

HOSTED BY:

# TORAS AVIGDOR

## Parshas Vayeitzei 5784

# Bulletin

Issue #6

## Toras Avigdor Snippets

*A sampling of previous Toras Avigdor booklets*



### • Vayeitzei 5779, 5783 – Career of Preparing

Yaakov Avinu studied his parents' commands the same way we study the Torah's commands. His parents' words carried weight with him and he studied them with *iyun*, with serious thought, and with *mefarshim*, commentaries. And he said, "If my parents told me to get married that means that I should make a *hachanah*; I should prepare."

The truth is we understand such a thing on our own. If your mother tells you to go to the grocery to buy a bottle of milk, she doesn't have to tell you to put on your shoes before you go. If it's cold outside, she doesn't have to tell you to put on your coat. "Go to the grocery and buy milk" means: make whatever preparations are required so that you can buy the milk.

"And so," Yaakov was thinking, "if my father and mother want me to marry, it means I have to make myself ready for marriage." You need to be prepared! Marriage means you must learn how to be a husband or a wife and you must learn how to be a father or a mother. These are two great careers and it's a pity that young people are permitted to enter these two careers without any preparation.

This world is a Career of Preparing. If you want to make something from yourself in this world and in the World to Come, that's number one: You must learn how to prepare! To be successful, you must live with that attitude of *הכּוּן לְקִרְאָת אֱלֹהֵיךָ* – *Prepare to greet your Elokecha, Yisroel. It means, in*

everything you do, prepare ahead of time so that you should be doing it with Hashem in the forefront of your mind.

### • Vayeitzei 5780 – The Afflicted Righteous

That's the important principle you're hearing now. When a person is under a certain encumbrance, so if he or she is wise, that person will try to compensate. And that's exactly what Leah did. She didn't sulk and complain about her status in the house – instead she made use of it to grow even greater. It's not merely the fact that Leah suffered so much that caused her to become the mother of the Am Yisroel. It was how she reacted to her suffering!

Because of her status as the less favored wife, she compensated in other ways. I couldn't tell you all the details of how she did that but there's no question that Leah, as a result of her handicap in that house, strove more than Rochel to be an ideal wife and an ideal mother. Of course, she *davened* very much to find favor in Yaakov's eyes and for children too, but she also exerted herself in her behavior, in how she spoke to Yaakov, even in how she cooked and fulfilled all of her household duties.

And that's why Hakadosh Baruch Hu rewarded her, because actually she attained a bigger perfection than Rochel. Now this doesn't mean that Rochel wasn't better; Rochel started out being better and in a certain sense she was always better – that's why she was chosen. But because Leah wasn't chosen, she therefore struggled mightily to become better and better and Hakadosh Baruch Hu helped her in her effort to achieve and she became more and more perfect.



## Toras Avigdor Inbox

### • Vayeitzei 5781 – Yaakov’s Ladder

Climbing a ladder means repetition – one step up and then another step and then another. And that means if we’re going to be successful in this world we have to start on a program of doing things, little acts that we wouldn’t have done otherwise, with the intention of making our way up the ladder. You’ll do the same thing over and over again but each time you’ve climbed a little higher; you’re not in the same place anymore – you’re not even the same person anymore.

Now, that first minute is as superficial as could be. You might even feel somewhat embarrassed. It doesn’t feel genuine at all – you feel maybe a million miles, a million rungs on the ladder away. But you must know that by doing it one time now – even if you’re doing it only because of our program – it’s a million rungs minus one. You’ve climbed one rung and that’s already a tremendous achievement.

Now suppose you decide to do it not once; you do it twice. Now you’re two rungs closer in that million mile distance; you’re a professional climber already. It’s not so strange anymore; it’s not so difficult either. So decide now that you’ll undertake to do this every day. The third day, another rung. Fourth day, another rung. And so on and so forth.

Do it every day for one month and then stop. Why stop? It’s a good idea to stop once in a while and give yourself a rest – then you come back a little later and start all over again. You’ll stop for a rest and then you’ll start climbing again.

### • Vayeitzei 5782 – The Wicked Make Us Great

All the perfection that Yaakov achieved was already wrapped up in the seed that was planted in that house, not in the house of Yitzchok and Rivkah where Yaakov Avinu was at first. Not in the house of Shem v’Eiver either. No. He acquired his true perfection in the most unlikely place, in the house of Lavan.

Now, Lavan was a very difficult father-in-law to live with. A *shver* like Lavan can be a big pain even if he lives in Australia and you’re in Brooklyn. But to live in his house? That’s not easy. Yaakov was suffering from his father-in-law, the *middos* of Lavan and the lies and the treachery of Lavan, and Yaakov was taking it, he was tolerating it not for one week, for weeks and months and years.

And that’s how he became great. It’s like sandpaper on wood. I imagine that it’s not easy for furniture to be sanded down; you have to apply pressure and rub back and forth, back and forth. But that’s how it becomes polished; all the rough edges are smoothed out by means of that pressure.

Character is the same as wood. Perfection of the mind, perfection of character, is not gained easily. We need so many things to sandpaper us, to make us smooth and easy to deal with. To make us successful people; people who are good-natured, calm and patient and forgiving, we need that friction to sand us down. So Hashem sends things upon you. He sends you people to sand you down.

And now you know why there was a Lavan! It wasn’t an accident. That’s how our great men throughout history became great, because of *zeh l’umas zeh*; there was always somebody else who stood opposite them – someone placed opposite them – giving them opportunities to rise to the occasion.

First of all, I wanted to thank you for what you do. It’s an amazing, amazing work, an incredible accomplishment, done in an outstanding manner.

I listened to many many tapes of Rabbi Miller over the years and consider myself a chassid of his. These booklets are loyal to his words and amazingly done.

Just wondering about sponsorship opportunities. The only thing I see on the website is \$2,600 for one parasha. I haven’t got that kind of money, just a bit of maaser money right now, but why not offer sponsorships of \$180, \$360, 1K, \$1,800 etc etc? Why only one option?

I presume you’ve tried it in the past (I seem to recall seeing opportunities in the pamphlets in the past) and it’s not worthwhile?

Please let me know.

**Reuvain Mendlowitz,  
Ramat Beit Shemesh Alef**

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I was in touch with R’ Nachum Selengut who distributes the booklets in BMG [Beis Medrash Govoha in Lakewood, NJ], about BMG banning all parsha sheets as a lot of sheimos is piling up.

He made a deal with the Sheimos guy that after yeshiva he will personally go around and collect all remaining TA booklets so yeshiva shouldn’t need to pay for sheimos.

Out of hundreds of booklets put out, he found only 3.

**-From an internal Toras Avigdor email**