

Candle Lighting: 5:03

**Parshas B'shalach 5772**

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By: Rabbi Yaakov Deutscher

### Opposite Attractions

*“Egypt pursued and came after them ... into the midst of the sea... And Hashem churned Egypt into the sea... there remained not one of them.” (Shemos 14:23-29)*

*Chazal* refer to the miracle of *krias Yam Suf*, the splitting of the Sea of Reeds as being a difficult task for Hashem to perform. Why is this so? Also, the *gemarah* in *Sotah (11a)* explains why the Egyptians instructed the Jewish midwives to dispose of the Jewish babies by specifically casting them into the water (as opposed to other methods of killing). The Egyptians were well aware of Hashem's typical method of punishment: taking vengeance *midah k'neged midah*, measure for measure. Since Hashem pledged never to destroy the world with a *mabul*, flood, ever again, the Egyptians were confident that Hashem couldn't possibly take revenge by means of water. In essence, they attempted to 'outsmart' Hashem. How then could the Egyptians be so foolish as to not foresee the obvious: following the Jews into the sea would be an opportune time for Hashem to take the necessary steps to take revenge via the water?

The Ben Ish Chai cites a *Zohar (Vayeira 113b)* in an attempt to answer these questions. The *Zohar* explains that it is uncharacteristic of Hashem to perform a miracle that involves the two opposite traits of mercy and judgment. Generally, Hashem performs miracles with either absolute mercy or absolute judgment.

Ultimately, the Egyptians became privy to this information and figured that the miracle of *krias Yam Suf* was undoubtedly that of mercy. If so, it would go against the norm for Hashem to take vengeance on them by causing them to drown in the waters of the sea. Thus, the Egyptians planned wisely, for as long as the Jews were still in the sea there would be no reason to fear Hashem's wrath. This understanding gives clarity to

why *Chazal* refer to the splitting of the sea as 'difficult' for Hashem. In order to rescue *Klal Yisroel* Hashem opted to change the nature of His miracles and displayed acts of both mercy and judgment simultaneously. Furthermore, in the morning *tefilla* of *Ezras Avosainu* (which is said following *Shema*) we recite, "You split the Sea of Reeds for them; the wanton sinners You drowned; the dear ones You brought across; and the water covered their foes- not one of them was left." The prayer seems to be out of sequence. First *Klal Yisroel* crossed the Sea of Reeds and only *then* the Egyptians drowned. Why is the order reversed?

According to the aforementioned the question doesn't begin. The Egyptians only went into the Sea with the impression that Hashem wouldn't punish them by means of water as long as He was acting with mercy. To their dismay Hashem altered His usual 'miracle guidelines.' Thus, the drowning of the Egyptians was concurrent with *Klal Yisroel's* crossing of the Sea. The chronology of the prayer is therefore quite accurate. It also adds an additional insight regarding the magnitude of the miracles performed by Hashem for *Klal Yisroel*.

Perhaps now we can explain the *gemarah (Sotah 2a)* which states, "Pairing up a husband and wife is as hard for Hashem as the splitting of the Sea of Reeds." Hashem changed the nature of the world by simultaneously using two opposing attributes, those of mercy and judgment, by the splitting of the Sea. Similarly, when matching up a husband and wife Hashem purposely ensures that there will be opposite traits involved in the match. Because this is done to help build and strengthen the relationship between spouses Hashem make the difficult decision to shift from His normal governing of the world.

May we be *zoche* to appreciate the gift of marriage Hashem has given us and, like *Klal Yisroel*, recognize the need to sing praise for all that He has done.

## Kollel News

### 1. This Shabbos at the Kollel: Parshas Beshalach

#### Friday, February 3:

**8:25-8:50 a.m.:** Rabbi Prupas's *Chumash shiur*

**5:03 p.m.:** Candle Lighting

**5:21 p.m.:** *Shkiya*/Sunset

#### Shabbos, February 4:

**8:15 a.m.:** Shacharis

**Chaburas Chacham Lev**

**Hot Kiddush this week is sponsored by the Kollel in honor of the Boys of Chaburas Chacham Lev.**

**9:05/ 9:41 a.m.:** Latest Krias Shema

**4:43 p.m.:** Mincha

**Shalosh Seudos this week is sponsored by the Kollel in honor of Jeff Weisberg as he relocates to Miami, FL.**

**5:23 p.m.:** *Shkiya*/Sunset

**6:18 p.m.:** Maariv

**6:35 p.m.:** 72 Minutes

**7:30 p.m.:** Masmid Program Note New Time.

**This week's Masmid Program is sponsored by Rabbi and Mrs. Baruch and Miriam Lichtenstein and Ms. Sara Steger in memory of Morah Miriam's Mother: Mrs. Rosa Steger, a"h**

**לאה רוזא בת ר' מרדכי ע"ה**

**On Her Fourth Yartzeit.**

**8:00 p.m.:** Rabbi Reisman's Navi Shiur Note New Time.

**2. A Shabbos with Rabbi Tauber** On *Shabbos Parshas Mishpatim*, February 17th & 18th, the Kollel will be hosting international lecturer, **Rabbi Ezriel Tauber**, for a special Shabbos. Community members will have a chance to share the *seudos Shabbos* with Rabbi Tauber as well as hear him speak several times over Shabbos. **Shabbos hospitality available for out-of-town guests. To RSVP for the Shabbaton, and for more details, please visit the Shabbos with Rabbi Tauber web page.:** <http://www.phillykollel.org/shabbos-with-rabbi-tauber.html>.

**3. Chaburas Chacham Lev** There will be a Hot Kiddush this week sponsored by the Kollel in honor of the Boys of Chaburas Chacham Lev.

Boys ages 8-10 are welcome to join this special group each Shabbos morning after kiddush. The chaburah learns Sefer Hachinuch and is taught by several different Rabbeim.

**4. Shalosh Seudos this Shabbos** Shalosh Seudos this week is sponsored by the Kollel in honor of Jeff Weisberg as he relocates to Miami, FL. Please join us in wishing Jeff *mazel, bracha* and *hatzlacha* and his new community, employment and of course with his new *chavrusos* at the North Miami Beach Community Kollel.

**5. Womens Rosh Chodesh Shiurim now Available online** In an effort to continue to post past and current shiurim online, the Kollel Audio Shiurim Archives, which hosts well over 400 Shiurim, now has a page with many of the womens Rosh Chodesh Shiurim from the past several years available 24/7 for your listening pleasure. Included is this month's Rosh Chodesh Shevat Shiur. **Women's Rosh Chodesh Shiurim:** <http://www.phillykollel.org/womens-rosh-chodesh-shiur1.html>

**6. Visit the Kollel's Programs Web Page. Check out the newly revised Kollel's Programs Web Page:** <http://www.phillykollel.org/programs.html> Find out about upcoming events via e-mail!

To receive our weekly and/or special events e-mails, send an e-mail to [pc.kollel@verizon.net](mailto:pc.kollel@verizon.net) with your request.

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### **Community News**

**Bnos of Bala Cynwyd** will iy"H meet this Shabbos, Parshas Beshalach, February 4th, from 3:00pm - 4:00pm at LMS.

**Torah Youth will not meet this week.** Grades K-8<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to help sponsor a Shabbos or want more information contact Rabbi Ari Silver at 610-6686-6833 or [SilverDollar@verizon.net](mailto:SilverDollar@verizon.net)

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### **Mazel Tov!**

**Baruch and Ilana Avis** on the birth of a girl!

If you would like to receive Menucha Vesimcha by weekly email or to sponsor an issue of Menucha Vesimcha in someone's honor / memory, please contact the editor at: [menuchavesimcha@verizon.net](mailto:menuchavesimcha@verizon.net)

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**Good Shabbos!**