

## PARSHAH INSIGHTS

***Avrohom came to eulogize Sorah and bewail her. (23, 2)***

*The letter 'chaf' in the word 'livkosa' (bewail) is small, symbolizing that Avrohom only cried a little upon her demise because she was old. (Baal Haturim)*

Why did Sorah's advanced age limit Avrohom's tears? Isn't the loss of older people also sad? When Moshe and Aaron died in old age, it is not noted that Bnai Yisroel cried minimally, so why did Avrohom control his tears?

Based on Rashi (ibid), the Bikurei Avrohom answered as follows. *The death of Sorah is juxtaposed with Akeidas Yitzchok. Upon hearing the news of the Akeida, that her son was readied for slaughter and was nearly killed, her soul departed from her and she died.*

Why did the satan kill Sorah specifically in this manner?

The satan's job is to make a person fail. Even after a person has achieved success, the satan attempts to make the person regress from the lofty spiritual level he has reached. With the Akeida, Avrohom had passed the final test from Hashem and was awarded the title "Fearer of Hashem." The satan didn't want Avrohom to live on this spiritual level, so he schemed an idea to have Avrohom regret the Akeida. The satan thought as follows: If the Akeida will be a factor in the death of Sorah, Avrohom would regret it and drop from the high level he had reached.

Therefore, Avrohom planted in his mind that Sorah would have died anyway due to her age (Targum Yonoson Ben Uziel), thereby limiting his crying. Avrohom did not fall prey to the scheme of the satan and retained his relationship with Hashem at the lofty level he had achieved through the Akeida.

***Food was set before him, but he said, "I will not eat until I have spoken my words." (24, 33)***

*The Rema rules that the custom is that a choson and kalla should fast on the day they get married. This is why Eliezer said "I will not eat....." (Kedushas Levi)*

How can a proof be brought from Eliezer if he wasn't the one getting married that day? Wasn't Rivka getting married to Yitzchok? In addition, didn't Eliezer already drink the water that Rivka had offered him on that day?

Why do a choson and kalla fast on the day they get married? The Pischei Teshuva (Even Haezer 61, 9) gives two reasons. 1) Since the wedding day is a day of atonement, the choson and kalla should fast in order to receive penitence. 2) To ensure that neither party get drunk when the marriage takes place because intoxication would shed doubt on the validity of the marriage.

The Magen Avrohom (Orach Chaim 573) says that the difference between these two reasons would apply in a case where a father would be accepting the ring on behalf of his daughter. If the reason for fasting is for atonement, since the father is not receiving atonement, it would be permitted for him to eat. However, if the reason for fasting is to be sober at the time of the wedding, a father who is accepting the ring for his daughter would also have to fast.

The reasoning of the Mogen Avrohom can be extended to Eliezer, as well. Since he was involved in the wedding as the agent of Avrohom, he was required to fast to ensure his sobriety. However, this would not preclude him from drinking water because it does not intoxicate.

## TABLE TALK

### PARSHA DILEMMA

***"I have given you the money of the field, take from me... (23, 13)***

*A woman cannot be acquired with money whose value is less than a pruta. (Kidushin 3a)*

*What is the source of this ruling? A man may use money when he marries a woman. This halocho is learned from the sale of the Meoras HaMachpeila to Avrohom because both issues use the word 'kicha – acquisition.' By the acquirement of the Meoras HaMachpeila, less than a pruta is not sufficient. Since marriage is learned from land acquisition, less than a pruta is also not sufficient for marriage. (Rabbeinu Tam Tosfos ibid)*

**IN HONOR OF MALACHI AND SHARON MUSKAL  
 ON THE OCCASION OF MALACHI'S SIYUMIM  
 MAY THEY HAVE MUCH HATZLOCHA AND CONTINUED SUCCESS IN ALL  
 THEIR ENDEAVORS.  
 NACHMAN AND LISA MUSKAL**

*Less than a pruta is not considered money by Jews because they forgive such minute amounts. However, non-Jews are particular even about such small amounts and therefore, less than a pruta is considered money when a Jew does a transaction with a non-Jew. (Sanhedrin 57a)*

Avrohom purchased the Meoras HaMachpeila from Ephron who was a non-Jew. Therefore, in that transaction less than a pruta had value. If so, why does Rabbeinu Tam say that the sale of the Meoras HaMachpeila was transacted with a pruta?

### WHO AM I ?

- 1 Golus Metzrayim
- 2 I equal 'tough'
- 3 I was *over lasocher*
- 4 Rav Preida's patience

**Last week's clues:** I am not found in salt, I became salty, I am not Talmud Bavli, We had a complete turn around.

**Answer:** Sodom and Gemora (S'dom and Amora)

**Congratulations to:** Yerachmiel Diamond

### WHO AM I ?

- 1 I raised the water
- 2 I returned the cloud
- 3 I was three
- 4 I am two of four

**Last week's clues:** I was tangled, Moshiach will use me, I don't beep, I was at Matan Torah.

**Answer:** The Ram's horn. By Akeidas Yitzchok

**Congratulations to:** Yerachmiel Diamond, Yechezkel Schulgasser, Noach Ehrlich, Esti Ehrlich, Avi Admon

### TORAH RIDDLE

Who was Bakol?

**Last week's riddle and answer:**

From where, in this parsha, do we learn the importance of Bikur Cholim?

**Answer:** Hashem visited the sick (Avrohom)

**Congratulations to:** Yerachmiel Diamond, Yechezkel Schulgasser, Noach Ehrlich, Esti Ehrlich

Please send "Who Am I" and "Torah Riddle" answers to [onegshabbos@beachwoodkollel.com](mailto:onegshabbos@beachwoodkollel.com) by next Wed.

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For the months of Cheshvan/Kislev

The answers will IY"YH appear in next week's issue

### A GLIMPSE OF GREATNESS

Rav Shach zt'l related the following story about the Chofetz Chaim. The Chofetz Chaim had a granddaughter who was engaged. With the wedding date approaching, the excitement in the house was mounting, but unfortunately she fell ill and passed away. As the family suffered this tremendous loss, their mourning was beyond describing.

The Chofetz Chaim was at that time completing one of the volumes of his famous work - the Mishneh Berura. When he was alone in his room, they heard the Chofetz Chaim say, "Satan, I know your plan. You want to depress me, so that I will not have the ability to finish my monumental work. I hereby let you know, you will not succeed - I will strengthen myself and finish the other volumes of the Mishneh Berura."

"This is the job of every person," concluded Rav Shach, "Strengthen yourself in the face of any challenge because the satan's mission is to ruin people's lives and their achievements."

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