

# תשפ"ה · 5785 Bnos

## Parshas

Va'eira

אָחינו כָּל בֵּית יִשְׂרָאֵל הַנְּתוּנִים בְּצָרָה וּבִשְׂבִיָּה הָעוֹמְדִים בֵּין בָּיִם וּבֵין בִּיבְשָׁה הַמָּקוֹם יָרַחם עֲלֵיהֶם וַיּוֹצִיאֵם מִצָּרָה לְרוּחָהּ וּמֵאֲפֶלֶה לְאוֹרָהּ וּמִשְׁעָבוֹד לְגִאֲלָהּ הִשְׁתָּא בְּעָגְלָא וּבְזִמְן קָרִיב וְנֹאמַר אָמֵן



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# Story

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## THE TAILOR'S LESSON

Let's call him Yosef, since his true name has long been forgotten even among the Chassidim who still tell this story. Nor is his name very important to our story. What is important is that Yosef was a tailor – a very good tailor! From the little town near P'shis'cha where Yosef lived, his fame spread many, many miles around. Whenever a poritz wished to have a garment that would arouse envy and admiration, he would come to Yosef and tell of his desire. Soon afterwards, the poritz would be presented with a finished article that satisfied his every expectation. Small wonder that the skillful tailor was a favorite of the luxury-loving squires who lived in and around P'shis'cha. Without question, Yosef was an exceptional tailor – and he knew it. As his nimble fingers darted back and forth like a swift bee, his heart swelled with pride over the excellence of his handiwork. But as the wise King Solomon said in Mishlei: iutd rca hbpk – “Pride goes before a fall.” Yosef, too, was fated to suffer misfortune because of his vanity.

One morning, as he sat at his work bench, a knock at the door interrupted his labors. Yosef rose and opened the door.

He recognized the visitor; it was the servant of a nearby poritz who had made use of Yosef's services in the past.

“Good morning, Peter,” Yosef greeted the servant, “what is it that your master wishes?”

“My master asks you to come to see him tomorrow morning at ten o'clock,” the servant replied.

“He has work for you.”

The peasant's words were pleasing to Yosef's ears. Peter's master had been extremely generous in the past, and the tailor looked forward to making another handsome profit. “Tell your master I will be there,” Yosef told the servant, “promptly at ten.”

Shortly before ten the next morning, Yosef set out for the poritz's mansion. He arrived punctually and was admitted to the squire's chamber. As he entered, the tailor observed an expensive piece of cloth lying on the table near the landowner. His expert eye glinted approvingly.

“Good morning, Sir,” Yosef addressed the poritz. “Your Excellency desired my presence this morning?”

“Yes, Yosef,” the squire replied. “I recently returned from a visit to Paris, and I brought back some of the expensive material for which that city is famous. The piece of cloth that you see here is very dear, and I have decided to have a robe made from it. I would like you to make this garment for me, but I wish you to exercise great care in the workmanship you put into this cloth. Be sure that the

quality of the labor which you perform is worthy of the material which I am giving you.”

Yosef uttered a short laugh. “Your Excellency,” he demurred, “surely you need not caution me in this way. After all, am I not the most expert of tailors? You can certainly have confidence in me that I will deliver the finished garment to your complete satisfaction.”

The poritz handed the cloth to Yosef, and the tailor marched off to his home to begin work on the new robe.

When the robe was ready, Yosef made an appointment to see the poritz for a fitting to be sure the garment was perfect. In the room with the squire were several of his men who were anxiously awaiting the opportunity to see the garment which had been so highly praised by its owner. Yosef proudly unwrapped the robe and tried it on the poritz. To his utter amazement, the poritz and his men broke out with loud oaths and shouted at Yosef angrily.

“What do you mean,” demanded the poritz, “by bringing this robe here in this condition? Look what a miserable fit you have made! Why, the whole garment is absolutely ruined. Get out of here at once!”

Under the fierce assault of the poritz and his men, Yosef quickly retreated through the door and hurried out of the house. As the gates were shut behind him with a loud crash, he saw a bundle hurtle past him and fall to the ground. It was the poritz’s new robe. Dejected in spirit and still quaking from the wrath of the poritz and his men, Yosef picked up the fallen robe and began his trip home.

Yosef’s misfortunes did not end with his dismissal from the poritz’s house. The disgrace he suffered at the squire’s court turned out to be the beginning of a long series of events that eventually brought Yosef to a state of poverty. All over the region, people began whispering that Yosef had lost his skill – if he ever had any. Despite his talent, the tailor could not manage to scrape together enough coins to keep his family and himself from hunger because of the bad reputation he had gained.

One day, as Yosef and his wife sat at the bare table, his wife said, “Listen, Yosef, why don’t you do what everyone else does? Anybody who is in trouble goes to the great Tzaddik Reb Yerachmiel. He is the son of the Yid HaKadosh of P’shis’cha and is known to perform all sorts of miracles. Do as I say, Yosef, and go speak to the rebbe. If he has helped others, perhaps he can help us.”

Yosef was too heartbroken to argue with his wife. Besides, perhaps she was right. Perhaps Reb Yerachmiel would provide them with a solution to rid them of their misery. A short time afterwards, the tailor was on his way to the house of the renowned rebbe.

Yosef was admitted to the rebbe’s chamber, and he was soon pouring his heart out to the holy man. He told the rebbe how he had fallen from the heights of success to the depths of poverty. Reb Yerachmiel listened carefully to the tailor’s story and said to him, “This is what you must do. Take the robe that you made for the poritz and open all the stitches. Then, sew it up all over again. But you must make sure to sew the stitches in exactly the same place where you sewed them the first

time. When you have done this, bring the robe once more to the poritz.”

Yosef stared at the rebbe in astonishment. What sort of advice was this? If the robe were made the second time in the very same way that it had been made the first time, why would the poritz accept it now? In fact, it was likely that he would now be angrier than before. Yet Yosef had no choice. Thus had the rebbe spoken, and thus he would act. He thanked the Tzaddik for his help and returned home.

Several days later, half in fear and half in hope, Yosef brought the finished robe once more to the house of the poritz. Hardly had the squire tried on the garment when he shouted to his wife, “Come, my dear, immediately! You must see what a magnificent robe the tailor has brought. Never before have I seen anything like it!”

Yosef’s fortunes quickly changed again. Once more his reputation spread to the neighboring towns, and soon he had regained his former position. Yosef realized that this sudden improvement in his circumstances had not occurred by chance. Surely it was because he had heeded the words of Reb Yerachmiel. Yosef decided that he would visit the Tzaddik once more and seek an explanation of his strange counsel.

“I will tell you,” Reb Yerachmiel said, upon hearing Yosef’s story. “I was able to detect in you that the first time that you made the robe you were conceited and haughty, because of your extraordinary skill. Conceit and haughtiness are not pleasant traits, and to teach you this lesson, Hashem made the robe appear to the poritz as a shabby, sloppy piece of work. When I told you to open the original stitches which were sewn with haughtiness and sew the garment over again, you did so with humility. That is why the second time, even though the garment looked exactly the same as it did originally, it was now pleasing in the eyes of the poritz and his wife.”

(Reprinted from The Best of Olomeinu)

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# Parsha Quiz

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**See how much  
you know!**

1. To whom did Hashem promise that He would give their children the holy land of Israel?
2. On what special occasion did Hashem make this promise to Avrohom Avinu?
3. In which Parsha is this promise to Avrohom mentioned?
4. What are the four promises Hashem made to the Jews in Miztrayim, and what do they mean?
5. How do we show our thanks to Hashem for fulfilling these four promises?
6. Did the Jews listen to what Moshe told them in the name of Hashem, and why?
7. How did Hashem tell Moshe and Aharon to speak to Paroh, and why?
8. Which brother of Yosef lived longer than all the others?
9. When did the slavery start?
10. Who was the sister of Kehas?
11. Who was Amram's wife?
12. Who was Yocheved's father?
13. Who was Aharon's wife?
14. Who was Elisheva's famous brother?
15. Who were the children of Aharon and Elisheva?
16. Who was the famous son of Elozor?
17. How old were Moshe and Aharon when they came to Paroh?
18. What was the first sign Aharon showed Paroh?
19. What did the Egyptian magicians do?
20. What happened to all the snakes of the Egyptian magicians?
21. What was the first makkah?
22. Who brought the first makkah?
23. Why didn't Moshe bring the first makah?
24. How many weeks of warning did Paroh get before the first makkah?

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# Recipe

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## Toasted Marshmallow Sandwich Cookies

### Ingredients:

1 cup coconut oil  
1 cup sugar  
1 cup brown sugar  
2 eggs  
1 tsp vanilla extract  
2 cups flour  
1 tsp baking powder  
1 tsp baking soda  
½ tsp salt  
1 ½ cup oats  
1 ½ cups Rice Krispies  
1 cups white chocolate chips  
2-3 tbsp water  
1 8 oz bag large marshmallows (about 3 doz total)

### Instructions:

1. Preheat oven to 350°F.
2. In the bowl of a mixer, cream coconut oil with sugars until creamy. Add eggs and vanilla and beat until combined. Add flour, baking powder, baking soda, and salt and mix until combined. Add oats, Rice Krispies, and chocolate chips.
3. Add water if needed if dough seems dry. Coconut oil is drier than margarine or oil, so recipes using it tend to need a little more moisture.
4. Using a round tablespoon measuring spoon, scoop tablespoon sized scoops of cookie dough onto a parchment lined baking sheet. Bake for 10 minutes, or until edges are golden. Let cool.
5. Once all cookies are baked and cooled, spread marshmallows on a parchment lined baking sheet. Bake for 6-7 minutes, until marshmallows are expanded and golden on top. Remove from oven and immediately use marshmallows to sandwich two cookies together.
6. If making ahead, freeze in an airtight container with parchment paper between the layers.

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# Middah of the Week

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Anavah

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**We want to hear from you!!**

Questions, comments, or suggestions?  
Email us at [bnos@agudah.org](mailto:bnos@agudah.org).

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