

LEKH LEKHA 2 - THE SPLITTING OF THE HALVES AND THE SLUMBER OF ABRAHAM

In an early Torah narrative we are taught that Hashem had caused a Tardema or spiritual slumber to fall upon Adam. This was necessary in order to extract his female counterpart Havah who had been according to one Talmudic opinion attached to him in a back to back formation 1 - bringing her to the optimal state of face to face with Adam. Parenthetically the other Talmudic opinion which states that she was attached in the form of a tail is a reference to the spiritual position of the celestial female channel at the time of creation. 2 This noted spiritual placement had initiated the complaint from the moon as to why she had been positioned merely as a receiver from her male counterpart or celestial sun. 3 Apparently being beneath and behind that of the male in the position of a tail. Both views take into consideration that Adam and Havah are reflections of their parallel male and female spiritual counterparts above. In order to facilitate bringing them face to face the verse relates that - God then made Adam fall into a deep state of unconsciousness and he slept. 4 Apparently this narrative is teach us that the relationship between man and his mate will always begin in a back to back formation. This then is to be followed by a period of spiritual slumber as a precursor in having them stand in an optimal position of face to face. This rule as expressed in the story of the formation of Adam is merely following the pattern of how the male and female spiritual channels are established in the celestial world above. 5 Take note that the crucial step in bringing male and female to the state of face to face is the befalling on the male a תרדמה - or slumber before that formation can be established. Curiously the only other place in the Torah that the expression of תרדמה is used is found in our Parasha as part of Berit Ben Habetarim. As the verse states - that a deep state of unconsciousness fell upon Abram. 6 It appears to me that it behooves Israel to pay close attention to the details of this event in the life of Abraham as it represents an eternal imprint into the future pathway of divine service for our people. This is especially so since the Ramban comments on verse 6 of Perek 12 that Ma'aseh Avot Siman Labanim - every nuance recorded in the Torah concerning the lives of the Patriarchs is crucial - at it represents the DNA in the life of Israel. 7

SPIRITUAL UNITY ABOVE

Prior to performing a Misva we are encouraged by our Rabbis to declare Leshem Yihoud Qudsha Berikh Hu Oushkhinteh - Thru the performance of this deed I hereby intend to unify two cosmic forces. The male force known by the code word "The Holy One the source of blessing" is to be united with his "mate" or female counterpart known by the code word "Shehina". A mating will result in the bringing forth of divine light to descend into the lower worlds allowing for the oneness of the light of the Creator to be revealed. 8 According to R. HaAri the order in which this occurs includes the following processes. 9 The Male and Female forces are initially built up in a formation of back to back. A תרדמה spiritual slumber must befall the male side as a precursor to split these forces from their back to back formation. It occurs as a result of the two mentalities both male and female leaving his being causing a loss of consciousness. The female mentalities are given over to his mate allowing them to disjoin from their back to back relationship. These mentalities are aspects related to judgment. During the severing process spiritually called the Nesira or severing process - judgment is aroused that needs to be tempered. The male mentalities that have departed him serve to assist and elicit an arousal from above drawing down new additional mentalities allowing them to build their relationship in the ideal position of face to face. It is apparent that when a male abandons his role as a giver and takes on female characteristics (or mentalities) of receiving - it results in the back to back formation. This will necessitate a transfer process of the female mentalities that will always elicit divine justice upon him. We will see this process taking place annually during Rosh Hashana as well as nationally during Israel's exile. We noted that this part of the procedure elicits the attribute of justice - all the more so - if the slumber is considered by the male as personal enjoyment instead of as a necessary part of the service. The male and female are now repositioned in the formation of face to face. They then need to be built according to their new relationship. They will ultimately mate in order to emit divine flow. These rules are set into creation and serve as the set of procedures to unite Adam and Havah in the creation narrative. It appears to me that Abraham and his seed Israel were inaugurated during the Berit Ben Habetarim on both individual and national levels to effectuate the will of the Creator to unify the Divine male and female components. As Adam before us we are bound within our being and experience to associate with the male and female components of creation. As the Zohar teaches that he who observes Torah and Misvot it is if he made (or unified) the divine components above. 10 We hope to show that this cosmic rule of creation which includes a תרדמה expresses itself not only to Abraham during the Berit but also remains a fixed rule in our service of Hashem. We must be aware that a slumber must always take place in advance of us properly uniting the cosmic male and female forces. This תרדמה however will elicit or evoke forces of judgement which must be dealt with by the instigator of the spiritual union.

THE SLUMBER OF ADAM AND ABRAHAM

The Talmud (Shabbat 146) teaches that the Nahash had cast his impurity into Havah- apparently via relations. 11 The Midrash asserts that this occurred while Adam was not at her side but rather while he remained asleep ! 12 Did he "over sleep" beyond what was necessary in order to split from her from their back to back formation? Another Midrash teaches that at the time of their separation the Satan was created. 13 Apparently we can surmise that חוה- was left alone during Adam's slumber facing this evil influence. The Berit of Abraham also includes the idea of taking items and splitting them in half. "He split (the animals) in half and placed one opposite the other". 14 He was then to experience a slumber and was shown at that time that his descendants will relive a dread of 4 exiles. As the Midrash interpreted each of the words in the verse associated with his slumber. מדין is Babylon - חשכה is Madai - גדולה is Greece נופלת עליו is the exile under Rome. 15 This is the part of the process when Divine Judgement is aroused - similar to the arousal of the Satan during the slumber of Adam. A flaming torch passes between the halves of the animals. At the close of the Berit - Avraham is told that he and his descendants will be given the land - 16 which is the coded expression that they will ultimately merit to experience the turning of the divine channels from the back to back formation to one that is face to face.

ISRAEL MUST ENDURE A SLUMBER TO TURN ATTRIBUTES FACE TO FACE

As Adam and Abraham before them - It is agreed that Israel will have to experience that of a תרדמה before the period of divine unity of face to face. Besides our Tikun in which we slumber or sleep daily 17 - We also experience this on both an annual basis as well as during part of our millennial Tikun of mankind. R. HaAri teaches that each year beginning with Rosh Hashana the Divine attributes called anthropomorphically male and female go through the processes delineated above. On Rosh Hashana the channels are considered to be back to back. 18 As they are split from this formation - the male attribute is said to be put into a slumber. 19 Hence we have the statements of the Sages declaring that via the Shofar we are to awaken from a slumber. 20 According to the rule taught above - this period is synonymous with a period of divine judgement when the Satan is once again aroused. This is so serious the Torah had devised a method to avoid his accusations during this period of slumber. 21 At the close of the days of repentance - the divine attributes are to return to a formation of face to face. 22 All of this culminating in the mating of the divine attributes on Shemini Aseret during Musaf. 23 Similarly this same series of events occurs during the period of our exile. We know that even Haman recognized this fact when he asserted that the Divine channel of Israel was sleeping during the Persian exile. 24 He sought to take advantage attempting to totally annihilate Israel prior to the close of the 70 year exile when the divine channels were to turn back to a face to face formation. This period of darkness is apparent during all of the exiles - as Abraham received a hint of the them as the תרדמה had fallen upon him.

SPLITTING OF HALVES

We can now possibly have a better clue as to why this covenant is called the Berit Ben HaBetarim - or the covenant of the halves. Or better the method to turn the attributes face to face will initially include splitting them into two halves. Namely, you Abraham thru your seed Israel have agreed to experience what Adam went thru. In order to unite the divine attributes - you will need to experience a spiritual slumber - this is expressed annually on Rosh Hashana and on a national level having Hashem turn his face from us - in a formation of back to back. This results in our exile - The attributes will be split into halves - Be forewarned Israel - We are not to remain asleep more than is necessary. We must arise and anticipate the salvation and to arouse a face to face formation with the Divine. 25 This will be the impetus to return us back to our land as had been promised to Abraham. The physical reality of the return of Israel to their land is a precursor for the ultimate Tikun of permanently uniting the divine attributes - and sending the ethereal light throughout all of the worlds - in that day YHVH (Male attribute) and his Name (Female attribute) will be one. 26

Shabbat Shalom

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