

PARSHAS VAYIGASH

CHASSIDIC INSIGHTS, HIGHLIGHTS AND HAPPENINGS

פרשת ויגש

December 21, 2023 / ט' טבת תשפ"ד



עשרה בטבת - Friday, December 22, 2023

A Profound Fast Day

Asara B'Teves – Fast on the Tenth Day of Teves is a very grave fast day. The Beis Yosef says in the name of the 'Abidraham' that if Asara B'Teves would fall on a Shabbos, the fast would bypass Shabbos, just like on Yom Kippur. As it says in (יהזקאל כ"ד) the following: "לחודש...סמך מלך בבל על ירושלים בעצם היום הזה" – on the tenth day in the tenth month, the Babylon king surrounded Yerushalayim, in middle of the day. The phrase "בעצם היום הזה" is also referenced to Yom Kippur.

The 'Abidraham' adds that Asara B'Teves is the only fast day that can fall on Friday, Erev Shabbos. (As is occurring this year.)

Asara B'Teves in the Torah

The four fast days are alluded to in the Torah. The acronym of the pasuk where Hashem speaks to Avraham (בראשית טו:יג) and says: "ידוע תדע כי גר יהיה" – "זרעך" refers to all fast days.

י' טבת
תשעה באב
כ' סיון
גדלי' (ג' תשרי)
יז - שבעה עשר בתמוז

The pasuk continues ועבדום – the nations will torture – וענו – and the Yidden will fast – אותם – on those days.



Everyone loves a good story, especially a Chassidische story...

והגדתם לאבי את כל כבודי במצרים (ויגש מה: יג)
Therefore, tell my father of all my glory in Egypt.

Maran Reb Yissocher Dov of Belz zt"l was invited to partake in the 'Chanukas Habayis' – the inauguration of the new Shul in Hivniv. Maran traveled to Hivniv to spend Shabbos, Parshas Vagivsh, and a pompous welcoming awaited him, with great honor notable for such a respectable guest.

Maran shared the Divrie Torah on the pasuk והגדתם לאבי את כל כבודי במצרים and related the following story.

The Apter Rav zt"l was once traveling, and a big crowd gathered at every stopover to accord him an honorable greeting. The enormous crowds in his honor pained the Apter Rav. His son, Reb Yitzchak Meir of Zinkov zt"l, saw his father's pain and, to console his father, said: "All these people assembled in my honor."

The Apter Rav calmed down, and the next day, he asked his son, "Why did they accord you such honor?" Reb Yitzchak Mier answered, "Because I'm your son."

According to this story, the Apter Rav explained the pasuk והגדתם – Yosef Hatzaddik meant to tell his father לאבי את כל כבודי במצרים

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– all the honor accorded to me in Mitzrayim is because I'm Yakov's son.

When Maran concluded the story, he stood up from his chair and exclaimed, "And we say that when Yosef Hatzaddik said כל הגדתם לאבי את כל כבודי במצרים – he had in mind that all his honor in Mitzrayim is due to his Father in Heaven – and not Chas V'Shalom, in his honor." And Maran concluded, "I don't envy anyone who thinks for one minute it's in his honor – and not in the honor of Hashem!"

והגדתם לאבי את כל כבודי במצרים (ויגש מה: יג)
Therefore, tell my father of all my glory in Egypt.

When the holy Tzemach Tzedek of Lubavitch zt"l visited Vilna, he was bestowed great honor. Chassidim from nearby cities came to accord him great honor and to hear his wise words of Torah.

One of the Tzemach Tzedek's children, who accompanied him on his trip, wrote a letter to his mother. He shared that his father is enjoying the great honor he's receiving here.

When the Tzemach Tzedek came home, he saw his son's letter. He reprimanded him for writing such content. His Rebbetzin asked, "What did our son do that he deserved such a yelling?" The Tzaddik answered, "My blood poured like water from the honor given to me, and he writes that I enjoyed it!"

נרשאים מטוב מצרים... (ויגש מה: כג)
Laden with the best of Egypt...

Rashi says that Yosef sent a geshmak, aged wine that is praiseworthy by older adults.

The last Bar Mitzvah celebrated in Belz before WWII was for the bochur R' Shlome'la Frankel zt"l,

hy' 'd, a grandson of Maran Reb Aharon of Belz zt"l.

The Bar Mitzvah took place on Friday, Erev Shabbos Parshas Zachor. Maran used to partake in the Shachris prayer, but that morning, the crowds of chassidim waited until 11:30 AM to start davening. Maran didn't arrive, so they started davening.

The Bar Mitzvah seudah was celebrated in the afternoon, in the 'Groiser Shtib', since it's customary in Belz to make a seudah on the day the bar mitzvah boy puts on Tefillin for the first time, even if it falls on Friday.

As Shabbos was approaching, Maran Reb Aharon joined the Bar Mitzvah seudah and honored the bochur, who was wearing a 'kulpik' on his head, to recite his "p'shetel" (bar mitzvah speech.) Maran used to interrupt the speech with a 'Mazel Tov!' But since the p'shetel was so deep, it seemed that Maran was dozing, and the crowd didn't know what to do.

Suddenly, someone called out "Mazel Tov," and Maran lifted his head and said, "Mazel Tov! Mazel Tov!" thus, finishing the speech. Maran then said, "It's late, it's late!"

Maran honored the Bar Mitzvah bochur to bench and handed him a cup of strong wine. The bochur's father, Reb Shmiel Frankel zt"l, told Maran, "He's still young!" (he can't drink wine.) Maran replied, "That's why I'm giving it to him!" (He's no longer a child; he's bar mitzvah and can already get a taste for wine.)

ויפל על צוארי בנימין ויברך ובנימין בכה על צואריו (ויגש מה: יד)
Then he fell upon his brother Binyamin's neck and wept: and Binyamin wept upon his neck.

When the Imrei Emes of Ger zt"l met with Maran Reb Aharon of Belz zt"l upon his escape and arrival to Eretz Yisroel, the Imrei Emes told Maran, "Chazal

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**EVERYONE LOVES A GOOD STORY,
ESPECIALLY A CHASSIDISHE STORY**
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say that when the brothers met, they each cried on each other's neck, Yosef cried because of the Churban - the destruction of the two Beis Hamikdash in Binyamin's property. And Binyanim cried because of Churban Shilo - the destruction that will take place in Yosef's property."

The Imrei Emes asked, "Why didn't each cry over his Churban-devastation?" He answered that we learn a powerful lesson: 'A person has to build anew following his Churban - devastation, not cry, but build from scratch! And if one wants to cry, they should cry over the other's devastation - a cry of Chesed!'



THIS WEEK'S VORT

פרשת ויגש

ויגש אליו יהודה (ויגש מד:יה)
And Yehuda approached him.

The second letters of אליו יהודה are ל"ה equaling 45. The exact equivalence as the word מלכות - which is also 45. The pasuk tells us that Melech Moshiach - the King Moshiach will descend from Yehuda, and he will redeem the Yidden from Galus. And from Yosef's descendants is משיח בן יוסף.

ולא יכל יוסף להתאפק לכל הנצבים עליו... (ויגש מה:א)
Now, Yosef could not restrain himself in the presence of all who stood before him.

And until now, Yosef was able to control himself? However, Yosef used strict words to belittle his brothers and break their hearts to cause them to do teshuvah - repentance for selling him. Until they were subjected entirely to Yosef, and they spoke with arrogance, Yosef reciprocated and acted as a stranger to them. But the minute Yehuda said, "I'm ready to be your servant," he showed interest in Yosef, and Yosef couldn't restrain himself anymore.

ויאמר יוסף אל אחיו אני יוסף העוד אבי חי (ויגש מה:ג)

And Yosef said to his brothers, "I am Yosef. Is my father still alive?"

Why does Yosef say here, ויגש אליו and later on, it says ויאמר אני יוסף אחיכם (מה:ד)? Yosef wanted to show his brothers that he was a pious Yid all his years in Mitzrayim. However, his brothers sinned by selling him, so they weren't 'brothers in Mitzvahs.' That's what Yosef said ויאמר אני יוסף... But later on, when Yosef saw that his brothers were shamed and Hashem forgave them, they became אחיכם brothers.

ולבנימין נתן... וחמש חליפות שמלות (ויגש מה:כב)
To Binyamin, he gave...and five changes of clothing.

Three times a year, a person is commanded to change to more respectable garments. Rosh Chodesh, Yom Tov, and Shabbos. This is alluded to in the pasuk. The word חמש is the acronym for רחש (Rosh Chodesh), מועד (Yom Tov) and שבת that חליפות שמלות - clothing needs to be changed into more respectable ones.

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על תרגונו בדרך (ויגש מה:כד)
Do not become agitated on the way.

The pasuk teaches us על תרגונו that one shouldn't fight with one's friend בדרך - over his ways in Avodas Hashem - serving Hashem since there are many 'ways' to serve Hashem.

ואת יהודה שלח לפניו (ויגש מו: כח)
He sent Yehuda ahead of him.

We learn from here that a person shouldn't suddenly enter his or his friend's home. One should give prior notice.

ויאמר אלקים לישראל במראות הלילה (ויגש מו:ב)
Hashem spoke to Yakov in night vision...

By Avraham and Yitzchak, Hashem didn't speak during the night since Yakov was outside Eretz Yisroel, and Hashem wanted to show him that even during the darkness of Galus's exile, the Shechina rests between the Yidden.



WE NEED YOUR HELP NOW MORE THAN EVER.

BATTLING THE WAR WITH KINDNESS

Since Israel was brutally attacked on Simchas Torah "Saad V'Marpe סעד ומרפא", A Belz Institution in Israel's affiliate organization, has been at the forefront, ensuring our soldiers have whatever they need to fight and defend us!

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