



Tiferet

ת פ א ר ת



TIFERET UPDATES

This Week in Tiferet

For our dedicated students at Tiferet, sometimes even a full week of learning is not enough! On Thursday night, in anticipation of our upcoming In Shabbat, Tiferet students participated in an all-night learning mishmar, followed by davening at vatikin at the Kotel. We are proud of our students' perseverance and commitment.

Over 35 alumnae came to a shiur by Rav Azriel Rosner in Stern College this past week. It was heart-warming to see our students continued devotion to what they have learned and gained in Tiferet!

תורת תפארת

Who's Really in Charge?

Rav Shalom Weisberg (shalomwg@gmail.com)

Parashat Vayigash

In Parashat Vayigash, we finally reach the end of the story of Yosef and his brothers. Every time I read this parasha, I ask myself how Yosef could react the way he did when he told his brothers who he is. We expect Yosef to be upset with his brothers but he does exactly the opposite. Yosef tells them they shouldn't be sad and that really Hashem is the one who sent him to Egypt !

The truth is that Yosef gave his brothers a very hard time from when they came to Egypt to get food as their father had sent them, until he told them who he was. However, maybe he wasn't giving acting this way because he was upset; rather he preferred looking at the bigger picture.

In order to understand this we must go back to the beginning of the story, when Yosef tells his brothers about his dreams. The brothers did not like the dreams because they did not believe that Yosef would be the leader, but rather Yehuda. We see this throughout the story: when the brothers wanted to kill Yosef and Yehuda was the one who decided to sell him, when Yaacov didn't let the brothers take Binyamin to Egypt, it was Yehuda who took responsibility and only then did Yaacov agree. In next week's parasha, we will read that even Yaacov thinks of Yehuda as the leader – "יהודה אתה יודך אחיך... ישתחוו לך בני אביך": all the sons of Yaacov will bow down to Yehuda.

But now in Egypt Yosef's dream is so true! He is a leader in Egypt and his brothers are all bowing down to him! Yosef also knows that Yehuda is the true leader. This is why he only agrees to reveal to his brothers his true identity once Yehuda acts as a true leader. In the beginning of the Parasha, it is Yehuda who approaches Yosef- this shows that he is acting like a leader. After this, it says that Yosef could not hold out any longer and told them who he was.

Yosef understands that the family had to go through all of this so that Yosef could be in Egypt during the famine to take care of his family and give them food. But more important is the process that Yehuda went through. And Yosef knows that it is all part of Hashem's plan and that is why he is not upset with his brothers.

Rav Azriel Rosner will be giving an alumnae shiur on Motzaei Shabbat, December 22nd at 7:00 PM
At the **Shubowitz home**
412 Edward Ave, Woodmere, NY

Looking forward to seeing you there!

MAZAL TOV!

Mazal Tov to Miriam Mervin (Tiferet 5768) on her engagement to Edward Disenhouse! May they be zochim to build a bayit ne'eman b'Yisrael!



"Oh Brother" Arielle Teitelbaum (Tiferet 5773)

In this week's parsha, after Yaakov comes down to Egypt, he becomes ill. His son Yosef immediately goes to his father bringing his two sons Menashe and Ephraim to receive brachot. Yaakov doesn't believe that these two boys are his grandchildren. Yosef has to confirm that they are his sons.

How can Yaakov not recognize his own grandchildren? Why would Yosef have to confirm his children?

Rashi answers that Yaakov didn't think Menashe and Ephraim were worthy of getting a bracha from him. He didn't recognize them as Jews. Yaakov believed that because they had grown up in Egypt, they had become assimilated into Egyptian culture. Once he learned that his grandchildren grew up Jewish and kept mitzvot in a land that is not holy like the land of Israel, he gained much respect for them and wanted to bless them.

In today's world with influences from society, it's important to remain true to our religion and belief. Every week, parents bless their sons to be like Menashe and Ephraim because even when they were in exile they never lost their connection to Judaism.

An additional thought is that despite growing up with wealth and royalty Ephraim and Menashe never became egotistical. The proof is that Chazal tell us that there was always Shalom between the two brothers. This is yet another reason why we use Ephraim and Menashe as the Leil Shabbat Beracha. It is a blessing to our whole family that there should always shalom among our family members .

Many times wealth and honor corrupt and make people egotistical and untrustworthy to others. Ephraim and Menashe show us the proper way to handle wealth. Look at it as a gift from Hashem and not something you earned on your own. With this attitude, our egos will stay in check and make it easier to befriend and accept others .