



MAOR DAVID BOCA RATON CAMPUS

Rabbi Yosef Korkos

In memory of Maran HaGaon HaRav Ovadia Yosef, ztz"l

SHABBAT MISHPATIM/SHABBAT MEVARCHIM 5774/JANUARY 24-25, 2014

MAGICIANS: ENEMIES OF HASHEM

Gleanings from Rabbeinu Bachaye, The Ramban, and Rabbeinu

Chananel

This week's Parsha states (Shemot 22:17): "M'Khashefa Lo T'chaye." It means you shall not allow a sorceress or witch to live. It's mentioned amongst various other moral offenses but seems to be a lesson in itself. And indeed, that is the way Rabbeinu Bachaye takes it.

Rabbeinu Bachaye teaches that magicians and sorcerers take two parts that are completely separate from each other and combine them. Not only are that, but the energies of these items also combine in the stars in Shamayim. From this comes a powerful, amazing action, and one that is extremely dangerous. The prohibition of K'layim and Shaatnez are similar to this mixture. The two separate entities should always be kept separate.

The wise men of Mitzrayim took their main powers from the knowledge of this magic. They used to combine forces and create amazing things from nature. The Sages asked why they are called "K'shafim." What does that mean? It means they deny the powers of the Hosts of Heaven.

When human beings mix two powers together like this, they are combining opposites and that goes against the will of Hashem. Each item, each power has its own nefesh in Shamayim, and it is dangerous to play with nefashot. Human beings should leave things as they are. This is the opinion of the Ramban.

But Rabbeinu Chananel has a different approach. He states that whatever human beings do is the will of HaKadosh Baruch Hu!! This flies in the face of the Ramban who claims that if humans combine forces through magic it goes against the will of Hashem. So if witches and magicians are acting in the way of Hashem, why does the Torah order their death?

Actually, the Torah doesn't. It says you should not allow a witch to live. Their already considered dead. When a person defies the laws of a human king, they are subject to death. How much more so for HaKadosh Baruch Hu. Not only that, but the K'shefa is much more than a witch. The Sages

SHABBAT TIMES FOR BOCA RATON

Candle Lighting: 5:39PM

Shabbat starts: 5:57PM

Dinner: 7:15PM

Shachrit: 9AM

Z'man Shema: 9:50AM

Hatzot: 12:32PM

Lunch: 12:15PM

Mincha: After Lunch

Various Shiurim with

Dessert: Following Mincha

(Parsha, Zohar, Yalkut

Yosef, and more)

Kids Tehillim: 5:00PM

Seudah Shlishit: 5:30PM

Shkiya: 5:58PM

Motzei Shabbat: 6:35PM

Rabbeinu Tam: 7:10PM

Arvit/Havdala: 6:45PM

Parshat Mishpatim:

Shemot 21:1-24:18

Haftarah:

Yirmiyahu 34:8-22,

33:25,26

tell us she would go into a grave with a man and she would stand over the corpse's head while he stood at the feet. The two would work their magic while ringing a bell to help summon the evil spirits. This was done particularly in the realm of Edom. In today's age, when we are in exile in Edom, whenever we hear bells of Avodah Zarah, it should remind us to run away from the evils of magic.

So why does the Torah restrict sorcery and magic? It seems like everything mentioned above is a compelling reason enough to stay away. It's because Am Yisrael left Mitzrayim, the center for the most powerful magicians in the world. Am Yisrael was influenced by this, and to this day every Jew has the instinct to go after the way of magic and sorcery. We can see this by how many people go to "great kabbalists" and pay hundreds of thousands of dollars for "miraculous cures" and the like. It's not nonsense. It's actually our instincts and evil inclinations trying to get us to believe in and follow the ways of magic. But that is something we cannot do.

So how do we stay away from it? How do we fight it? We have to listen to our Sages. We have to watch things with a careful eye, listen with a guarded ear, and protect ourselves. Am Yisrael is a holy people. The more holy something is, the harder it is to keep holy. But we have to keep trying and keep subduing our nature and fighting for what's right. Only Hashem can truly make miracles. And while we can't fulfill this mitzvah regarding witches and sorcerers in today's day and age, we can show the world the light of love and faith in HaKadosh Barukh Hu. With those two weapons, nothing else can survive.

Halakhot of the Week:

With regard to candle lighting, Ashkenazi custom is for the woman to accept Shabbat on herself the moment she lights the candles. For Sephardic Jews, this is not the custom. A Sephardic woman who lights candles may say the bracha, light, and then continue doing melacha as long as it is not the time Shabbat starts. It is best to make verbal declaration to the effect that she does not want to accept Shabbat when lighting candles; this need only be done once per year.

NEWS

- Great news everyone!! Starting next week (the first week of February) we will be having Shachrit at the shul at 8:00 AM every day. We need your help to make this a successful minyan. We understand it isn't easy to commit in the mornings, but if it is possible we'd like to at least have a full minyan Mondays and Thursdays.
- To that effect, contact Rabbi Korkos after Shabbat if you are interested in potential breakfast ideas/opportunities/sponsorships.
- Welcome to David Davidov and family!! They are the first family to move into the community!!
- Tzetchem L'Shalom to Yosef Ohayon. We will miss you and come back soon.
- Refuah Shlema to Moshe Chakim who recently had surgery on his eyes. Mazal tov to Moshe as well on the birth of a great-granddaughter.