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EVERY MOMENT IS A TIME TO THANK HASHEM

In this week's Parsha, the Torah tells us about Yaakov's love for Rachel:

"וַיָּבֹא גַּם אֶל רָחֵל וַיֶּאֱהַב גַּם אֶת רָחֵל מִלְאָה וַיַּעֲבֹד עִמּוֹ עוֹד שֶׁבַע שָׁנִים אֲחֵרוֹת"

"And he also came to Rachel, and he loved Rachel more than Leah, and he worked for him another seven years."

Rashi explains that just as Yaakov worked the first seven years faithfully, he worked the second seven years with that same faithfulness, even though Lavan had deceived him.

Yaakov worked seven years to marry Rachel, only to discover that Lavan had deceived him. Yet despite everything, Yaakov continued working another seven years with the same dedication and faithfulness.

We need to learn something powerful from this: When something bad happens in our lives, we must continue with the same emunah that we had before, just like Yaakov Avinu.

Rav Zechariah Wallerstein zt"l explained that this is exactly what we say in Tehillim:

"טוֹב לְהֹדוֹת לַה' וּלְזַמֵּר לְשִׁמְךָ עֶלְיוֹן. לְהַגִּיד בַּבֹּקֶר חַסְדֶּךָ וֶאֱמוּנָתְךָ בַּלֵּילוֹת"

"It is good to give thanks to Hashem and to sing praises to Your name, O Most High. To declare Your kindness in the morning and Your faithfulness at night."

לְהַגִּיד בַּבֹּקֶר חַסְדֶּךָ — "To declare Your kindness in the morning."

The morning represents the good times in our lives, when everything is going well and it is easy to recognize Hashem's kindness.

וֶאֱמוּנָתְךָ בַּלֵּילוֹת — "And Your faithfulness at night."

The night represents the difficult times, when things aren't going as planned. Even during these moments, we must strengthen our emunah and continue trusting Hashem.

We thank Hashem not only during our mornings, but also during our nights. And what are we thanking Him for?

For the emunah He has given us!

We are saying, "Thank You, Hashem, for giving me the faith to continue believing in You even when things are difficult."

Hashem never gives us a challenge that we cannot overcome, and through overcoming our challenges, we become stronger people.

Just as Yaakov remained faithful even



after being deceived by Lavan, we too must hold on to our emunah through every challenge.

טוֹב לְהֹדוֹת לַה'

Not only when everything goes right, but even when things don't go the way we planned.

Because every moment, whether good or difficult, is a time to thank Hashem.



JESSE MUSKATT
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THROUGH EVERY UP AND DOWN

In Parshat ויצא, Yaakov is running away from home. He has nothing; no money, no family with him, and his brother Esav wants to kill him. He stops in the middle of nowhere, puts a stone under his head, and falls asleep.

That night, Yaakov has his famous dream. He sees a ladder reaching from the ground to the heavens, as the pasuk says, וְהִנֵּה סֻלָּם מֻצָּב אַרְצָה וְרֹאשׁוֹ מַגִּיעַ הַשָּׁמָיְמָה, with angels going up and down it.

But why were the angels going both up and down? If they're angels of Hashem, shouldn't they just be going up to Shamayim?

Rashi explains that the angels who accompanied Yaakov in Eretz Yisrael were going up, while new angels who would accompany him outside of Israel were coming down.

But there's a deeper lesson here. The ladder represents our lives. Sometimes we're going up, feeling close to Hashem and doing well. Other times, we feel like we're going down, feeling distant or feeling like we've failed.

Yaakov teaches us that life isn't always a straight climb upwards. Even when we're struggling, Hashem is still with us. As Hashem promises Yaakov, וְהִנֵּה אָנֹכִי עִמָּךְ.

We should always keep climbing and trying to get closer to Hashem. Even when we stumble, we shouldn't give up, because Hashem is always with us. ■

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