

GREAT FOR SHARING
AT THE SHABBOS TABLE!

בִּשְׁבִּיחָה

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אור ישראל

Living Life Deeper

PESACH

A BEAUTIFUL RELATIONSHIP

Pesach is here, with its attendant hustle and bustle - cleaning, cooking, and preparing *divrei Torah*. As we all know, Pesach is a celebration of Hashem's amazing kindness, when He took us out of *Mitzrayim*. This marvelous event is relived on Pesach, when each one of us sees ourselves as if we personally just left Egypt.

The first *mitzvah* said at *Har Sinai* mentions *Yetzias Mitzrayim*.¹ The *mitzvah* of Shabbos also mentions *Yetzias Mitzrayim*,² as do many others. Though it is understandable that we must have enormous gratitude to Hashem for this miracle, why is the Exodus stressed over and over again? It is indeed a great miracle, but is it any different than the miracles in the desert, where Hashem sustained millions of people for decades? Is it any different than the miracles in *Eretz Yisrael*, where Hashem conquered the inhabitants, allowing *Klal Yisrael* to take their rightful place?

The Malbim,³ (R' Meir Leibush Wisser, 1809-1879) explains that leaving Egypt was totally different than any other interaction *Klal Yisrael* had with Hashem. This was the first interaction we had with Hashem as a nation, the first time our national relationship was first forged. *Yetzias Mitzrayim* is not simply the story of a great miracle, but the wonderful story of the marriage between Hashem and His people.

We aren't the only ones who remember that beautiful moment in history. Hashem too remembers that moment with affection, telling his *nevi'im* that He still remembers the beginnings of our relationship, even when *Klal Yisrael* is doing terrible *aveiros*.⁴

In our life, there are times we do things because we have to, and times because we want to. When we do *mitzvos*, there can sometimes be a feeling of responsibility, of duty, and perhaps even resistance. However, when we personalize the relationship we have with Hashem - how Hashem loves us so dearly, and how He remembers every little thing that we've done for Him, we can energize ourselves, turning our chores into opportunities, and what was once done with effort is now done with excitement.

1 *Shemos* 20:2

2 *Devarim* 5:15

3 *Yirmiyahu* 2:2 s.v. זכרתי לך

4 *Yirmiyahu* 2:2

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Mind the Gap - Taking the Next Step

While it may be nice to know how much Hashem cares about us, how does one feel this? What can we do to feel Hashem's love, especially if we find that things are not going our way?

It is important to keep a log, either mental or even a physical journal, that reminds us of every time we saw, felt, and even understood Hashem's love.

By drawing on the times where things worked out perfectly, or even the times where things were sour, but we just felt Hashem was with us, we can create a stronger bond with Hashem.

Another method is to use our imagination. Imagine, for example, Hashem sitting there, surrounded by His Heavenly Court, the angels singing His praises. Suddenly, He silences them, stating that He is waiting to hear or to see what so-and-so is doing.

Using this technique, we move from knowing that Hashem loves us into feeling that Hashem loves us. Creating this mental picture of Hashem's personal and detailed involvement in our lives can be a way to connect to Hashem in a deeper way.



We must strengthen our connection to Mussar! Mussar is essential to us, so the Yetzer Hora battles against it, convincing even the strongest Ben Torah to ignore and abandon it. - Rav Moshe Wolfson shlit"א, *Mashgiach Torah Vodaas*, Approbation "Kuntres Kinyan Chochmah"

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A FATHER'S WISDOM

Rabbi Shmuel Braun* just finished giving his last class on relationships, the eighth in a series. Some people remained behind to discuss some particulars, but they all left until only Yosef Moskowitz remained.

"Thank you for arranging this," said Rabbi Braun. "I really appreciate your efforts in getting everyone together, and even pushing me to do it!" Rabbi Braun said with a smile.

"Not a problem, it was my pleasure," replied Yosef. "I stayed behind because I wanted to explain something - have you wondered why I asked you to give this class, and why I pushed so hard for it? I'll tell you. A couple of months ago, I saw you with your children, how you interacted with them, and so on. I saw children who truly love their father, and a father who loves his kids. I said to myself, 'I want that!' And that's when I decided to approach you.

"After your classes, I see how much work it takes to have a good relationship with anyone, even one's children!"

"Especially one's children," Rabbi Braun corrected. "It's usually taken for granted that we love our children, so that doesn't get said. What does get said is whenever a child needs correction, and the child ends up having a relationship with a parent who is always correcting them.

"I mentioned this in one of the classes, but since you brought it up, I'll say it again. Before I married, I made up my mind that I want to be a good father. Now, I knew that I have a temper, and I also knew that children can sometimes do things that can make a person get upset. So I came up with a plan. When each child was born, I bought a notebook. Every so often, I would write stories in these books, little things I noticed about my children, how wonderful they were, how cute they were, and how thoughtful they were.

"Now, children being children, they weren't always so wonderful, cute and thoughtful. And at those times, when I felt my anger rising, I remembered those stories. If I were able to, I would take a moment to go to my room, sit down, and read some of the stories to myself. I'd remind myself that we all have times where we are amazing, and times where we make mistakes.

"I can tell you, it makes a world of a difference. It stops me from getting caught in the moment, it reminds me of the special relationship a parent has with a child."

Yosef was thoughtful for a moment, then nodded his head slowly. "Thank you Rabbi, have a good night."

**Based on a true story, names have been changed.*

DID YOU KNOW?

- Even when *Klal Yisrael* sins, Hashem loves them more than the angels!¹
- In the *Haggadah*, we praise Hashem, and then mention the four sons, thanking Hashem for each son, even the 'wicked' one.²
- Every person, at different times, is one of the four sons. And whether one is the 'wise' son or the 'wicked' son, he is still considered the child of Hashem.³

1 *Avos D'Rebbi Nosson*, 2nd version, Chap. 44

2 *Nesivos Shalom* Vol. II, Pesach 253

3 *ibid.*