

Bnei Yisrael Cried Out To HaShem and He Listened

"And it was in those many days, and the king of Mitzrayim died, and Bnei Yisrael groaned and CRIED OUT to HaShem and their outcry went up to G-d because of the work. G-d Heard, their cries..." And HaShem began the redemption/GEULAH.

The Chachamim teach us that before Mashiach comes, there will be Chevlei Ha Mashiach/ birth pangs of the Mashiach.

When a fetus has reached the end of its development and is ready to come into the world, HaShem helps/coaxes the mother to push the baby out by giving her birth pangs. These pangs become more and more painful and closer together as the time of birth arrives. They help because that mother doesn't want to suffer through more pain and pushes that baby out so that the pangs will stop.

So it has been throughout our history. Every few years we would experience painful events that coax us to come closer to HaShem and move to do what it takes to bring about the final redemption (it's not all up to HaShem- we play a part in bringing the redemption about).

So it was in Mitzrayim. The Egyptians kept dialing up the amount of pain and suffering that we endured, and it caused us to CRY OUT to HaShem, to get closer to Him, and consequently to hasten the redemption.

So it has been in the last number of years, with the Pandemic, and the October 7th invasion and massacre.

The torah is a "living and breathing entity" that HaShem gifted to us to guide us in life and teach us how to live our day to day life. It is constantly talking to us through the learning that we do at that time and place in our life.

This concept is more readily understood through the teaching of Chazal that the week's Torah Portion, has relevance to the happenings in our lives and the world occurrences, in that week.

This idea also holds true, though , in regards to the Daf Yomi ,Halacha Yomi, Mussar yomi, that each of us learn on the regular basis.

The Gemarah of Avodah Zarah essentially starts with a nevuah, and finishes with a story, that centers on Paras/Ancient Iran.

The Gemarah on the first daf states that "In the future to come (Leatid Lavo), HaShem will bring the Sefer Torah into his arms and will call on all that were involved with it to come and get their reward.

Right away all of the Nations of the world will come as one big mob, and HaShem tells them not to come to Him as one mixed up mob, but rather each nation should come one by one.

Being that Rome/ Bnei Edom Is the most important/prestigious nation, it comes in first.

HaShem allows it to make its case and it argues:

- 1- We established many marketplaces
- 2- And constructed many bathhouses
- 3- And we collected much gold and silver, and we did all this for Israel so that they should involve themselves in learning Torah.

HaShem rejects their arguments and states:

- 1- You established marketplaces, (where the Jews can earn their living in a few hours of buying and selling, or the professions etc, and spend the rest of their time in Torah Learning) you set them up in order to house in them Prostitutes, so that argument is thrown out.
- 2- You built bathhouses (which were sometimes kosher mikvaot, or were otherwise places where B"Y could enjoy a hot bath, and/or help to stay healthy), you built them for your own pleasure (and in fact they tended to have idols set up in them), so that argument is also thrown out.
- 3- And in regards to amassing gold and silver, "Mine is the gold and mine is the Silver says HaShem master of legions" (Chagai 2, 8) so that is tossed out.

And so Rome goes away dejected.

Next, Paras is called on to present their case, because they were the second animal (actually a bear) that Daniel Sees in his vision (Daniel 7,8). (Paras is likened to a bear because, they eat and drink like a bear, they are fleshy like a bear, and hairy like a bear, and don't rest , like a bear- they are constantly on the move/ foraging for food) .

HaShem asks them to make their case and they argue:

- 1- "We made many GESHARIM/connections.
- 2- We conquered many cities.
- 3- And we made many wars. We did this all so that B"Y should involve themselves with the Torah. "

HaShem retorts to them: "All that you did, you did for yourselves.

- 1- You made GESHARIM , to collect tolls.
- 2- You conquered cities, to conscript their inhabitants and animals and other possessions, to make war and serve you.
- 3- And in regards to the warts that you wages, I am the one that made them, like it says: HaShem is a Man of war" (Shemot 15,3) .

And so Paras also goes away dejected.

The Gemarsh ends of on a story that also centers on Paras.

Mar Yehudah and e partially freed slave, are sitting with King Shapur of Paras who is eating an etrog. The king cuts off a slice and gives it to the freed slave , and then stabs the ground with the knife ten times, cuts off another slice and gives it to Mar Yedusah, at which time the freed slave complains to the slave "What, and I'm not a Jew ?! " A freed goyish slave becomes a convert to Judaism.

The king responds: Actually I'm sure that he is a Jew but am not sure if you are (based on your actions). And there are those who say that the king said "I know what you did last night ", because the king had sent a slave slave girl to each of them the previous night. The Jew did not receive her and the freed slave did.

So we find Mesechta Avodah Zarah starting and ending off with a nevuah and story involving Paras.

The question is why? What is the deeper meaning of what the Gemarah is saying?

So let us connect the dots.

At what time of the year do B"Y have the Sefer Thorah embraced in their arms and eat an Ethrog?

During Chag Sukoth, the Ethrog is Muktzah Lemitzvah- Forbidden for use for anything other then shaking the Lulav and Ethrog, but becomes Muthar to eat in Eretz Yisrael, on SIMCHAT THORAH.

Similarly – B"Y hold, and embrace the Sefer Thorah in their arms on Simchat Thorah throughout the world.

Like we said, this Gemarah is giving a Nevuah of Leathid Lavo, **so let's try to understand the inner meaning.**

HaShem has been **WAITING FOR YOU/US** to hasten the Geulah .

On Simchat Thorah in Israel a few years ago, Hezbollah, an Iranian funded and backed terrorist group, attacked Israel and massacred our people.

Paras/Iran had hatched a plan to bring about the end of " The small Satan" that they call Israel.

They had made GESHARIM with a number of Perah Adam groups surrounding Israel.

They funded and sent weapons to Hamas in the west, The Yemeni Houthis in the south wast, Hezbollah in Lebanon, in the north, and Hezbollah in Syria, in the East. With this Persian help, these terrorist groups were able to CONQUER CITIES in those countries.

Iran's plan called for these Perah Adam groups to coordinate their use of Iranian rockets, missiles, and drones to attack Israel all at the same time.

Thus is the meaning of the stabbing of the ground ten times by King Shapud of Paras.

Ten fingers signify the ten fingers of two hands surrounding and chocking off its victim.

Such an attack would have overwhelmed Israel's defensive weapons.

They simply did not have enough Iron Dome, David's Sling and Arrow interceptors to shoot down all of the weapons that the Iranians had coordinated to unleash on Israel all at once.

Such a CHEVLEI HAMASHAICH would have, C"V, been devastating for the Jewish people.

But HaShem, as always, had Rachamim on us.

Yahayr Sinwah, acted rashly, and out of step with his Iranian commanders, and attacked Israel prematurely, and without help from the other terrorist groups that Iran had formed into *The Ring Of Fire*.

The outcome of this rashness was that the other terrorist groups did not come to their aide, being that Ira was very angry with them.

B" H, this allowed Israel to be able to defend itself against the airborne assaults, launch counter/preemptive assaults on their enemies, and even strike the Evil BEAR of Iran itself.

But, as with other Chevlei Hamshiach, this brought many B"Y closer to HaShem.

As the pasuk says about the Jews in Mitzrayim : "Bnei Yisrael groaned and CRIED OUT to HaShem and their outcry went up to G-d" and the process of Geulah was started.

Non frum people in Israel stared putting on Thefillin and Tzitziyoth, keeping Shabath, separating out Challah and doing other acts of devotion to HaShem.

Frum people throughout the world Davened more, learned more said more Thehilim and did more acts of Chesed on behalf of our brethren in Israel.

This has, for sure, brought us all closer to HaShem and the Geullah.

There is a mishnah in Avodah Zarah that states that one is not allowed to sell dangerous animals like *lions and bears* to the Goyim, lest they unleash them on us. \

The Gemarah asks what if the lion has been tamed. The Gemarah concludes that a tamed lion may be sold to the goyim.

The obvious question is, what about the bear? Why doesn't the Gemarah parallel the Mishnah, and mention that a tamed bear is permitted for sale to the goyim?

It seems to me that the Gemarah is hinting that *there is no such thing as tamed bear*.

Under the Shah of Iran, the country's flag had a depiction of a lion on it. When the Islamic revolution happened, that lion was removed.

During the time of the Shah, Iran had good relations with the state of Israel. There was a robust trade of goods. There were even direct flights between the two countries via El Al.

The author of this Dvar Torah was on the last El Al flight out of Iran during the Iranian Revolution.

So, one could say that Iran went from being a reasonable lion to a restless and unreasonable Bear like it was though much of it's history.

Analyzing this insight further, one sees that the revolution was key in setting up this Chevlei HaMashaich to happen.

The shah would not have distracted himself from running his country properly, to divert his country's money, time, efforts, intelligence and other resources, to beat up on Israel for no logical or rational reason that in any normal way benefitted him or his Nation.

(May HaShem give success to his successor and guide him to winning back control of Iran.

May HaShem protect him from all enemies and assassins.)

We have suffered and endured this endless Galuth for millennia now.

May we all wake up and realize that HaShem who runs the world in His infinite Rachamim, has orchestrated world events to bring us closer to Him and the geulah.

When a mother is birthing, she feels pain that coaxes her to push the baby out.

Some doctors give epidurals, which makes the mothers numb to the pain, and for some unfortunate mothers, lulls them to stop pushing.

There are some more thoughtful doctors, that give the mothers narcotics, which makes them feel better about the pain, but still lets them feel the pain enough to keep pushing. This is the approach of our extremely merciful All Mighty Master !

As the Birth Pangs come stronger and closer together, may we be zocheh, to have the strength to endure them , but more importantly, the sense and understanding to push more and faster to bring about the Geulah and the end of our own suffering so much sooner.

Amen!

Le'Illuy Nishmath Farhang Bath Avraham

