

# The Torah Sparks

## SHABBOS COMPANION

### PARSHAH OVERVIEW

Yosef is taken out of prison and interprets Pharaoh's dreams. Yosef is revered and appointed as ruler of Egypt, second in command to Pharaoh. Menashe and Ephraim are born to Yosef in Egypt. Famine ensues. Yosef's brothers come to Egypt. Brothers unite. Goblet is found by Binyamin. Brothers are sent home.

### QUICK VORT

Rashi says: "All other rivers are not called canals, only the Nile. For all of the land is made into many man-made canals, and the Nile goes up into them and waters them."

From a deeper perspective, we are meant to realize that although it may not seem as obvious, even man-made things are FROM HASHEM. Hashem gave humans the capacity and mental knowledge to come up with ideas, inventions, or creations, but it doesn't take Hashem out of the picture!

R' Yochanan Rudensky shlit'a pointed out that in Pirkei Avos, we are taught: *Don't stop learning and say, 'Wow, look at that plowed field.'*

Why did it choose a plowed field, something man-made? To teach us that we can see Hashem's beauty in this world even through man-made things!

Yavan only saw the human side of creation. We must learn to see the Hashem side of creation!

**NO SOUL WAS EVER SAVED BY HATE. NO TRUTH WAS EVER PROVED BY VIOLENCE.**  
(RABBI J. SACKS ZT'L)

### PARSHAH STATS

**146** Pesukim    **2025** Words    **7914** Letters    **0** Mitzvos

### GEMATRIA

There are 146 pesukim in Parshas Miketz, the parshah that always falls out on Shabbos Chanukah.

Ironically, there are also 146 pesukim in Parshas Bereishis, the very first Parshah of the Torah.

There is indeed a connection between Chanukah and Creation, after all, the word Chanukah - חנוכה - means inaugural and beginning.

The word חָנַךְ - to get back up - is also gematria 146. Chanukah is an auspicious time to create a new flame, and re-spark your connection with Hashem.

### CHASSIDUS

The Kotzker Rebbe points out that the difference between a Jew and a goy is how they wake up in the morning.

By Yaakov, it says: וַיִּקָּץ יַעֲקֹב מִשְׁנֵנוֹ וַיֹּאמֶר - *he got up and said Modeh Ani.*

By Pharaoh, it says: וַיִּקַּץ פַּרְעֹה וַיֵּשָׁן - *he got up and went right back to sleep!*

It is important that we ask ourselves if we are awake or sleeping through life.

Yaakov Avinu teaches us the importance of being awake and truly experiencing life to its fullest.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Most Chumashim, at the end of the Parshah, record the number of pesukim. At the end of Parshas Miketz, it is unique in that it also records the number of words!

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The only mitzvah that is described by the Rambam as the "Most beloved" is Ner Chanukah (see Hilchos Chanukah 4:12)

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On Chanukah, we light a total of 36 candles, which correspond to the 36 mesechtos of Shas.

### INSPOGRAPHIC CORNER



# Hope Never Fails

**Just Admit that You've Done this Before**



In Parshas Miketz, Chapter 42, Verse 1, the Torah tells us: וירא יעקב כי יש שבר במצרים – *Yaakov saw that there was grain in Egypt.*

The Midrash Rabbah (91:6) points out that up until now, when the Torah describes food, it uses the word אכל or בר, but here the Torah uses the word שבר (*shever*). Why is that so?

The Midrash explains that homiletically speaking, the word שבר can also be read as שבר (*seiver*), which means "hope."

There were four candles burning in a room and they started talking to each other. The first candle said, "Hi, I am Peace. But at the present time, there is chaos and robbery everywhere, and it seems like the world does not want me anymore. I am sorry, I cannot stay here." Just like that, Peace extinguished himself and left the world.

Rashi (on 42:1) explains that Yaakov Avinu saw through a Holy lens שבר יש לו שבר – **that he still has hope in Egypt.**

Yosef, his son, was in Egypt, which gave Yaakov the courage to know that he still had hope, even in the darkness of Egypt.

The second candle said, "Hi, I am Trust. Today, the world is filled with lies and deceit, and it seems like the world does not want me anymore. I am sorry, I cannot stay here." Just like that, Trust extinguished himself and left the world.

Egypt, from a Kabbalistic perspective, is the root of all exiles. The vision of Yaakov Avinu, to be able to see HOPE amidst the darkness of Egypt, still rings true today, thus giving us the strength to realize that we too can survive the travails and darkness of our current state of exile.

The Third candle said, "Hi, I am Love. Today, everyone is so busy doing their own thing, no one has time for me anymore. People are even forgetting to love their loved ones. I am sorry, I cannot stay here." Just like that, Love extinguished himself and left the world.

We just need to always have hope, and with hope, everything else is possible!

*Have a holy Shabbos!  
R' Ori Strum*

A little boy entered the room and upon noticing the three extinguished candles, he said, "Candles! Why didn't you burn until the end? How can you leave like this?!"

At that moment, the fourth candle chimed in and said, "Dear child, do not be sad. I am Hope, and guess what? While I am still burning, you can relight the rest of the candles again."

The child's eyes lit up and his energy was revitalized. He took the candle of Hope and slowly began to relight the candles of Peace, Trust, and Love.

If there is one takeaway message from the holiday of Chanukah, it is this! We may live in Galus, in darkness, in a world of chaos, negativity, and impurity.

But guess what? There is still hope!

The candles of Chanukah remind us that there remains a ray of hope, a ray of light, and a ray of goodness.



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## ANNOUNCEMENT:

Baruch Hashem, I have completed a new sefer (English), *Dove Tales*, all about the fascinating connection between Chanukah and the dove.



Copies are available FOR FREE. Keep an eye out for them in shuls, and be sure to pick one up, to enhance and elevate your Chanukah!

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