



Avraham's Unfulfilled Dream

The Rambam in Hilchos Avodah Zarah(1:3) describes Avraham as being a very restless young boy. He would lie in bed at night watching the starry heavens and ask himself “Who is behind this beautiful universe? Could it have come into existence by itself or is there Someone else who is behind the cosmos? “Avraham was constantly restless- always searching. That was how he finally found God. Once he realized there was only one God he went wandering around the world from place to place. He would try to assemble as many people as he could around him and teach them his new unique ideas and morality till tens of thousands of people joined him. Avraham wanted to share the truth that he had discovered all by himself, with his empirical method of analysis, with the whole world. He wanted to save the whole world. For this purpose he planted a tree...and there he called in the name of God “*va'yita eishel...Vikra sham bshem Hashem*” (21:33) where he would invite everybody

– Egyptian, Arab, Bedouin into his tent, feed them, and then teach them about God and the importance of thanking God for everything.

In the book “The Rav. Thinking aloud on the Parsha. Transcripts of shiurim from Rabbi Joseph B Soloveitchik”, Rabbi David Holzer brings an interesting interpretation from Rav Soloveitchik about Avraham. One could ask why does the verse tell us that Avraham, who had entered Israel from the North continued to travel south – “*haloch v'nasoa ha'negbah*”(12:9). He says it was because he wanted to get to Egypt in order to spread his message about God to yet another group of people, the Egyptians.

Then Rav Soloveitchik asked another interesting question. How did God respond to Avraham's deeds? Did He approve or disapprove of Avraham's goals? The Rav says that God gives Avraham a different task. He doesn't tell him to travel around the world spreading God's name and proselytizing. All God asks of him is to raise a family. “*Sara isht'cha yoledet l'cha bein*” (17:19) God doesn't need Avraham to spread His name to thousands of people. This will come in a later generation. What God requests of Avraham is just to raise a family. It could be a very small unit with just one son, Yitchak. Whatever Avraham

had wanted to teach to Nimrod, the Kings of S'dom and Amarah and many others around the world, God wanted him to teach to his son. God wants Avraham to concentrate on teaching the small family unit rather than on traveling all over the world trying to influence all those around.

This seems to be one of the lessons of Corona as well. With all the lock downs, quarantines and closed schools, parents have spent much time together with their children. With talk of schools not opening until January - parents must think of creative ways to instill in their children knowledge of God and all his kindnesses. Instead of complaining about this time – we all should appreciate it and use it to teach our children (and grandchildren) about God. Now, more than any time God's message to Avraham to focus on his nuclear family is so important. Sharing these lessons with our children, will actually be what will help them survive during these difficult times.



RECIPE

Avraham traveled a lot during his life. This weeks recipe is for energy cookies that he might have taken along with him during his travels. It doesn't have eggs, oil or sugar but besides for the chocolate chips all the ingredients are things that Avraham might actually have eaten. Although I myself don't like silan (date honey) as much as honey as a spread on bread, it adds so much to these easy tahini

cookies which are the new hit in our house. Silan is the "honey" that is said to spring forth from the land of Israel "*Eretz Zavat Chalav Udevash*". Very appropriate to be included in a recipe to be served for *Lech Lecha* where Avraham is told to go to the land of Israel. I hope you enjoy these cookies as much as we do.

TACHINA & SILAN COOKIES

1 cup oats

Pinch salt

1/3 cup walnuts or almonds, chopped

1/3 cup chocolate chips

1/3 cup tahini

1/3 cup silan (date honey)

1 tsp – cinnamon

Bake at 180 C

Preheat oven to 180. Combine oats, salt, nuts, and chocolate chips. In a separate bowl whisk together the tachina, silan, and cinnamon. Add the liquid ingredients to the dry ingredients and stir well. Put in fridge for a bit. Wet hands and scoop out a heaping spoonful of batter, and place on cookie sheet. Continue till you finish all the batter. The cookie might not hold together well, but that doesn't matter because it will be fine once it bakes. Bake for 10 minutes. Remove and cool. ■

Over 1600 audio and video shiurim
for listening and downloading
plus written articles
www.rabbisholomgold.com