

Edom's concerns and B'Y's attempt to assuage them

In *Parshath Chukath*, Chapter 20, *pesukim* 14-21, the *Torah* explains to us that when *Bnei Yisrael* got close to entering *Eretz Yisrael*, *Mosheh Rabeinu AH*, sends messengers to “our Brothers “ *Edom*- the descendants of *Eisav*, and asks for permission to traverse their land as a short cut into *Eretz Yisrael*.

Rashi explains, that as a nudge to convince them to concede to *Bnei Yisrael*'s request, *Mosheh Rabeinu AH* mentions to them that, being descendants of *Avraham Aveinu AH*, both nations were obligated to go down to *Mitzrayim*, but only we did, so they should at least do us a small favor, and let us traverse their land as a short cut.

Ok- now we understand their reasoning for asking for the favor, but what's the depth of saying that they will buy food and water from them as well, and will only use the King's way?

Also, what reservations would *Bnei Eisav* have about letting them traverse their land, to the point where they went out with weapons to stop them from entering their land?

So we can look to *Parshath Balak* for a hint. In that *parsha* the King of *Moav- Balak*, entreats *Bilaam* to come and curse *Bnei Yisrael* in order to allow *Moav* to defeat them in physical battle.

Balak explains that the nation of Israel, that has left Egypt, has been acting like an 'Ox that clears the field where it is grazing, **entirely**, of **all** of its *Eisev*.'

This spiritually in tuned king, is expressing his spiritually in tuned concern, that B'Y will act like they did in *Mitzrayim*, and clear it of all that it had spiritually, just like they did when they left Egypt. As the *chachamim* explained, that 'B'Y left *Mitzrayim* like a totally emptied fish net '.

The *chachamim* explain, that *Balak* understood that he held the spirit of Ruth (matriarch of the Davidik dynasty), and did not want to lose it to B'Y.

In light of that clarification, one can now better understand what is worrying *Bnei Eisav* (similar to *Eisev*/green vegetation). (In fact, the *Chachamim* teach us that *Yosef* was like a flame and *Bnei Eisav* is like chaff, another allusion to what *Balak* said, that B'Y were ripping out all green vegetation).

The *chachamim* also teach us that throughout the generations, there have been a myriad of converts from *Bnei Eisav*, (even from the descendants of *Haman the Amaleki*, who learn *Torah* in *Eretz Yisrael*).

So these *Goyim* are afraid that B'Y would empty them out of all that they were withholding from *HaShem*, and thus, standing in the way of moving along this world to the more spiritually rarified, *Olam Habah*. As the *Chachamim* taught us that *Eisav* decided to completely forgo working on his portion of *Olam Habah*, and to hold onto the *Olam Haze*, as long as he could.

So Mosheh Rabeinu A"H tries to assuage Edom, and tells them, we will come down from the spiritual heights that we are on now.

We won't eat the food of the angels- the *Man*, but would rather buy physical food from you.

We won't drink the intellectually and spiritually elevating waters of the *Be'er Miryam*, but would rather buy plain physical water from you.

And we will also use the King's road/ highway. The *Ananae Hakavod* helped B"Y by flattening the highs and filling in the lows of the routes that they traversed. In fact, the feet of B"Y don't seem to have even touched the ground, while they were enveloped by the clouds.

Now *Moshe Rabeinu A"H* is telling our bothers, that we will disembark from the *Ananae Hakavod*, and walk, by foot, on their paved road.

In the end, the accommodations that they offered to make to Edom were to no avail, and *Bnei Edom*, went out to stop B"Y with sword in hand.

The lesson that we can learn from here, is that when we really, really strive to serve *HaShem* on a high level, and live up to our vastly untapped potential, the *goyim* will have good reason to fear us.

Not because we are out to hurt them *Chas VeShalom*. But rather because we want to move creation along, and achieve *Olam Habah* .

May we all be zocheh to that level of dedication to HaShem. Amen!

