בס"ד

יום ', ' באב תשנ"ז (באוגוסט)

עם הדבק בעברו בלבד הוא עם גוסס, אך אם היהודים ישאבו מעברם דעת ואהבה אל מורשתם,
יהיה להם גם הכוח לפתוח את שערי עתידם

אבא קובנר, 1978

ברשם "בנים" - תשנ"ז
כר- מצוה - ירון קונרי

שבו שלום -
welcoming remarks -
How do we know that a child = an infant -
when he is barely a week old

יום נעים !

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When a baby boy – Jewish – is barely a week old, he is handed around ~~the~~ from Jew to fellow Jew, from the godmother to the godfather and finally to the Sandek – he doesn't know what is going on – and if he could talk he would certainly let us know what he thinks of the whole ceremony. For his size the expression "giving a pound of flesh" certainly applies.

Afterwards he gets bandaged up and if the dressing is too tight, well – that's what happened with our first-born and we thought he was in pain from the bris. We were new at it and didn't know better. When the mohel came back the next day to check him and opened up the dressing, well Yosef opened up too and the yellow stains took a while to clean off the ceiling, the walls, etc.

Why do I mention all this? Immediately after the bris, the assembled family and friends say: מזל טוב, כן גידל לתורה, לחופה ולמעשים טובים. The general understanding of this is that one desires to perform mitzvahs and one desires to do them with great enthusiasm – just for the sake of doing them.

That being the case, can we honestly say that this pitzkele of a baby is doing ~~not~~ the mitzvah with any semblance of enthusiasm?

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Now do we know that he, the baby performed that mitzvah with the same alacrity and גשך that he performs other mitzvahs? ... ולשכה אפרנים בבוקר.

~~The answer is that~~

We know the answer to that question only years later when we see that same boy who became a man and now as a father takes his own son to the mohel so that he too can enter the bris of Avraham Avenu. The enthusiasm which was hidden from the on-lookers 20-odd years ago is in full view now as he performs a bris for his own son. That's how we know that even as a new-born infant he wanted to carry out G-d's will.

And that is what being a Jew, Yaron, is all about. And here you are at the next stage of that bSieu - that 3-fold mission in life of תלמיד and תורה, מצוה. You have, thanks to your parents - and family - who care so much about you - been brought up as a בן מצוה. Now you are a בר-מצוה and one of the 1st mitzvot you performed as a בר-מצוה, even before you were ever called up to the תורה, was to bless our people with ברכת כהנים. Blessing the Jewish people is one of the special privilege of the כהנים and one I ~~am~~ fervently hope that you will always cherish, as your father and I do - 120 38.

יום נעים !

(3)

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With your permission I would like to ask a question - Jews love to ask questions. This question is about the very first ~~s~~ פרשה in בראשית. Your פרשה - בהעלותך - opens with:
= אלה הדברים אשר דבר משה אל כל ישראל ...
Isn't this the same משה that we learned about in his first encounter with ה':
= ויאמר משה אל ה' בי אדני (אדושם) לא איש דברים אנוכי
גם מתמול גם משלשום ... כי כבד-פה וכבד-לשון אנוכי =
And now all of a sudden משה רבינו - a series of speeches - his last - that משה makes to ישראל - how did he manage to say all of this?
The Midrash Eacha us from a פסוק in תהלים:
מרפא לשון עץ חיים, ועוות בה שבר ברוח.
שנאמר - עץ חיים היא למחזיקים בה.
Rebi Lakish goes on to explain:
- רבי משה עד שלא נכנס למערה כתיב בו על ידו דברים אנוכי" כיון שנכנס למערה ויתרפא לשונו ויהגה לבסוף דברים. —
Again we see many years pass before the תורה reveals us this secret - that after receiving the Torah at Mt. Sinai, Moshe's power of speech was restored.
This is our blessing to you too ירון that the same enthusiasm you have shown for תורה for our people will continue to accompany you thru life. You will confront many choices in life - you will have to make decisions - not all of them will be hard, but some will be.

יום נעים ושבת שלום!

כניסת שבת:

צאת השבת:

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Remember the equation that Torah is Life — a life lived according to Torah x mitzvot is the only one that can produce you true happiness.

And speaking of equation, we say that Torah is Light — תורה אור. Many years ago, ~~in the~~ some say in the period immediately preceding the 6-Day war, others say in the period following the Yom Kippur war — there was a sad joke in Israel: Would the last person leaving the country please turn out the light? =

What was not recognized in that comment is that as long as there is a Jew around — specifically a Jew living a life of Torah — there is light — Torah is light and a Jew living a life of Torah spreads this light.

If we talked about one message in your name יהודית at this message is hidden in your name יהודית — the final letters in your 1st + last name → י"ת are the abbreviation in Hebrew for יהי תורתך — let your light shine — that is also our blessing to you — MAZAL TOV.

While your parents may have been aware of that "secret" in your name, ~~they probably didn't know when they named you~~ 13 years ago when they named you they probably didn't know anyone named Macky — but they definitely had תורה אור in mind when they named you — because ~~they~~ that is what they named you — מכי? The initials of your name (putting the first מרים, second קיונה, and last יהודית) is more often than Macky.

יום נעים !