

Kinder Torah

בס"ד

Parashas Acharei Mos

Az Yashir

מוקדש לע"נ רבקה בת אברהם ישראל ע"ה

“Abba, we are about to sing Shiras HaYom - the first Shira ever sung in history!”

“It is a great privilege for us to utter these holy words, Avi. They are the Divinely inspired outpouring of the emotions generated by the experience of the miracles of the splitting of the Yom Suf. Rav Shimshon Refael Hirsch cites three words from the preliminary verses which crystallize the experience. ‘Vayosha’ (Hashem saved), ‘vayiru’, and ‘vayaminu’ [(the people) feared and trusted (Hashem)]. Fear of Hashem relates to His ‘middas ha’din’ (attribute of strict judgment). This was demonstrated by the annihilation of the world military superpower called Mitzrayim. Trust in Hashem, the way we relate to the ‘middas ha’rachamim’ (attribute of mercy), was evoked by the salvation of Klal Yisrael, a nation of slaves who had been tortured and abused for centuries. Hashem saved us, by freely wielding His infinite power and applying both of these middos at the same time.”

“This is so deep, Abba.”

“Indeed, Avi. Our relationship with our Father in Heaven can be as deep as we make it. We should take a lesson from the Kriyas Yom Suf and fear Hashem at all times. However, we can trust in His mercy that He is always taking care of us in the very best way possible. We can rely upon Him, because He is in supreme control of everything, and can accomplish whatever He wants at any time.”

“Awesome.”

“Yes, Avi. The Shira continues, ‘Hashem is my strength and song, and this was my salvation’ (Shemos 15:2). Rav Hirsch illu-

minates this verse with a brilliant insight. Why was I saved? Because Hashem was my strength and song. I ascribed no power to myself, for my body was weak. Rather, my spirit was strong and receptive. I accepted Hashem’s kindness and



performed His will. I proved that I was a fitting instrument to demonstrate His Divine Supervision, which shapes the lives of men and nations.”

“What a privilege; what an honor!”

“Yes, we had great merits, Avi. The verse continues by relating that we can still bring Hashem close to us. ‘This is my G-d, and I will be a dwelling place for Him.’ The Targum Unkelos, Rashi, and the Sforno explain that we built a dwelling place for the Shechina (Divine Presence) among us. Rav Hirsch broadens this con-

cept to say that each and every one of us can make ourselves into a G-dly Sanctuary - vessel that is fitting to house the Shechina.”

“I am ready, Abba. How do I do it?”

“Firstly, Avi, study this Shira and say it every day with kavannah (proper intent and concentration). Try to perceive the miracles, and evoke the emotions of fear and trust in the Almighty. Relive the Kriyas Yom Suf! Carry this humility and gratitude to Hashem into your daily life, thoughts, and deeds. You will gradually transform yourself into a holy vessel - fitting to bear the Divine Presence. Hashem will choose his humble servant Avi, and the glorious dwelling place for His Shechina!”

“What a Shira, Abba.”

“Let us sing it with all our hearts.”

Kinderlach . . .

Yetzias Mitzrayim is one of the six things that we must remember every day. It is the cornerstone in our service to the Almighty. Rav Yechezkel Levenstein zt”l went a step farther. He lived with Yetzias Mitzrayim. He contemplated it in his thoughts, and re-enacted it in his actions. Hashem gives us a wonderful gift each morning – the Shiras HaYom. Use it as an opportunity to relive Kriyas Yom Suf. Experience the fear of the impending doom at the hands of the Mitzri army. Feel the awesome might of the miracle of the sea splitting. Enjoy the pleasures of the walk through the path in the sea. Fear the strength of the Hand that destroys the Mitzrim. Exult in the joy of the salvation and the freedom from the “invincible” enemy. Accept Hashem’s rule in humble gratitude and re-affirm your resolve to do His will. Live with Kriyas Yom Suf and be inspired for life.

The New Haggadah from the author of “Kinder Torah.”



“אֲנַחְנוּ יוֹצְאִים מִמִּצְרַיִם”



120 pages with illustrations. Price: 20 ₪. Contact the author at 585-2216.

This Haggadah contains selected Midrashim portrayed as stories, as well as original stories. They are written in the same warm, insightful style as Kinder Torah. Reading this Haggadah at the Seder table will b’ezeras Hashem aid the participants in fulfillment of the mitzvah,

“חייב אדם לראות את עצמו כאילו הוא יצא ממצרים.”

Kinder Torah © Copyright 2011 ❖ All rights reserved to the author Simcha Groffman ❖ P.O.B. 5338, Jlm, 91052, Israel ❖ Tel: (02) 585-2216

Kinder Torah is distributed each week Bayit Vegan, Beit Shemesh, Beit Yisrael, Cleveland, Ejfrat, Geula, Haifa, Johannesburg, Kosel HaMaaravi, Machane Yehuda, Manchester, Mattersdorf, Milwaukee, Minchas Yitzchak, Moshav Mattisyahu, Neve Yaakov, North Miami Beach, Psagot, Telz Stone, Toronto, Zichron Yaakov and other cities.

Subscribe for yourself or sponsor your shul. Just 120₪ per year. All contributions are deductible from Maaser Kesafim. #653#