

GENESIS RABBAH— CHAPTER 65:22

בראשית רבה (וילנא) פרשה סה:כב

AND HE RECOGNISED HIM NOT, BECAUSE HIS HANDS, etc. (Genesis 27:23): when wicked men sprung from him, he recognised him not. AND HIS FATHER ISAAC SAID UNTO HIM: COME NEAR NOW, AND KISS ME, MY SON (ib. 26). He said to him: 'Thou wilt kiss me at burial, and none other.' AND HE CAME NEAR, AND KISSED HIM. AND HE SMELLED THE SMELL OF HIS RAIMENT. AND BLESSED HIM (ib. 27). R. Johanan said: Nothing has a more offensive smell than skins stripped from goats, yet you say, AND HE SMELLED THE SMELL OF HIS RAIMENT, AND BLESSED HIM! The fact, however, is that when Jacob went in to his father the Garden of Eden entered with him; and it was to this that he alluded in the words, SEE, THE SMELL OF MY SON IS AS THE SMELL OF THE FIELD WHICH THE LORD HATH BLESSED (ib.); (but when Esau went in to his father, the Gehenna went in with him; thus it is written, "When the arrogant cometh, then cometh shame (Prov. 11:2)."

ולא הפירו (בראשית כז, כג), בְּשַׁעַה שָׁהִיו רָשָׁעִים עוֹמְדִים מִמֶּנּוּ לֹא הִפִּירוּ. (בראשית כז, כו): וַיֹּאמֶר גֹּשֶׁה נָא וְשָׁקָה לִי, אָמַר לוֹ אֶת נוֹשָׁקְנִי בְקִבּוּרָה וְאִין אַחַר נוֹשָׁקְנִי בְקִבּוּרָה. (בראשית כז, כז): וַיִּגַּשׁ וַיִּשָּׁק לוֹ וַיֵּרַח אֶת רֵיחַ בְּגָדָיו, אָמַר רַבִּי יוֹחָנָן אִין לָךְ דְּבַר שְׁרִיחוֹ קִשְׁיָה מִן הַשְּׁטָף הַזֶּה שֶׁל עֲדִים וְאֶת אִמְרַת וַיֵּרַח אֶת רֵיחַ בְּגָדָיו וַיְבָרְכֵהוּ, אֲלֵא בְּשַׁעַה שֶׁנִּכְנַס אֲבִינוּ יַעֲקֹב אֶצֶל אָבִיו נִכְנְסָה עִמּוֹ גַּן עֵדֶן, הַדָּא הוּא דְאָמַר לֵיהּ (בראשית כז, כז): רָאָה רֵיחַ בְּנֵי כְרִיחַ שָׂדֵה, וּבְשַׁעַה שֶׁנִּכְנַס עִשׂוֹ אֶצֶל אָבִיו נִכְנְסָה עִמּוֹ גֵּיהֶנּוּם, הֵיאֵךְ מָה דְאֵת אָמַר (משלי יא, ב): בָּא זָדוֹן וַיֵּבֵא קִלּוֹן.

Another interpretation of AND HE SMELLED THE SMELL OF HIS RAIMENT (BEGADAW), etc., is that it refers to such as Joseph Meshitha and Jakum of Zeroroth.

דְּבַר אַחַר, וַיֵּרַח אֶת רֵיחַ בְּגָדָיו וַיְבָרְכֵהוּ, כְּגוֹן יוֹסֵף מְשִׁיתָא וַיִּקּוּם אִישׁ צְרוּרוֹת.

Joseph Meshitha: When the enemies desired to enter the Temple mount, they said: 'Let one of them [the Jews] enter first.' Said they to him [Joseph]: 'Enter, and whatever you bring out is yours.' So he went in and brought out a golden lamp. Said they to him: 'It is not fitting for a common person to use this, but go in again and what you bring out will be yours'; he, however, refused. R. Phinehas said: They offered him three years' taxes, yet he still refused. 'Is it not enough that I have angered my God once,' he exclaimed, 'that I should anger Him again!' What did they do to him? They put him into a carpenter's vice and sawed him in sunder, while he cried out, 'Woe, woe that I angered my Creator!'

יוֹסֵף מְשִׁיתָא, בְּשַׁעַה שֶׁבִּקְשׁוּ שׁוֹנְאִים לְהִכְנֹס לְהַר הַבַּיִת אָמְרוּ יִכְנֹס מֵהֶם וּבָהֶם תִּחְלָה, אָמְרוּ לֵיהּ עוֹל וּמָה דְאֵת מְפִיק דִּידְךָ, נִכְנַס וְהוֹצִיא מְנוֹרָה שֶׁל זָהָב, אָמְרוּ לוֹ אִין דְרָכּוּ שֶׁל הַדְּיוּט לְהַשְׁתַּמֵּשׁ בָּזוֹ, אֲלֵא עוֹל זְמַן תִּנְיָנוֹת וּמָה דְאֵת מְפִיק דִּידְךָ, וְלֹא קִבַּל עָלָיו. אָמַר רַבִּי פִּינְחָס נָתַנוּ לוֹ מְכֹס שְׁלֹשׁ שָׁנִים, וְלֹא קִבַּל עָלָיו, אָמַר לֹא דִּיִּי שֶׁהִכְעַסְתִּי לְאֵלֵהִי פַעַם אַחַת אֲלֵא שְׂאֲכַעִיסְנוּ פַעַם שְׁנֵיִה. מָה עִשׂוֹ לוֹ נָתַנוּ אוֹתוֹ בְּחַמּוֹר שֶׁל חֲרָשִׁים וְהָיוּ מְנַסְרִים בּוֹ, הֵיךְ מְצִיחַ וְאוֹמֵר וַיִּי אוֹי אוֹי שֶׁהִכְעַסְתִּי לְבוֹרְאִי.

And Jakum of Zeroroth was the nephew of R. Jose b. Jo'ezer of Zeredah. Riding on a horse he went before the beam on which he [R. Jose] was to be hanged, and taunted him: 'See the horse on which my master has let me ride, and the horse upon which your Master has made you ride.' 'If it is so with those who anger Him, how much more with those who do His will,' he replied. 'Has then any man done His will more than thou?' he jeered. 'If it is thus with those who do His will, how much more with those who anger Him,' he retorted. This pierced him like the poison of a snake, and he went and subjected himself to the four modes of execution inflicted by the Beth Din: stoning, burning, decapitation, and strangulation. What did he do? He took a post and planted it in the earth, raised a wall of stones around it and tied a cord to it. He made a fire in front of it and fixed a sword in the middle [of the post]. He hanged himself on the post, the cord was burnt through and he was strangled. The sword caught him, while the wall [of stones] fell upon him and he was burnt. Jose b. Jo'ezer of Zeredah fell into a doze and saw his [Jakum's] bier flying in the air. 'By a little while he has preceded me into the Garden of Eden,' said he.

וַיְקוּם אִישׁ צְרוֹרוֹת הָיָה בֶן אַחוֹתוֹ שֶׁל רַבִּי יוֹסִי בֶן יוֹעֶזֶר אִישׁ צְרִידָה, וְהוּא רָכַיב סוּסָיָא בְּשִׁבְתָּא אֲזַל קוּמֵי שְׁרִיתָא לְמַצְטַבְלָא, אָמַר לִיהּ חַמֵּי סוּסֵי דְאַרְכָּבֵי מְרֵי וְחַמֵּי סוּסָךְ דְאַרְכָּבְךָ מְרָךְ. אָמַר לוֹ אִם כֹּף לְמַכְעִיסִי קַל וְחֹמֶר לְעוֹשֵׁי רְצוֹנוֹ, אָמַר לוֹ עֲשֵׂה אָדָם רְצוֹנוֹ יוֹתֵר מִמֶּךָ, אָמַר לוֹ וְאִם כֹּף לְעוֹשֵׁי רְצוֹנוֹ קַל וְחֹמֶר לְמַכְעִיסִי. נִכְנַס בּוֹ הַדְּבַר כְּאָרֶס שֶׁל עֵכָנָא, הֵלֵךְ וְקָיִים בְּעֵצְמוֹ אַרְבַּע מֵיתוֹת בֵּית דִּין, סָקִילָהּ, שְׁרָפָהּ, הִרְגָהּ וְחִנְקָהּ, מָה עָשָׂה, הֵבִיא קוֹרָה נְעֻצָה בְּאַרְץ וְקָשֶׁר בָּהּ נִימָא וְעַרְבָה הַעֲצִים וְהִקִּיפֵן גְּדַר שֶׁל אֲבָנִים, וְעָשָׂה מְדוּרָה לְפָנֶיהָ וְנָעַץ אֶת הַחֶרֶב בְּאֲמָצַע וְהִצִּיתָ הָאוּר תַּחַת הַעֲצִים מִתַּחַת הָאֲבָנִים, וְנִתְלָה בְּקוֹרָה וְנִחְנְקָהּ, קִדְמַתּוֹ הָאֵשׁ, נִפְסְקָה הַנִּימָה, נָפַל לָאֵשׁ, קִדְמַתּוֹ חֶרֶב וְנָפַל עָלָיו גְּדַר וְנִשְׂרַף. נִתְנַמְנֵם יוֹסִי בֶן יוֹעֶזֶר אִישׁ צְרִידָה וְרָאָה מִסְתּוֹ פְּרָחָה בְּאוּר, אָמַר בְּשִׁעָה קָלָה קִדְמֵי זָה לְגַן עֵדֵן.