

PARSHAT MIKETZ
2 TEVET 5781/17 DECEMBER 2020
8TH CANDLE HANUKKAH



Fear Into Courage Transformation. Day One

Acrylic on canvass by Dmitri Matkovsky

The basic anxiety, the anxiety of a finite being about the threat of non-being, cannot be eliminated. It belongs to existence itself. ~ Paul Tillich, The Courage To Be

FEAR AND FAITH

1. “The boy is *einenu*! Now I, where shall I go?” (Genesis 37:30)
“The youngest is now with our father, and one is *einenu*.” (Genesis 42:13)
“You have bereaved me! Joseph is *einenu* and Simeon is *einenu*...” (Genesis 42:36)
“When he sees that the boy is *einenu* with us, he will die.” (Genesis 44:30)

“And he refused to be comforted.” A person does not accept consolation over a live person.
(Rashi on Genesis 37:35)

2. שֶׁבֶר – corn, grain (שָׁבַר - break, break into pieces)
שִׁבְרָה - hope (שָׁבַר - inspect, examine; wait, hope)
“Jacob saw that there was *shever* in Egypt” (42:1)
“Happy is the one whose hope (*sever*) is in Adonai his God” (Psalm 146:5)
There was *shever* in Egypt (that is the famine). There was *sever* (that is the plenty).
There was *shever* (for Joseph had been taken down to Egypt). There was *sever* (for Joseph became the ruler). (Bereishit Rabbah 70:17)

3. וַיֵּרָא יוֹסֵף אֶת־אֶחָיו וַיִּכְרָם וַיִּתְנַבֵּר אֵלֵיהֶם

When Joseph saw his brothers, he recognized them and he made himself strange to them.....Joseph recognized his brothers, but they did not recognize him. (Genesis 42:7-8)

נָכַר - to be unknown, strange

נִכְרַם - to treat as a stranger

נִכְרִי - a stranger

הִכִּיר - to recognize, know

הוּכַר - to be recognized

4. The test of faith is whether I can make a space for difference. Can I recognize God's image in someone who is not in my image, whose language, faith, ideals are different from mine? If I cannot, then I have made God in my image instead of allowing him to remake me in His. (Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, *Dignity of Difference*)