

AT THE ARTSCROLL SHABBOS TABLE

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MRS. AVIVA KOHN

WEEKLY INSPIRATION AND INSIGHT ADAPTED FROM CLASSIC ARTSCROLL TITLES

PROJECT DEDICATED BY MENACHEM AND BINAH BRAUNSTEIN AND FAMILY
L'ILLUI NISHMAS RAV MOSHE BEN RAV YISSOCHOR BERISH AND MARAS YENTA BAS YISROEL CHAIM

PARASHAH

PEACE PARTNERS

Rabbi Nison Alpert on the Sidrah

וַיֵּצֵא יַעֲקֹב מִבְּעַר שֶׁבַע וַיֵּלֶךְ חָרָנָה.

Yaakov departed from Be'er Sheva and went toward Charan (28:10).

Rashi: Yaakov departed — Due to ... (the fact that) the daughters of Canaan were evil in the eyes of Yitzchak, his father, Eisav went to Yishmael (to take a wife). Scripture interrupted the subject of the episode of Yaakov and wrote, "And Eisav saw that (Yitzchak) had blessed..." "And once it completed (its point regarding Eisav), it went back to its original topic (Yaakov's departure).

This verse describes Yaakov's departure from Be'er Sheva, in accordance with his parents' earlier request that he go to the house of Lavan to take a wife. However, there are four intervening verses that tell the story of Eisav's having gone to take a non-Canaanite wife, unlike his other wives. He did this because he realized that his father did not approve of the Canaanite wives.

Rashi says that Eisav's action was a direct reaction to Yitzchak's admonition to Yaakov not to take a Canaanite wife. The episode with Eisav, then, is a digression from the main story. Now that we have finished the digression, we can continue with the original story, which is Yaakov's departure.

I would like to suggest a different approach as to why the Torah's description of Yaakov's "departure" is told here, immediately following its telling us of Eisav's actions. Specifically, why is it that Yaakov is leaving only now? Eisav had been burning with resentment for some time already, yet Yaakov

had not felt it necessary to flee. What changed?

I would like to suggest the following. As long as Eisav was Eisav, openly burning with resentment, the danger was not really so great. The danger was there for all to see and Yaakov knew to always maintain his guard. Now, however, Eisav is professing to be a *baal teshuvah*, heeding his father's warning to Yaakov and therefore taking a non-Canaanite wife. He is presenting himself as a changed man, a man of peace.

And that is why the time has come to leave — and fast!

He's actually a lot more dangerous now. Yaakov could find himself lulled into complacency, forgetting who Eisav really is — and then letting his guard down.

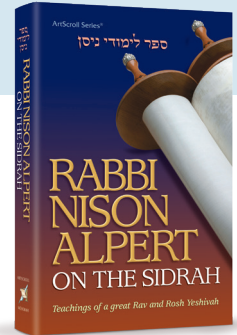
And so, "Yaakov departed from Be'er Sheva and went to Charan."

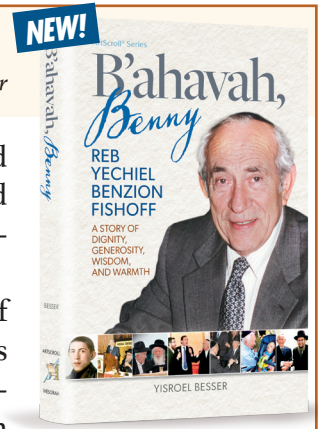
Let us not forget this lesson of our forefather as we look around today, witnessing the modern-day Yaakov-hating Eisavs who also seek to impress the world with their professed changes of heart, but all the while coming "in peace" to mask their true hatred of the Jewish nation.

May Hashem protect us from Jew-haters everywhere, especially those who falsely claim to come "in peace." 🙏



Rav Nison Alpert





Mr. and Mrs. Fishoff were once sitting in a Miami restaurant with their dear friends, Reb Eliyahu and Miri Abramczyk. Reb Eliyahu noticed Mr. Fishoff chatting quietly with the waitress, then handing her a slip of paper.

“Did you give her a *kvittel*?” Reb Eliyahu joked.

Mr. Fishoff smiled, but his expression was serious. He explained that he had greeted the woman and, after asking where she was from, he learned that she was a *baalas teshuvah* who did not have a husband, raising her daughter on her own.

“Then I asked how the daughter was managing and she looked concerned and told me that the girl is becoming *bas mitzvah*. I thought that maybe she has to celebrate, to make some sort of party, so I gave her a check just to help a little.”

“How much was the check?” asked Reb Eliyahu.

“Two thousand dollars,” Mr. Fishoff replied.

“Benny, do you know her from before?” asked Reb Eliyahu in surprise.

“I don’t,” Mr. Fishoff conceded, “but this I *do* know. She needs help and I am able to help.”

The waitress eventually moved up in the ranks and became a manager at a more prominent Miami restaurant. Until the end of Mr. Fishoff’s life, whenever this woman saw Reb Eliyahu or his wife, she

would approach and ask how Mr. Fishoff was doing.

“I say *Tehillim* for that man every day,” she would say.

• • • • •

Reb Moshe Netzer of Lakewood recalls the beginning of his business career. He had connections and he had some money, but he did not yet have the idea that motivated him. Someone suggested that he speak with Benny Fishoff who, though

He looked around and asked an acquaintance for one of his business cards, writing his own name and phone number on the back with a pen. He handed it to Mr. Fishoff, who smiled and accepted it.

Months passed, then years. Two years after their one and only meeting, Moshe was presented with a business proposition that intrigued him. He wanted to pursue it, but he needed some advice. He decided to call Mr. Fishoff. The secretary put him right through, and he introduced himself. After saying his name, he was about to say



much older than him, had a keen sense of business, the wisdom

born of experience, and a generous nature. He met Mr. Fishoff, who greeted him graciously.

“Do you have a card?” asked Mr. Fishoff.

Moshe shook his head. He had not yet thought of printing a card with his information at that point.

that they had once met, and that although he was certain that Mr. Fishoff did not remember their encounter, he was taking up the offer of advice. He never got to finish the sentence, because as soon as he said his name, Mr. Fishoff said, “Moshe Netzer! Of course, I remember we met. How are you? I’ve been waiting for your call!”

And then Mr. Fishoff proceeded to read off the phone number he had been given two years earlier, as if to show that he had been

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THIS WEEK'S DAF YOMI SCHEDULE:

NOV-DEC / כסלו

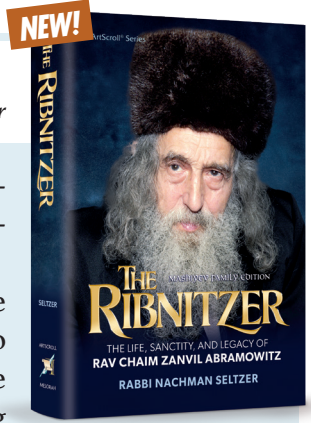
SHABBOS	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
25 יב	26 יג	27 יד	28 טו	29 טז	30 יז	1 יח
Bava Kamma 23	Bava Kamma 24	Bava Kamma 25	Bava Kamma 26	Bava Kamma 27	Bava Kamma 28	Bava Kamma 29

THIS WEEK'S MISHNAH YOMI SCHEDULE:

NOV-DEC / כסלו

SHABBOS	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
25 יב	26 יג	27 יד	28 טו	29 טז	30 יז	1 יח
Yevamos 9:4-5	Yevamos 9:6-10:1	Yevamos 10:2-3	Yevamos 10:4-5	Yevamos 10:6-7	Yevamos 10:8-9	Yevamos 11:1-2

The Ribnitzer by Rabbi Nachman Seltzer



When it came to eating fish on *Shabbos*, the Ribnitzer Rebbe's *avodah* was in a class by itself. The Rebbe usually kept his eyes closed in concentration and *deveikus* while he ate the fish. At other times, he opened his eyes and stared at the fish, chewing every bite slowly. During those moments, there was no question that the Rebbe was traversing the highways and byways of Heaven. Sometimes, the Rebbe consumed the entire fish, not giving out *shirayim* and only leaving over the bones.

The Rebbe explained on many occasions that it was common for *neshamos* to return to this world in the form of a fish. During one *seudah*, the Rebbe told the *chassidim* that he needed to concentrate particularly intently for the fish he was eating, because it contained the *neshamah* of an exceptional *tzaddik*.

Rav Dovid Yitzchok Schick, a *chassid* of the Rebbe, related the following incident:

One Friday night, a fish was set down before the Rebbe, who looked at it and immediately turned pale. When the Rebbe started speaking, the things he said were mind-boggling.

"The man stole," the Rebbe said. "Who told him to steal?"



The Ribnitzer Rebbe

He then mentioned a few other things about that fish and refused to eat it.

Afterward, the Rebbe rose from his place, walked out onto the porch, and returned. Then he did it again. The Rebbe's pacing

made it clear that he wasn't at peace. The Rebbe paced for two hours, unable to calm down. Eventually, he returned to the table, sat down, and consumed the entire fish from the head to the tail.

After the *tish* was over, one of the Rebbe's confidants asked him if the *neshamah* had received a *tikkun* that night.

"I see that you are trying to figure out my ways," the Rebbe said. "This *neshamah* left this world over forty years ago. His name was Tzvi ben Chana, and his *yahrtzeit* was

on the fifteenth of *Kislev*."

Then the Rebbe said to his *chassid*, "I want you to light a candle for this *neshamah*."

The next time the Rebbe went to the *mikveh*, he immersed himself a few additional times for the sake of the *neshamah* who needed such assistance. 📖

WITH LOVE AND CARE

continued from page 2

hoping that the conversation would continue, sending a message more empowering than any comment could have been for the young man.

"I am happy you called. Let's talk."

.....

The children of a friend were purchasing their first home, and the seller wanted to close on the home before the mortgage had been fully arranged. This friend called Mr. Fishoff and asked for a loan of a quarter of a million dollars for a few weeks' time, just until the mortgage was approved.

"Listen to me," Mr. Fishoff answered with the concern of a grandfather. "The nature of these things is that you need more money than you think. There are always extra costs at the last minute, so it is better that you take three hundred and fifty thousand dollars instead."

Then he added a line of advice as well. "Borrowing smart is also a *kuntz* (feat), and if you borrow the right amount at the right time, you make it easier on yourself."

It was classic Mr. Fishoff: not only to give more than he had been asked for, but also to add a compliment and make it seem as if the

whole transaction was simply business.

.....

Mr. Fishoff arrived at a *chasunah* and, at a quiet moment, he approached the father of the *kallah*, a close friend of his. Mr. Fishoff discreetly handed him an envelope and the *mechutan* protested.

"Benny," he said, "I know what it means to make a *chasunah*, and I am ready for the bills at the end of the night."

"Yes," said Mr. Fishoff soothingly, "but sometimes, there are last-minute things. This is to cover you just in case." 📖

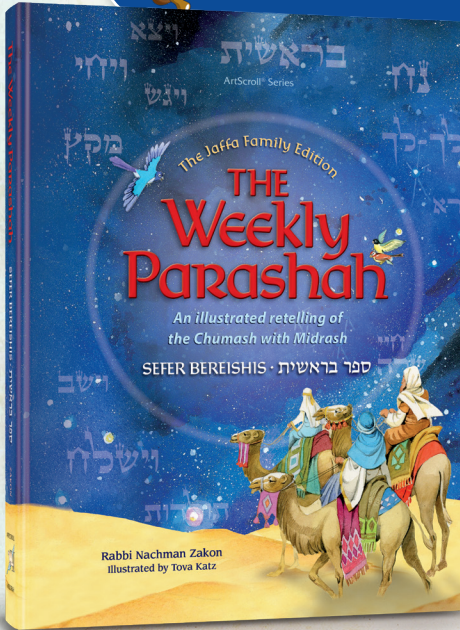
This week's Yerushalmi Yomi schedule:

NOV-DEC / כסלו	SHABBOS	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	25 יב	26 יג	27 יד	28 טו	29 טז	30 יז	1 יח
	Sheviis 49	Sheviis 50	Sheviis 51	Sheviis 52	Sheviis 53	Sheviis 54	Sheviis 55



Parashah for Children

פרשת וינצ



Ladders and Angels

What do they mean?

The vision of the ladder with angels going up and down was hinting to Yaakov about many future events.

▶ The numerical value of the Hebrew word "Sinai," where the Torah was given, is the same as the value of "sulam," the Hebrew word for ladder. Like an angel, Moshe would go up from Sinai to heaven and come down with the Torah.

▶ The Mizbei'ach, the Altar of the Beis HaMikdash, had a ramp on which Kohanim, almost like angels, would walk up and down as they brought korbanos. The merit of their service rose to Hashem in Heaven.

▶ Since the destruction of the First Beis HaMikdash, the Jews have suffered through four exiles, named for four nations: Bavel (Babylon), Paras (Persia), Yavan (Greece), and Edom (Rome — which is the exile we are still in today). The angels going up and down the ladder were the guardian angels of these four nations. Each angel went up the same number of steps as the number of years that their nation would be in power, and then came down. When the last exile, the one we are in now, will lose its power, Mashiach will come.



THE WEEKLY QUESTION

In light of the situation in Eretz Yisroel, in lieu of the Weekly Question, any child who recites 5 chapters of Tehillim for the safety of our brothers and sisters, will be entered into a raffle to win a \$36 ArtScroll gift card.

Email your full name, city and contact info to shabbosquestion@artscroll.com by this Monday. Names of winners will appear in a future edition.

The winner of the question for Vayeira is: ELIYAHU ROBENOV, Briarwood, Queens, NY

*The question was: What exciting thing happened to Lot the day that the angels came?
The answer is: He was appointed chief judge of the city.*



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