



Candle Lighting: 5:37

Lech Lecha 5772

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By: Rabbi Yaakov Deutscher

Bound for Beauty

“He (Avraham) said to his wife Sarai, ‘See now, I have known that you are a woman of beautiful appearance.’ (Bereishis 12:11)

Rashi cites an aggadic *Medrash (Tanchuma, 5)* to clarify the meaning of Avraham’s quizzical statement made to Sarah upon entering Egypt: “See now, I have known that you are a woman of beautiful appearance.” Is it possible that all this time Avraham never recognized his wife’s beauty? Amazingly, the *Medrash* tells us that as a result of the modesty of both Avraham and Sarah, Sarah’s exquisite attractiveness had gone unnoticed by Avraham. Only after Avraham crossed the border into Egypt did he begin to focus on his wife’s external beauty.

What significant occurrence happened to Avraham in Egypt that caused for him to be cognizant of his wife’s appearance?

The Nesivos (*Rabbi Yaakov of Lisa, z”l, 1760-1832*) in his *sefer Nachlas Yaakov* explains the following: Avraham strove to constantly improve his relationship with Hashem and reach lofty heights of holiness. He was therefore careful not to focus on any physical pleasures of this world. However, upon entering the spiritual wasteland of Egypt his level of holiness decreased, creating an immediate negative impact on him. Thus, he succumbed to the inclination of focusing on the physical beauty of Sarah.

Avraham’s ability to identify Sarah’s physical beauty confirmed that Egypt was a place of impurity and moral corruption. For this reason Avraham became concerned of what may occur when the Egyptians would see his wife Sarah. Surely the lowly and despicable Egyptians would kidnap her, have him killed, and force her to marry King Pharaoh.

Rav Shlomo Kluger (1783-1869), z”l, points out further, that a *tzaddik*, due to his close relationship with Hashem, has an innate ability to protect those that are close to him. Avraham knew that as long as his spiritual status remained elevated Sarah would be shielded from any harm. However, once Avraham became attentive to his wife’s beauty he feared that his descent in holiness would be grounds for him to relinquish the ability to help protect those close to him, allowing for Sarah to be kidnapped by the Egyptians.

An important lesson can be learned from this aspect of Avraham going down to Egypt, note’s Rav Avraham Shor, *shlita*. No matter how determined and unwavering one can be in his *avodas Hashem*, it is impossible not to be influenced by one’s surroundings. If our forefather Avraham, one of the holiest men ever to walk the face of the earth could be impacted by merely stepping foot in Egypt, then we must be even more careful to where our footsteps lead us. It is therefore essential that we refrain from entering places that aren’t up to par with the spiritual level we aspire to reach.

Additionally, we, like Avraham and Sarah, are in a precarious situation. On a regular basis we are forced to be in immoral and impure environments. The *galus*, exile over the last twenty centuries has put a tremendous spiritual strain on the world at large. What can we do? Rav Shor suggests we look to Avraham for the answer. Avraham wanted to make sure that Sarah would be saved from the evil Egyptians so he put her in a *teiva*, a box, a safe haven, just as Noach had built his *teiva* as a safe haven over three hundred before. We must follow suit and create boundaries for ourselves in which we can maintain a high level of spiritual holiness. The more time we spend in our safe havens— our homes, *shuls*, schools, and *Batei Midrashim*, the more we can limit the influences of the outside world. This will ultimately lead to the coming of *Mashiach* and the *geulah* in our days!

Question of the Week:

1) "I will bless those who bless you, and him who curses you I will curse; and all the families of the earth shall bless themselves by you" (12:3)

If the entire world will bless themselves by Avraham and his descendants, then who will be left to be the one's that will curse Avraham and his descendants?

2) How old was Sarah when she got married to Avraham?

Kollel News

1. This Shabbos at the Kollel: Parshas Lech Licha

Thursday, November 3:

8:15 p.m.: Rabbi Biberfeld's Gemarah Yoma Shiur

Please Note: No 9:00 p.m. Maariv throughout the winter

9:00 - 10:00 p.m.:

Rabbi Frand's Weekly Parsha Shiur

9:00-10:00 p.m.: Kollel Erev

10:00 p.m.: *Maariv*

Friday, November 4:

8:25-8:50 a.m.:

Rabbi Prupas's Chumash Shiur

5:37 p.m.: Candle Lighting

5:55 p.m.: *Shkiya/Sunset*

Shabbos, November 5:

8:15 a.m.: Shacharis

Chaburas Chacham Lev

9:33/ 10:09 a.m.: Latest Krias Shema

5:14 p.m.: Mincha

5:54 p.m.: *Shkiya/Sunset*

7:06 p.m.: 72 Minutes

7:30 p.m.: 1st Masmid Program of the Season!

2. New Time For Weekday Mincha: 1:00 pm. Beginning this Sunday, November 6th, the Mincha Minyan at the Kollel will be at 1:00 p.m. Sunday- Thursday.

3. Save the Date! The Kollel's Eleventh Annual Dinner "Uniting Through Torah" Will take place on January 8th, 2011 at Lower Merion Synagogue. Mark your calendar for a memorable evening.

4. The Kollel will be saying the selichos for Behab on Monday. (before Shacharis) The Kollel will be saying the selichos for *Behab* (Monday-Thursday-Monday) this coming Monday at 7:10 am. Shachris will be regular time at 7:30.

5. Masmid Program Returns For 5772 -You're invited to a new season of the Arthur and Gail Morgenstern Motzaei Shabbos Boys' Masmid Program 5772! The new season will begin THIS Motzaei Shabbos, November 5, 2011.

*Great Learning! - *Pizza! - *Prizes! - *Stories! - *Grand prize raffle to be drawn at the end of each session!

FIRST SESSION:

Nov. 5 (*Special Plus Program) 7:30-8:30 p.m. Nov. 12,19,26 Dec. 3,10,17,31 6:30-7:30 p.m.

(Please note: There will be no program on Dec. 24th)

SECOND SESSION:

Jan. 7,14,21,28 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Feb. 4,11,18,25 7:30-8:30 p.m.

6. Special First Masmid Program of the Year: The Kosher Cop

THIS Motzaei Shabbos, November 5, 2011

7:30 p.m.: Learning Begins in Beis Medrash

8:15 p.m.: Raffles and Pizza on the Lower Level

8:30 p.m.: Live Presentation: The Kosher Cop

7. Sunday Morning Learning Program Begins Anew THIS Sunday, November 6th. Get your week off to a great start by joining the Kollel's men's Sunday morning program. Shacharis is at 8:15, followed by a breakfast of bagels and eggs. After breakfast, there is an option of learning with a chavrusa, or joining one of three shiurim.

8. This Monday! 9th Annual Worldwide Event for the Yartzeit of Rachel Imeinu Attention women: Please join us for a video of inspiration in honor of Rachel Imeinu's yartzeit.

"Interlocking Hearts~ The Power of Our Connection"

THIS Monday, November 7, at 8:15 p.m. at the Kollel. Suggested donation: \$10. All proceeds go to the Torah Umesorah Aniyim Fund, supporting the poor of Eretz Yisroel.

9. New Tefillah Shiur will be on Tuesdays at 9:00 Come explore some of the background and deeper meaning of our daily connection with Hashem. This class will help you navigate your way through the siddur and become more familiar with it, instilling new meaning into your tefillah.

Presented by Rabbi Barzeli Goldfarb this new class will be held TUESDAY evening's at the Kollel, 9:00 pm, in the Conference Room downstairs.

Mazel Tov to:

Mr. and Mrs. Bob and Vera Moreen upon the birth of a grandson born to Gabriel and Tzivia Moreen!

Mr. and Mrs. Martin and Gail Twersky on the engagement of their son Michael to Michal Mazurek!

Rabbi and Mrs. Elchanan and Yocheved Weinbach on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Yehuda!

Michael Schulz on his engagement to Shoshana Twersky!

Community News:

Bnos of Bala Cynwyd will *iy"H* meet this Shabbos, Parshas Lech Lecha, November 5th, from 3:30pm - 4:30pm at LMS. Please pay your yearly \$36 membership (for 5772) if you have not done so already. Contact Meira Friedman for more info (610-617-9529).

Torah Youth will not meet this week.

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
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Good Shabbos!