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# בְּשִׁיטְחָא

BY RABBI NETANEL NAAMAT

We find a fascinating phenomenon in the middle of this week's *Parsha*.<sup>1</sup> As if taking a break from the general narrative, two non-sequitur *Pesukim* are placed in the middle of the episode of the *Bnei Yisrael* leaving *Har Sinai*. Their unusual placement here leads the Gemara<sup>2</sup> to question the arrangement of *Pesukim*. Amazingly, the Gemara concludes that the *Pesukim* were intentionally placed, "out of order," and after *Moshiach* comes – specifically, after the *Yetzer Horah* is destroyed, these *Pesukim* will return to their proper place!

As for why these *Pesukim* were placed here, the Gemara explains that they serve to separate two unfavourable episodes, the first one where the *Bnei Yisrael* created a justification to rebel against Hashem, and the second where they actually did complain about the lack of available meat in the desert.<sup>3</sup>

Had these two episodes been placed together, the *Yetzer Horah* would denounce *Klal Yisrael*, accusing them of sinning, sin after sin. Thus, by suspending the narrative, the *Yetzer Horah* cannot make the same charge.<sup>4</sup> Once the *Yetzer Horah* is destroyed, there is no longer a need to place these *Pesukim* here, and they can return to their proper order.

The *Ohr HaTzafun*<sup>5</sup> uses this passage to highlight Hashem's overwhelming love for *Klal Yisrael*. The facts are that *Klal Yisrael* did indeed have two sins, one right after the other. However, Hashem is willing to 'shuffle' the order of the Torah for thousands of years, so that the *Yetzer Horah* doesn't have the ability to point to their never-ending sinning as permanently documented in the Torah. Additionally, Hashem specifically chose these two *Pesukim*, as these *Pesukim* are "פרשה של כבוד," which talk about the *Shechina* resting amongst *Klal Yisrael*.<sup>6</sup>

Hashem's love for us is unending – though we may do *Aveiros*, Hashem loves us, and goes 'out of His way' on behalf of *Klal Yisrael*.

1 *Bamidbar* 10:35-36

2 *Shabbos* 116a

3 *Rashi ibid.*

4 *Chodesh Ha'Aviv, ibid.*

5 *Ohr HaTzafun* Volume 3, page 36.

6 *Yalkut Shimoni Bamidbar* 10

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## Mind the Gap - Taking the Next Step

It can often be difficult to feel Hashem's love for us, especially when life seems to run on its own accord. Yet there are ways we can make our knowledge of Hashem's love into a genuine feeling. One method is to be mindful of the idea, "בשבילי, נברא העולם,"<sup>1</sup> that the world was created solely for me. Though it appears that Hashem has created the world with broad strokes, every fish, every blade of grass, every sunset, and every new technological innovation was created for me. Hashem has placed incalculable value in my existence – the creation of the entire universe is a worthwhile endeavor, just so that I can live. With this attitude, we can take note of the daily events in our lives, and recognize how Hashem is constantly looking out for us, and meticulously tending to our needs.

1 *Sanhedrin* 37a

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# ILLUMINATING THE MIND

*The following true story was told to the author by the person in the story.*

The twins were born two months ago, and though money had been tight, Tzvi<sup>1</sup> had calculated that he can still meet his monthly expenses. True, his family had just added new expenses of child care, food, clothing, and the like, but between his and his wife's salaries, they should be able to squeeze by.

Around this time, Tzvi ran into his friend Avi, at *Mincha*. After davening they caught up on some news, and Avi mentioned he was leaving his old job for an opportunity out of town. "You should really look into the position I'm leaving," said Avi. "I think you'd be a perfect fit." Tzvi was extremely reluctant – he liked his current job, and was nervous about the added responsibility. The new position didn't offer anything except for a greater paycheck. However, with the cajoling of Avi, he sent in his resume.

Two days later, he was sitting across from the hiring director. "Do you see yourself in this job long term?" the director asked. "Not really," responded Tzvi. He looked the director in the eye. "I have to admit, the job itself does not interest me so much. If I am hired, I will do the best I can, but to be blunt, I'm mostly here because Avi asked me to interview here."

Amazingly, Tzvi was hired within the week.

As the year continued, Tzvi and his wife realized they had made a terrible error. They had dreadfully miscalculated their finances by tens of thousands of dollars worth! Yet... because of the new job that Tzvi had landed, they were still making ends meet. If not for the 'chance' meeting, and the incredible way in which Tzvi was hired, they would have been drowning in debt.

Sometimes we don't even realize how desperately we need Hashem's intervention, yet Hashem is there, helping and guiding us with love.

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<sup>1</sup> Names have been changed.

## DID YOU KNOW?

- The letter 'נ' was inverted before and after the interrupting Pesukim as a reference to נעשה ונשמה, which *Klal Yisrael* had 'inverted'.<sup>1</sup>
- Hashem called *Klal Yisrael* "בני בכרי ישראל" which connotes the highest level of love for *Klal Yisrael*<sup>2</sup>, specifically at a time when *Klal Yisrael* was at the lowest levels of טומעה in *Mitzrayim*!<sup>3</sup>
- Hashem's love for *Klal Yisrael* has not diminished through the *Galus* – it's as strong as it was at *Har Sinai*.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Chodesh Ha'Aviv, Shabbos 115b*

<sup>2</sup> *Avos D'Reb Nasson, 2<sup>nd</sup> version, Chapter 44*

<sup>3</sup> *Nesivos Shalom, עניני חנוכה מאמר שני ארת ב'*

<sup>4</sup> *Radak, Yirmiyahu 31:2*