



# SIMCHAT SHMUEL

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**P**arshat VaYigash contains the dramatic conclusion of the saga of Yosef and his brothers, and the long awaited reunion of Yosef and his father Yaakov. As Yaakov Avinu is made aware that Yosef is alive and well in Egypt, the Torah tells us that Hashem appears to Yaakov in a dream:

וַיֹּאמֶר יִשְׂרָאֵל רַב עוֹד-יוֹסֵף בְּנֵי חַי אֱלֹהֶיךָ וְאֶרְאֶנּוּ בְּטָרֶם אִמּוֹת: וַיֹּסֶעַ יִשְׂרָאֵל וְכָל-אֲשֵׁר-לוֹ וַיָּבֵא בְּאֶרֶץ שֶׁבַע וַיִּזְבַּח זְבָחִים לֵאלֹהֵי אָבִיו יִצְחָק: וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים | לְיִשְׂרָאֵל בְּמִרְאֵת הַלַּיְלָה וַיֹּאמֶר יַעֲקֹב | יַעֲקֹב וַיֹּאמֶר הַנְּנִי: (ג) וַיֹּאמֶר אֲנֹכִי הִקַּל אֶלְעִי אֲבִיךָ אֶל-תִּירְא מִרְדֵּה מִצְרַיִם כִּי-לִגְוִי גָדוֹל אֲשִׁימְךָ שָׁם: (ד) אֲנֹכִי אֵרֵד עִמָּךְ מִצְרַיִם וְאֲנִי אֶעֱלֶךָ גַם-עִלָּה וַיּוֹסֵף יִשְׂרָאֵל יָדָו עַל-עֵינָיו:

*And Yisrael said. "My son Yosef is still alive! I must go and see him before I die." So Yisrael set out with all that was his, and he came to Beer-sheva, where he offered sacrifices to Hashem, G-d of his father, Yitzchak. Hashem called to Yisrael in a vision by night: Yaakov, Yaakov!" He answered, "Here I am." (3) And He said, "I am Hashem, the G-d of your father. Fear not to go down to Egypt, for I will make you there into a great nation. I Myself will go down with you to Egypt, and I Myself will also bring you back; and Joseph's hand shall close your eyes."*

How are we to understand the words that Hashem utters to Yaakov in his dream, not to fear going to Egypt? After all these

years he is about to be reunited with his beloved son Yosef, what possible reason could there be for Yaakov to hesitate to make the journey to reunite with Yosef?

Rashi, based on the Midrash explains that Yaakov was pained at the prospect of leaving Eretz Yisrael, so Hashem promises him that He will be with him in Egypt, and will see to it that that Yaakov will indeed return and find his final resting place in Eretz Yisrael.

Rabbi Yisrael Elazar Hopstein, the *Avodat Yisrael of Kozhnitz zy'a*, sees even further significance in the promise that Hakadosh Baruch Hu reveals to Yaakov Avinu- *Anochi Eireid Imcha Mitzrayma, V'Anochi Aalcha Gam Alo...I will go down with you to Egypt and I will also bring you up...*

The Rebbe explains that these words are actually an eternal promise to Yaakov and to each of us as his descendants; that even when we stumble, make mistakes and experience some sort of descent, Hashem will be there with us during those trying times, and help us to climb back up and elevate ourselves once again.

Yehi Ratzon, may each of us be empowered by the Rebbe's beautiful words, and be blessed to feel Hashem's presence and love for each and everyone of us in all circumstances..... ■