



Tiferet

ת פ א ר ת



TIFERET SHABBAT

This Week in Tiferet

Tiferet students had an inspirational Shabbat last week in the holy city of Tzfat. On Friday, we heard from well-known artists, **Avraham Lowenthal** and **Sheva Chaya** in their respective galleries. We also got a tour of the city of Tzfat from **Rav Uri Etigson**. We enjoyed beautiful Shabbat davening in the unique environment of Tzfat, and had a special Oneg Shabbat with our own Mrs Dina Etigson. On Shabbat day, we heard from noted educator, **Rebbetzin Tova Mordechai**, author of **To Play with Fire**. Later on, we had a private exhibition of the work of **David Friedman**, kabbalistic artist. Finally on Motzaei Shabbat, we had an amazing concert by **Simply Tzfat**, ending our Shabbat on a spiritual high! Special thank you to Rav Uri and Mrs Dina Etigson for organizing and running such a great Shabbaton!

תורת תפארת

The Secret of Redemption

Rav Elie Mayer (ravmayer@gmail.com)

Parashat Lech Lecha

The Mishnah in עדייות 2:9 quotes Rabbi Akiva as teaching that parents affect a child's physical, intellectual and economic status and "מספר הדורות לפניו" - the number of generations before him". Regarding this last point, he adds, "והוא הקץ" - this is the secret of redemption". What is the concept of מספר הדורות לפניו that according to Rabbi Akiva will bring about our Geula?

Rav Soloveitchik teaches that parents and grandparents transmit to their children the concept of mesora - that each Jewish child is a link in a long and illustrious chain of great personalities. As the Rav said, "One collegial fraternity exists of Moshe, Rabbi Akiva, the Rambam, the Gaon of Vilna, the Baal Shem Tov and others, joining hands with grandfathers, parents and children of all generations." When the child gains an awareness that despite being separated by generations, he is a part of this fraternity and a continuum of the 3500 year old Divine tradition, then this identification is the secret to bringing about the redemption.

Many years ago, while visiting my grandparents in Los Angeles, I heard the Rabbi at Beth Jacob, a disciple of Rav Soloveitchik teach the following derush in the name of his Rebbe. In Parshat Vaetchanan, with Bnei Yisrael on the verge of entering the Land, G-d instructs Moshe, "עלה ראש" - Ascend to the top of the mountain and raise your eyes, west, north, south and east and peer into Eretz Yisrael". Why would Hashem tell Moshe to look east as east is behind him? The Rav teaches that to enter Eretz Yisrael, we need to look behind us, to gain an appreciation of all that comes before us. Without having an appreciation of the past, we cannot take part in our future. One cannot appreciate Eretz Yisrael without an appreciation of our history.

I was sitting in our backyard with my young daughter and she asked me if it is possible that David HaMelech walked in our backyard. After some thought, I answered that it was possible. Avraham, she asked. Yes. Yehuda haMacabee? Yes. Shimshon? Yes. What other country in the world could such a conversation have taken place? In which other country could its citizens, even young children, have such an intimate connection to our Biblical history? This is the meaning of אין תורה כחורת ארץ ישראל. Torah comes alive in Israel. Rav Soloveitchik teaches that this is the secret of redemption.

Perhaps, in order to merit to literally walk together with the likes of Moshe, Rabbi Akiva, the Rambam, the Gaon of Vilna and the Baal Shem Tov in ימות המשיח, we must identify ourselves with the generations of Am Yisrael that precede us and associate with them as if they are our contemporaries.

Yup, God Commanded Me, Too

“Go forth from your land, from your birthplace, and from your father’s house to the land that I will show you.” (Genesis 12:1) This initial command of “go forth...to the land that I will show you,” marks not only the beginning of Abraham’s personal spiritual journey in the Biblical text, but also marks a central theme that runs through the Bible in its entirety. For, the journey to the land of Israel does not end with Abraham’s arrival, but continues on as his descendants embark on their journey as a newly born nation through the wilderness in order to arrive in the land of their forefathers. Indeed, it is a journey that has continued throughout history and continues today with the creation of the modern State of Israel and the renewed return of the Jewish people to their ancestral homeland.

I’ll be perfectly honest. I am not a Biblical scholar, nor am I a historian. But, I am about to embark on a new journey, or an old journey, as it were, and return to the land of Israel, to the land of my forefathers, as an olah chadasha. It happens to be that my group flight with Nefesh B’Nefesh on October 7 coincides with the weekly Torah portion of “Lech Lecha.” So, when I attend synagogue (providing I am not sleeping off my jetlag) on my first Shabbat in Israel, I will hear the words spoken to Abraham and truly feel the significance of the call to come to the land, to return home.

Recalling my first visit to Israel as a high school student in 2005, I vividly remember a classmate of mine describing the experience of coming to Israel as follows: Israel is a place we have learned about our entire lives. Coming here for the first time is like going on a blind date, but already being in love. This classmate has no idea how many times I have quoted her on this, so I thank her for the analogy. The truth of these words has been echoed in the sentiments of almost every person I have spoken to after visiting Israel. We have all fallen in love. We love this country with all of its flaws, its triumphs, its passions, its contradictions, its promises, its people, and that special something that no one can really put their finger on, but simply feel being present in the land.

Now, I know it is not all fun and games over there. It is not some wonderland, and living there will not bring the same excitement or emotional experience as a Birthright trip or an NCSY summer program. Not every day will bring a new spiritual awakening. What I do know though, is that it will be a special privilege to live there –a privilege I am willing to work hard to maintain, a life I will work hard to build and develop. What I know is that when, please G-d, I raise a family in Israel, my children will return home from school knowing far more Torah than I know, and their Jewish identity will be built not only through their home life, or their schooling, but in their society. They will celebrate holidays together with their nation, see sukkot built on the balconies of apartment buildings, enjoy the glowing lights of the Chanukah rather than be inundated with Christmas songs (as catchy as they can be). They will celebrate in Israel’s victories, and mourn her losses. They will serve to protect their country, and they will contribute meaningfully to its continued progress.

This past June, I marched up 5th Avenue in New York City as a part of the Israel Day Parade along with thousands of supporters of Israel. I was marching with SAR Academy, a Modern Orthodox Jewish day school located in Riverdale, New York. As we were moving along the parade route, another float pulled in ahead of us. It was the Nefesh B’Nefesh float. There I was, marching in support of Israel with my present life, and fifty feet ahead, my future plans pulled into sight. On that day, I felt the significance of the steps I was taking from my present to my future. And, when I board my flight on October 7th, to arrive in Israel during the week of “Lech Lecha,” I go knowing that I am going forth from my land, my birthplace and my parents' house in good company.

By: Nicole Grubner (Tiferet 5767, 5768)

MAZAL TOV!

Mazal Tov to Nicole Grubner (5767, 5768) on her Aliyah to Eretz Yisrael this week!
Welcome home!

Mazal Tov to Rav Elie and Melanie Mayer on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Tamar!
May they continue to see tremendous nachat from her!

תורת תפארת (המשך)

We must see Avraham as more than our forefather and the founder of our faith. We conclude the first bracha in Shemoneh Esrei with מגן אברהם. The Gerer Rebbe teaches that the meaning of Magen Avraham is that Avraham is protected (מגן) in every Jew. Spiritually, emotionally and genetically, Avraham is part of us.

When introducing us to Moshe, the Torah tells us many details of his childhood. However, no information is revealed in the text about Avraham before he is commanded to make Aliya. The Sefat Emet teaches that the reason is that the commandment of Lech Lecha was not limited to Avraham but to every single Jew. לך לך מארצך... אל is Hashem commanding every single one of us to make Aliya. It is as relevant to us as it was to Avraham.

For over 2500 years, our ancestors dreamed of making their home in Eretz Yisrael. Our greatest personalities heard the call of Lecha Lecha but because of extreme hardships and oppression were unable to do so. How many of the 6 million dreamed about leaving the horrors of Europe in the Holocaust to see the shores of Eretz Yisrael? We have the opportunity to achieve what so many of the generations before us only dreamed. When we do so, we are bringing with us all of ancestors who wanted so desperately to live in our homeland. We stand on their shoulders, on the shoulders of our grandparents and luminaries of Jewish history, as we enter Eretz Yisrael and announce that we, representatives of a 4000 year fraternity, have finally returned. We are home. Come join us.



Upcoming Tiferet Alumnae Events

Sunday, October 13th 4 PM – Rav Yehoshua Landau will be speaking at the home of Talia Silverstein, 17 Iris Street Cedarhurst NY, 11516

Shabbat, December 7th – Alumnae Shabbaton at Stern College with Rav Azriel Rosner

Thursday, January 9th – Sunday, January 12th – Alumnae Program and Shabbaton in Tiferet