

KOL MEVASSER

Truth or Consequences

By Rabbi Marc D. Angel

Hans Christian Anderson wrote a classic tale about an Emperor who took great pride in his clothes. Several clever swindlers convinced the Emperor to buy a most wonderful outfit—one that only stupid people would be unable to see. The Emperor sent advisers to view the new regal attire—which in fact consisted of nothing at all. The advisers were too embarrassed to admit that they couldn't see the garments. They praised the new clothes to the Emperor, who then tried them on himself. He also couldn't see them, but didn't want to admit this since he did not want to be deemed to be stupid.

The Emperor dressed in his new clothes and led a parade through town. The townspeople were too ashamed to admit that they couldn't see the clothes, because they did not want to be thought to be stupid. At last, a child looked up at the Emperor and shouted spontaneously: "Look, the Emperor has no clothes." Everyone, including the Emperor, knew that the child was right; but the Emperor continued with the procession comporting himself with as much dignity as he could muster.

Truth is a troublesome thing. It shatters illusions. It can be abrupt and unpleasant. But once one realizes the truth, one should accept it and act accordingly. Instead, so many—like the Emperor in the tale—continue as though they never heard the truth. They have too much invested in illusions and falsehoods. It costs too much emotionally to give up on mistakes or to admit errors in judgment.

Spin doctors do their best to make falsehood appear to be truth. P.R. specialists promote the illusions and make the public think they will look stupid if they deny these illusions. At last, someone cries out: "The Emperor has no clothes." But that voice is ignored or silenced. Folly marches on.

Rabbi Moshe Chaim Ephraim (1748-1800), a grandson of the Baal Shem Tov, wrote a Torah commentary—"Degel Mahanei Ephraim"—drawing on many of the teachings of his illustrious grandfather. He offers an interesting comment on an anomalous word usage in this week's Torah portion.

When Esau is born, the Torah states "and they named him Esau"—they, in the plural. When Jacob is born, the Torah states "and he named him Jacob"—he, in the singular. Why the discrepancy?

Rabbi Moshe Chaim Ephraim, drawing on classic rabbinic Midrashim, suggests that Esau and Jacob symbolically represent two opposite qualities. Esau is the embodiment of falsehood; Jacob is the embodiment of truth. Esau is named in the plural, because many people are attracted to falsehood. Jacob is named in the singular, because only rare individuals are attracted to truth.

But how can that be? Doesn't everyone crave truth? Don't all people repudiate falsehood? The problem is that we live in a world where it is difficult to distinguish between truth and

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KJ Schedule Parashat Toldot

Erev Shabbat

Friday, November 1st

Shaharit/Morning Prayer	6:30 am
Shir Hashirim.....	5:30 pm
Shabbat Candle Lighting.....	5:42 pm
Minhah/Arbith.....	5:42 pm

Shabbat / Parashat Toldot Birkat HaChodesh

Saturday, November 2nd

Shaharit/Morning Prayer	8:30 am
Minha, Seudah Shlisheet, Arvit.....	5:00 pm
Motzei Shabbat / Havdallah	6:44 pm

Rosh Hodesh Kislev

Sunday, November 3rd

Note the Time Change:

e.g. 2:00 am becomes 1:00 am

Shaharit.....	7:30 am
KJ Kids Sunday School	10 am to 12 noon
KJ's David Kelly Youth Choir	11:30 am

IDF Dinner for Israel

in memory of David Kelly, z"l 5:00 pm

Rosh Hodesh Kislev. 2nd Day

Monday, November 4th

Shaharit.....	6:15 am
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Weekdays

Tuesday to Friday, November 5th to 8th

Shaharit/Morning Prayer	6:30 am
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Erev Shabbat

Friday, November 8th

Note the Early Start for Shabbat

Shaharit/Morning Prayer	6:30 am
Shir Hashirim.....	4:20 pm
Shabbat Candle Lighting.....	4:36 pm
Minhah/Arbith.....	4:36 pm

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falsehood, where things are subject to interpretation. Was Don Quixote a madman, or was every-one else insane? Or was there truth and madness on both sides? Who is to decide what is really true and what is genuinely false?

Wise people know that truth and falsehood, like Jacob and Esau, are twins. But they also know that they need to work hard and think clearly to distinguish between the two. Most people are inclined to believe whatever they want to believe, whatever is convenient to believe, whatever is politically correct to believe, whatever they are told to believe. Few people are inclined to cut through the omnipresent static of falsehood, especially when exertion for truth can exact a heavy personal toll.

The late great psychiatrist, Dr. Silvano Arieti, once described a dilemma he faced. He dealt with patients whose grasp of reality was very weak. Patients thought they were kings or queens, that they were all powerful. As long as they lived with these illusions, they were actually happy. To "cure" them would entail the undoing of their fantasies, making them face a reality which was far less pleasant than their world of illusions. While each case and each diagnosis needed to be dealt with on its own terms, Dr. Arieti's basic belief was that human dignity ultimately needed to be based on truth, not on illusions. Even if truth is more unpleasant than falsehood, the pursuit of truth is a basic human ideal.

"The Emperor has no clothes!" These words pierce through the illusions and propaganda and political correctness that engulf us. The many will ignore or deny these words. The few will listen, will face the truth, and will maintain their dignity and the dignity of humanity.

Shabbat Shalom

**Thank You to
The Kelly Family**
sponsors of this weekend's
Dinner for Israel & the IDF
in loving memory of
David Kelly, z"l & Shlomo Dabora, z"l

Sunday, November 3, 2013
5:00 pm at Kahal Joseph Congregation

Reservations required / \$25 donation per person
For information contact Hannie at 310-925-2123

Refuah Shlemah

Vera Levi

Joseph Sharaf / Yossef ben Jamila
Maurice Ovadia / Moshe ben Noosha
Tilda Levy / Tilda bat Miriam
Pnina Herzbrun / Pnina bat Esther
Michael Herzbrun / Michael Baruch ben Sarah
*Please renew each name listing every two weeks.
Names not renewed will be taken off the list. If you
would like to add a member name to the list call 310-
474-0559 or e-mail dafna@kahaljoseph.org*



David S. Kelly Youth Choir
Meets Sunday, November 3rd
Upstairs at Kahal Joseph
11:30 am

Readings: Shabbat Toldot
Torah: Genesis/Sefer Beresheet
Hertz edition pages 93 to 101
Haftara Machar Hodesh: Samuel I /
Shmuel Alef Hertz edition pages 948 to 950

Condolences

to the family and friends of
Suleiman Elghanian, z"l
husband of Shirin, father of Sylvia Zekaria
Sherry Elghanian, and Simon Elghanian
May Hashem comfort them together with
all the mourners of Tzion

In Memoriam

We remember these yearzeit anniversaries for
November 2nd to 9th, 2013. It is customary to light
a memorial candle, donate tzedaka, and attend ser-
vices the preceding Shabbat.

29 Heshvan / Shabbat, November 2nd

Shaul Haim Nuriel *Shaul ben Haim*
Mary Saleh

1 Kislev / Sunday, November 3rd

William Ekaireb *Shaya ben Ezra Sion*
Abraham Isaac *Avraham ben Eliyahu Yitzhak*
Joe Joseph *Yoseph Hai ben Itzhak*
Henry Zekaria *Yehezkel ben Sion*

2 Kislev / Monday, November 4th

Doron Ironi *Doron ben Yosef*
Victoria Kadosh *Victoria bat Reuben*
Aziza bat Farha

Ezekiel Ezra Reuben *Yehezkel ben Reuven Dloomy*

3 Kislev / Tuesday, November 5th

Rachel Jacob *Rahel bat Salha Mattana*

5 Kislev / Thursday, November 7th

Elias Ezekiel Isaac *Eliyahu ben Yehezkel*
Silas Moshe Kadoorie *Silas ben Moshe*
Flora Sassoon *Farha bat Simha*
Nassim Reuben Suleiman

6 Kislev / Friday, November 8th

Maggie Dabby *Marjorie bat Sam*

7 Kislev / Shabbat, November 9th

Eliyahu Ezer *Eliyahu ben Yoseph*