

PARSHAS VAEIRA

CHASSIDIC INSIGHTS, HIGHLIGHTS AND HAPPENINGS

פרשת וארא

January 11, 2024 / ראש חודש שבט תשפ"ד



Thursday, January 11, 2024
- ראש חודש שבט -

The word שבט is the acronym for:

שלום ברכה טובה - May this month be filled with peace and good blessings.

שנשמע בשורות טובות - That we should be blessed to share good tidings.



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

צאתי את העיר אפרוש את כפי אל ה' הקולות יחדלון (וארא ט:כט)
When I leave the city, I shall spread my hands to Hashem; the thunder will cease.

A terrible heavy snowstorm in Chornobyl and booming thunderous noises terrorized everyone. The wealthy townspeople ran to the Rebbe Reb Mordechai of Chornobyl zt"l and asked if he should do something about it. Because if the snowstorm doesn't cease, they will become poor since their livelihood depends on agriculture.

The Rebbe Reb Mordechai told them that if they came forth with a certain amount of money (that he needed to support the hidden tzaddikim of that generation), then the Rebbe would travel outside the city and daven that the snowstorm

should stop.

The wealthy townspeople immediately handed over the Rebbe's desired sum, and he left the city and davened to Hashem: אפרוש את העיר אפרוש - at that moment the skies cleared up and the snow and thunder stopped.

אמר אל אוהרן קח מטך...ויהיו דם (וארא ז:יט)
Say to Aaron, 'Take your staff...and they shall become blood.

The daughter of R' Avraham Feder z"l (Mrs. Rosenbaum z"l of Bnei Brak) was with her parents in Libishoiv during WWII. When the Russians sent her parents to Siberia, she stayed in Libishoiv by R' Shlome Motner z"l.

Her parents left her with lots of material from their store, which provided her with sustenance. The Russians used to go from house to house, and if they found something worthwhile, they confiscated it. And if they found too much merchandise, they would also arrest the owner.

R' Avraham's daughter feared the Russians and promised to send half of her profits to Maran Rebbe Aharon of Belz zt"l. She remained calm with her faith in tzaddikim, knowing she wouldn't be harmed in this merit.

R' Shlome Motner, however, was very worried that so much merchandise was in his home. But R' Avraham's daughter calmed him down. The Russians came to R' Shlome's home, and to everyone's surprise, they didn't remove anything from his home. R' Avraham's

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**EVERYONE LOVES A GOOD STORY,
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continued

daughter continued to fulfill her promise and sent half of her earnings to Skohl or Premislan, based on where Maran Rebbe Aharon zt"l was staying.

The money from R' Avraham's daughter saved Maran and his household from hunger during the war. Even the chassidim who accompanied Maran appreciated the substance provided by her money.

After the war, R' Avraham's daughter arrived at Eretz Yisroel, and the Aliya agency offered her an apartment in Bat Yam. She traveled to Tel Aviv to seek the advice of Maran Rebbe Aharon zt"l. She arrived at Maran's home at a time not designated for Maran to accept people. She told the gabbai, "Tell Maran that the daughter of R' Avraham Feder is here."

As soon as Maran heard that she was there, Maran said to allow her inside right away, saying, "We still remember the wondrous Chessed that she did with us!" R' Avraham's daughter told Maran she was assigned an apartment in Bat Yam. But Maran advised her to settle elsewhere since it wasn't a frum neighborhood. When she returned to the agency, they told her they changed their mind and offered her an apartment in Bnei Brak.

Several years passed, and R' Avraham's daughter had a heart ailment. She was admitted to Beilinson Hospital, where the doctor recommended a complicated heart surgery. R' Avraham ran to Maran crying that his only daughter, who had suffered so much already and finally reunited and settled in Eretz Yisroel, needs to undergo surgery now.

Maran answered that he doesn't mix into or give advice in medical situations. But after R' Avraham

left the room, Maran told his shamesh that he wouldn't want them to operate on R' Avraham's daughter.

The gabbai ran after R' Avraham and relayed Maran's message, which R' Avraham surmised meant that his daughter would have a complete refuah - recovery without surgery.

He visited his daughter at the hospital and repeated Maran's words. His daughter told the doctor that she refused surgery. The doctor was shocked and consulted with another professor who advised the surgery. However, R' Avraham's daughter was adamant in her decision. The doctors, seeing how strong-minded she is, agreed to refrain from operating only if she would sign that she was releasing herself from the hospital on her own. She signed the forms, and with time, her health improved, and she never experienced any heart problems again. She merited giving birth to beautiful, healthy children, too.



THIS WEEK'S VORT פרשת וארא

והוצאתי אתכם מתחת סבלות מצרים (וארא הו')
and I shall take you out from under the burdens of Egypt.

As long as Hashem sees that the Yidden tolerate their life in exile, redemption can't come. Therefore, Hashem says: First, I will take you out of מצרים - so that you would not tolerate galus - exile, and then the gates of גאולה - redemption will open.



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ומשה בן שמונים שנה ואהרן בן שלש ושמנים (וארא ז:ז)
*Moshe was eighty, and Aaron was eighty-three
when they spoke to Pharaoh.*

Despite Moshe being eighty years old and Aharon eighty-three years old, when usually at that age, one isn't strong, they weren't afraid to go to Pharaoh as messengers from Hashem.

ויהי הדם בכל ארץ מצרים... (וארא ז:כא)
And the blood was throughout the land of Egypt.

Chazal says that the Yidden became rich during מכת דם - the plague of blood since the Egyptians purchased water from them. The word דם has two translations: blood and money. For the Egyptians, it was דמים blood; for the Yidden, it was דמים money.

וימותו הצפרדעים מן הבתים ומן החצרות ומן השדות (וארא ח:ט)
*And the frogs died from the houses, courtyards,
and the fields.*

The frogs that crawled into the burning ovens didn't die since they were moser nefesh (sacrificed their lives) for Kiddush Hashem. This teaches us that one who sacrifices his life for Kiddush Hashem will be saved.



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BATTLING THE WAR WITH KINDNESS

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