

MESIVTA'S MESSAGE

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THOUGHTS *on the* PARSHA

RABBI SHIMSHON GEWIRTZ

When Yaakov Avinu neared the end of his life, he summoned Yosef and made him promise that he would bring his body to Eretz Yisrael for burial. Of all his sons, why did Yaakov specifically request from Yosef to do this? (In fact, when Yaakov did pass away later in the parsha, all of his sons accompanied his body as it was brought to burial.) The Chizkuni (47, 29) explains that since Yosef was the reason Yaakov came to Mitzrayim in the first place, it was only appropriate that he be the one to make sure Yaakov would be buried back in Eretz Yisrael. It was Yosef's אחריות more than anyone else.

We know that Yaakov and his family came to Mitzrayim because there was a famine, and Yosef was able to provide for them in Mitzrayim. The Chizkuni (48, 5) says that the reason Yaakov gave Yosef two portions in Eretz

Yisrael (Menashe and Ephraim) was because he sustained them in the face of the famine. We also know that the galus in Mitzrayim was prophesied to Avraham many years before. In fact, while he was on the way to Mitzrayim, Hashem reassured Yaakov that this exile was the fulfillment of the prophecy (Chizkuni 46, 3), so while the galus would be difficult, the redemption that was also prophesied would come true.

With this in mind, how do we understand why Yosef was the most responsible for bringing Yaakov back to Eretz Yisrael, since he was the reason Yaakov came? Yosef didn't force Yaakov to come; in fact, he saved his life and the lives of his entire family by inviting him to Mitzrayim. And Yaakov knew that this wasn't just a plan Yosef made up; it was part of the prophecy his grandfather Avraham had

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SPARKS *of* MUSSAR

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R' Itzele Peterburger

Rav Yitzchok Blazer (1837-1907)

R' Itzele participated in an assembly of the gedolim in St. Petersburg. R' Yosef Dov Soloveichik asked a difficult question in the name of his son R' Chaim that touched off a heated discussion. Brilliant explanations and arguments flew back and forth. Finally, R' Yosef Dov amazed the assembly with two explanations - one of his son, and one of his own.

R' Itzele had sat through the storm without opening his mouth, as if he had no idea what was flying. R' Yosef Dov decided to check up on this "great man" who gave the impression of being so ignorant. Arriving home, he opened R' Itzele's work Pri Yitzchok to see what kind of scholar the author was. To R' Yosef Dov's surprise, he found in the book both R' Chaim's question and the two explanations he had given at the assembly. "How great," he exclaimed, "is R' Itzele's humility!"

FEATURED TORAH *Message*

AKIVA WOGAN 9TH GRADE

The pasuk in Vayechi says, "And now, your two sons who were born to you in the land of Egypt before my coming to you in the land of Egypt shall be mine; Ephraim and Menashe shall be mine like Reuven and Shimon. But children born to you after them shall be yours; they shall be included under the name of their brothers." (48:5-6)

Rav Moshe Feinstein zt"l asked: Why should Yosef's sons before Yaakov's arrival be considered Yaakov's and the rest of Yosef's sons

be Yosef's? Why were the sons who grew up without Yaakov considered to be more his? The opposite should make more sense, because the sons who are born when Yaakov is there, with his guidance and influence, should be considered his, while the sons born when just Yosef was there should be Yosef's.

Rav Moshe answered that we can learn a lesson in the way a father teaches his child from Yaakov's claim. The way a father teaches his son should be rooted back to the way that he

was taught, no matter how far one is from his father or rebbe. Wherever Yosef went he saw his father's image, and although they grew up without Yaakov, Ephraim and Menashe were under his influence through Yosef. This is why Yaakov claimed them as his own. However, any later children that Yosef had would be in an environment created by his uncles and cousins, and the specific influence of Yaakov was diminished.

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received from Hashem many years before. Why was it Yosef's אחריות more than anyone else?

From this Chizkuni we learn an insight into the Torah's expectations regarding אחריות. If we are involved in bringing something about, it becomes our responsibility to see it through. Just because it's not our fault doesn't mean it's not our responsibility. No matter what our intentions were and no matter what benefit we may have produced, if in some way our actions harmed or

negatively impacted that person, it is our job to do whatever we can to correct the situation. Even though Yosef brought Yaakov to Mitzrayim to save him from famine, and even though it was Divinely ordained, Yaakov held Yosef responsible to return him to the land of his fathers. Hashem expects us to take responsibility for our actions. The decision to get involved in a situation brings with it this high level of responsibility to see things through to the end.

RECENT Happenings

AVRAHAM ROSENBLUM 9TH GRADE

Chanukah in MTI was truly amazing! Although we were only in yeshiva for the first 3 nights, I couldn't have imagined a better way of celebrating the short time that we had. Near

the end of each of the 3 days, we would take a short break off of one of our afternoon classes to go and light the menorah. Walking into the dining room area you really started

MAZEL TOV

Rabbi & Mrs. Gershon Rockove on the birth of their son!

Dr. Craig Reiss and family, on the marriage of their daughter!

Mr. & Mrs. Jonathan Yasinev on the birth of their daughter!

Upcoming & Ongoing MTI Community Events

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SHABBOS |
|---------------------------|--|-----------------------------|-----------|----------|--------|--------------|
| Women's Shaar Bitachon 8 | Men's Basketball @ MTI Gym 9 | Women's Orchos Tzaddikim 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 פרשת שמות |
| Women's Shaar Bitachon 15 | 7th & 8th Grade Learning & Gym 16 | Women's Orchos Tzaddikim 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 פרשת וארא |
| Women's Shaar Bitachon 22 | ROSH CHODESH SHEVAT Men's Basketball @ MTI Gym 23 | Women's Orchos Tzaddikim 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 פרשת בא |
| 29 | Men's Basketball @ MTI Gym 30 | Women's Orchos Tzaddikim 31 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 פרשת בשלח |

WEEKLY WOMEN'S MUSSAR LEARNING!

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5 min
Ahavas Chessed
with Rabbi Shmuel Wasser

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