

The Friendly Pharaoh (2025)

(Parsha Shmot)

There is a new friendly Pharaoh in town. If we politely refuse his offers and choose redemption he most likely will become an angry Pharaoh and deny us even straw. The court Jews that have run our semi-independent state and have fought for years for better working conditions for the Hebrew slaves will also become enraged if we demand true freedom. However true freedom is the only way even if we need to glean our own straw for a while.

Rav Kahane asked a question regarding our Parsha. Why did Moshe kill the Egyptian? What did he gain? The Israelite was already dead. Moshe was gaining increasing influence in Pharaoh's court. If he was smart he could wait a bit longer and have a more substantial effect for the Jewish people. The Rabbi answers that one does not wait or make calculations with hillul HASHEM.

Benzi Gopstein brought this down this week as well when Otzma Yehudi decided to resign from the government that this week surrendered, lost the war that we were winning and as Rabbi Shmuel Eliyahu said

'[released] thousands of murderers into the streets of the State of Israel - murderers who tell us that it is not the seventh of October that awaits us, but the 700th of October.'

How could the Parsha change in one week from the family united and dressed in royal robes to the humiliation of degradation and slavery? In the Torah this occurred over a number of generations. Today it occurred from one Shabbat to the next.

WW3

I have mentioned before that based on the ruach hakodesh of the *Chofetz Chaim I believe that WW3 began spiritually in 2020. It is still being waged. We are living in the times of the final war of Gog and Magog. Chazal debated whether the 'new' Pharaoh was actually new or the same Pharaoh who made new edicts despite the good that Yoseph had done. According to Chazal he was forced to do this because he had new internal political pressures. Based on today's newspapers I can deduce that the rabbis were correct. It was the same Pharaoh.

How did WW3 begin? If we recall it was preceded by Trump's 'deal of the century' which was very reminiscent of the feast of Achashverosh in Shushan. Jews from right to left, from secular to orthodox were excited like children about the benevolent Trump who was on their side. If we simply overlooked the desecration of the utensils from the Temple that we ate from at the banquet, the food that was served on them was definitely glatt kosher and rabbinically supervised. In other words we could have had a good real estate deal as long as we would forgo some of our inheritance to the Arabs along with our sole proprietorship of the Temple Mount.

What was the Heavenly result of our betrayal and indifference? Hashem threw every minyan in the world out on the street. We despised His crown (Carona) and had absolutely no Cavod (Covid) for His house. We continued to be sifted and allowed to decay until after 9 months the "protesting" Erev Rav's ugly baby was born on Oct 7. At the same time the Shoresh Yacov began to sprout despite the hardened shell of the Erev Rav that previously nothing could penetrate.

Yacov transformed into Israel and his young men roared like lions. The transformation affected not only our nation but altered the course of the world. The inner strength and self sacrifice of the people of Israel reverberated around the world. That shift affected the scales of justice and I believe was a determining factor in Trump's reelection. As the ballots were being cast a week before the election Israel passed a great test of rectification that goes back to rectify something as far back as the time of Avraham. We cancelled UNRWA.

We began the process of cancelling forbidden political alliances that have plagued us from the very first pact with Avraham and Avimelech. Trump's reelection opened the door for a potentially better world but also a potentially more devastating one. It all hinges on how the tiny but mighty Jewish people respond. I knew that Trump would be our greatest challenge and not surprisingly we failed. The most difficult of enemies are those who come as friends. The friendly Pharaoh's are the most devious. The feast of Achashverosh has returned. A new Pharaoh which is the old Pharaoh with new edicts and concerns and constituents that no longer remember Yoseph.

The New Book

And now as we have benefited greatly by our isolation, our renewed spirit and the great courage and self sacrifice of our soldiers we have opened a new book of slavery. Now that each family has been affected and shaken up. Now that so many hidden sparks have been released somewhat due to the idols that were smashed and our spirits that have been crushed and rising to the top like refined oil. Now that we have initiated the rectification of Avraham Avinu by tearing up the covenant of UNRWA we desperately run back to new covenants like an abused wife.

Now that we have made such great achievements we fall like drunkards unaware of the damage we cause like the generation of the desert that turned overnight from Matan Torah to idol worship. We revive Amalek and release his snakes into our streets because of the pressure of the friendly Pharaoh and our inability to conquer, settle and disinherit our enemies. Our misplaced mercy for the individual and our approval to the desecration of our Nation. The laws of our King's Torah that mocked the criminal lynch mob in the Hauge and the United Nations now compromised and silenced. Like the former beggar reaching out with our familiar Pushka hoping for some mercy, we offer our people once again as sacrifices. The undoing of all our achievements before our eyes. Because the generation of the desert has not yet been replaced and is still able to cause calamity by flexing their secular pride.

The Regel

I heard a very good word on the Har Habayit from Rav Roi Zaga. He asks what is the significance of taking off the shoe? When Moshe stood by the Divine presence he was told to quickly remove his shoes because the ground he stands upon is holy. We do this also on the Har Habayit. What does holiness have to do with removing one's shoes? He explains that Egypt's economy depended upon the Israelites. They were persecuting the very nation that was bringing them blessing and prosperity. They were like the regel (the leg) and Egypt was the shoe. How is it that Israel did not know that they were the regel and Egypt was just a shoe? Once Israel departed the Egypt Empire was nothing. It was like an empty shoe.

America today is the same. Why are they so powerful? Because there are so many Jews that are the backbone of the country spiritually and physically. America would be nothing without its Jews. It is a great paradox that we fear the very Nation that we empower. Moshe was told it is time now to leave Mitzrayim. The regel is throwing off its shoe. The shalosh regalim remind us three times a year where our strength comes from.

Rabbi Kahane also discusses the passage by the sneh (the burning bush).

Regarding Moshe taking off his shoe, Rabbi Kahane analyses the wording of the passage and the swiftness to which Moshe responds to Hashem. He connects this passage to other passages involving Sanctification of God that also require swiftness and no delay. He discusses the vengeance against Midian that was tied to his death. He could have delayed the mitzvah and lived longer.

This raises an apparent difficulty: how could Moses have been allowed to bring certain death upon himself (and this was not merely potential danger to life)? Does the Torah not say, You shall observe My decrees and My statutes, which a person shall do and live by them (Leviticus 18:5)? The answer is that when confronting hillul HASHEM, protecting lives is of no account whatsoever; even when one knows with absolute certainty that he will die, he is nevertheless obligated to remove the hillul HASHEM, and it is forbidden even to delay. And in the case of Midian, the issue at stake was Israel's vengeance, which is GOD's vengeance, as Rashi explains: Anyone who stands against Israel is equivalent to one who stands against the Holy One, blessed be He (commentary to Numbers 31:3). It is crucial to know and to understand this great rule. And those who, in our own days, postpone annexing all the territory of the Land of Israel and driving out the Arabs therein on the claim that the time and circumstances are not yet ripe, sin and cause the masses to sin, and bring disaster upon Israel. And it is no coincidence that the Torah uses the same word by, shal ("remove") both when GOD commanded Moses to remove his shoes and

also when He promised us that He would remove the non-Jews from the Land of Israel, in saying ve-nashal ("and He will cast out") many nations before you (Deuteronomy 7:1), saying that we are obligated to uproot them swiftly, hastily, from the Land and not to suffer any delays in so doing. And if we will do this, then the blessing of you will eat the , sh`lal ("booty") of your enemies (Deuteronomy 20:14) will come upon us: thew, shalal ("booty") is thus called because it is taken by force from the place in which it previously permanently belonged. But even so, we are permitted to take the booty, because GOD has taken the entire Land of Israel, and any lands that we may conquer, away from the previous inhabitants and given them over to us. (Sh'mot Chapter 3:5 - Perush Hamacabee)

We see clearly today how our leadership, lacking the faith and courage of our young soldiers, fails to conquer and settle. And so instead, we become the 'booty' over and over again.

Lest we be 'Trumped'

May we have courage and faith to pass the test that by failing angered Hashem and led to the original Akeida. It is a test of friendship and principled differences between what our Father demands and what we are permitted. Like the friendship between Mamre who is honored for strengthening us to do what our God has commanded even if it divides us. And the strength to politely refuse Avimelech who is neither Avi (our Father) nor is he Melech (our King). If his covenant contradicts or infringes on the covenant between our Father and King then we may thank him for his unsolicited advice but politely refuse.

His interests and ours may sometimes be aligned and sometimes opposed. And if he opposes that which we have been commanded and threatens our friendship then he is free to agree to disagree and seek alliances with other friends. Our alliance remains singular with the demands and commands of our Father who is the Ruler of the entire Universe. If President Trump wishes to be blessed by Israel he may assist us and be blessed. However if instead of assisting he is insisting that we compromise with forces of evil, then the opposite will occur.

If he wishes to do business it is permitted but we must not allow ourselves to be coerced or threatened. Torah law is not real estate law. There is no compromise with enemies we have been commanded to destroy or expel. Yoseph was imprisoned for another two years so that his redemption should not come from a lowly butler but as an act of God that no one can deny. For the same reason Pharaoh changed his mind and chased after Israel so no one will say that Pharaoh saved the Jews but rather despite Pharaoh Hashem delivered us by great miracles.

We can be inspired by Trump to make Israel great again. And to be bold and resilient and know that respect comes from having self respect. May Hashem be merciful and forgive us for the anger and humiliation we cause Him. May He continue to lift us up and out of Egypt despite our sins. May it be conditioned not on today's decisions and failures but on the future acceptance of

the Torah (see Shmot 3:12). May we come to understand that all the power in the world is in our 'regel' and take off the various shoes that we are enslaved to.**

May the new friendly Pharoah come to serve and support the Nation of Israel as we come to serve and redeem our Father by redeeming and settling the lands he has dispossessed for us. May the friendly king stay friendly as long as we stay loyal to Hashem. The whole book of Shemot is about the family of Israel becoming a Holy Nation in order to make Hashem's name great in the world. May we succeed and have an easy birth.

* As WW1 began the Chofetz Chaim predicted that this was the beginning of the Wars of Gog and Magog. Twenty five years later he said there would be a second war that would make this one look like child play. Seventy five years after that would be a third war that would make the previous one look like child play. In 2016 I calculated that this would come out in 2020, and wondered what could possibly happen? And then the world turned upside down.

** A positive note: Amidst the bad news there is also good news. An acquaintance at the Bet Knesset who is a Chabad Chassid told me that he gets the 'Daily Kahane' Whats App from Bentzi Gopstein. I have been getting this for a long time, however it appears to be growing outside of the inner circle. May the 'Shoresch Yacov' be strengthened and multiply and sprout very soon.

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