



Tiferet

ת פ א ר ת



TIFERET UPDATES

This Week in Tiferet

Shabbat Tiferet – On both sides of the ocean, a very special Shabbat will be taking place for Tiferet students this week. In Israel, our students will be participating in our third annual Tiferet – Darkaynu Shabbaton! Darkaynu is a program for young religious women with special needs who are looking to spend the year in Israel. Our students have been preparing for this Shabbaton for weeks, and we are very excited about hosting Darkaynu in our school! On the other side of the Atlantic, in Stern College, our alumnae will be gathering, along with Rav Azriel Rosner for our annual alumnae Shabbaton – filled with ruach, Torah and camaraderie. We are very much looking forward to both of these special Shabbatot!

תורת תפארת

Candy Land

Rabbi Michael Bramson (rabbibramson@gmail.com)

Parashat Vayishlach

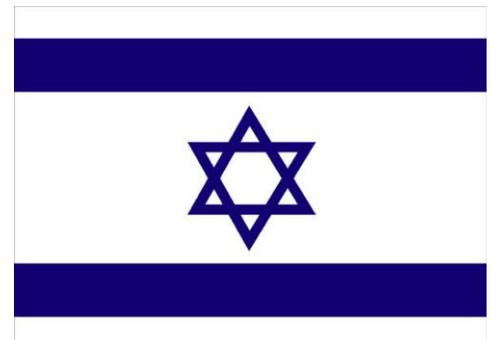
I had a most intriguing request from a student. She asked me to sit down with her and make a list of pros and cons in connection to living in Israel. I have thought about this challenge for several days and I am looking forward to this meeting. My first thought on the pro side is of course, the Tiferet food. Personally I do not think that there needs to be any further discussion but I am anticipating that my student would like one or two other selling points.

If I can't use the food argument I guess the next best place to look is the Torah. Several years ago I read a fascinating insight into the following question: In this week's parasha we read about the death of Devorah, Rivkah's nurse maid who has been with Rivkah all her life. While I am sure Devorah was a wonderful person it seems rather odd that the Torah makes no mention of Rivkah's death yet the death of her nursemaid seems to make the headlines. Why is this so?

The first time we are introduced to Devorah is when Rivkah agrees to go with Eliezer to meet and marry Yitzchak. Rivkah is brought to the land of Israel where she begins her life as the wife of the one patriarch that never leaves the Holy Land.

Now we are reintroduced to Devorah at a time when Yaakov has returned to the land of Israel to reunite with his father Yitzchak. Perhaps we can suggest that Devorah's purpose in life is to make sure that the people of Israel are safely situated in the land of Israel. Devorah escorts Rivkah to begin life with Yitzchak who forever remains in the holy land. Only when Yaakov returns to his rightful home is Devorah's job completed and can now depart from this world knowing her mission is complete.

Hashem does not hide his love for Eretz Yisroel and for his desire for his people to dwell in it. I am not a big fan of Aliyah speeches but as a rebbe of mine once said, Eretz Yisrael is a gift from Hashem to us. You can do whatever you want with this gift. Like a parent who gives their child a toy, the parent is thrilled when he sees the child using it, so too Hashem is overjoyed when he sees us using his special gift.



Great Things In Little Packages

Blima Fein Tiferet 5772

In this week's parasha, Yaakov crosses over the river twice, once with his family and again back over alone. Why did Yaakov cross the river again, back to where He came from without his family? He was risking his life by going back! Chazal say that the reason why Yaakov went back over was because he left behind small little jugs. What does that mean?? Why would Yaakov risk his life for little jugs?? Is that really worth the possibility of being killed?! Rashi says the reason is because Tzadikim care more about money than their body. That might have answered our question but now the question is how could a Tzadik like Yaakov care more about money? Tzadikim are such holy people why would money come before their bodies which do mitzvot and serve Hashem?

There is a very beautiful message we learn from Tzadikim. Tzadikim see value in every area of life. A Tzadik will not touch someone else's belongings, even if it has the lowest value. Tzadikim see hashgacha in everything in this world, and look for Hashem's messages in everything.

People do not always look at the world in that way. We devalue things, we say things are coincidence - but Tzadikim see value in the most minor matters. They realize that small things have tremendous value because they realize that Hashem gave them everything they have for a reason. Yaakov realized that Hashem gave him those vessels for a reason and therefore went back for them. Yaakov saw value in the most minor things.

We could stop here but we could go further with this message. If we should be sensitive to small objects, how much more so to human beings. Everyone is made in the image of Hashem, so we should love and value everyone. Every Jew is important and has a tafkid (purpose) in this world. If someone had a bad day we should go out of our way to give them a smile or a hug to show we care. Just like Yaakov went out of his way and risked his life for small vessels. If someone is poor or rich, smart or dumb, looks different, or acts different, it does not matter; every Jew should be cared about and be valued.

I would like to end with a beautiful story that really drives this point home. The students of Rav Shmuel Rozovsky huddled around the Rav when suddenly they heard screaming coming from outside. The Rav led the talmidim outside to see what had happened. They find a big cat beating up a small cat. The talmidim brushed it off and start walking back inside, thinking that the cat was not so important. The Talmidim turn around wondering where the Rav went. Then they see the Rav picking up a stone and chasing the big cat away to save the small cat. The young men stared at the rebbe as he slowly walked back toward the building. He turned to his students and explained his surprising behavior. "A mentch must always be sensitive to the needs of every living creature". Hopefully by valuing Hashem's creations we will bring Mashiach closer *במהרה בימינו אמן*!

PS. Mazel tov to Sara Bluma and Ariel on the birth of a baby boy. May he give the two of you and the whole family great nachas and become a true ben torah.

Learning Torah in Mrs. Stefansky's Home



תורת תפארת (המשך)

In a recent discussion I had with students the question was raised as to whether this could really be the beginning of the geulah with a government that is void of Torah and a population that is 80% not religious? I simply looked out the window and said: "Take a look at the mountains that surround us and tell me if this looks anything like the desolate, arid land that Mark Twain describes. This land is beautiful. The mountains, the desserts, the trees and flowers are all blossoming as is described in Tanach. This has all been accomplished in less than 65 years and under the daily threat of annihilation. So yes, I do believe that this is the beginning of the redemption".

Devorah dedicated her life to ensure that the children of Israel stayed in the land of Israel. Hashem has given us this gift and has even provided a modern day Devorah called the Israeli Defense Force which continues to fulfill Devorah's purpose. Let us give daily thanks to Hashem for this wonderful opportunity to benefit from such a gift.