



TIFERET HASHABBAT

This Week in Tiferet

After a short Chanuka vacation at the beginning of this week, our students jumped immediately back into their learning in Tiferet. On Tuesday, many of our students completed the "thirty for thirty" extra learning challenge, having learned many extra hours above and beyond their regular shiurim in the Beit Midrash. On Tuesday night, the last night of Chanuka, our students heard from Rebbetzin Esther Kimchi, who spoke about her inspirational personal story and the power of emunah, bitachon, tefilla and community.

תורת תפארת

The First Ten Donkeys **Rav Azriel Rosner** **Parashat Vayigash**

Parashat Vayigash describes the reunion between Yosef and his brothers, when he finally reveals his identity to them. He then sends them back to Eretz Yisrael, asking them to inform Yaakov of his situation and to bring him down to Mitzrayim. Right before they leave, Yosef loads up twenty donkeys with provisions for his family. The pasuk says, "ולאביו שלח כזאת עשרה חמרים נשאים מטוב מצרים ועשר אתנת נשאת בר ולחם ומזון לאביו לדרך" (בראשית פרק מ"ה פסוק כ"ג)

"And to his father he sent like this, ten donkeys carrying from the good of Egypt, and ten she-donkeys carrying grain and bread and sustenance for his father for the road." (Bereishit 45: 23)

What exactly was the "good of Egypt" that Yosef was sending back to his father? We understand why Yosef needed to send his whole family adequate provisions for the road, since there was still a famine in Eretz Yisrael at this time. But other than that what did he need to send? Furthermore, it seems that whatever Yosef sent was even more important than the food, since it is mentioned in the pasuk before the grain and bread. What could have been so important?

Rashi quotes two different gemarot which identify the "good of Egypt" from the pasuk. "מצינו בתלמוד ששלח לו יין ישן שדעת זקנים נוחה הימנו. ומדרש אחר גריסין של פול" "We have found in the Talmud that he sent him aged wine, which is pleasant for the elderly. And another midrash (states) ground beans."

We can understand why Yosef would have wanted to send to Yaakov some of the luxury items from Egypt, which Yaakov could enjoy. But are these really more important than the basic foodstuffs? And why send ten donkeys' worth of them, when Yaakov's whole clan will be coming down to Egypt shortly?

The Yerushalmi in Masechet Yuma (quoted in the Siftei Chachamim) notes that right before Yom Kipur, they would avoid giving the Kohen Gadol ground beans to eat, since

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During their Chanuka vacation, Tiferet students went to the hospital to deliver presents and cheer up the children there. What an inspiring way to choose to use their spare time! Kol Hakavod!

תורת תפארת (המשך)

they tended to make one fall asleep. (The Kohen Gadol stayed awake all night on Yom Kipur.) If so, there seems to be a similarity between the wine and the beans in that they both cause one to fall asleep.

Perhaps this is the explanation for the first ten donkeys' cargo. Yosef was not sending wine and/or ground beans to Yaakov just to satisfy Yaakov's physical wants or needs. The amount Yosef sent was far more than would be necessary. Rather, Yosef understood that for the past twenty-two years, when he was missing, his father was filled with distress and worry, that many sleepless nights passed over him. Yosef is sending products that help one to fall asleep, to tell Yaakov that his emotional needs are equally as important to Yosef as his physical ones. He is not just sending food for the road, he is sending comfort and peace of mind.

This is a tremendously important lesson in terms of our mitzvot Bein Adam Lachaveiro. Whether we are doing chesed, giving tzedaka or even just returning a lost item, we have to remember that calming someone's emotional distress is equally or even more important than filling a physical need. In doing so, we will learn the lesson of Yosef HaTzaddik and his first ten donkeys.

Mazal Tov!

Mazal Tov to Zack and Kori (Venick, 5769) Pomerantz on the birth of a baby boy! May they be zochim to raise him l'Torah, l'chupa, u'l'maasim tovim!



Better the Second Time Around Sydney Strulowitz (5775)

In this week's Parsha, there are many lessons that are applicable to our own lives. As we know, Yosef became second in command to Paroah in Mitzrayim. When the brothers came down to beg for food, Yosef plants a golden cup in Binyamin's bag to frame him. Yehuda attempts to defend Binyamin, telling Yosef that their father will die if they do not bring Binyamin home and that Yehuda will stay in Egypt in his place. Hashem put Yehuda in the position to repent for his sin when selling Yosef so many year before. By defending Binyamin, Yehuda clearly does full teshuva.

We can learn from Yehuda that we can always improve ourselves no matter how long it takes. Hashem will put us in similar situations in order to do complete teushuva. When one withstands the test after being in the same situation they were once in, it is a clear proof that they did complete and true teshuva. We learn from Yehuda that we can always improve ourselves and it's never too late. We are all works in progress trying to live up to our full potential.