לעילוי נשמת ר' אברהם יוסף שמואל אלטר בו ר' טובי' ז"ל רעיתו רישא רחל בת ר' אברהם שלמה ע"ה קורץ



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שבת קודש פרשת ויגש – י"א טבת תשפ"א Shabbos Parshas Vayigash - December 26, 2020

הדלקת נרות שבת - 4:15 | זמן קריאת שמע / מ"א - 9:03 | זמן קריאת שמע / הגר"א - 9:39 | סוף זמן תפילה/הגר"א - 10:25 זמו לתפילת מנחה גדולה -12:27 | שקיעת החמה שבת קודש -3:44 | מוצש״ק צאת הכוכבים -5:24 | צאה״כ / לרבינו תם – 5:46

שהניחומים הראשונים עלו בתוהו. וכעת אכז היו בדבריו נחמה לצערם. באמרו: 'לא אתם שלחתם אותי הנה כי אם האלקים' כלומר. הנכם נכלמים על כר שהתכוונתם לצערני אבל דעו לכם כי לא מידכם היתה זאת. אלא יד ה' היתה בי, והוא זה שעשאו דרככם. ועיקר מטרתו היתה לגדלני כהמשר הכתוב זישימני לאב לפרעה ולאדוו לכל ביתו ומושל בארץ מצרים' אר כדי שאהיה ראוי לכר הוטל עלי לעבור כמה וכמה מיני צער, וכיוז שהכל מאת ה' ולא אתם שלחתם אותי הנה מה לכם כי תצטערו. והשקפה זו היתה בהירה לפני יוסף, והגיעו פני הרברים שכשנתמנה יוסף למשנה למלר לקח לו לאשה את אסנת שהיתה בתה של פוטיפרע הארורה שציערה אותו ביסורים נפשיים וגופניים. ובסיבתה ישב בבית הסוהר שתים עשרה שנה. ואחר כל העינויים עוד הוציאה עליו לעז כמובא במדרשים. ואעפ״כ לא נמנע מיוסף לקחת את בתה לו לאשה. בידעו שהכל היה מן השמים, וכעת אחר שעברו עליו כל התלאות שוב לא יניחו אותה מו השמים לנסותו. ועל כז איז שום מניעה מצידו לצעד זה.

זוהי ההשקפה הנכונה הראויה לכל אדם, שגם אם זולתו ציערו והציקו יביז כי משמיא זכו ליה בזה הצער. ואיז העונש המוטל על המצער סיבה לבטל אמונה זו. ואף שהעונש מוכיח שהדבר היתה תלויה בבחירתו של המצער איז בכר סתירה לאמונה זו שהכל מז השמים. ומענה לשאלה זו אפשר להבין מהגמרא (תענית יה:) על הרוגי לוד, כשביקש טוריינוס להרוג את לולינוס ופפוס אחיו בלודקיא ... עיי"ש. הרי לנו משם שגם אם הבעל בחירה נענש על מה שחובל בזולתו איז הדבר מוכיח שהוא באמת הגורם לחבלה. ומה שמענישים אותו הוא ע"כ שהסכים להיות הסיבה לחבלת הזולת. כי רצון העליון היה שלא יסכים לכך, ואילו היה כופה את יצרו היה ניצל מזה, ועל אף שזה הצער מוכרח לבוא על המצטער. הרי הרבה סיבות למקום האיר להמציא צערו. ולא בקשו מלכתחילה להשים המשימה על המצער אלא כדי שיתגבר על יצרו.

הרעה כשם שמברך על הטובה וכו' אמר רבא: לא נצרכה אלא לקבולינהו בשמחה". וכתב **הרמב״ם** בפי′ משניות (שם) וז״ל, ״אמרו כשם שהוא מברך על הטובה, ר״ל שיקבלם בשמחה ויכבוש רגשותיו ויישב דעתו כשמברך ברוך דיין האמת. עד שיראה כמו בזמז שהוא מברר הטוב והמטיב, וכמו שאומרים חכמים ברוב עניניהם כל מה דעביד משמיא לטב. וזה דבר מושכל אצל הנבונים אע"פ שלא הזהירה עליו תורה. לפי שהרבה דברים נחשביז לרע בתחלתם וסופם מביאים טובה גדולה. והרבה דברים

נחשבים בראשיתם טוב ויהיה בסופם רע מאד ולכז איז ראוי לנבוז להצטער בבוא צרה גדולה וגזירה הרת סכנה, לפי שאינו יודע התכלית". ומבואר מ**הרמב"ם.** דעיקר הך מילתא דהאדם חייב לברך על רעה כשם שמבורך על הטוב, ולקבל הכל בשמחה, הוא דבר מושכל, דהרבה דברים דנחשב לרעה מתחילה לבסוף הם באמת לטובה.

וא"כע י"ל, דעיקר הטענה על יעקב אבינו היתה, דאה"נ חייו היה נראה רעים. אבל חייב האדם לקבל הכל מאת הקב"ה בשמחה. ואילו קיבל הכל בשמחה. לא היה צריך לומר לפרעה דחייו היה רעים. וזה היתה מה שאמר הקב"ה ליעקב. דמאחר דכבר ראה שהיה דברים שנראה רעה. ואחר זמז ניצל, אמאי לא קיבל הכל מאת הקב"ה בשמחה. ויש להאדם להתבונו בזה. לחיות עם יסוד זה, דהגם דאיכא דברים שנראים כרעה, אבל כל מה שעושה הקב"ה הכל הוא לטובה! ועבודה מוטלת עלינו לקבל הכל בשמחה אמת הקב"ה!

ועתה אל תעצבו ואל יחר בעיניכם כי מכרתם אתי הנה ... וישלחני אלהים לפניכם ... ועתה לא אתם שלחתם אתי הנה כי האלהים (מה-ה-ח) – הכל בהשגחה פרטית גם צער מבעל בחירה

אמיתו של דבר היו אחי יוסף נזקקים לכפרה על אותה מעשה, וכפי שאכן רואים בפיוט 'אלה אזכרה' שבמוסף של יום כיפור, שמחיר כבד שילמו כלל ישראל על אותו עוון, ועשרה הרוגי מלכות נהרגו על קרושת השם במיתות משונות כדי לכפר על כך. אולם ידיעה זו לא מנע מיוסף את האמונה שהכל הוא מאת ה', ועל כן לא היתה לו שום שנאה כלפי אחיו. הוא האמיז בכל ליבו שלולא זה שהתחייב בזה הצער לא היו השבטים מעלים על דעתם לצער אותו. ורק אחר שהתחייב בזה הצער נתמנו להיות סיבה לכר. וכיון שלא היו אלא הסיבה מה לו לשנאותם על כר. ובדברים אלו ביקש גם נחם את אחיו. כי אז אחר שהתוודע אל אחיו נוצר בהם מצב של כלימה וצער על עווז זמכירה. כפי שהכתוב (פסוק ג) מעיד: 'ולא יכלו אחיו לענות אותו כי נבהלו מפניו' ועל כז פתח יוסף את ניחומיו (בפסוק ה) בתיבת 'ועתה' כלומר, מאחר שנוצר כעת מצב של צער. מוטל עלי לדבר לפניכם דברי נחמה. ותחילה פייסם בזה שעל אף שהם בקשו לעשות לו רע הרי בסופו של דבר לא יצא זממם לפועל ואלקים חשבה לטובה

להחיות לכם. ועל כז אל לכם להצטער מאחר שבפועל איז קיום לכוונתכם הרעה. אולם בפועל לא התנחמו בדבריו. כי עיקר צערם ובושתם היה על עצם רצונם להרע. נם על כך שבפועל הצטער על ידם הרבה שנים. כי כל הצער שעברו עליו עד שעלה גדולה היה תוצאה ממכירתו שנעשתה על ידם. כיוז שכז פתח בניחומים שניים. ועל ז פתח שוב (בפסוק ח) בתיבת 'ועתה' כאילו לא דיבר עמהם עד כה באותו עניז. מאדר

לימודים כמות חרב אברחם דניאל אבשטיין שליט"א, בעמרים שדה אברהם

ייאמר יעקב אל פרעה ימי שני מגורי שלשים ומאת שנה מעם ורעים היו ימי שני חיי ולא השיגו את ימי שני חיי אבתי בימי מגוריהם וגו' (מו-ח) - בענין כל מה דעביד רחמנא למב עביד

דעת זהגים מבעלי התוספות כתבו וז"ל. "מדרש: בשעה שאמר יעקב מעט ורעים" יו. אמר לו הקב"ה. אני מטתיר מעשו ומלבז. והחזרתי לר דינה. גם יוסף. ואתה מתרעם על חייר שהם מעט ורעים. חייר שמנין התיבות שיש מן ויאמר עד בימי מגורי כך יחסרו משנותיך, שלא תחיה כחיי יצחק אביר. והם ל"ג תיבות. ובמנין זה נחסרו מחייו. שהרי יצחק חי ק"פ שנה ויעקב חי אלא קמ"ז". עכ"ל. ויש להעיר. דמהו הטענה שאמרו לו הקב"ה. שהצילו מעשו ומלבז. והחזיר דינה ויוסף. אה"ג לבסוף ניצל אבל מ"מ היו לו כמה שנים שעשו רצה להרגו וע"כ הוצטרך לילך לבית לבן. וגם כל ימיו אשר היו בבית לבן הרמאי, היה לבן מרומה אותו, וגם בדינה, ויוסף אה"נ בסוף החזיר לו. אבל מ"מ זה שיצא מאתו היה צרה ורעה גדולה? ותמוה מאוד. שיעקב אבינו דיבר האמת, דחייו היו מלא צרות ורעות, מעשו, ומלבן, מדינה, ומיוסף. וא״כ מהו הטענה גדולה על יעקב אבינו על מה שאמר, דמשום הכי נחסר כמה משנותיו?

יהפשוט בזה, דאיתא בברכות (ס-ע"ב) "חייב אדם לברד כו'. מאי חייב לברד על

A SERIES IN HALACHA LIVING A "TORAH" DAY

Relevant Halachos During These Trying Times (36)

Using Zoom in a Hospital on Shabbos. Question: I have heard that in some hospitals and nursing homes, they have started to make Zoom connections on Shabbos between patients with the virus, and their family members. Is such a thing permitted?

Answer: Such a question cannot have a general answer for all. Each case has to be addressed by the *Rabbanim* of the community with seriousness. They must weigh many factors, including where this might go and lead us to. Nevertheless, we will mention some of the factors that can help in determining such a *shaila*.

In some places on weekdays, it has become very advisable to have a constant connection between a hospitalized patient and his family. This is because some of the patients are considered a "chola shevesh bo sakana" - sick person whose life might be in danger. In certain hospitals, they are very understaffed because of the virus and cannot keep up with the detailed needs of each patient. Before the virus, when family members were permitted to be with the patient, they could take care and call nurses if necessary. In some places, the load on the few nurses is so great that they don't answer the patients' bed calls for half-an-hour. Therefore, many Bikkur Cholim societies and Hatzala organizations feel that there must be a family eye on guard via not. We just had such a case where the medical profile about announced that it is only when there is a real life danger.

how much liquid to feed a patient daily hadn't been written down and the family caught on because of their constant connection.

Additionally, there is an element of "Yesuva Da'ata" calming the troubled spirit of the patient. If they are left all alone, without relatives around, patients often tend to panic. It is clear in the Gemara that such a fear is dangerous and can endanger life. and even justifies Chillul Shabbos to remove the panic of the patient. If they are connected to the family, they are less panicky. On top of that, once the Zoom is connected there might not be any *Torah issur* involved when the parties communicate. This would be the reason for permitting it.

However, there are other factors to consider. Many times, the weekday connections put things in order in a way that the family, and more importantly, the patient, can feel calm about the coming Shabbos. We have to be very concerned about how far this might go. People who have an elderly parent living not so close, might decide to cheer up their parent with a Zoom connection every Shabbos seuda and will call everybody "end of life" risks as justification. This could lead to a massive zilzul in Shabbos. People might start lumping together every sick person, even though there is no danger at all. Considering all this, the local Rabbanim with these cases and local information, have to Zoom, to see if care is being given, and call the nursing station if make up local policies. Even if they are lenient, it has to be

בין הריחים – תבלין מדף היומי – פסחים דף לג.

מאת הגאון מו"ר הרב ברוך הירשפלד שליט"א,

ראש כולל עטרת חיים ברוך, קליבלנד הייטס

אין מתעסק כמתעסק. תאמר במעילה שמעל^י Rav Nachman Bar Yitzchok says that although a "מתעסק" regarding other איסורים is *patur*, if one was a *misasek* & inadvertently מועיל בהקדש, he would still be חייב. The *Gemara* [כריתות יט.] savs that when one is *oiver* a לאר he must bring a *korban chata*s. However, a *misasek* is *patur* from a *korban*. This is derived from the extra word בה" in the *pasuk* of "חטאתו אשר חטא בה".

Rav Akiva Eiger zt"/ ושי"ת ס' ח'ז was asked if someone sees another being oiver an aveira, but he isn't aware that he's doing the act is there a *chiyuv* to tell him & stop him from doing the act? Since we see that this instance is different than the usual שרגע where one knows what he is doing & just thinks it's *mutar*, he is the one that must bring a *Chatas*. A מרגסס, however, is even less than a שיגג & isn't even required to bring a chatas. so maybe it isn't necessary to stop him from what he is doing? רע"א says a big chiddush, that what the גיזרת is teaching us is that a misasek is patur, but only from bringing a Korban. The Misasek is still considered as being oiver the Lav!

In שו"ת **ר שלמה איגר.** he wants to bring a proof to this חיד שע"ב: he wants to bring a proof to this שו"ת **ר שלמה איגר** from the following halacha. The או"ד שע"ב: he wants to bring a proof to this שו"ת **ר שלמה איגר** sleeping in a room & someone dies suddenly in the room, the Kohen must be woken up so he can leave the room. He asks why must the Kohen be woken up, after all he is a מתעסק: He says from this halacha we see a proof to his father, ע"א, that a misasek is only patur from a korban but is still considered as being *oiver* the Lay & that's why he must be woken up. ישלמה איגר altimately agrees with this proof.

R' Shloime Rabinowitz zt"l of Radomsk (Tiferes Shlomo) would say:

"ועתה אל תעצבו ואל יחר בעיניכם: - 'And now.' This word denotes *Teshuva*. The whole point of what Yosef put the brothers through was completely l'sheim shamayim so that they can do a complete Teshuva; thus, Yosef is telling them that they should not be sad or angry because Teshuva is a great mitzvah that should be done with simcha. If they are not B'simcha, then they cannot do Teshuva, and then what would have been the purpose of all that they went through? We learn from this, the great benefits of staying calm and serving *Hashem b'simcha*."

A Wise Man would say:

"Imagination was given to man to compensate him for what he is not, and a sense of humor was provided to human beings to console them for what they are."

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Special Mazel Tov to Avromy & Batia Schlesinger and to Harvey Bell & Devorah Bell on the Marriage of their Children, Chana and Avery. May the young couple build a bayis ne'éman'b'Yisroel and bring nach'as to their families and all Klal Yisroel.

ואת יהודה שלח לפניו אל יוסף להורת לפניו גשנה ויבאו ארצה גשן (מו-כח)

As Yaakov prepared to go down to Egypt, the Torah relates that "he sent Yehuda ahead toward Yosef, to set the way to Goshen." According to the second version in **Rashi** (based on the *Medrash*), Yehuda was sent ahead "to set up a house of study." Yaakov wanted a spiritual foundation to be established in Goshen before he arrived. He didn't want to begin organizing *Torah* study upon his arrival; rather, he planned ahead to have the system prepared when he and his family arrived.

R' Eliezer Shulevitz zt''l established a Torah empire throughout Poland, although his Yeshivah Gedolah, which was his primary yeshivah, was based in Lomza. He persevered to bring *Torah* to other towns as well: in Ostrov, Greiva, Vizna. Yedvovna, Makov, Novodgrod, Stevisk, Kolna, Shtotsin, and other towns, he founded yeshivos ketanos to prepare students for the Yeshivah Gedolah in Lomza. In his merit, the light of Torah burned in every Jewish settlement.

When R' Eliezer purchased the lot for the Lomza yeshivah building to be built on, he entered the deed under the name of his close friend, R' Chaim Leib Mishkovski zt''l (known as the Stavisker Tzaddik). The local Jewish community was thrilled and helped out financially in establishing the yeshivah; one wealthy widow donated her entire fortune to the veshivah and moved into an old-age home while another Jewish couple donated 35,000 bricks each.

However, this project was also to his detriment. It was not easy to open a *yeshivah* and even less simple to keep it going over a long period. R' Eliezer did not have the strength to shoulder the burden. Often it was difficult for him to pay his debts on time; creditors gave him no rest. The *yeshivah* grew exponentially and when R' Eliezer accepted its four hundredth student, the local Jewish community who been supporting the yeshivah felt that the financial burden became too large.

Finally, the pressure became too much. He decided to terminate the enterprise, to cut it off in its initial phase. "If there is no flour, there is no *Torah*," he said, and without money, he could not maintain the *yeshivah* system he had built.

While deciding how to go about it, his close friend, R' Chaim Leib Mishkovski of Stavisk, heard about his decision. Without delay, he traveled to Lomza to speak to R' Eliezer. He arrived in the middle of the night, and at this late hour, R' Chaim Leib invited R' Eliezer to accompany him on a stroll through the streets of the city. The two men went out in the dark of night, discussing Torah thoughts. Every time they passed a synagogue, though, R' Chaim Leib interrupted their walk, went over to a dark window, and called out as if testing to see whether anybody was there. There was no response still as a graveyard. Nobody around. Disappointed, he would return to his friend, and they would resume their stroll. They walked until the lights of the Yeshivah Gedolah were visible in the distance. The nearer to the yeshivah, the louder became the sound of vibrant voices filling the empty air. "What's all that noise?" R' Chaim Leib queried in surprise.

R' Eliezer looked at him, astonished. "Those are the voices of the *yeshivah* students learning."

R' Chaim Leib turned to him and scolded him sharply, all pretense fading from his demeanor. "You've seen for yourself how every synagogue is deserted, and the only place where you can hear the sound of *Torah* is your holy *yeshivah*. How can you think of locking the gate of *Torah* in this city?" This message, emanating from the heart, penetrated and gave R' Eliezer the resolve to change his mind and continue developing his *Torah* movement with even more determination.

The Stavisker Tzaddik, the Chofetz Chaim, and countless other Gedolim issued appeals on behalf of the Lomza Yeshivah. The Jewish community in neighboring Koenigsberg, East Prussia, responded with help. In Germany proper, Rabbi Dr. Ezriel Hildesheimer zt"l, Rabbi Dr. Breuer zt"l of Frankfurt, even Baron Rothschild, all answered the appeal. The yoke eased for a while but the response still was not enough, so R' Eliezer dispatched meshulachim to every corner of the globe. Then the famous joke was born: Whenever the newspapers carried a discussion among philosophers and scientists whether human life exists on Mars, the Jews of Lomza laughed: There can't be life on Mars because if there was, you can be sure R' Lazar Shulevitz has a *meshulach* there. And if he doesn't have one on Mars, you can be sure that no one lives there!

בותה בן אדם קה לד עין אחד וכתב עליו A PENETRATING ANALYSIS OF THE WEEKLY AND A PENETRATING ANALYSIS OF THE WEEKLY AND

and inscribe the names of Yehuda and Yosef on them. Then, he was told to place the two sticks near one another, and they suddenly fused together into one. *Hashem* explained that the two sticks symbolize the two Jewish kingdoms, Malchus Yehuda and Malchus Yisroel, which will eventually reunite in the times of *Moshiach*. However, since Yechezkel already lived after the abolition of *Malchus Yisroel*, who was Hashem's message intended for? Wasn't it clear that Klal *Yisroel* would reunite under one kingdom by default?

R' Naftoli Tzvi Yehuda Berlin zt"l (Harchev Davar) explains that although Yehuda and Yosef epitomized the characteristics of royalty, they both had distinct attributes that

Torah, while Yosef placed an emphasis on doing *chessed*. Both traits are equally important for a Jewish king to have, and those kings over the years who lacked either one, failed miserably.

Thus, Hashem's message specifically in Yechezkel Hanavi's time – even though Malchus Yisroel had already dissolved – was extremely important, since it belied the two main characteristics which the Jewish people would need to possess and retain before they went into exile, where they no longer would have a king to lead them.

Now, in our prolonged exile, we must take heed and remember that the attributes of Yehuda and Yosef are equally imperative to bring about the *geula* and usher in *Moshiach*.

ויאמר אלקים לישראל במראת הלילה

CONCEPTS IN AVODAS HALEV FROM THE

(מי-ב) באבר הנני ... (מי-ב) האבר הלכה" s not a typical expression for a *nevuah* to the *Avos*. The **Meshech Chochma** writes that we find this only by Yaakov Avinu. Similarly, in Parshas Vayeitzai it says that Hashem came to Yaakov Avinu while he was asleep - also at night. What is the significance of these night-time prophecies, specifically to Yaakov?

R' Meir Simcha zt" explains that both incidents have a common denominator. Each occurred at a time when Yaakov was entering a situation of darkness, a *matzav* of unfamiliarity. He was entering into *galus*. First, he was fleeing Esav and escaping to Lavan. And here, he was embarking on a difficult road, culminating in Galus Mitzrayim. He needed Hashem's comforting assurance that he would remain spiritually unscathed. The word "לילה" refers to galus. A period in time, in which we can't see "במראת הלילה" - Hashem so vividly. Therefore, Yaakov needed to hear this message from Hashem at this precise time

He adds that with this we can understand why it was Yaakov who instituted תפלת ערבית, the prayer in the dark, Maariv represents the parts of a korban that weren't consumed by day and may be eaten during the night. There is, however, a catch The korban had to have been shechted by day. Then, and only then, can one continue the process at night. So too, if we wish to have Hashem's protection and presence with us - "בלילה" - in the dark galus, we must be connected to our Avos, who represent the daylight, before galus. If we remain firm, and unwaveringly uphold our mesorah, we are able to serve as a conduit between day and night. We can now better understand why the *posukim* here and in *Parshas Shemos* stress that *Bnei* Yisroel were "הבאים מצרימה" - coming to Egypt, in the present tense. Because they never severed their connection to the Avos when settling into Galus. This should serve as a lesson for us. If we never become too complacent in galus, then B'ezras Hashem, He will keep His promise of "ואנכי אעלך גם עלה" - and redeem us from this darkness, bimheira b'yameinu amen.

משל למה הדבר דומה

ולא יכל יוסף להתאפק לכל הנצבים עליו ... (מה-א) משל: The Chazon Ish zt"l, was very hidden from the public

eve and was a complete unknown in the *Torah* world until **R' Chaim Ozer Grodzensky** zt"l, publicized his greatness.

R' Shlomo Shimshon Karelitz *zt"l* related, "The *Chazon Ish* once attended a *sheva berachos* in Vilna and, as usual, he did his utmost to conceal his greatness by sitting with the simple people on the far side of the head table. **R' Itzele Ponevezher** zt" sat in the place of honor and delivered a very difficult and intricate discourse on the subject of *pruzbul*. He presented a very novel idea. The *Chazon Ish* immediately spoke up, "But that contradicts a straightforward Mishna!"

R' Itzele assumed that the simply dressed man sitting with the baalei batim hadn't even grasped his words and dismissed him declaring, "We are not *Mishna* Jews!"

After the *drasha*, R' Itzele decided that even though it managed to conceal their greatness their entire lives.

ואסר יוכף מרכבתו ויעל לקראת ישראל אביו בטונסוות במוניעל לקראת ישראל אביו בטונסוות במוניעל באריו ובו' (מו-כמ) בשנה וירא אליו ויפל על צואריו ובו' (מו-כמ) דר שונה וירא אליו ויפל על צואריו ובו' (מו-כמ)

seemed unlikely, perhaps the young man knew what he was saying. He went over to the back table and asked what he had meant. The *Chazon Ish* showed him a *Mishna* in *Moed Katan* which clearly contradicted the *Rav's drasha*.

When R' Itzele heard this he was so impressed that he removed his chair from the head table and placed it next to the unknown young man. When R' Shlomo Karelitz, asked the *Chazon Ish* if this was a true story, he said nothing, as was his wont. R' Karelitz concluded, "It is clear that this was true for if not, the *tzaddik* would surely have denied it!"

נמשל: Yosef concealed himself for many years but when the time came, he revealed who he was to his brothers. Part of the greatness of Yosef HaTzaddik was his middah of tznius and modesty. This is referred to as "Yesod." Most of our greatest Gedolim throughout the years have emulated this middah of Yosef HaTzaddik and there have been numerous others who

When Yaakov came down to Mitzrayim, the posuk tells us that Yosef fell on his father's neck and cried there for a while. **Rashi** asks, why did Yaakov not fall on Yosef's neck and cry as well? Wasn't he even MORE excited to see his son than Yosef was to see his father? Isn't the emotion of a parent toward his child greater than the emotion of a child toward his parent? Indeed, when I young, I always felt sorry for Yaakov that at the very moment that he is finally reunited with Yosef after twenty-two years of absence, he happened to be in middle of saying Shema! But of course this was a childish way of understanding this beautiful reunion. The Maharal M'Prague zt''l explains that the emotion of love that Yaakov felt at this moment was so powerful that he chose to take the intensity of his love and direct it towards *Hashem*. This awesome level of channeling one's emotions to Kirvas Elokim - to take a most sublime moment and dedicate it solely and completely to the Almighty - similar to what Avraham and Yitzchok reached at the akeida - Yaakov reached here!

With his recitation of the Shema at this time, Yaakov Avinu was proclaiming that all that occurred in the past 22 years, all the pain and suffering that he had endured, was all for the good. He then said: "Shema Yisroel" - Listen, Yaakov, "Hashem Elokeinu" - the combination of Middas Hadin (strict judgment) and Middas Harachamim (mercy), "Hashem Echod" - they are ONE thing, meaning they are both really *Middas Harachamim*. This is the ultimate declaration of *emunah b'Hashem*.

Yaakov's declaration was for all future generations. The "Bechir H'Avos" was teaching us that no matter what situation we face in our lives, no matter how tense, critical or dangerous, when we go through difficulties in life, we are meant to learn to see the good and express our love to *Hashem* - for everything He does for us is for our benefit!