

Shelo asani etc.

Parshath Noach

In parshat *Noach* we learn that HaShem decided to wipe away all living things on the face of the planet (and the top layer of the ground as well). As it says (*Bereishith* 6, 13) “The end of all flesh has come before me”

And HaShem continues to explain why, as He says: “Because all of the flesh has perverted it’s way on the land. “

Rashi there explains that even the animals were cohabitating with those that were not of it’s kind.

This is very puzzling. We know that only mankind has free will, so why would even the animals act in this perverted way, which was against their nature?

So the *Chachamim* explain to us, that while we don’t always recognize it, mankind was very spiritually powerful. Whatever they did also had an affect on the rest of creation.

Being that mankind was involved in *Erva* / illicit relations – (ie with the same gender, with animals etc.), the rest of the G-d’s creatures did the same.

That led to the destruction of all that lived on the Earth and even the top layer of the ground as well.

The Gemara (*Eruvin*, page 13 side 2) informs us that for 3 years, *Beith Shamai* and *Beth Hillel* argued about a certain *halacha*. One said *Tahor* and one said *Tameh*- they were diametrically opposed. In the end a *Bat Kol* came out from *Shamayim* and said “ *Eilu v’eilu divrei Elokim Chaim*” which can be interpreted to mean that they were both right .

The *Ritvah* there explains that the *halachah* was given to the *chacahamim* of each generation to decide upon. And they could decide according to the way that made sense to them at the time.

It is said that the *Mechaber* of the *Shulchan Arukh* and the *Ramah* were both working on such a project at the same time. When the *Ramah* saw that the *Mechaber* already put his version out, he decided to simply add his comments to it.

Please take note, he did not decide to concede to the decisions of the *Mechaber* , but he didn’t try to dissuade others from following his decisions.

Rather, the *Ramah* stated simply that the *minhagim* of *Bnei Ashkenaz* were different, and that he would provide the readers of the *Shulkhan Arukh* with those *minhagim* and *halachoth* that had been decided differently, so that *Bnei Ashkenaz*, could follow their own Chain of Tradition.

As the *Bat Kol* said : “*Eilu V’eilu Divrei Elokim Chaim*”. Every one has their chain of tradition to follow.

It is taught that even the shevatim had their own separate Tsinoroth through which their thefilith went up to Shamayim. And each one, as we know, had their own history and character traits etc. But they all served HaShem together as Am Yisrael. Just that each one had their own job to do.

Imagine an army where the different soldiers decided to drop the tasks that they were assigned to do, were trained for, were equipped for, and were being **counted on** by the rest of the army and commanders to perform, because they were interested in the role assigned to another soldier. Such an army would collapse, and lives of its soldier's and those that they were tasked to defend would certainly be lost.

So it is with us.

All of Am Yisrael has been assigned a certain role in life. We are a part of Train of Tradition going back millennia. We build on the successes, achievements, work and structures that our fathers and forefathers had worked on. It is up to us to accept and build upon the role that HaShem gave to us.

We *daven* in the morning: "Baruch shelo asani etc". We thank HaShem for the role that He gave us in life, whatever it may be. It is not up to us to decide to drop the role that we were given in life and go grab another one that was given to other people. As *Avadim Neemanim le HaShem*, we follow orders.

The generation of the flood decided to drop their role as men and be with men, as woman and be with woman, as humans and be with animals. Their misused spiritual power caused the whole of creation to do the same. Even the animals did not stick to their kind.

It's brought down in the *sefarim*, that the rest of mankind can not affect creation like that anymore. That power was only left to the Jews. (Nefesh Hachayim, Sha'ar 1, Chapter 12)

Please consider, if you are not keeping to the role given to you by our Creator, based on the community and family etc that you were born into, might you be affecting the creation in a way that will cause other humans to state that they are not men, not women etc? These are strong words, but, whether we realize it or not, we are still powerful like that.