



Parshas Vayechi 2020, the value of hard work

This week's Parsha Perspective is in loving memory of Silvia Bas Herschel, Edward Ben Efraim, Shlomo Ben Edward, and Yirachmiel Daniel Ben Gedalia.

Our Parsha begins with Ya'akov Avinu asking Yosef to swear that he would bury him in the land of Israel. Ya'akov then blessed Yosef's two sons, Efraim and Menashe, elevating them to the status of his own sons and as tribes within the Jewish people. Ya'akov then blesses his own children and assigns them their role as a tribe amongst the Jewish nation.

At the age of 147 years old, Ya'akov Avinu passed away in the land of Egypt. A funeral procession consisting of his children and grandchildren, Egyptian ministers, and lay leaders accompanied Ya'akov to his final resting place in the Meoras HaMachpelah, where he was buried next to his parents and grandparents. Yosef also passes away in Egypt at the age of 110 years old. However, Moshe Rabbeinu removed his body many years later when the Jewish people were freed from slavery.

A question comes to mind: Before Ya'akov blessed his children, he said (49:1), *"Gather and I will tell you what will happen to you at the end of days."* But instead of telling them what would happen, he started to bless them. Rashi explains that Ya'akov wanted to reveal when the ultimate redemption would occur; however, the Divine spirit left Ya'akov, so he began to bless them instead. Why did the Divine spirit leave Ya'akov? Why was he unable to reveal when Moshiach would come to his children?!

One of the many answers that are given is that his children were not spiritually ready to hear this significant prophecy. Therefore, the Shechinah departed from Ya'akov for just that moment to prevent him from revealing the date of the ultimate redemption.

However, a deeper and more powerful explanation is that Hashem did not want Ya'akov to reveal the date of the ultimate redemption because He wanted us to yearn and work for Moshiach every single day. If Ya'akov had announced the exact date of the Geulah, we would not have learned the Torah or performed the Mitzvah sincerely or earnestly, for we would have known that regardless and despite our actions, Moshiach would definitely come by the revealed date.

Furthermore, had we known the exact date of the ultimate redemption, when the redemption arrived, we would not have been able to fully enjoy and experience the holiness and spirituality that will be prevalent in this world. It is impossible to fully appreciate, comprehend, and cherish something that you had no hand in creating or input. This is the same reason why up to 70 percent of lottery winners go broke within 10 years of winning their money. Because to truly cherish something, you must have a hand in facilitating it.

In our daily life, it is imperative that we understand that no matter how costly and expensive a gift may be, you will not be able to treasure it as much as something that you put your time and effort into its creation.

This concept is true in both your spiritual and physical lives. Therefore, you put the bulk of your energy and effort into the essential aspects of life, such as your spouse and children. Only then will you be able to truly appreciate, understand, and enjoy the fruits of your hard work.

“Only once you have carried your own water will you learn the value of every drop.”

*Have a meaningful Shabbos,
Rabbi Sholom Yemini*