



KINDER TORAH

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©

SHEVII SHEL PESACH

Dedicated in Loving Memory of our sister Irene Galinsky o'h on her first Yahrzeit ♦ By Shirley Domb and Judy Chaitowitz

OUR PROTECTOR

“**L**ook at that Mitzri; he sank straight to the bottom of the Yam Suf like a piece of lead. He drowned instantly.”
 “I recognize him. He was my taskmaster, and he treated me fairly decently. That other one is not having it so easy. He is going down slower, like a stone.”
 “He was not so good to the Jews, but there were worse ones than him. Look at that one over there.”
 “He is going up and down over and over again like a piece of straw. He is choking, gagging, and struggling, not drowning so fast. He was very cruel to the slaves. Look at how Hashem is punishing him.”*

Kinderlach . . .

The verse states: “Hashem will make war for you, and you will remain silent” (Shemos 14:14). The Mechilta comments that Hashem’s fighting was not limited to that one time. Rather, throughout history, He has waged war against our enemies. The Meshech Chochma explains that Hashem was forced (so to speak) to fight here for two reasons. Firstly, the Jewish people did teshuva. Secondly, they had a claim against Him, ‘Why did You take us out of Mitzrayim to die here in the wilderness?’

Kinderlach, even if we do not have such a claim today, Hashem in His Infinite Kindness will continue to fight for us. In all our battles, large and small, we have the #1 Ally on our side. He is the Universe’s One and Only Superpower – The Almighty, King of Kings. Do His Will and He will fight for you, just like He did at Kriyas Yam Suf.

*(Based on Rashi – Shemos 15:5.)

SHIR HASHIRIM

“**T**he song of songs, which is Shlomo’s” (Shir HaShirim 1:1).

“What a beautiful song, Abba.”

“Shlomo HaMelech’s words have warmed Jewish hearts and souls for centuries, Chaim. Who is not moved by this emotional song between Hashem and His chosen nation, Israel.”

“Our Rebbe taught us that the entire shir is a parable describing Hashem’s great love for us. He left us with a question to discuss at home.”

“What is the question, Chaim?”

“Why do we read Shir HaShirim on the Shabbos of Pesach? Every one of the five megillos is read on a specific day of the year. The subject of the megilla is tied into the theme of the day. What is the connection between Shir HaShirim and Pesach?”

“That is an excellent question, Chaim. You have already answered half of it yourself. Shir HaShirim is all about love – Hashem’s love for Klal Yisrael. Therefore, it should be read at a time when The Almighty’s love and affection are most

apparent. That time is Pesach.”

“Abba, I always understood that Pesach is the time of our freedom, when we were taken out of the slavery of Mitzrayim. We also received the foundations of our *emunah* on Pesach. The great miracles of the *makkos* (plagues) and the Kriyas Yam Suf etched *emunah* into our hearts forever. How did Hashem demonstrate His love for us on Pesach?”

“You have already alluded to the answer, Chaim. The Nesivos Shalom (Volume 2, p. 244) compares the Shalosh Regalim to a marriage. The first step is the *eirusen* (engagement), when the *chossan* chooses the *kallah*. The next step is the *nissuin*, when the *chossan* and *kallah* are wed under the *chuppah*. The third step is when the *chossan* brings the *kallah* to his home and they begin to live their life together. Pesach is compared to the *eirusen*, Shavuot to the



nissuin, and Succot to bringing the *kallah* home. On Pesach, Hashem (the *chossan*) chose Klal Yisrael (the *kallah*) from amongst all of the nations to be His chosen people. He took us away from the Mitzrim to be His and His alone. The very beginning of a relationship is a time of intense love. Pesach, the beginning of our relationship with Hashem, is the appropriate time to read Shir HaShirim, the words which express these feelings.”

“I understand, Abba. It is so inspiring and comforting to know that the Creator of the Universe loves us more than any other people on the face of the earth.”

“It is not only inspiring, Chaim, it is also compelling. Hashem’s affection for us obligates us to love Him. Rav Eliyahu KiTov in his Sefer HaTodaah (p. 414) relates that we see this from the words of the song itself. Shir HaShirim is a parable, which never mentions Hashem’s Name at all. We understand that He is the subject, but we do not see His Name written in

the words. So too it is with the world. Hashem is behind everything, keeping the entire universe running. However, we do not openly see Him. Our *avodah* is to see Hashem’s Hidden Hand everywhere. We will then come to appreciate Him. This will compel us to use all of our experiences in life to get closer to Him. Thus our whole life will become a song of increasing our love for Hashem; coming closer and closer to Him.”

“**T**hat is beautiful, Abba, but how is it related to Pesach?”

“Yetzias Mitzrayim was a time when Hashem’s Hand was not hidden at all. He openly demonstrated to the world that He and He Alone was in charge of the forces of ‘nature’. What was the purpose of this display? To choose us. To take us to be His. To show His love for us. With such an open expression of love, how can we help but reciprocate? We **MUST** show our dearness for Him. Therefore, on Pesach, when Hashem openly revealed His love for us, we read Shir HaShirim, the song of His hidden devotion. This inspires us to appreciate every concealed act of kindness, and respond by coming closer to Him. This kindles in our hearts a burning love for Hashem.”

“May the fire burn brightly forever.”
 “Amen.”

Kinderlach . . .

The next time that you go to a chassanah, look into the eyes of the *chossan*. You will see a special sparkle in his eye. That shows his love for the *kallah*. Hashem loves us as a *chossan* loves a *kallah*. Although He usually hides His Presence to the world, He revealed Himself openly at Pesach time. This was the time when He took us to be His *kallah*, and demonstrated His love for us. He still loves us just as much, but now we have to work to recognize His hidden acts of kindness. Shir HaShirim inspires us to do that. See Hashem’s hidden hand everywhere, *kinderlach*. Feel His love, appreciate His kindness. Reciprocate by coming close to Him through Torah and mitzvos. Love Him with all of your heart. Make your life a song of love to Hashem.

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