



Family & Friends



Parshas Chayei Sara

November 21 2024 - Cheshvan 20 5785

PARSHAS CHAYEI SARA RABBI TZVI PIONTNICA

In this week's parsha, we find that the story of Eliezer finding a wife for Yitzchak is repeated at length. Why is this particular story repeated, when many fundamental halachos are only alluded to in the Torah? Rashi brings down a Chazal (Sanhedrin 95) which offers insight. "אמר רבי אחא, 'יפה שיחתן של עבדי אבות לפני המקום מתורתן של בנים', 'The ordinary conversation of the servants of the Patriarchs is more beloved before Hashem than the Torah of their sons'"

The story of Eliezer is described twice. The first account narrates the story as it plays out. Whereas the second account relates Eliezer's words to Lavan and Besuel, shortly after the aforementioned events had taken place. In truth, both accounts should be identical. However, looking further into the two versions, we find that both accounts have subtle differences between them. These differences are highlighted by the commentaries.

One example is as follows – when Avraham told Eliezer to find Yitzchak a wife, he said 'U'kachta isha l'bni, l'Yitzchak', 'take a wife for my son, for Yitzchak'. When Eliezer recounts the words of Avraham, he says, 'U'kachta isha l'bni', missing out 'l'Yitzchak'. The Beis HaLevi explains that Avraham was asking Eliezer to find a girl who is worthy of being his daughter-in-law – 'l'bni', as well as a suitable partner to the great tzadik – 'l'Yitzchak'.

The reason why Eliezer left out 'l'Yitzchak' can be explained

based on the following story. A very wealthy man was looking for his daughter to marry the son of a great Rabbi, and was willing to give a very generous dowry. One shadchan approached him and suggested a man who he himself would become a great Rabbi. The wealthy man declined, saying "I don't want my daughter to be a Rebbetzin". His words implied that it is a great honor to connect himself to the Torah by being related to a great Rabbi, but he feels that the life of a Rebbetzin is not pleasurable enough for his daughter. He is not aware of the true beauty and deep happiness that is felt by living a true Torah life.

When Eliezer met and saw the lifestyle of Lavan and Besuel, he realized that if he mentions that Yitzchak is a great tzaddik, he might cause them to decline the shidduch, as they may not want Rivka to be a 'Rebbetzin'. Therefore, as a good shadchan, he omitted the greatness of Yitzchak, and concentrated only on the greatness of Avraham – knowing that this would excite them to accept the shidduch.

May we merit to realize the true sweetness and happiness that comes with a Torah life.

URANUS

For the readers among us who have lived on this earth for over 38 years, where were you on January 24, 1986? This was the date, some 38 years ago, when a significant event took place in astrophysics. Uranus, the 7th planet from the



Mazel Tov

Heartfelt Mazel Tov wishes to:

Rabbi & Mrs. Yisrael Chaim Dudovitz on their grandson's birth.

Rabbi & Mrs. Akiva Houghtling on their son's bar mitzvah.

Nesanel Schechter on his recent engagement.

Mr. & Mrs. Yisroel Davis on their daughter's birth.

Rabbi & Mrs. Binyamin Simmons on their son's marriage.

Rabbi & Mrs. Reuven Korn on their daughter's marriage.

Rabbi & Mrs. Tzvi Piontnica on their granddaughter's birth.

Sun, and third largest in our solar system, received a flyby – 50,000 miles above the planet – from the Voyager 2 spacecraft. Astrophysicists declared that detailed photos snapped during that five-hour pass by the planet and its icy moons revealed that Uranus was different from other worlds in the outer solar system. They said its magnetic field didn't hold any of that hot, glowing, gas known as plasma.

Fast forward 38 years later, and the aforementioned hypothesis is no longer considered to be true. Rather it is now believed that the flyby occurred at a time of an increase in solar wind activity that

rarely occurs. This caused the planet's magnetosphere to shrink. Hence, if Voyager 2 had arrived just a few days earlier or later, it would have observed a completely different magnetosphere at Uranus.

In this week's parsha, when Eliezer, Avraham Avinu's servant, seeks a wife for Yitzchak, he prays for Hashem's guidance, and Rivka arrives at precisely the right moment, fulfilling his prayer exactly. This teaches that Hashem's timing is perfect, even in rare or unexpected

circumstances.

Eliezer's search for a wife for Yitzchak could have been a daunting task, but he places his trust in Hashem. He devises a test based on kindness and prays for divine assistance. Remarkably, Rivka arrives at the well just as he finishes praying. She not only fulfills the specific criteria he set but does so with eagerness and generosity that leaves no doubt about her suitability.

This moment reveals Hashem's perfect orchestration of events.

Rivka's arrival wasn't mere coincidence; it was the result of Hashem aligning every detail—the timing of Eliezer's prayer, Rivka's approach, and her actions—to fulfill the mission. This divine timing ensured that Eliezer could recognize Hashem's involvement and proceed with confidence.

Sometimes, circumstances seem unusual or rare, and it might be hard to see the bigger picture. Our mission is to trust that Hashem's plan is always precise, even when it involves rare or unexpected conditions.



Around the Bais Medrash