

A Sojourn In The World of Kabbalah and Zohar

Dec 13

Selections From Parashat Va -Yeshev

Jacob, Joseph and His Brothers - The Zoharic Interpretation

Genesis 37: 1 - 2 Now Jacob had settled in the land where his father had resided, the land of Canaan. These are the generations of Jacob. At seventeen years of age Joseph tended the flocks with his brothers, as a helper to the sons of his father's wives, Bilhah and Zilpah. And Joseph brought bad reports of them to their father.

P. 92 n. 48 After Jacob settled sun coupling with moon.

P. 92 n. 49 Joseph that flowing gushing river

Reference to Daniel 7:10

Thrones were set in place, and the Ancient of Days (Atik Hayamim) took His seat. His garment was white as snow and the hair of His head was like lamb's wool. His throne was tongues of flame; its wheels were blazing fire streamed before him....

Mopsik: Charles Mopsik 1956 - 2003

P. 92 n. 50 that rung called righteous one. Joseph - Yosef Hatzadik

Reference to BT Hagigah 12b

The Sages say in regard to the pillars. The earth stands upon 12 pillars, as it says, He set the borders of the nations according to the number of the children of Israel. (Deuteronomy 32:8)Rabbi Eliezer ben Shamua says, one one pillar and its name is righteous person. As it says, Vtzadik Yesod Olam righteous person is the foundation of the world. (Proverbs 10:25)

Joseph as righteous one.

Genesis 39:7

After a time, his master's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph and said, lie with me. But he refused....

Reference to BT Yoma 35b

They ask the wicked person, why did you not engage in Torah study. If he answers, I was handsome and entangled with my evil inclination, they reply, were you any more handsome than Joseph? Each day, Potiphar's wife would attempt to seduce him with words. Clothes she wore in the morning she would not wear in the evening. Clothes she wore in the evening, she would not wear in the morning. Surrender yourself to me, she said, he refused.....

See also James Kugel - In Potiphar's House

Pp. 92 -3 n. 55 hinted to him: Joseph was seventeen years old

Reference to Genesis 47:28

Jacob lived seventeen years in the land of Egypt so that the span of Jacob's life came to one hundred and forty seven years.

Reference to Zohar I: 216b

Why seventeen years? All of Jacob's days for seventeen years, were filled with suffering, not only at the loss of Joseph for whom he grieved daily, but also before then, the enmity of Esau, laboring for Laban, and the rape of Dinah. When at last he beheld Joseph, it was as if he had never undergone suffering.

The meaning of true life. Reference to Zohar 1: 123a. The life of Sarah. The peculiar description of the length of her life in Genesis 23:1

And Sarah lived 100 years and 20 years and 7 years.

Sarah's life was supernal. Her entire 127 years were permeated with the divine each number of years alluding to the Sefirotic realm. The first 100 to Keter comprising 10 aspects of each of the 10 Sefirot, 20 to Hokhmah and Binah and 7 to the lower Sefirot from Hesed through Shekhinah.

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P. 113 Come and see for the love Jacob felt for Joseph....

n. 185 Because of the love...

N. 177 Israel loved Joseph more than all his sons for he was the child of his old age and he made him an ornamental tunic. Genesis 37:3

Shir Hashirim Rabbah on 8:6

For love is strong as death. The love which Jacob bore Joseph. Jealousy as cruel as the grave. The jealousy which his brothers bore against him.

See also: Love is strong as death. The love which Isaac bore Esau. Jealousy as cruel as the grave. The jealousy which Esau bore Jacob.

Love is strong as death. The love the Eternal bore for the people of Israel. Jealousy as cruel as the grave. When they provoke Him with their idolatry.

P. 113 n. 186 caused him to be exiled from his father

Reference to n. 154

BT Megillah 29a

Come and see how beloved are Israel in the sight of the Blessed Holy One. Wherever they went into exile, the Shekhinah accompanied them. When they were exiled to Egypt, Shekhinah was with them. When they were exiled to Babylon, Shekhinah was with them. And even when they are destined to be redeemed, Shekhinah Shekhinah will be with them.

P. 113 n. 187 a decree was issued

Genesis 15: 13 - 15

And He said to Abram: Know well that your offspring shall be strangers in a land not theirs and they shall be enslaved and oppressed four hundred years; but I will pass judgment on the nation they shall serve and in the end they shall go forth with great wealth.

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Genesis: 37:5 Joseph dreamed a dream which he told his brothers and they hated him even more.

Reference to Numbers 12:6

The Lord came down in a pillar of cloud and called out, Aaron and Miriam. The two of them came forward and He said, hear these My words. When the Lord speaks through one of you, I make myself known to him in a vision. I speak with him in a dream. Not so with My servant Moses; he is trusted throughout My household. With him I speak mouth to mouth, plainly and not in riddles. He beholds the likeness of the Lord.....

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Joseph dreamed a dream and told it to his brothers and they hated him even more. Genesis 37:5

P. 116 n. 206 a person should tell his dream only to one who loves him.

Reference to Zohar 1: 200a

A person's friends are essential for the favorable fulfillment of a favorable interpretation. Therefore the Blessed Holy One informs a person according to his rung, according to his aspect. Human will and

thought correspond to the primal Sefirot of Keter and Hokhmah, Divine will and thought, while human speech correspond to the culminating Sefirah, Shekhinah who expresses will and thought and who is known as the Divine word. By willing, thinking and speaking favorably a person's friends imitate and stimulate the sefirotic potencies (mystery of faith) and ensure a positive meaning and fulfillment of the dream. God sends dreams to initiate this process.

Come and see, when a person is asleep in bed, his soul leaves and roams the world above, entering the place that she enters. (the celestial site befitting one's character and behavior) Numerous bands of dazzling demons traverse the world and they accost that soul limiting her ascent. If she is virtuous she ascends, if not, she is limited. Therefore a person who is not virtuous is shown a good dream that is not true all in order to lead him astray from the path of truth.

Why Joseph was not included among the 12 tribes. Joseph symbolizes Yesod, the divine phallus. He is the culmination of the "world of the male" which includes all the Sefirot from Binah to Yesod. The twelve tribes belong to a different realm, that of Shekhinah, world of the female.

P. 117 n. 208 delaying it for 22 years

Reference to BT Berakhot 55b

R. Levi said: a person may reasonably hope for the realization of a positive dream for as long as 22 years. From where do we know this, from the story of Joseph. For the time when Joseph initially dreamt both dreams, it is written, this is the line of Jacob, Joseph at the age of 17. (Genesis 37:2) We see that Joseph was 17 when he dreamt the two dreams about the sheaves and his brothers and parents bowing down to him. And it is further written that he was 30 years of age when he stood before Pharaoh. (Genesis 41:46) From 17 to 30 there are 13 years. We must now add to this the 7 years of plenty and the two years of famine for it was not until this total of 9 years that Jacob, Joseph's father came to Egypt and bowed to him. Therefore, a total of 22 years elapsed before Joseph's dreams came to pass.