



Parshas Nitzavim & Vayelech, Torah, a song for the soul

This week's Parsha Perspective is in honor of the Yahrzeit of Shlomo Ben Edward. May his soul be uplifted and his memory a blessing.

This week's Parsha Perspective is dedicated to the Cohen family. May Hashem bless them with much health, success, and happiness.

On the day of his passing, Moshe gathers the Jewish nation one last time. He began by emphasizing that when we stand before G-d, we are equal and identical in His eyes. For they are entering a covenant that was made with Avraham Avinu and includes each one of us till this very day. As Moshe said (29:13-14) *"I make this covenant with its sanctions not with you alone. But with those who are standing here with us today before G-d, and with those who are not here with us"*.

The pact that we will serve G-d not only according to our understanding, but rather, we will learn the Torah and obey His eternal wisdom and wishes. Moshe then calls heaven and earth witnesses as he pleads with us to choose Hashem and the Torah. As the Pasuk writes (30:19) *"I call heaven and earth as witnesses that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. Therefore choose life, so that you and your children may live."*

However, a question comes to mind: Towards the end of Parshas Vayelech, Moshe tells the Jewish nation that even though we may not feel G-d's presence, we will have a song as a witness of our connection to Him. As the Pasuk writes, (31:18-19) *"I will hide My face on that day, because of all the evil they have done in turning to other G-d's. Therefore, write for yourselves this song, and teach it to the*

children of Israel. Place it into their mouths, so that this song will be for Me as a witness for the Jewish nation.” What song is Moshe Rabbeinu referring to?

Furthermore, why did Moshe Rabbeinu so passionately say that they should write, teach and place it in the mouths of every single Jew?!

Rashi writes that the song that Moshe is referring to is our next Torah portion, Haazinu. For most of Parshas Haazinu is a poetic song that prophesies the Jewish nation's future till the end of time. Since the Jewish people have now entered into an eternal covenant with G-d. Moshe wanted the song that comprises our future and holds the keys to our success to be remembered forever.

However, Rabbi Soloveitchik gives a deeper and more profound explanation. He quotes the Gemara in Nedarim (38:a) that when Moshe said to “*write this song*” it refers not only to Parshas Haazinu but rather to the entire Torah. The Rambam uses this Pasuk as the basis of the 613th commandment of the Torah, the Mitzvah for every Jew to write a Sefer Torah.

Rabbi Soloveitchik explains that Moshe Rabbeinu referred to the Torah as a song because **we should experience the Torah as a song**. As a musical experience that takes us on a **spiritual journey transcending physical concerns** and worries. As a heartfelt melody that can **ignite and inflame our soul** and essence. As a passionate song that can awaken **energy, power, and spirit we never knew we had**. When we study Torah and observe the Mitzvahs, we should feel our connection to Hashem growing and increasing every day.

In our daily lives, it is imperative that we live life with passion and enthusiasm. Whether you are achieving your dreams or carrying out simple and menial tasks, it should be done with spirit and effort. For it will lead you on a path of happiness and satisfaction. It will give you a sense of meaning and purpose that will drive your ambition to unimaginable heights.

“Passion is the genesis of genius.” – Tony Robbins

Have a meaningful Shabbos, Rabbi Sholom Yemini