

## Nosh & Learn with Mindy, Parshat Behar-Bechukotai, TBH-BE, 5/14/2020

*La'asok b'divrei Torah*

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ  
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ לְעֲסוֹק בְּדִבְרֵי תוֹרָה.

Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam, asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu laasok b'divrei Torah.

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all, who hallows us with mitzvot, commanding us to engage with words of Torah.

The nature of Malchut of Hod/Nobility of Humility:  
can we learn how humility and modesty enhance human dignity?

### **BEHAR and RUTH (Boaz's act of humility)**

Megillat Ruth, 4:3

He said to the redeemer, "Naomi, now returned from the country of Moab, must sell the piece of land which belonged to our kinsman Elimelech.

Midrash Tanchuma Buber, 1885, R. Salomon Buber 8:3

([Lev. 25:25](#);) < WHEN YOUR RELATIVE BECOMES POOR AND SELLS SOME OF HIS PROPERTY, > THEN HIS REDEEMER SHALL COME, < THE ONE MOST CLOSELY RELATED TO HIM, AND REDEEM... > Who was this? Boaz. When? When Naomi sold the field, as stated (in [Ruth 4:3](#)): NAOMI IS SELLING THE PARCEL OF LAND WHICH BELONGED TO OUR KINSMAN ELIMELECH. Ergo (in [Lev. 25:25](#)): AND SELLS SOME OF HIS PROPERTY.

R. Simeon ben Johay said: Elimelech, Salmon, So-and-So,<sup>26</sup>*Peloni Almoni*. According to [Ruth 4:1](#), this was the "name" of Ruth's most closely related redeemer. and Naomi's father were all descendants of Nahshon ben Amminadab.<sup>27</sup>*BB 91a*. See [Ruth 4:20–21](#); also [Exod. 6:23](#), according to which Nahshon ben Amminadab was Aaron's brother-in-law. Elimelech, Mahlon, and Chilion were leaders of the generation. So for what reason were they punished? Because they went abroad from the land of Israel.

Thus it is stated (in [Ruth 1:19](#)): < WHEN THEY CAME TO BETHLEHEM, > THE WHOLE CITY WAS EXCITED OVER THEM, AND THE WOMEN SAID: IS THIS NAOMI? What is the meaning of IS THIS NAOMI? You saw Naomi when she went abroad from the land of Israel. What has happened to her? ([Lev. 25:25](#);) THEN HIS REDEEMER (*go'el*) SHALL COME, < THE ONE MOST CLOSELY RELATED (*karov*) >. This is Boaz, since it is stated (in [Ruth 2:20](#)): THE MAN IS OUR RELATIVE (*karov*), HE IS ONE OF OUR REDEEMING KIN (*go'el*).

## BECHUKOTAI and COVID-19

### Leviticus 26: 27-28

וְאִם-בְּזָאת לֹא תִשְׁמָעוּ לִי וְהִלַּכְתֶּם עִמִּי בְקָרִי:  
וְהִלַּכְתִּי עִמָּכֶם בְּחִמְת־קָרִי וְיִסְרַתִּי אֶתְכֶם אֶף-אֲנִי שִׁבַּע עַל-חַטָּאתֵיכֶם:

But if, despite this, you disobey Me and remain hostile to Me, I will act against you in wrathful hostility; I, for My part, will discipline you sevenfold for your sins.

*Alternative for בְּחִמְת־קָרִי : act casually*

### Isaiah 1:16-17

רְחֹצוּ הַזִּבְּוֹת הַסִּירִי רַע מֵעַלְלֵיכֶם מִנְּגִד עֵינֵי חֲדָלוּ הָרַע: לִמְדוּ הַיָּטֵב דַּרְשׁוּ מִשְׁפָּט אֲשֶׁר־  
חָמְוֹץ שִׁפְטוּ יְתוֹם רִיבוֹ אֶלְמָנָה:

Wash you, make you clean, Put away the evil of your doings from before Mine eyes, Cease to do evil; Learn to do well; Seek justice, relieve the oppressed, Judge the fatherless, plead for the widow.

Healing through Tahanun, and also Gemillat Chesed

שׁוֹמֵר יִשְׂרָאֵל. שְׁמֹר שְׂאֵרֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל. וְאֵל יֹאבֵד יִשְׂרָאֵל. הָאוֹמְרִים שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל

Shomer shomer Yisrael, shamor sheirit Yisrael.

V'al Yovad, V'al Yovad Yisrael.

Ha'omrim, ha'omrim, haomrim Shma Yisrael.