



FROM THE DESK OF RABBI MOSHE HAUER



OU Executive Vice President

Determined Patience

Anticipation, waiting, looking forward. It is a difficult task to do these patiently, remaining focused on the goal and willing to wait for it, however long it takes. Yet it is that kind of dreaming and discipline that keeps us aiming high and avoiding settling for mediocrity.

This tension was at the core of the story of the Golden Calf, the *Eigel Hazahav*, in which the Jewish people ran out of patience, lowering their standards and expectations from living under the leadership of the saintly Moshe to following the image of an animal. What a shocking change! Yet, they made that adjustment because – after all – Moshe had been gone for forty days and they could now conceive of life without him.

This same issue may be the intent of the familiar verses about Shabbos that are found immediately before the story of the

Golden Calf (*Shemos* 31:16). “*V’shomru b’nei Yisrael es Hashabbos*. The Jewish people shall guard the Shabbos so as to make the Shabbos an eternal covenant for their generations.” The *Ohr HaChaim* suggests that the mandate to “guard the Shabbos,” or, “*v’shomru*,” relates to the use of that same term describing Yaakov’s attitude towards Yosef’s dreams, where it is written (*Bereishis* 37:11) that “his father guarded the matter, *v’aviv shamar es hadavar*. There we are taught by Rashi that the term implies a carefully guarded hope, where Yaakov was waiting and anticipating the fulfillment of Yosef’s dream.

It was this anticipation that prevented Yaakov from becoming reconciled with the loss of Yosef as he maintained the hope and dream of being reunited with and seeing the future leadership of Yosef (37:35; see Rashi there). He could easily have become resigned to the apparent reality of Yosef’s death, but he chose to dream on, and the dream was ultimately fulfilled.

That is how we “make the Shabbos.” We

In memory of
Prof. Dr. Dan Vogel z”l

פנחס דוד בן שלמה שמעון ז”ל

on his 8th yaahrzeit

*The Vogel, Bass, Mandelbaum,
Dimant and Spielman families
and the Yogev family*

May the Torah learning
from this issue be

לעלוי נשמת אמי מורתי

חיה אסתר בת ישראל משה ע”ה

Helen Winkler a”h

יח אדר א’

Rabbi Yehoshua & Yocheved Bienenfeld

wait for it, holding on with anticipation for the special quality of that day, not allowing ourselves to settle into the mundane world of our weekdays. The more we “wait for Shabbos,” the more we long for something deeper and calmer, something more connected and sacred than our regular days, the more we will experience Shabbos in that way.


This same attitude stands as the basis for the core value of צפייה לישועה, the yearning for redemption that is expected of all of us. The world is not quite right, there is much that is still broken. The more we get comfortable with it as it is, the less likely we are to be able to see it arrive at its ultimate perfection.

Ours is the task of patience, waiting with determination to see our personal and collective dreams fulfilled, and never settling for anything less. ■


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