

KOL MEVASSER

Rabbi's Message

Dreams are a powerful aspect of the human experience. At times vivid and realistic, at others fantastic and surreal, they can have a memorable correlation with events, people, and stories that we recognize from the real world. Occasionally, our dreams touch upon a deeply cherished aspect of our personal lives, with lasting emotional consequences that might never have occurred through conscious reflection.

It is therefore to be expected that many cultures have sought to bring meaning to dreams, both as a spiritual experience and as a source of information about our waking lives. Foundational Jewish texts including the Torah and Talmud present dreams as a nexus with God in which Prophetic messages can be accessed (Deut. 13:2, Berakhot 57b). Yet unlike the surrounding contemporary societies, we forswear the use of magic or astrology when deciphering them, as Yosef himself is careful to remind his audiences (Gen 40:8 and 41:16).

Within this monotheistic framework, a whole discipline of rabbinic thought has been devoted to the science of dream interpretation. A far-reaching discussion of the topic is presented in Berakhot 55a-57b, which uses symbolism and textual sources to suggest that "one who sees X in a dream can expect Y" (be advised that some of it is Not Safe For Work). More than a millennium later, the topic was still deemed noteworthy enough to inspire a book-length treatment from Rabbi Shelomo ben Yaakov Almoli (*Mefasher Helmin, Salonica, 1515*), and today, fully five centuries after the publication of that work, our siddurim still contain a "Seder Hatabat Halom" in which we ask

God to assign a good outcome to a dream that we experienced as bad.

Still, the story of Yosef demonstrates that it is not so easy to proclaim how much, if any, relationship a dream might have with reality, even with these tools. The Talmud states: *"just as wheat cannot be without straw, so there cannot be a dream without nonsense, [and] while part of a dream may be fulfilled, the whole of it is never fulfilled. Whence do we know this? From Yosef, as it is written, 'behold, the sun and the moon and 11 stars bowed down to me' – yet at the time of its fulfillment, his mother was not living"* (Berakhot 55a). Going to the natural extreme of this line of thought, Ribbi Shemuel bar Nahmani relates a tradition that *"a man is shown in a dream only what is suggested by his own thoughts."*

Such reasonable caution against the reliability of dreams is supported by the fact that Yosef experienced a 22-year gap between this dream and its partial fulfillment. The Torah tells us that he was a tender 17 when he first told his brothers what he dreamt; 13 years elapsed before the royal audience in which he interpreted Pharaoh's dreams, and it took a further 7 years of plenty and 2 of famine to bring Joseph's family to Egypt, where they finally bowed before him. It is entirely possible that for much of his adult life leading to that moment, he could have written off his dream as a youthful flight of fancy. Imagine his astonishment at seeing his brothers suddenly appear before him as a grown man of 39! So too may we be astonished by the fulfillment of our dreams: may the good ones come true as dreamt, and may the bad turn into good with God's divine aid!



Parashat Vayeshev Erev Hanukkah

Torah: Gen. 37:1–40:23, 112 Pesukim
Hertz 141–151; Stone 198–221
Haftara: Amos 2:6–3:8
Hertz 152–154; Stone 1142–1143
Tefillot: Mashiv Haruah, Hakhrazat Tevet
(Fri). Al Hanisim begins Sat. night, as
does the lighting of the Hanukkah

KJ Schedule

Erev Shabbat

Friday, December 23rd

Shaharit 6:25 am
Candle Lighting 4:31 pm
Minha 4:15 pm
Kabbalat Shabbat / Arvit 4:30 pm

Yom Shabbat / Erev Hanukkah

Saturday, December 24th

Shaharit / Morning Prayer 8:30 am
Keri'at HaTorah 10:15 am
Musaf 11:45 am
Women's Tehillim right after kiddush

Minha 3:45 pm
Se'uda Shelisheet 4:30 pm
Arvit 5:20 pm
Havdala 5:35 pm
Hanukkah candles after 5:35 pm

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Hanukkah

Sunday, December 25th

Shaharit 7:30 am
Dinner w/the Rabbi..... 5:30 pm

Monday, December 26th

Shaharit 7:00 am

Tuesday to Thursday, December 27 to 29

Shaharit 6:15 am

Rosh Hodesh Tevet

Friday, December 30th

Shaharit 6:15 am

Next Shabbat / Fri & Sat, Dec 30 & 31

Hanukkah candle lighting 4:35 pm

Shabbat candles . right after Hanukkah candles

Friday Mincha 4:30 pm SHARP

Shaharit 8:30 am

Saturday Mincha 4:00 pm

Havdala 5:39 pm

Shabbat Kiddush

is sponsored by
Louise Nathan & Family
& Sunny J. Sassoon

in loving memory
of their dad

Yaacov Yosef ben Sassoon, z"l

Mazal Tov

to Eitan Jalali
on his Yom HaTefillin
this past Thursday

Besiman Tov to his parents
Hazan Saeed Jalali &
Molly Jalali, KJ Talmud Torah Director
his sisters, Eliana & Adina
and his entire family

In Memoriam

We remember yahrzeit anniversaries from December 24 to 31, 2016. It is customary to light a memorial candle, donate tzedaka & attend Shabbat services.

24 Kislev / Shabbat, December 24th

Regina David *Regina bat Salha Matana*

Lily Jacob *Leah bat Masooda*

Mansour Sedaghat *Mansour ben Benayahu*

Joseph Yaacov *Yossef Hayim Yaacov*

Daniel Haim ben Yehezkiel

25 Kislev / Sunday, December 25th

Ezra Abraham *Ezra Avraham ben Rahma*

Rachel Moses *Rachel bat Hannah*

26 Kislev / Monday, December 26th

Dan Darwish *Daniel ben Rahamim*

Sassoon Jacob *Jonah Sassoon ben Yaakov Yonah*

Yitzhak Sinder *Yitzhak ben Shimon*

27 Kislev / Tuesday, December 27th

Yoseph Rahamim ben Yaacov Shalom

28 Kislev / Wednesday, December 28th

Joseph Jacob *Yosef ben Avraham Hayim Yaacov*

Habeeba bat Aziza

29 Kislev / Thursday, December 29th

Ralph Isaac *Rafal ben Yehezkel ben Mulla Rahamim*

Simcha Ezra Isaac *Simcha bat Masooda*

1 Tevet / Friday, December 30th

Saul Mizrahie *Shaul ben Eliyahu Mordechai*

Jack Sassoon *Yaacov Yoseph ben Sassoon*

Victoria Saul

2 Tevet / Shabbat, December 31st

David ben Ezra



This Hanukkah, Give to KJ

Every person's gift helps our community's light to shine.

On Hanukkah, give the gift that has lasted for generations. Include Kahal in your end-of-year donations.

[Click here to contribute with our secure online form](#) or mail a check with "Shine the Light" in the memo line to Kahal Joseph at 10505 W. Santa Monica Blvd.

Nurture our light.

Refu'a Shelema

Moselle Amron • Sally Amron

Haskell Avrahamy • Sylvia Cohen • Simcha bat Rooha

Mordechai Cohen • Esther Duke • Sassoon Ezra

Lev Hakak • Yoel Iny • Tilda Levy • Florice Newberry

Maurice Ovadia • Grace Tizabi • Katie bat Farha

Miriam bat Yetta • Aliza bat Rahel • Aliza bat Victoria

Adam Moshe Chaim ben Olga

KJ CELEBRATES HANUKKAH



Festival of (Electric) Lights

Thursday's power outage made for a memorable morning minyan of prayers by the generator's emergency lights. Thanks to everyone who lit up the darkness with their presence, and warmed up a cold rainy day with brotherly love!



Hanukkah Party a Success!

Last Sunday's Hanukkah party was a hit with children and adults alike.

The morning began with a "pre-game" celebration for the Talmud Torah kids, complete with brownie Menorahs, pop-balloon jeopardy, and more. At 11, the main party kicked off downstairs with music, games, crafts, and a huge Hanukkah banner that the kids colored to decorate the social hall.

Tasty donuts and pizza were enjoyed by all, as was the origami, which may actually have drawn the adults' hearts more than the kids'! We saw old friends and new faces at a lively event.

Hakarat Hatov

Kahal Joseph is grateful to the many people who helped make our Hanukkah party a reality. Just as you have brought happiness to the children, so may God bestow joy upon you!

Sponsors of the Pizza and Crafts

Hannie, Jonathan, and Sigal Kelly

Volunteers

David and Louise Elias

Edmond Hagooli

Jessica and Farah Harouni

Baruch Isaac and Rita Zakoo

Judy and Margot Lurie

Rafael Shadi

Kahal Staff

Rabbi and Jessica Melhado

Sarah Bouchoucha

Penina Meghnagi-Solomon

Rosa, Christina, and Jose

Talmud Torah Staff

Molly Jalali

Avital Pedoeim

Ghazaleh and Joseph Talasazan

Mona Tizabi

Hanukkah Halakhot & Blessings

- ♦ **Where should I light?** The aim is "persume nissa" or publicizing the miracle. Therefore, the candles should be placed where they will likely be seen by passersby.
- ♦ **When should I light?** The candles should be lit as soon as it is fully dark; if that is not possible, they may be lit all night. Either way, they should burn for at least 30 minutes.
- ♦ **How many lamps?** Sephardim have a custom of lighting one Hanukkah lamp per household. Ashkenazim have the custom of having one per person, even for children.
- ♦ **How do I assemble the lamp?** Place the candles from right to left, but light from left to right.
- ♦ **On Shabbat?** Light first, then the Shabbat candles. After Shabbat, read Havdala and then light.

On all nights of Hanukkah, light the shamash, then say:

ברוך אתה ה'. אלהינו מלך העולם. אשר קדשנו במצותיו. וצונו להדליק נר חנוכה:

Ba-ROOKH a-TA a-do-NAI e-lo-HE-nu ME-lekh ha-o-LAM a-SHER ki-de-SHA-nu be-mits-vo-TAV ve-tsi-VA-nu le-had-LIK NER ha-nu-KA

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, Ruler of the Universe, Who has sanctified us with His commandments, and ordained that we kindle the Hanukkah light.

ברוך אתה ה'. אלהינו מלך העולם. שעשה נסים לאבותינו. בימים ההם בזמן הזה:

Ba-ROOKH a-TA a-do-NAI e-lo-HE-nu ME-lekh ha-o-LAM she-a-SA ni-SIM la-a-vo-TE-nu ba-ya-MIM ha-HEM ba-ze-MAN ha-ZE

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, Ruler of the Universe, Who has performed miracles for our forefathers, in the days of old and at this season.

On the first night of Hanukkah only (or the 1st night you light):

ברוך אתה ה'. אלהינו מלך העולם. שהענינו. וקיימנו. והגיענו לזמן הזה:

Ba-ROOKH a-TA a-do-NAI e-lo-HE-nu ME-lekh ha-o-LAM she-he-ye-YA-nu ve-ki-ye-MA-nu ve-hi-gi-A-nu la-ze-MAN ha-ZE

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, Ruler of the Universe, Who has given us life and sustained us, and brought us to this happy occasion.

From left to right, light the candles. After beginning to light, sing:

הנרות הללו אנוחנו מדליקין. על הנסים. ועל התשועות. ועל הנפלאות. שעשית לאבותינו. על ידי פהניך הקדושים: וכל-שמונת ימי חנוכה הנרות הללו קדש. ואין לנו רשות להשתמש בהם. אלא לראותם בלבד. כדי להודות לשמך. על נסיה. ונפלאותיה. וישועותיה:

Ha-ne-ROT ha-LA-lu a-NAH-nu mad-li-KIN AL ha-ni-SIM ve-AL ha-te-shu-OT ve-AL ha-nif-la-OT she-a-SI-ta la-a-vo-TE-nu AL ye-DE ko-ha-NE-kha ha-ke-do-SHIM ve-KHOL she-mo-NAT ye-ME ha-nu-KA ha-ne-ROT ha-LA-lu KO-desh ve-EN LA-nu reh-SHOOT le-hish-ta-MESH ba-HEM E-la lir-o-TAM bil-VAD ke-DE le-ho-DOT lish-ME-kha AL ni-SE-kha ve-nif-le-o-TE-kha vi-shu-o-TE-kha

We kindle these lights to mark the miracles, salvation, and wondrous deeds that You did for our forefathers through Your holy Kohanim. For all eight days of Hanukkah, these lights are sacred, and we are not permitted to use them, but rather only to look at them so as to give thanks to Your name for your miracles, wondrous deeds, and salvation.

FAMILY HANUKKAH DINNER WITH THE RABBI

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25 AT 5:30 PM
KAHAL JOSEPH UPSTAIRS PLAYROOM

JOIN THE RABBI AND HIS FAMILY FOR AN
INTIMATE DINNER TO CELEBRATE THE
SECOND NIGHT OF HANUKKAH!

*HANUKKAH CANDLELIGHTING * LIGHT DAIRY DINNER*
SPECIAL BELGIAN WAFFLE DESSERT!

ADULTS: \$10 | CHILDREN 5-12: \$5
UNDER 5: FREE