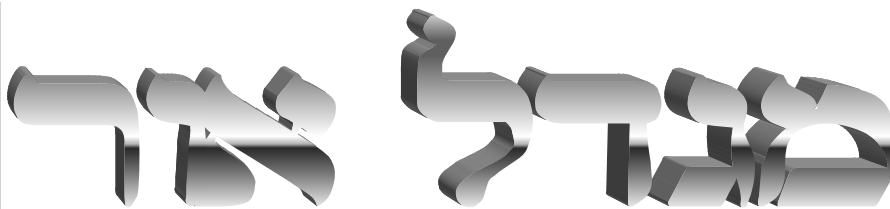


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A publication dedicated to Harbotzas Torah

Zmanim for שבת

Wesley Hills, NY

- 4:18 - הדלקת נרות
- 4:36 - שקיעה
- 8:37 - זק"ש מ"א
- 9:13 - זק"ש גר"א
- 10:02 - סוף זמן תפילה
- 4:36 - שקיעה
- 5:18 - צאת הכוכבים
- 5:48 - צאת 72

Times courtesy of MyZmanim.com

אוטען שבת!

Did You Know?

When Yaakov asked the shepherds if they knew Lavan, they replied simply, "We know him." Only after he asked if all was well with Lavan did they answer that it was, and point out his daughter Rachel coming with the sheep.

While the shepherds likely didn't know Hilchos Lashon Hara, we can learn from their behavior.

Avak Lashon Hara is a statement that is not in and of itself lashon hara, but leads others to speak lashon hara. Even praising a person in front of someone who doesn't like him or her is avak lashon hara in that it tempts the rival to disagree with the praise.

As Lavan likely had many enemies, they were wise not to say nice things about him until they knew whether Yaakov was a friend or foe.

Further, it is a violation of Rechilus to incite ill will by mentioning a sore subject or reminding someone of an old dispute, which could revive bad feelings. Therefore, one must be careful to avoid mentioning or praising someone in front of someone who dislikes them as this can awaken feelings of hostility.

Thoughts of the week:

You'll see it when you believe it.

None is more blind than he who refuses to see.

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"ויהי בבקר והנה הוא לאה ויאמר אל לבן מה זאת עשית לי הלא ברחל עבדתי עמך ולמה

"When it was morning, behold it was Leah!

רמיתני?" (בראית כט:ב)

[Yaakov] said to Lavan, "What have you done to me? Did I not work with you for Rachel? Why did you deceive me?"

Despite Yaakov's best efforts to ensure he married Rachel, Lavan managed to trick him and give him Leah instead. Yaakov knew he could not trust Lavan, which is why he made special signs with Rachel (Challa, Nidda, and Hadlokas Neiros.) If that's so, why was he so shocked that Lavan did, in fact, trick him? He expected it!

The Ohr HaChaim says that the word "hee" is spelled with a 'vov' to hint to the Chazal which says that throughout the night, the people were singing, "Leah hee, She is Leah." However, it was not until the morning that he realized that their song was not just the ululation that many of us have witnessed at Sefardic weddings, but rather a message which he understood too late. The Ohr HaChaim also mentions that Yaakov was angry and asked, "What have you done to me?" That could not have been referring to switching brides, as the posuk ends with his saying "why did you deceive me?" It must be that something else bothered Yaakov.

Perhaps, Yaakov was shocked by his own behavior, and how it allowed Lavan to fool him. Yaakov knew that Lavan would try everything in his power to give him Leah instead. Why then did he not recognize the words when they were singing, "She is Leah, She is Leah?"

It may be because he was so focused on starting his life with Rachel and bearing the twelve tribes that he saw what he wanted to see and heard what he wanted to hear. He never imagined that Leah would bear fully half of his twelve sons, for he expected them to come from Rachel. Therefore, when the people sang and told him it was Leah, he didn't recognize it for what it was.

He so much wanted to believe that it was Rachel that he let his guard down and Lavan was able to fool him. He found himself suddenly impatient to start his family, and so he asked Lavan, "What did you do to me that I lost focus, and so you were able to deceive me?!"

Many of us go through life with self-made blinders on, trying to see things as we want them to be instead of how they are. We can't fathom that HaKadosh Boruch Hu may have other plans for us, as he did for Yaakov and Leah.

If we keep ourselves open to all possibilities and realize that we may not know what's best for us, we can hopefully hear the warning messages when they come and see things as they really are. If not, we are simply fooling ourselves.

Every day for many years a man would ride his bicycle across the border with a large bundle tied to the back. Every day, the customs official stopped him and examined the bundle for contraband but found nothing but odds and ends.

Even though he knew the fellow on the bike was up to no good, he could never catch him. Finally, the bicyclist told the officer that this was his last day of making this journey and he wanted to say goodbye.

"For years," said the officer, "I kept looking through your bags but never found any contraband. Please tell me, I simply must know what you were smuggling."

"Silly man," replied the biker, safely across the border, "you missed the point entirely! I was smuggling bicycles."