Lavan for 14 years, fighting the Malach of Esav and who knows what else; Yaakov settled in Canaan with his family, hoping for some peace and quiet. Well unfortunately that didn't last too long, because shortly afterwards his son Yosef was kidnapped and taken to Egypt as a slave.

At around the same time, Esav was settling in Mount Seir with his family. Now compared to Yaakov, Esav was living a great life. He started a large kingdom which lasted for generations. So what's the deal? Why is the holy tzaddik Yaakov suffering hardship after hardship, while Esav's living it up in his kingdom? How does that make any sense?

To answer this question we're going to take a look at the Nefesh Shimshon. In his Sefer on Emunah, he quotes a Chazal that says "there is no reward for mitzvos in this world". The problem is, what about all the blessings promised by the Torah to those who keep the mitzvos? Like in Shema we say that if you love and serve Hashem, then you will have food to eat, and you will be satisfied. Isn't that considered a reward in this world?

So the Nefesh Shimshon explains that "reward" is what Hashem gives as payment for our good deeds, which does not exist in this world. This reward will be given to us in the future and will be limitless. However the Torah's promise of blessing in this world does not come as payment or reward. It is rather because attachment to Hashem is at the essence of the mitzvos. Every mitzvah that you do brings you closer to Hashem. Therefore, mitzvos automatically contain all the blessings of the Torah. This is what we live on in this world, and this is what true brachah and happiness is.

So when Esav settled and created a kingdom, he wasn't living on true brachah for this world. He was living on the rewards for all his good deeds, which should have lasted forever. However, "**וישב יעקב**", when Yaakov settled, he was settling on true happiness. Things around him might not have been going his way, but on the inside he was connected to Hashem, and was therefore living a life full of brachah.

So the next time that you're having a bad day, just know that the only thing that matters is how close to Hashem you are. Because that is where true happiness comes from.

AN INTERVIEW

WITH YESHIVA'S FAVORITE FATHER IN-LAW RABBI ERBLICH

**The lights dim.
The son in laws begin to nervously twitch.
A sneeze occurs from somewhere in the back.**

FR: Hey Rabbi! So it's true?

RE: Yes.

FR: So cool. If you had to describe the yeshiva in a flavor of Doritos, what would it be?

RE: **חריף אש**

FR: Now **that** is fascinating. Do you like Meir or Yehuda better?

RE: Depends who's asking.

FR: Smooth. Thanks for comin out!

RE: It's a pleasure!



MOTIVATION AND HOW TO KEEP

BY EFFI NETTLETON

IT Motivation- Have you ever had a spark of inspiration to start a new healthy habit or quit an old one? You say to yourself, "I'm going to start working out/waking up for שחרית/eating healthy (or even) going clean." So the next day you wake up for שחרית, you eat healthy and workout. You do that the next day and the next. Sometimes you stay consistent with it for a good amount of time, other times you miss a day here and there, and your motivation fizzles out quicker. Then you go back to your old habits. But you know in the back of your head what the right thing is to do. You'll think "I want to do it, but I failed last time. Why don't I have motivation?"

The answer is you're not being honest with yourself about how much you truly want it! If one really wants to accomplish something, start a healthy habit and keep to it, you have to truly want to do it, more than doing what you are doing now. But how do you make that choice? How do you decide to truly want to do something. The solution can be understood with a משל. It's a scorching hot day, and you just finished an amazing game of basketball. You're dripping sweat and your mouth is parched, dying for a cold drink. You stroll into your nearest convenience store, and grab a ice cold Coke from the fridge. You slam it on the counter, and the cashier says, "Two dollars". You pull out the cash and hand it over. You pop open the can, make a ברכה and take a big gulp. You think, Ahhh, so refreshing, just what I needed, and it was only two dollars. Meanwhile the cashier is thinking, "Hah, sucker, I payed twenty five cents for that".

Now hold on a second. Why did you just pay two dollars for that Coke and you didn't think twice?! You were glad to pay because you wanted the Coke more than two dollars. If you weren't so thirsty two dollars might have seemed like a rip off. However, since you were so hot and thirsty the Coke was irresistible and was worth two dollars to you. We see an example: One will always trade what they have for what they think is better, without a struggle. You payed two dollars for a Coke because in your eyes the Coke was better. If you didn't think so, you would have kept your money. So back to the question, how do you truly decide to want to do something and keep doing it? You have to ask yourself which is honestly better. You must be honest and find all the pros of what it is you want to do. Then really make a decision what is better, doing _____ or not doing _____. The want/motivation will come automatically, because if you truly think something is better you'll "buy the Coke", meaning you'll be motivated to do it because you truly want it. I personally am motivated to workout everyday because I think the benefits of working out are better than if I didn't workout. So I truly want to workout more than not. If one wants to go clean, they have to look at the pros of being clean, and decide...do I continue wasting time, wasting money, killing brain cells, not feeling real emotions, taking the easy way out, etc, or take control of my life, be more productive, build real relationships, return to reality, be truly happy and so much more. As long as you're honest about the pros of being clean, you'll realize it's better than smoking, you'll go clean and be able to stay clean. No one else is controlling you. So YOU have to make a choice. Find the pros in what you want to accomplish and make a honest choice what you really want. The motivation will come automatically. If you aren't honest with yourself about how much you truly want it, you will give up because you don't want it enough. So constantly find the truthful pros and decide, what do I really truly want?

FISCHER'S *in Color*

