



Concealment Considered

"Vayelech ish mi-beit Levi va'yikach et bat Levi, vatahar ha-isha va'teled ben — A man from the house of Levi went and married a daughter of Levi. The woman conceived and bore a son.” (*Shemot 2:1-2*) The Torah then relate how they placed their baby in a basket on the Nile, and subsequently the daughter of Paraoth found him and saved him. Is it not fascinating that only later, when the redemption shifts into full gear, we learn the names of this man and woman? Why is this information not revealed immediately? Why are Amram and Yocheved, Moshe Rebbeinu's parents, first introduced to us anonymously?

Chazal tell us that at the start of the terrible Egyptian oppression, Amram separated from his wife, as they did not want to have children who would be subject to the evil decrees of Paraoth. At the behest of his daughter Miriam's prophetic words, he remarried Yocheved.

Tzitzit for Tzahal in RBSA
Every Tuesday night
19:00 - 21:30
27 Nachal Maor
(Ohr Shalom Shul)
0542133350 whatsapp only



The Zohar describes that this remarriage was arranged modestly, reflected in the concealment of their names. Chazal teach us, “*ein lecha yafeh min hatz'niut* — there is nothing more beautiful [praiseworthy, refined] than modesty.” (*Midrash Tanchuma 31*) Amram and Yocheved model this quality for us to emulate.

The Maharal, (*Gur Aryeh*) notes that we generally attribute the greatness of a child to the greatness and merit of his parents. In concealing Amram and Yocheved's names, the focus is shifted to their child; they, as parents, remain in a secondary role. In the Maharal's understanding, Moshe Rabbeinu was destined to come into this world, if it were not through Amram and Yocheved, it would have been through others. Although in most circumstances, every child is gifted to a particular set of parents, and they are the only ones who can bring out the child's full potential, this was not the case with Moshe Rabbeinu.

Rav Shimon Schwab *zt"l* notes in *Ma'ayan Beit Hasho'eva* that concealing the names of Amram and Yocheved turns our attention to the lineage of the house of Levi; they merited to have this child because they were Levi'im. In the *zechut* of the Torah upheld by *shevet* Levi, they were given the opportunity to bear the redeemer of *Am Yisrael*.

Rabbi Meir Zvi Bergman in *Sha'arei Orah* offers a different approach that holds a

רִפָּאָה שְׁלָמָה
הַדְּסָה בַּת חַיָּה



powerful message for our lives. One may think that having a child like Moshe Rabbeinu requires special *yichus*. In concealing his parents' names however, the Torah underscores the truism that anyone can raise a child to greatness. Further, the Rambam teaches that we each have the capacity to become as great as Moshe Rabbeinu. One can't excuse himself from striving for greatness by saying, "I don't descend from greatness, what can be expected of me?" Lest one think that he will only achieve greatness if his parents are great, the Torah teaches here that the onus of responsibility is on each individual to actualize his potential greatness, irrespective of his roots.

Yichus can be compared to a string of zeros; each of us must find our way to place the "one" at the beginning to give the zeros value. More important than where one comes from is the direction in which one is going. ■

Dr Natan Silver

MBChB, FRCS, Dip Hand Surg

Hand Surgeon

Dual trained UK & Israel



Conservative and surgical care for hand disorders and injuries in adults and children of all ages

- Hand, wrist and thumb-base arthritis
- Joint replacement
- Hand and wrist trauma
- Injections for carpal tunnel, trigger finger, arthritis
- Second opinions



Elitemed Modiin Shaare Zedek
0733214181 (24/6) 026666174



NEW BOUTIQUE BUILDING WITH ONLY 10 7 NEW APARTMENTS FOR SALE HAPORTZIM 6 OLD KATAMON
NOW IN PRE-SALE TERMS

H
Haportzim 6-8

Call now 077-9973185
www.daniels-assets.com
 24 Gershon Agron Mamilla
 u/s# 516475892 , u/k# 2037697899

A RARE OPPORTUNITY IN JERUSALEM ON HAPORTZIM STREET, BORDERING TALBIYA, OLD KATAMON & THE GERMAN COLONY
 110-120SQM APTS , SUCCA, PARKING, STORAGE AND MORE

LARGE FAMILY HOME IN THE GERMAN COLONY 500 SQM++

EXCEPTIONAL LUXURY HOME FOR SALE IN THE HEART OF THE GERMAN COLONY
 OVER 200 SQM GARDEN , 3 PARKING, STORAGE AND MORE

Jerusalem Spirit Resale A Refined 2-Bedrooms Luxury Residence

THE ICONIC JERUSALEM SPIRIT DEVELOPMENT, ONE OF THE CITY'S MOST PRESTIGIOUS AND CENTRALLY LOCATED ADDRESSES, 92.7 SQM APARTMENT WITH 13.8 SQM BALCONY

NEW 1-BR IN OLD KATAMON PAY NOW 550,000 NIS and the remaining balance closer to possession attached to no interest or index

DANIEL BOUZAGLO SINCE 2003 JERUSALEM REAL ESTATE