

The Shul
at the Lubavitch Center
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November 2, 2019

Noach

4 Cheshvan, 5780

Sweet Dreams

"Sweet dreams," is a typical wish before retiring for the night. Often, if you dream at all, your dreams really are quite pleasant, though more often than not a bit unrealistic. Once in a while, though, it doesn't go so well. You wake up in the middle of the night in a cold sweat.

Jewish teachings often compare the current era in which we live as a dream. In King David's Psalms we read: "When G-d will return the exiles of Zion, we will have been like dreamers."

For, when dreaming, we think that what we see in our mind's eye is real, when in reality, it is simply a figment of our imagination.

Similarly, while in exile, we think that the world runs itself, that G-d is removed from this world; that every occurrence is independent, or, at the most, "coincidental." This is our reality. But our reality is just a dream.

Regarding our current state of exile, the Lubavitcher Rebbe explained: "A person can become so permeated with a feeling of exile that he cannot sense the impending Redemption, to the point that any discussion of it sounds to him like a dream. In reality, however, the opposite is true: it is the exile which resembles a dream, as is explained in Chasidut.

"There is a positive side to this analogy, for in one moment one can wake up from a dream and return to reality. In the same way the entire Jewish people can return, in one moment, to their true reality - to a state in which they love G-d and cleave to Him, to an actual state of Redemption.

"Current conditions can be transformed, literally in one moment, so that on this very day, and at this very moment, people will open their eyes and suddenly see that Moshiach is here!"

There is only one fail-proof method to make sure that we stop dreaming and start living with the reality of the Redemption, a time of international and interpersonal peace, prosperity for all, and connectedness to the Divine. That method can be understood through the following story:

The Yid HaKadosh ("the Holy Jew," Rabbi Yaakov Yitzchak of Pshischa) and Rabbi Simcha Bunim of Pshischa were once discussing the statement of one of our Sages in the Talmud, "Let him [Moshiach] come, but let me not be there."

The Sage felt compelled to say this because the time immediately preceding the coming of Moshiach will be a very difficult one, so difficult that we are told we will be holding on to our faith by the skin of our teeth!

The two Rebbes were debating what the best way to react would be if they were privileged to be alive at that time.

Said Rabbi Simcha Bunim, "The best advice I can think of is to get drunk and go to sleep."

"That is truly good advice," responded the Yid HaKadosh. "If someone has sechel (intelligence), that is certainly what he will do!"

"Why," one might ask, "would someone - a scholar and holy person at that - give such advice? Get drunk?! Go to sleep?!"

The true meaning of these sagacious words is as follows:

Get drunk on Torah, particularly the Torah as elucidated by Chasidic philosophy, known as the "wine of Torah." Imbibe it, savor it, partake of it at every opportunity. And then, in this spiritual drunken stupor, go into a deep sleep, a sleep in which exile is considered just a bad dream nay, a nightmare. And know that the true reality is Redemption, a time when we will truly be awake to the goodness and G-dliness inherent in every creature and all of creation.

(from <http://www.lchaimweekly.org/>)

Community Information of Interest

November 2: Renewal Celebration of Life Melava Malka - Honoring Local Kidney Donors

at 8:30 PM at Congregation Shomrei Emunah.

Program: AJ Gindi; Renewal Community Advocate. Rabbi Josh Sturm; Renewal Director of Outreach. Rabbi Zvi Teichman; A tribute to Rabbi Mendy Freedman A"H. Rabbi Menechem Goldberger; Divrei Bracha.

There is no charge for this event, however donations are certainly appreciated.

A Test of Faith

In this week's Parashah, we read of the Flood, which destroyed everyone and everything in the world except for Noach, his family, and the animals that shared the Tevah / Ark with them. R' Saadiah Gaon z"l (882-942; Egypt, Eretz Yisrael and present-day Iraq; author of the earliest known work on Jewish Thought) writes that whenever a "plague" strikes the general population — be it famine, war, disease, or even the Flood in our Parashah — we should not assume that everyone who is stricken is deserving of punishment. It is impossible, he writes, that there were not children or youth who were innocent of the sins committed by the Generation of the Flood. Rather, among those struck by any such plague, there are those who are being punished for their sins and others whose faith is being tested, for which they will be richly rewarded in the World-to-Come.

Similarly, R' Saadiah writes, there is no doubt that there were many righteous people among our ancestors who were enslaved in Egypt. They were not being punished by the enslavement, but rather being tested. The proof of this that the Tzaddikim Moshe, Aharon and Miriam were part of that generation; just as they were completely righteous, yet they experienced eighty or more years of the enslavement, respectively, so there surely were other righteous people among Bnei Yisrael.

R' Saadiah concludes: We are taught that Mashiach will come either at the pre-ordained time or when we all repent. However, the fact that he has not come yet does not mean that none among us has repented. If some are deserving and others are not, then those who are deserving will have their faith tested by the continuation of the exile, and they will be rewarded for that faith in the World-to-Come. (Ha'Nivchar B'emunot V'de'ot 8:2)

(by Rabbi Shlomo Katz from Project Genesis at www.torah.org)



We happily wish Mazel Tov to
Mr. Yoni and Mrs. Rachel Katibian and Family
 on the **Birth of their Daughter – Yael Nechama.**



Yahrzeits This Week:

Dr. Allan Genut	6 Cheshvan - Sunday night / Monday	for father	Yisroel ben Boruch
Laurie Margolies	8 Cheshvan - Tuesday night / Wednesday	for mother	Sheindel bas Avraham

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DAVENING AND SHIURIM SCHEDULE

Friday, 11/1 — 3 Cheshvan
 Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
 Candles — 5:47 p.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 5:50 p.m.

Shabbat, 11/2— 4 Cheshvan
 Shacharit — 9:00 a.m.
 Sof Z'man Kriat Shema — 10:10 a.m.
 Beitzah Gemora Shiur — 4:35 p.m.
 Minchah & Seudah Shilishit — 5:35 p.m.
 Ma'ariv — 6:51 p.m.

Sunday, 11/3 — 5 Cheshvan
 Shacharit — 8:00 a.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 4:45 p.m.



Monday, 11/4 — 6 Cheshvan
 Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.
 Ma'ariv — 8:15 p.m.

Tuesday, 11/5 — 7 Cheshvan
 Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
 Ma'ariv — 8:15 p.m.

Wednesday, 11/6 — 8 Cheshvan
 Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
 Ma'ariv — 8:15 p.m.

Thursday, 11/7 — 9 Cheshvan
 Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.
 Ma'ariv — 8:15 p.m.

Friday, 11/8 — 10 Cheshvan
 Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
 Candles — 4:39 p.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 4:40 p.m.