

BITACHON LESSON FROM THE PARSHA

פרשת ואֵלֶּה שְׁמוֹת בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל תִּשְׁפ"ו – Hashem's Team Always Wins!

וַיֹּצֵא פַרְעֹה לְכָל עַמּוֹ לֵאמֹר כָּל הַבֶּן הַיְלֻד הַיֵּאֱרָה תִּשְׁלִי־הוּ
 Paroh gave orders to all his people, saying, "You must cast every boy who is born into the Nile" (Shemos 1:22)

Rashi comments:

לְכָל עַמּוֹ - אִף עַל־הֵם גָּזַר (סוֹטָה י"ב) יוֹם שֶׁנּוֹלַד מֶשֶׁה אָמְרוּ לוֹ
 אֶצְטַנְנִיּוֹ הַיּוֹם נּוֹלַד מוֹשִׁיעֵן וְאִין אָנוּ יוֹדְעִים אִם מִמִּצְרַיִם אִם
 מִיִּשְׂרָאֵל וְרוֹאִין אָנוּ שֶׁסּוֹפּוֹ לְלָקוֹת בְּמִים לְפִיכָךְ גָּזַר אוֹתוֹ הַיּוֹם אִף עַל
 הַמִּצְרַיִים

Paroh made this decree even upon the Egyptians, for on the day Moshe was born, Paroh's astrologers said to him, "Today the savior of the Jewish nation was born, but we do not know if he was born to an Egyptian or to a Jew; and we also foresee that he is destined to be stricken through water." Therefore, Paroh made a decree on that day even upon the Egyptians

Paroh wasn't taking any chances. He was going to outsmart Hashem! By hook or by crook, he was ready to snuff out this redeemer of the Jews! Or so he arrogantly thought.

The moment Paroh's astrologers notified him of the birth of the redeemer of the Yidden, and he realized that the very existence of his country was in jeopardy; he sprang into action and used every means at his disposal to eliminate the threat. He even put his evil plans into play to deal with even the most unlikely scenario – that the redeemer of the Jews would be an Egyptian! He instructed his minions to kill hundreds of newborns, of all nationalities, and to embark on an extensive door-to-door search of every last home in the land to ensure no babies escaped the reach of his mighty arm!

Paroh really covered all his bases – or so he thought!

He forgot about one important thing - רַבּוֹת מִחֲשָׁבוֹת בָּלָב - אִישׁ וְעֵצַת ה' הִיא תְקוּם

The ONE child he was trying to eliminate eluded him. The ONE child that was causing him all this stress was hidden in the Nile and discovered and saved by none other than HIS daughter. She raised him right under his nose, in HIS home! This ONE child roamed HIS palace freely and sat on HIS lap many times. This ONE child carried a nice Jewish name which means "saved from the water", and Paroh was none the wiser.

This defies logic!

Here this "smart" king did everything he could to stamp out THIS child, yet in plain sight the child flourished, on Paroh's dime no less!

As if all of the above is not enough, it's even more illogical than we realize! The fact that a visibly Jewish child should be raised in Paroh's palace is unbelievable – even under "normal" circumstances, but that this should happen during a period of harsh anti-Jewish decrees and forced servitude is even more unbelievable!

And what led to this strange phenomenon in the first place? The very decree that Paroh put in place to destroy Moshe led him to the Nile, to being discovered by Paroh's daughter and to being brought to the palace, and to being promoted to manage all of the royal palace affairs! (See Rashi Shemos 2:11)

Additionally, Moshe being raised as a prince in a royal environment surely helped him develop the characteristics and skills he later utilized in his role as the redeemer of Klal Yisroel! In essence, Paroh himself trained Moshe to defeat him! As the Ibn Ezra (Shemos 2:3) writes: **אולי סבב ה' זה שיגדל משה בבית המלכות להיות נפשו העליונה בדרך מלכות והרגילות, ולא תהיה נפשו שפלה רגילה להיות בבית עבדים**

עֵת צָרָה:
הִיא לִיעָקֹב
וּמִמֶּנָּה
יִוֹשֵׁעַ

Paroh put a lot of effort into preventing all of the above, but Hashem had other plans! **רַבּוֹת מִחֲשָׁבוֹת בָּלָב אִישׁ וְעֵצַת ה' הִיא תְקוּם**

Not only did Hashem circumvent Paroh's plans; Paroh's plans were the very catalyst for Hashem's plans to come to fruition.

As the servitude of the Yidden begins – and darkness descends on the nation – Hashem is already busy orchestrating the redemption!

Not only will the redemption just replace the darkness, the redemption will sprout directly from the darkness - **עֵת צָרָה הִיא לִיעָקֹב וּמִמֶּנָּה יִוֹשֵׁעַ** – The salvation sprouts from the troubles (Yirmiyahu 30:7)

This happened in *Mitzrayim*, it happened numerous times in our history, and it happens in our lives. We may not always see it, but it happens all the time.

Hashem is always countless steps ahead of us. We are all pawns in Hashem's intricate chess game. Hashem always wins. Whoever is on Hashem's team wins. Whoever tries to outsmart Hashem – like the Paraohs of the world – is destined for failure.

Paroh thought he covered all his bases, but in reality he totally struck out.

עֵצַת ה' הִיא תְקוּם – it's the not the exception; it's the rule!

Good Shabbos!