

Nourishment for the Neshama

<http://lvracha.com>

Thursday, December 29, 2011

Ahavas Yisrael and Tznius - Call to Action!

Ahavas Yisrael is the way to build zechusim in these urgent times.

We just turned the corner on Chanukah, the days are now getting longer. In a week it will be the 10th of Teves, the fast day that commemorates the breaching of the walls of Yerushalayim by Nebuchadnezzar.

Will we this year be seen as meritorious for redemption?

In Vayigash, we see the confrontation of Yehuda and Yosef. Both of them found the other powerful and had reason to be intimidated. Both of them are the progenitors of Moshiachs – Moshiach ben Dovid, who is the conquerer, and Moshiach ben Yosef, who precedes Moshiach ben Dovid. The creme of the crop!

Yosef HaTzaddik learned from Rachel Imeinu that maintaining consciousness in the simple unity of Hashem, that everything is from Hashem for our ultimate growth and development, is the greatest pleasure and power a person can achieve – a \$2 billion bag of gold. Yosef did not let go of that \$2 billion bag of gold even though he was afraid Yehuda would kill him – he cleared the room, so as not to embarrass his brothers because that would have been distasteful to Hashem, rather than put that \$2 billion bag of gold down to pick up the \$1 million bag of gold, saving his own life. He learned this from Rachel Imeinu, who held onto the \$2 billion bag of gold – consciousness in harmony with Hashem's will – rather than put it down to pick up \$1 million – embarrassing her sister but getting to marry Yaakov Aveinu. Rachel Imeinu, because she did this, cried to Hashem to save her children – US – because she held onto the \$2 billion bag of gold – doing what is good and right and pleasing to Hashem in concert with His will – rather than doing what she had a right to do. Thus, when Hashem responded to her "but your children need to do tikkun, they are doing averos that are taking themselves away from me" her response "so You are right, so what? Save them anyway. I did what was good in Your eyes and I am a mere human. You are You! Surely You can save my children!" And Hashem responded that for Rachel Imeinu, He would one day return her children to Yerushalayim.

Yosef learned from Rachel that being united with Hashem's will is a madrega to achieve and he reached it. As a result, he was allowed to operate within or above nature, as he chose. What, then is Yosef's legacy to us? If each of us works really hard, we probably would never be able to gain the strength of Yehuda. But if each of us works really hard, we probably CAN rise above thinking of ourselves and our rights in order to show Hashem that we know He is there, that we love Him, that we fear Him, that we wish to emulate Him, and that we are trying to have a consciousness in harmony with His Torah and His Will. We can clutch this thought like a \$2 billion bag of gold, not putting it down for one minute – not for machlokes, not for compromise in tznius, not for negativity .

May we, in striving for gaining ein do milvado consciousness - the simple unity of Hashem -approach the level of Rachel's tznius and the level of Yosef's yesod, bonding us through ahavas yisrael into Klal Yisrael. May we show unity with Rachel Imeinu by emulating her, taking upon ourselves stretches in tznius (including aspects of conduct as well as dress) and thereby show Hashem that we see Him, that we hear His calling to us in current events, and that our love for Him is greater than what we see as "Our Rights" and may Hashem find our recognition of His Reality and our willingness to be who He wants us to be meritorious. Let's let go of the \$1 million bag of gold to pick up the \$2 billion bag of gold and show that we are Rachel's children!

May Hashem deem that THIS be the year that the Moshiach redeem us! And then we can get answers for all the shailas!