

HOSTED BY:

TORAS AVIGDOR

Parshas Mikeitz 5784

Bulletin

Issue #9



Toras Avigdor Snippets

A sampling of previous Toras Avigdor booklets

• Mikeitz 5779 [5784] – Learning Bitachon

You should know, that it wasn't an accident that the *sar hamashkim* forgot for two years to let Pharaoh know of his good old friend in prison. It says there: וְלֹא זָכַר שׁוֹר הַמִּשְׁקִים אֶת יוֹסֵף – He didn't remember about his old prison mate, Yosef. And the *possuk* ends וַיִּשְׁכַּחְהוּ, and he forgot about him too. That's superfluous. If he "didn't remember Yosef," why do you have to tell me "he forgot him"?

The *possuk* is saying that Hashem *made him* forget. He might have remembered his old friend. Why not? He was a human being; he was grateful to Yosef. Why would he forget about him? Only that Hashem made him forget. וְלֹא זָכַר אֶת יוֹסֵף, He didn't remember Yosef. But then he reminded himself; he was lying in his bed at night and he's thinking, "Yosef! I forgot about Yosef! Tomorrow I'm going to speak to Pharaoh about Yosef – first thing tomorrow morning." But Hashem said "Nothing doing! Yosef needs all those vitamins. So don't deprive him of the lessons I want to teach him." So וַיִּשְׁכַּחְהוּ, tomorrow Hashem made him forget again. Hakadosh Baruch Hu had bigger plans for Yosef than getting out of prison. He wanted to give Yosef the opportunity, the perfection of Bitachon.

And as each day passed, Yosef became more and more reliant on Hashem. And as the weeks and months passed, Yosef certainly utilized his time in reflecting on the unreliability of men. And there is no doubt that Yosef would address his entreaties to Hakadosh Baruch Hu with more and more earnestness each day, as each passing day brought forth a more intense recognition of the futility of relying on man. Until two years had passed; and now, because of the culmination of the many disappointments, Yosef relied only on Hashem. He knew it in his bones – he felt it! He was totally pure. And now he was prepared for his future; his future in this world and the

next. Yosef had become a *baal bitachon*, a person who relies solely on Hashem.

• Mikeitz 5780 – Pride of Israel

Yosef Hatzadik said, אֲנִישֵׁי מִקְנֵה הַיָּדוּ עֹבְדֵיךָ – "Tell Pharaoh you are shepherds and that's all you know." In Egypt the nastiest thing you could do for a living was a shepherd. There was nothing lower, nothing more contemptible, than that. כִּי תוֹעֵבַת מִצְרַיִם כָּל רְעָה צֶאֱן – it was an abomination in Egypt. If you told the Egyptians that you had a skunk farm, you wouldn't be less popular.

And Yosef coached them, he told his brothers to tell Pharaoh that. And what's the purpose? בְּעֵבֹר תִּשְׁבוּ בְּאֶרֶץ גֹּשֶׁן – "In order you should continue to dwell in the land of Goshen, in the ghetto." You hear a politician like that? That was Yosef Hatzadik guiding his brothers so that the Jews should not leave the confines of the Goshen Ghetto and begin to absorb gentile attitudes.

Unfortunately many Jews have strayed from that lesson that Yosef taught the Bnei Yisroel; and the more we came into contact with the *umos ha'olam* the more we lost the unique pride that only a Yisroel can have. The Gemara (Chagigah 5b) says that Hakadosh Baruch Hu weeps because of that: מִפְּנֵי גְאוּנָתוֹ שֶׁל יִשְׂרָאֵל – Hashem cries for the pride of the Am Yisroel that went lost. Not only for the *meshumadim* and the assimilationists who give up entirely their pride in being a part of the holy nation, but even us Hashem cries for. We had a *ga'avah* once upon a time – we once knew who we were.

• Mikeitz 5781 – Hashem Guides History

When Yosef was being pulled on the chariot through the the streets of Egypt it was the result of a long chain of wondrous events.

Yosef recognized that! That was the greatness of the moment – not to be *mishneh l'melech*, but to study the ways of Hashem and see how it happened.

“Ohh,” thought Yosef as the Egyptians crowded the street to pay homage to the new vice-regent, “now I have the answer. The mystery of all those bumps in the road, all of those seemingly chaotic events – my dreams and my brothers and Potiphar and his wife and the Sar Hamashkim, many other things too – all of it is now explained! Everything was Hashem Echad!”

The history of Yosef serves as a model for every person's life. Hakodosh Boruch Hu is *yosheiv b'seiser*, He's sitting in secrecy and He's manipulating all of the affairs of our lives and we're expected to look back and see how one thing is connected with the previous, all the way back to the beginning.

I'll tell you a little story about myself. I was thrown out of the Hebrew school – when I was a little boy I was sent to the Hebrew school, the old-time Talmud Torah, and something happened that I was thrown out. All the other boys in the Hebrew school were good boys; they weren't thrown out and all of them graduated at bar mitzvah and they succeeded in becoming nothings. Nothing came of them. But because I had some trouble I was thrown out and I had to look for another place. I found a private Rebbi who wanted to teach me and he made a mentch out of me. And finally he sent me to a real yeshivah. I look back now and I understand that it was the hand of Hashem that was sending me on to a career of Torah.

When I was fourteen I wanted to apply for a job in a factory. There was very little money at home and I thought I'd help. So when I saw an ad, “Boys Wanted,” I went downtown to the factory to take a job. And as I turned the corner I saw the man come out of the factory, take the “Help Wanted” sign off the door and take it inside. He had hired his last boy just before I came! I wouldn't be sitting here tonight if I had gained that job.

When I was twenty-one, I thought, “I'm not a public speaker. I'm a bashful boy; I'm not the type to talk to people in public. I won't be able to get a *rabbanus*. What should I do?” I decided I'll try to become a public school teacher. An *einfa!* I'll teach in the public school. So I went to the Board of Education and I applied. The man sitting at the desk said, “What are you doing now?” I said, “I'm a rabbinical student.” He said “Go back to your business; go back.” A *goy* told me to go back. I listened to him. A *malach min hashamayim*.

When I was twenty-four, I was already going out in the world; in those days you were a finished man at twenty-four and I wanted to find a job teaching in a yeshivah. Now, I had a rebbe when I was a young boy and I was his favorite *talmid* and this rebbe had now become the head of all the talmud torahs. I knew that if I would go to him he'd give me a job for sure.

I sat in the waiting room to interview. There was another person who came there for the same job. I knew him from my days in the yeshivah. This person never learned. He played ball all the time. I learned Tanach while he played ball. I knew Tanach well when I was a boy. I knew *lashon hakodesh* well. This boy didn't know anything. He was a ball player.

He got the job, not I. It was beyond my comprehension! But *boruch Hashem* because of that I went to Slabodka! I look back and I thank Hashem that it turned out that way. Hakodosh Boruch Hu rescued me again and again and again. There are more stories like that in my life.

And it's by means of these schemes He rescues each one of us. What about you? What happened that you're here tonight? Hakadosh Baruch Hu guided your footsteps. You'll find some little quirk in the history of your life that saved you. And then another one and another one. It's all from Hashem! Hakadosh Baruch Hu has tricks, and we're expected to study them as much as possible.

Toras Avigdor Inbox



I have been reading the booklets for more than a year, and I have purchased the first set of *seforim*, and I enjoy them and benefit from them very much.

I read a lot, and I would say that the Toras Avigdor booklets are my favorite reading material. They are enjoyable and funny to read, they are very interesting due to Rabbi Miller's unique perspective and explanations of basic concepts, and at the same time they provide valuable insights and encouragement to focus on what is truly important in life.

I do Partners in Torah with a lady who is in the process of becoming *frum*, and we split the session in half, fifteen minutes of *hashkafa* and then fifteen minutes of *halacha*, and I've used three of your booklets so far for the *hashkafa* part.

At first I was hesitant, worried that some of the statements might be too extreme for someone from a non-religious background who still isn't totally *frum*, but Baruch Hashem she really enjoys reading them.

Thank you so much for all the time and effort you put into this amazing project!

Miri Vego, USA

Thank you for everything you're doing to provide the sheets, shiurim, chumash rashi tests (*ed. note: The Chumash Rashi Tests initiative is not a Toras Avigdor initiative but a very special zikui horabbim project, run by a friend of Toras Avigdor; it was advertised in the Toras Avigdor in the past. To learn more, visit chumashrashitests.com*) and daily q&a!

It's amazing and really beneficial to many people I know personally!

Also thank you for the narrations of the Toras avigdor sheets whenever you're able to arrange them. I listen to them almost every week while exercising or doing housework.

Once again thank you for all the hard work and constantly innovating the accessibility of Rav Miller's Torah!

May you see bracha and feel the value of your holy work.

Aryeh Leib, a Yeshivah Bochur in Yerushalayim