SCHEDULE ליל שבת קדש

4:36 PM **Candle Lighting** Mincha & Kabalas Shabbos 4:35 PM

יום שבת קדש

Daf Yomi @Main Shul 7:30 AM

Shacharis

7:00 AM @Social Hall @Main Shul 8:30 AM

2:15 PM Mincha

Mincha 4:25 PM

Maariy/Haydala (50min) 5:45 PM **Avos Ubanim** 6:30 PM

39/38

55/36

מזג האוויר בשבת* **Ohel Moshe Weather**

CANDLES NEXT SHABBOS - 4:42 PM

Weekday Tefilos Shacharis

Sunday -6:50 & 8:30, M,Th-6:35, T,W,F-6:45

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	тни	FRI
AM DAF	7:30	5:45	5:45	5:45	5:45	5:45
NETZ	7:27	7:27	7:27	7:27	7:27	7:26

Mincha Sunday— Thursday 1:45 PM Mincha/Maariv Sunday-Thursday 4:40 PM 7:45 PM Maariv Sunday-Thursday

Learning Opportunities

8:00 PM PM Daf Yomi - Sun.-Thu. @Zoom Daf Hashavua - Mon. & Wed. @Main Shul 9:00 PM Breathing Life - Monday @Main Shul 9:10 PM Begging For More - Tuesday @Zoom 9:10 PM Contemp. Halacha - Wed. @Zoom 9:00 PM Open Bais Medrash - Sun.-Thu. @Main Shul 8:00 PM

THE HASHKAMA MINYAN IS LOOKING FOR PEOPLE TO LEIN, PLEASE CONTACT AITON MARIZAN - 410-206-5583



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Shul Contacts

Rabbi Teichman

410-570-3333 or ravzt@ohelmoshebaltimore.com

The Shul Office:

For any administrative, financial or other member or Shul matters. Office@OhelMosheBaltimore.com

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Rabbi Zvi Teichman

CONGREGATION OHEL MOSHE 2808 SMITH AVE BALTIMORE, MD 21209 WWW.OHELMOSHEBALTIMORE.COM DAVEN@OHELMOSHEBALTIMORE.COM (410) 878-7521

Issue #662

RABBI'S MESSAGE:

Sleight of hand

When Yosef observes his father crisscrossing his hands over his children's heads the Torah describes how. וירע בעיניו—it was 'displeasing in his eyes'.

Yosef was able to face the greatest challenges and frustrations in life with an unparalleled equanimity time and again, with nary a mention of any displeasure. Yet, when his illustrious father, his teacher, the patriarch, and conveyer of the legacy of Avraham and Yitzchak, whose image is etched on the heavenly throne, acts contrary to his expectation he suddenly gets upset?!

The next detail in this episode is even more baffling. Without first expressing his intention, Yosef physically lifts his father's hand from atop Efrayim's head. Although superficially it seems as more of a gentle correction and intended replacement upon Menashe, the Midrash states that Yaakov confronted Yosef, exclaiming, "the hand that was able to conquer a third of the world, you are attempting to push away?!" This refers to Yaakov having conquered the powerful Angel of Esav.

Were Yosef and Yaakov engaging in a cosmic arm-wrestling match?

After Yaakov resists, Yosef then first articulates his desire for Yaakov to relocate his right hand to the firstborn. Menashe.

The Torah states how וימאן—and he [Yaakov] refused. This verb connotes he was obstinate, like its usage when Yosef stubbornly, וימאן—resisted the seductions of the wife of Potiphar. What struggle is implied here?

Yaakov finally puts the matter to rest when he says, "I know my son, I know", going on to explain the rationale for his 'slight' of hand, and only then confers that remarkable blessing that all future generations will be

The Midrash explains this double emphasis of Yaakov's awareness as an allusion to two episodes. The incident of Reuvein's moving Bilhah's bed out of his tent, as well as the strange interaction of Yehuda and Tamar. Yaakov asserted, "If things that were unknown to you were known to me, certainly what is known to you, i.e., the identity of Efrayim and Menashe most certainly known to me!"

How are those two events relevant to the story at hand?

One of the Tosafists, Rav Yitzchak HaLevi, avers that the distress Yosef sensed had nothing to do with his differing opinion over who deserved the blessing. When Yosef approached Yaakov with his children, normally he would have positioned his firstborn to his right with Efrayim to his left, in accordance with halachic tradition that the most prominent person is centered with the second in stature to his right. Knowing, though, that they would be receiving a blessing from Yaakov, he placed Menashe to his left so that he, the firstborn, would be conveniently situated directly opposite Yaakov's right hand, ready to accept the primary blessing. When Yaakov directed his right hand and placed it upon the head of the child to Yosef's right, Yosef figured that his father took him for a fool and did not consider Yosef to be clever enough to appropriately position Menashe in front of Yaakov's right hand. From Yosef's perception, Yaakov was indeed intending to bless Menashe, who, Yosef thought, in Yaakov's mind was

to Yosef's right and his own left.

This would mitigate the apparent 'chutzpah' of Yosef manipulating his father's hand, as he was not defying him in any way but directing Yaakov to what Yosef thought was his actual intent.

In Yaakov's resistance lay perhaps the most important message of all. Never project your thinking on to anyone else. We often are frustrated because we expect everyone to perceive things precisely as we do, and act accordingly to our thinking.

Very often what motivates such thinking is a desire to promote our personal interests, deluding ourselves into thinking that we determine outcomes.

Might that be the deeper message behind Yaakov's reminder to Yosef that he defeated the forces of Esav who foolishly believe in self-determination, never contemplating possibilities beyond one's own ken.

The Zohar teaches that it is the alignment of Yaakov's refusal to budge on what he knew to be the absolute truth, which echoed Yosef's rebuttal of Potiphar's wife's enticements, which is the reason Yosef, and his children were deserving of this remarkable blessing. Just as Yosef fathomed an absolute and uncompromising truth in resisting sin, so now he learned to accept there is a truth one must commit to even when it is contrary to one's limited perceptions.

The tales of Reuvein and Yehuda are both evidence of seeming tragedies that played a vital role in the history of our nation. The subsequent transferring of the 'firstborn' status to Yosef was born from Reuvein's losing that right due to his actions. From the union of Yehuda and Tamar the Moshiach will descend. Yaakov was training Yosef to reflect before coming to conclusions and to realize what may appear unjust is part of the master plan for everyone to find his unique purpose and goal.

Yosef 'gets it' immediately, and his children quietly and humbly, absorb this profound secret for success in life. If we can master this, our relationships with each other and most certainly with G-d will be inspired by a pursuit of a genuine truth.

Might that be the objective of this pithy blessing, that our children should never get frustrated, accepting the roles carved out for them in life by providence, not always by choice?

Is there a greater lesson for life than this?

באהבה, צבי יהודה טייכמאן

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