

Sha'arei Eliyahu

23rd of Tevet
Shemot 5777



Table Talk

The Story of Moshe Rabbenu

There is an interesting Midrash in this week's parasha that tells us that משה רבנו went to the land of כוש and reigned there as king for 40 years. While there he took for himself a wife, who was the wife of the former king of the land. After taking her as a wife, however, משה did not live with her and placed a sword between her and himself.

The בן איש חי asks an interesting question. Did this entire 40 year episode happen before or after משה married צפורה? By looking at the Pesukim through a simple lens we see that the Torah says that after משה ran away from Pharaoh's sword for killing the Egyptian, משה saved יתרו's daughters from the other shepherds by the well¹. To this the בן איש חי asks a follow-up question of why משה went and married a 2nd wife, and even more so why he didn't live with her.

The Arizal tells us that when משה רבנו killed the Egyptian he rectified a portion of the episode of קין and הבל². משה רבנו was the reincarnation of הבל while the Egyptian the 1st half of קין. When משה killed the Egyptian he fixed the evil part of קין that killed הבל. The moment that happened the 2nd spark of קין went into יתרו, and on that day יתרו gave up his Avodah Zara and became a גר (convert). Then he gave his daughter, צפורה, to משה as a bride. Once יתרו did that he fixed the 2nd part of קין's sin, which was to take הבל's 2nd wife.

הבל was the rightful husband of the two that were born with him, but since קין stopped him from marrying the 2nd one that needed to be fixed. Being that הבל was already with one wife משה רבנו only had to marry the woman from כוש. Whereas with צפורה he had children.

Lastly, the בן איש חי, brings the story of when מרים and אהרן were discussing משה and the כושית woman. Until now we learned it as צפורה, because after Mattan Torah משה רבנו had separated from her. However now, the בן איש חי teaches us that it was really this כושית woman that they were talking about. מרים and אהרן had the same question that we earlier had of why משה married but hadn't lived with the כושית woman.

The בן איש חי explains that the כושית woman had so much דינים (judgment) on her that as a result of marrying her משה was forbidden from being buried in Israel. This is why he had married her but not had children with her, so as not to bring more דינים on himself. משה saw all this through רוח הקודש and went to fulfil this mission despite knowing that this would prevent him from entering ארץ ישראל.

This Midrash teaches us a valuable lesson on true leadership. משה רבנו went out of his way to fix a mistake that קין had made sacrificing his own right to enter ארץ ישראל. A true leader in the Jewish nation isn't one that elevates himself on the account of his followers but one that does whatever it takes to elevate his followers on his own account.

SHABBAT SCHEDULE

Mincha	4:40 PM
Candle Lighting	4:40 PM
Shiur Shabbat	8:30 PM
Shacharit	8:30 AM
Shabbat Derasha	3:00 PM
Mincha	4:15 PM
SUNSET	4:59 PM
Aravit (Shabbat Ends)	5:44 PM
Rabbenu Tam	6:12 PM



Shabbat Shalom U'Mevorach



1. The Pasuk says that the daughters told יתרו that an Egyptian man saved us, had he been in כוש for 40 years it would have said a man from כוש had saved us.

2. קין and הבל were both born with twin sisters, whom they married. הבל was born with two twin sister while קין was only born with one. קין had claimed that since he is the eldest he is entitled to double while הבל claimed that since the extra twin was born with him was to marry the extra and due to this conflict קין killed הבל.