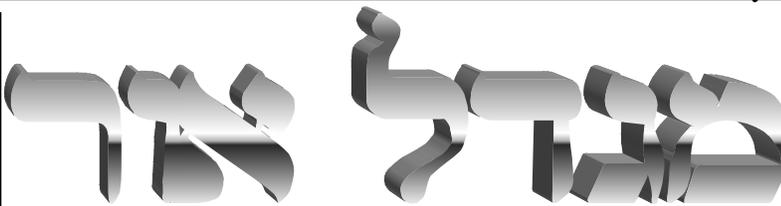


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This issue sponsored
I'llui nishmas
Mr. Edwin Pasternak ob"m.
נפטר ו' כסלו תשע"ד
He was a quiet man who found joy
in giving to others.

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A publication dedicated to Harbotzas Torah

Zmanim for **צבת**

Wesley Hills, NY

4:25 -	הדלקת נרות
4:43 -	שקיעה
8:26 -	זק"ש מ"א
9:08 -	זק"ש גר"א
9:58 -	סוף זמן תפילה
4:43 -	שקיעה
5:26* -	צאת הכוכבים
5:55 -	צאת 72

* Based on Emergence of 3 Stars

Times Courtesy of MyZmanim.com

Did You Know?

After Yaakov's vision of the ladder reaching the sky, and HaShem's declaration that He would protect him, Yaakov made a pledge.

"If G-d will be with me, and protect me on my journey; giving me bread to eat and clothing to wear; and I shall return in peace to my father's home, then the L-rd shall be my G-d, and this shall be a holy site, and I will title for You from all I receive from You."

HaShem did, indeed, protect him and bring him back to his father's home many years later. However, it was not exactly the same home.

While Yaakov was away, his mother, Rivka, died. The home he returned to was only his "father's home," but not his "parents' home."

Perhaps, Yaakov's choice of words was prophetic. Perhaps also, though, had he asked to return to his parents' home, history might have been different.

Nothing in life is a given, an automatic guarantee, other than a person's basic sustenance to make it through the day.

When it comes to prayer, we should never take anything for granted and perhaps this is a prime example of that.

Next time you speak to G-d, don't forget to mention whatever you need, even if you think it goes without saying.

It doesn't.

Thoughts of the week:

It's not stress that kills us; it is our reaction to it. ~~~

Better to be a man of action, than one of reaction.

”...וילך שם כי בא השמש ויקח מאבני המקום וישם מראשתיו...” (בראשית כתיב)

“And he lied down there for the sun had set, and he took from the stones of the place and set them around his head...” (Gen. 28:11)

While journeying to Charan to find a wife, Yaakov encountered a strange phenomenon. Though it was not the time for the sun to set, set it did, and it became dark. Unable to enter a city, he made the best of the situation and prepared to sleep where he was.

With no supplies for sleeping, as this was an unexpected stop, he looked around and saw stones on the ground. He took twelve of them and arranged them around his head as protection from the animals. As the Midrash tells us, they ended up fusing into a single stone which Yaakov erected as a monument to HaShem.

His ensuing dream is recounted in much detail, but there is a lesson to be learned from Yaakov's behavior prior to the dream. Faced with a freak occurrence, the sun setting at midday, he recognized that he was destined to remain where he was, at the site of the future Bais HaMikdash. He therefore set about preparing to sleep there.

With no other means of protection, he took the resources at hand, the stones of the place, and made do with them. What we see here is a fantastic ability to cope with and calmly react to unsettling situations.

In fact, throughout this parsha we see that same resilience. When he arrived at Lavan's house penniless, he suggested that he would work for Lavan in lieu of bringing a dowry. When Lavan changed the agreement of his payment, Yaakov used various colored rods to induce the production of the desired color animal. From where did Yaakov get this great strength?

When the Torah tells us that the Jews did not listen to Moshe, “From shortness of breath and hard work,” the Ohr HaChaim says, “perhaps it was because they were not B'nai Torah that they were unable to listen, for Torah broadens the heart of a person.” In other words, had the Jews been inculcated with Torah and immersed in the faith it teaches, they would have been able to withstand their suffering and realize it was for a purpose.

Yaakov had just come from fourteen years in the Yeshiva of Shem. While there, he learned the “Torah of Exile,” the way of living with HaShem even in dark circumstances and uncomfortable, alien surroundings. He had learned to accept the unexpected with equanimity and react calmly. He understood that at any moment you are where HaShem wants you to be and you should do what needs to be done at that moment.

This is the lesson Yaakov taught Yosef, which was somehow lost by Yosef's descendants in Egypt. If we can learn this lesson, and take it to heart, we will be the spiritual heirs of Yaakov, able to handle whatever life throws at us and do the right thing, no matter the situation.

Johnny was a good boy. Nevertheless, he occasionally got into trouble for poor choices. It was on one such occasion that he had to call his father with the unsettling news that he had been thrown out of Yeshiva. Terrified of the tongue-lashing he expected he would get, but needing to resolve the issue, Johnny picked up the phone.*

When he told his father what he had done, his father calmly replied that Johnny should make arrangements to stay somewhere off campus, and that he would be in touch with the Rosh Yeshiva to get his son allowed back into school.

Johnny was stunned. “Aren't you upset at me?” he queried. “There is time later to discuss what you did,” his father replied. “Right now the important thing is to get you back into Yeshiva.”

Johnny never forgot how his father's main concern was not showing displeasure to his son, but doing what was necessary at the moment, something he tried to emulate in his own life.

*Name has been changed