



The Torah Sparks

SHABBOS COMPANION

PARSHAH OVERVIEW 

Yehuda confronts Yosef. Yosef reveals his true identity to his brothers. Pharaoh and Yosef send gifts to Yaakov. Yaakov travels with family to Egypt (70 souls). Yaakov reunites with Yosef. Pharaoh meets Yosef's family. Yosef acquires the land of Egypt for Pharaoh.

QUICK VORT 

Upon revealing his true identity to his brothers, Yosef says two simple words: אֲנִי יוֹסֵף - *I am Yosef*.

Rav Shternbuch shlit"א brings from the Chofetz Chaim an interesting idea. Just as Yosef, by just saying "I am Yosef" said so much and sent a powerful message to his brothers...

So too, at the end of days, Hashem will reveal Himself to the world, and He will say just two words: אֲנִי ה' - *I am Hashem*.


Just saying these two words will be enough and sufficient for the world to recognize the Creator of the World.

These two words will provide us with so much clarity. They will provide the world with moral clarity and understanding.


One lesson to take from here is the power of our words. We don't have to talk a lot to be effective, we just need to choose the right words to say.

Speak wisely and thoughtfully.

"MORE THAN HATE DESTROYS THE HATED, IT DESTROYS THE HATER."
(RABBI J. SACKS ZT'L)

PARSHAH STATS 

106 Pesukim	1480 Words	5680 Letters	0 Mitzvos
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GEMATRIA 

I counted 9x in the Parshah that the word אבִי (my father) is used. Yosef was away from his father for so long and couldn't wait to be reunited.

The natural state of a child is to long and yearn for a loving connection with his parents.

The word אבִי has a numerical value of 13, the same as אהבה, or love.

Each of us has a soul that belongs to our Father in Heaven. Just like Yosef, our soul longs for a loving connection with Hashem. Let us heed this special calling.

CHASSIDUS 

The Sfas Emes understands that the word נֶעַר (lad) in our Parshah is a reference to the Neshama.

A person is considered to be an ערב - a guarantor - for his neshama, his soul.

Just like Yehuda needed to bring back the נֶעַר to his father, Yaakov, so too we must take care of our נֶעַר, our Heavenly souls.

Our souls do not belong to us; they belong to our Father in Heaven. It is our duty and holy obligation to take care of this precious cargo along our journey through life.

DID YOU KNOW?

The last letter of the first three words of the Parshah spells: שוּוֶה, which means: equal. Baal HaTurim explains that Yehuda was telling Yosef that, "I am equal to you. Just as you are a king, so too I am a king."

When Yehuda approached Yosef, the Midrash relates that he was ready to wage war!

The Tanya (Ch. 12) teaches that one should repay even a guilty offender with Kindness. Yosef is the paragon who displayed this.

INSPOGRAPHIC CORNER 



Dvar Torah for Parshas Vayigash

Everything is Green

Put on Glasses of Kedusha



There is a powerful story about a wealthy man who had severe eye pain. He went to the top medical professionals, but despite their prescriptions and treatments, the problem did not go away.

The man decided to ask the local sage what to do. Sure enough, the sage looked at him, contemplated for a few moments, and said, "This is what you need to do. Concentrate only on green colors and try not to let your eyes see any other color."

The man thought this was strange, but he was desperate, and desperate times called for desperate measures. He hired a group of servants to paint everything in his home green. Everything, all the furniture, walls, food, and even the people, were painted green.

A few days later, the sage came to check in on the man. When the sage got to the front door, he was met by one of the servants who immediately poured a big bucket of green paint all over him. Shocked, confused, and dripping with paint, the sage said, "Why did you do that? Why did you pour a bucket of green paint on me?! Are you crazy?!"

"Oh," said the servant, "Our master was told that he cannot see any color other than green, so we painted everything in the home green, and we were advised that everyone who comes to visit also has to be painted green."

The sage went in to see the man and started laughing, "You fool! If only you had purchased a pair of green colored glasses worth just a few dollars, you could have saved so much time, energy, and money."

Instead of changing his glasses (something within his reach), he tried to change everything else around him, an endeavor that would likely prove to be futile.



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In life, sometimes we think we can change the world around us, and we think that if we'd color the whole world "green" then all will be well.

But in reality, this approach is foolish, unreasonable, and will prove to be futile.

We cannot expect to shape and change the world around us, rather, what we can and should do is put on our own "green" glasses, put on our own lenses of kedusha (holiness) and see the world and our lives through that lens.

If society is portraying a certain lifestyle of unholiness, we don't need to go along with that. Instead, we can put on our own glasses of purity and holiness and see the world through them.

At the beginning of Parshas Vayigash, the Torah says three words: ויגש אליו יהודה – *Yehudah approached him (Yosef)*.

Homiletically, perhaps we are being taught a lesson as Yehudim – Jews – whenever we are faced with opposition. ויגש אליו יהודה – when you are faced with opposition, with unholiness, with the Yetzer Harah, etc – approach it as a Yehuda, a Yehudi, a Jew!

Look at the world through glasses of confidence and holiness. ***I'm a Jew and I'm proud and I'll sing it out loud.*** These are not just some cute song lyrics from the song Ivri Anochi by Benny Friedman. They are the lyrics of our souls, our very essence; it is the confident calling and singing of our inner souls.

So, don't waste your time, energy, money, and patience trying to paint the world green. Instead, put on a green pair of glasses and see the world through that lens of purity and holiness.

*Have a holy Shabbos!
R' Ori Strum*

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