

MAOR DAVID BOCA RATON CAMPUS

SHABBAT VAYISHLACH 5774/NOVEMBER 15-16, 2013

D'VAR TORAH

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

We find in this week's Parsha that Yaakov must confront Eisav. Eisav sends an angel to fight Yaakov. The angel and Yaakov engage in battle and the Torah teaches us that Yaakov came out victorious. However, it also relates that Yaakov was wounded in his sciatic nerve and walked with a limp for the rest of his days.

Now how is it possible for a man to win a battle if he comes away wounded while his adversary goes free

unharmed? It should be that Yaakov lost the battle to the angel of Eisav. The Chachamim were very bothered by this question. However, they do provide us with an answer.

The battle was actually a spiritual battle. The angel and Yaakov engaged all night in a war of words. When it was close to sunrise, the angel struck Yaakov in the leg and

told Yaakov to release him. Yaakov refused to release the angel without first being blessed. Yaakov knew that it was this particular morning that the angel was supposed to fulfill his mission in front of HaKadosh Baruch Hu. Yaakov also knew that he had the spiritual upper hand. The angel blessed

YAAKOV AND THE ANGEL
OF EISAV STRUGGLED ALL
THROUGH THE NIGHT. THE
ANGEL WOUNDED YAAKOV,
BUT YAAKOV RECEIVED THE
BLESSING. WHO WAS THE
REAL WINNER?

Yaakov that his name would forever be changed to "Yisrael" because "he struggled with an angel of G-d and

won."

So we see that even though Yaakov was the one who was injured in the battle, he actually won. He won because the angel could not defeat him in a match of spirituality. Yaakov's strength of will and more importantly his Emuna saved him and brought to Am Yisrael an even greater level of kedushah than before.

SHABBAT TIMES FOR BOCA RATON

Candle Lighting: 5:12PM

Shabbat starts: 5:30PM

Dinner: 7PM

Shachrit: 9AM

Z'man Shema: 9:22AM

Lunch: 12:15PM

Mincha: After lunch

Joshua's Yalkut Yosef

Shiur: 2:30PM

Rabbi's Parsha with

Zohar Shiur: 3:30PM

Kids Tehillim: 4:30PM

Seudah Shlishit: 5:15PM

Motzei Shabbat: 6:07PM

Rabbeinu Tam: 6:43PM

Arvit/Havdalah Project:
6:30PM

Parshat Vayishlach:

Bereishit 32:4-36:43

Haftarah for

Sepharadim:

Chazon Ovadia

Haftarah for

Ashkenazim:

Haftarah Parshat

Vayeitzeh for

Sepharadim

YAAKOV AND MARAN

Practical Lessons from the Parshat Hashavua

We saw above that Yaakov was wounded after winning a spiritual fight with the angel. Why is it that the angel physically attacked Yaakov if he was sent to destroy him spiritually? The Sages tell us that we can learn the answer from human nature. When two people have a battle of wits, if they are evenly matched it stays a war of words. But if one can dance circles around his fellow with his mind, then the one who can't win with his words will try to win with violence. It was the same with the angel. When he saw that he could not beat Yaakov spiritually with his words and mind, he sought to attack him physically to hurt his body.

Maran HaRav Ovadia Yosef, ztz"l experienced this all his life. He would openly invite everyone to

come discuss Halakhot with him. No matter the time of day or night he was open to learning Torah with anyone who knocked on his door. But Maran was so smart, so high in kedushah, so knowledgeable in Halakhot that no one could argue with him.

Once Maran was attending a lecture by former Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi of Israel, HaRav Yisrael Meir Lau. Rav Lau was giving over Halakhot, and each time he did so Maran would tell Rav Lau that the Halakha was not as he said. After a few times, Maran asked Rav Lau to switch to Aggadah, stories and practical lessons, and Rav Lau immediately obeyed.

Unfortunately, this was not normally the case. When rabbeim argued with Maran, they would

often resort to shouting, screaming, violence of all sorts because they could not argue with Maran. No one could argue with Maran.

What can we, simple Jews trying to follow in Maran's footsteps, take from this? We learn that sometimes we do have the right idea and we are following the right path. Sometimes we are doing such a Kiddush Hashem that we become opposed, either in words or in person. We should take what comes our way with love and Emuna. We should keep on fighting the spiritual battle because as long as we have our strength of spirit and follow in the ways of HaKadosh Baruch Hu, no one, not even angels from Shamayim, can stop us.

Halakhot from the Parsha of the Week:

1: Because the angel wounded Yaakov in his sciatic nerve, it is forbidden even until today to eat the sciatic nerve or surrounding fats of any animal. We learn in the Gemara (Masechet Hullin) that the sciatic nerve is a completely different creation than the rest of the body.

2: Mayim Achronim: The Ben Ish Chai tells us that Eisav refused to take the gift from Yaakov and said that he already had everything he could possibly need. Yaakov said "Kakh Na." What is "Na?" Na means "netilat achrona." When we say mayim achronim before birkat hamazon, that is a gift for Eisav and that Eisav is the source of the Tumah, the impurity on our hands. Even this little bit was something that Eisav desired, and so we appease Eisav by washing mayim achronim.