Yehuda, Embodiment of Hoda'ah

Source Sheet by Tamar Weissman

Genesis 29:35

(35) She conceived again and bore a son, and declared, "This time I will praise 'ה." Therefore she named him Judah. Then she stopped bearing.

בראשית כ"ט:ל"ה

(לה) וַתַּלָּהַר עוֹד וַתַּלֶּד בֵּןׁ וַתֹּאמֶר הַפַּעָם אוֹדָה אֶת־ה׳ עַל־בֵּן קּרְאָה שְׁמִוֹ יְהוּדֶה וָתַּעֲמִד מִלְּדֶת: שְׁמִוֹ יְהוּדֶה וָתַּעֲמִד מִלְּדֶת:

Bereshit Rabbah 71:5

Leah adopted the wisdom of thanks [hodaya], and masters of thanks [hodaya] were produced from her.

Judah – "Judah recognized them, and said: She is more righteous than I" (Genesis 38:26); David said: "Give thanks [hodu] to the Lord, for He is good," (Psalms 136:1); Daniel said: "I thank and praise [mehoda] You, God of my fathers" (Daniel 2:23). Rachel adopted the wisdom of silence, and masters of silence were produced from her.

בראשית רבה ע"א:ה'

לֵאָה תִּפְּסָה פֶּלֶךְ הוֹדִיָה, וְעָמְדוּ הֵימֶנָּה בַּעֲלֵי הוֹדִיָה, יְהוּדָה (בראשית לח, כו): וַיַּכֶּר יְהוּדָה וַיֹּאמֶר צָדְקָה מִמֶּנִּי. דְּוִד אָמַר (תהלים קלו, א): הוֹדוּ לַה' כִּי טוֹב. דָנִיֵּאל אָמַר (דניאל ב, כג): לַךְ אֱלָה אֲבָהָתִי מְהוֹדֵא וּמְשַׁבַּח לְבָּ הֶּלָךְ שְׁתִיקָה, וְעָמְדוּ כָּל בָּנֶיהָ בַּעֲלֵי מִסְטִירִין.

Genesis 37:26-27

(26) Then Judah said to his brothers,"What do we gain by killing our brother and covering up his blood?(27) Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, but let us not do away

בראשית ל"ז:כ"ו-כ"ז

(כו) וַיּאמֶר יְהוּדֶה אֶל־אֶחְיוּ מַ**ה־בֶּצַע** כִּיְ נַהֲרֹג אֶת־אָחִינוּ וְכִסִּינוּ אֶת־דָּמְוֹ: (כז) לְכֿוּ וְנִמְכְּרֵנוּ לַיִּשְׁמְעֵאלִים וְיָדֵנוּ with him ourselves. After all, he is our brother, our own flesh." His brothers agreed.

אַל־תְּהִי־בוֹ כְּי־אָחִינוּ בְשָׂרֵנוּ הְוֹּא וָיִּשְׁמְעוּ אֶחָיוֹ:

Sanhedrin 6b:5

Rabbi Meir says: The term botze'a employed in that verse was stated only with regard to Judah, as it is stated: "And Judah said to his brothers: What profit [betza] is it if we slay our brother and conceal his blood? Come, and let us sell him to the Ishmaelites" (Genesis 37:26–27). **And** consequently, anyone who blesses Judah for this act is cursing God, and of this it is stated: "And the covetous [uvotze'a] blesses himself, though he despises the Lord," interpreted homiletically as: "And whoever blesses the profiteer [botze'a] despises the Lord."

סנהדרין ו' ב:ה'

רַבִּי מֵאִיר אוֹמֵר: לֹא נָאֲמַר ״בּוֹצֵעַ״ אֶלָּא כְּנֶגֶד יְהוּדָה, שֶׁנֶּאֲמַר: ״וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוּדָה אֶל אֶחִיו מַה בָּצַע כִּי נַהֲרֹג אֶת אָחִינוּ״. וְכָל הַמְבָרֵך אֶת יְהוּדָה – הֲרֵי זֶה מְנָאֵץ, וְעַל זֶה נָאֱמַר: ״וּבֹצֵעַ בֵּרֵךְ נָאֵץ ה״.

Genesis 37:35-38:1

(35) All his sons and daughters sought to comfort him; but he refused to be comforted, saying, "No, I will go down mourning to my son in Sheol." Thus his father bewailed him. (36) The Midianites, meanwhile, sold him in Egypt to Potiphar, a courtier of Pharaoh and

בראשית ל"ז:ל"ה-ל"ח:א'

(לה) וַיָּקֶמוּ בֶּל־בָּנָיו וְכָל־בְּנֹתִיוּ לְנַחֲמוֹ וַיְמָאֵן לְהִתְנַחֵׁם וַלֹּאמֶר כִּי־אֵרְד אֶל־בְּנִי אָבֵל שְׁאִלָה וַיֵּבְךְ אֹתְוֹ אָבִיו: (לו) וְהַמְּדְנִים מָכְרְוּ אֹתְוֹ אֶל־מִצְרֻיִם לְפְוֹטִיפַּר סְרְיִס פַּרְעֹה שַׂר הַטַּבָּחְים: {פ} (א) וַיְהִי בָּעֵת הַהִּוֹא וַיִּרָד יְהוּדָה his prefect. (1) About that time Judah left his brothers and camped near a certain Adullamite whose name was Hirah. מֵאַת אֶחֶיו וַיֵּט עַד־אִישׁ עֲדִלָּמִי וּשְׁמִוֹ חִירָה:

Rashi on Genesis 38:1

(1) ויהי בעת ההוא AND IT CAME TO PASS AT THAT TIME — Why is this section placed here thus interrupting the section dealing with the history of Joseph? To teach that his brothers degraded him from his high position. When they saw their father's grief they said, "You told us to sell him: if you had told us to send him back to his father we would also have obeyed you" (Genesis Rabbah 85:2). (2) ויט AND HE TURNED away from his brothers. עד איש עדלמי (3) עד איש UNTO A CERTAIN ADULLAMITE — he entered into a business-partnership with him.

רש"י על בראשית ל"ח:א'

(א) ויהי בעת ההוא. לָמָה נִסְמְכָה פָּרָשָׁה זוֹ לְכָאן, וְהִפְּסִיק בְּפָּרָשָׁתוֹ שֶׁל יוֹסֵף? לְלַמֵּד שֶׁהוֹרִידוּהוּ אֶחָיו מִגְּדֻלָּתוֹ כְּשֶׁרָאוּ בְצָרַת אֲבִיהֶם, אָמְרוּ: אַתָּה אָמַרְתָּ לְמָכְרוֹ, אִלּוּ אָמַרְתָּ לַהֲשִׁיבוֹ הָיִינוּ שׁוֹמְעִים לְךְ: (ב) ויט. מֵאֵת אֶחָיו: (ג) עד איש עדלמי. נִשְׁתַּתֵּרְ עִמוֹ:

Bereshit Rabbah 85:2

"Judah descended" – it is a descent for him that he married a gentile woman. It is a descent for him that he buried his wife and his sons.

בראשית רבה פ״ה:ב׳

וַיֵּבֶד יְהוּדָה, יְרִידָה הִיא לוֹ שֶׁנָשָׂא לְגוֹיָה, יְרִידָה הִיא לוֹ שֵׁקָבַר אֵת אִשִׁתּוֹ וּבָנָיו.

Genesis 38:26

(26) Judah recognized them, and

בראשית ל"ח:כ"ו

said, "She is more in the right than I, inasmuch as I did not give her to my son Shelah." And he was not intimate with her again.

(כו) וַיַּבֵּר יְהוּדָה וַיּאמֶר צְּדְקָה מִמֶּנִי כִּי־עַל־בֵּן לֹא־נְתַתִּיהָ לְשֵׁלָה בְנֵי וְלְא־יָסַף עוֹד לְדַעְתָּה:

Genesis 49:8-10

(8) You, O Judah, your brothers shall praise; Your hand shall be on the nape of your foes; Your father's sons shall bow low to you. (9) Judah is a lion's whelp; On prey, my son, have you grown. He crouches, lies down like a lion, Like a lioness —who dare rouse him? (10) The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor the ruler's staff from between his feet; So that tribute shall come to him And the homage of peoples be his.

בראשית מ"ט:ח'-י'

(ח) יְהוּדָה אַתָּה יוֹדְוּךְ אַטֶּיךְ יִדְךְ בְּעֹרֶף אִיְבֶיךְ יִשְׁתַּחֲוֹוְ לְךְ בְּנֵי אָבִיךְ: (ט) גּוְּר אַרְיֵה יְהוּדָה מִשֶּׁרֶף בְּנִי עָלִיתָ כָּרֵע רָבַיְץ כְּאַרְיֵה וּכְלָבִיא מִי יְקִימָנּוּ: (י) לְאֹ־יָסְוּר שֵׁבֶט מִיהוּדָה וּמְחֹקֵק מִבֵּיִן רַגְּלְיו עַדְ כִּי־יָבֹא שִׁילֹה וְלְוֹ יִקְהַת עַמִּים:

Rashi on Genesis 49:9:3

(3) בני עלית THOU WENTEST UP, O
MY SON — from that murderous
deed you withdrew saying, (Genesis.
5:26) "what profit is it if we slay our
brother", and similarly did he act
when Tamar was condemned to
death, for he said "She is righteous:
mine is the blame" (cf. Rashi on
Genesis 38:26), therefore as a
reward כרע רבץ
HE STOOPED
DOWN, HE CROUCHED etc. — as
we are told of the days of Solomon (1

רש"י על בראשית מ"ט:ט':ג'

(ג) **בני עלית.** סִלַּקְתָּ אֶת עַצְמְךּ וְאָמַרְתָּ מַה בָּצַע וְגוֹ', וְכֵן בַּהֲרִיגַת תָּמָר שֶׁהוֹדָה, צָדְקָה מִמֶּנִּי, לְפִיכָךְ **כרע רבץ** וְגוֹ', בִּימֵי שְׁלֹמֹה אִישׁ תַּחַת גַּפְנוֹ וְגוֹ' (מלכים א ה'): Kings 5:5) "[Israel dwelt safely] every man under his vine etc." (Genesis Rabbah 99:8).

Bereshit Rabbah 99:8

He began calling him: "Judah, you shall your brothers acknowledge [yodukha]." The Holy One blessed be He said to him: 'You confessed [hodeita] in the incident of Tamar; your brothers will acknowledge you to be king over them.'

בראשית רבה צ"ט:ח'

יְהוּדָה אַתָּה יוֹדוּך אַחֶיךְ, אָמַר לוֹ הַקָּדוֹשׁ בָּרוּךְ הוּא אַתָּה הוֹדֵיתָ בְּמַעֲשֵׂה תָמָר, יוֹדוּךְ אַחֶיךְ לִהְיוֹת מֶלֶךְ עֲלֵיהֶם. אַחֶיךְ לִהְיוֹת מֶלֶךְ עֲלֵיהֶם.

II Samuel 12:13

(13) David said to Nathan, "I stand guilty before the LORD!" And Nathan replied to David, "The LORD has remitted your sin; you shall not die.

שמואל ב י"ב:י"ג

(יג) וַיּאָמֶר דָּוִד אֶל־נָתָּן חָטָאתִי לַה׳ {ס} וַיּאמֶר נָתָן אֶל־דָּוִד גַּם־ה׳ הֶעֶבִיר חַטָּאתְךְ לָא תִמְוּת:

Psalms 136:1

(1) Praise the LORD; for He is good, His steadfast love is eternal.

תהילים קל"ו:א'

(א) **הוֹדוּ לַה'** כִּי־טֻוֹב כִּי לְעוֹלָם חַסִדְּוֹ:

Genesis 43:1-3

(1) But the famine in the land was severe. (2) And when they had eaten up the rations which they had brought from Egypt, their father

בראשית מ"ג:א'-ג'

(א) וְהָרָעָב כָּבֵד בָּאָרֶץ: (ב) וַיְהִיּ כַּאֲשֶׁרְ כִּלּוּ לֶאֱכֹלְ אֶת־הַשֶּׁבֶר אֲשֶׁרְ הֵבִיִאוּ מִמִּצְרָיִם וַיּאֲמֶר said to them, "Go again and procure some food for us." (3) But Judah said to him, "The man warned us, 'Do not let me see your faces unless your brother is with you.' אֲלֵיהֶם אֲבִיהֶם שֻׁבוּ שָׁבְרוּ־לְנוּ מְעַט־אְכֶל: (ג) וַיֹּאֲמֶר אֱלָיו יְהוּדֶה לֵאמֹר הָעֵד הֵעִד בָּנוּ הָאִישׁ לֵאמֹר לְא־תִרְאוּ פָּנַי בִּלְתִּי אֲחִיכֶם אִתְּכָם:

Rashi on Genesis 43:2:1

באשר כלו לאכל WHEN THEY HAD EATEN UP — Judah said to them: Leave the old man alone until the house will run short of bread (Midrash Tanchuma, Miketz 8). רש"י על בראשית מ"ג:ב':א' כאשר כלו לאכל. יְהוּדָה אָמַר לָהֶם הַמְתִּינוּ לַזְּקֵן עַד שֶׁתִּכְלֶה פַת מִן הַבַּיִת (בראשית רבה):

Genesis 43:8-10

(8) Then Judah said to his father Israel, "Send the boy in my care, and let us be on our way, that we may live and not die—you and we and our children. (9) I myself will be surety for him; you may hold me responsible: if I do not bring him back to you and set him before you, I shall stand guilty before you forever. (10) For we could have been there and back twice if we had not dawdled."

בראשית מ"ג:ח'-י'

(ח) וַיּאמֶר יְהוּדָה אֶל־יִשְׂרָאֵלְ אָבִיו שִׁלְחָה הַנַּעֲר אִתִּי וְנָקוּמָה וְנֵלְכָה וְנְחְיֶה וְלָא נָמוּת גַּם־אֲנַחְנוּ גַם־אַתָּה גַּם־טַפָּנוּ: (ט) אָנֹכִי אָעֶרְבֶּנוּ מִיָּדִי תְּבַקְשֶׁנּוּ אָם־לֹא הֲבִיאֹתִיו אֵלֶיךְ וְהִצַּגְתִיו לְפָּנֶיךְ וְחָטָאתִי לְךָ כָּל־הַיָּמְים: שַׁבְנוּ זֶה פַּעֲמָיִם: שַבְנוּ זֶה פַּעֲמָיִם:

Genesis 44:18-33

(18) Then Judah went up to him and said... (27) Your servant my father

בראשית מ״ד:י״ח-ל״ג (יח) וַיִּגַּשׁ אֱלָיו יִהוּדָה said to us, 'As you know, my wife bore me two sons. (28) But one is gone from me, and I said: Alas, he was torn by a beast! And I have not seen him since. (29) If you take this one from me, too, and he meets with disaster, you will send my white head down to Sheol in sorrow...(32) Now your servant has pledged himself for the boy to my father, saying, 'If I do not bring him back to you, I shall stand guilty before my father forever.' (33) Therefore, please let your servant remain as a slave to my lord instead of the boy, and let the boy go back with his brothers.

וַיֹּאמֶר עַבְּדְּךְ אָבִי אַלְינוּ אַתֶּם יְדַעְתֶּם כִּי שְׁנַיָּם יְלְדָה־לִּי אִשְׁתִּי: (כח) וַיִּצֵיְא הָאֶחָד מָאִתִּי וָאֹמֵּר אַךְ טִרְךְּ טֹרְרְי וְלָא רְאִיתִיו עַד־הָנָה: (כט) וֹלְכַחְתֶּם נַם־אֶת־זֶה מֵעִם פָּנַי וֹלְכַחְתֶּם נַם־אֶת־זֶה מֵעִם פָּנַי אֶת־שֵׁיבָתְי בְּרָעָה שְׁאְלָה:...(לב) כִי עַבְּדְּךְ עָרַב אֶת־הַנַּעַר מֵעִם הָיִ עַבְּדְּךְ עָרַב אֶת־הַנַּעַר מֵעִם וְחָטָאתִי לְאָבִי כָּל־הַיִּמְים: (לג) וְעַתָּה יְשֶׁב־נָא עַבְדְּךְ תַּחַת הַנַּעַר וְעַתָּה יְשֶׁב־נָא עַבְדְּךְ תַּחַת הַנַּעַר

Genesis 46:28

(28) He had sent Judah ahead of him to Joseph, to point the way before him to Goshen. So when they came to the region of Goshen,

Sukkah 52a:6

The Sages taught: To Messiah ben David, who is destined to be revealed swiftly in our time, the Holy One, Blessed be He, says: Ask of Me anything and I will give you whatever you wish, as it is stated: "I will tell of the decree; the Lord

בראשית מ"ו:כ"ח

(כח) וְאֶת־יְהוּדָּה שָׁלְח לְפָנִיוּ אֶל־יוֹסֵף לְהוֹרְת לְפָנֵיו גִּשְׁנָה וַיָּבִאוּ אַרְצָה גְּשֶׁן:

סוכה נ"ב א:ו'

תָנוּ רַבָּנַן: מָשִׁיחַ בֶּן דָּוִד שֶׁעָתִיד לְהִגָּלוֹת בִּמְהֵרָה בְּיָמֵינוּ, אוֹמֵר לוֹ הַקָּדוֹשׁ בָּרוּךְ הוּא: שְׁאַל מִמֶּנִּי דָּבָר וְאֶתֵן לָךְ, שֶׁנָּאֲמֵר: "אֲסַפְּרָה אֶל חוֹק וְגוֹ' אֲנִי הַיּוֹם יְלִדְתִּיךְ. שְׁאַל מִמֶּנִי וְאֶתְּנָה גוֹיִם יְלִדְתִּיךְ. שְׁאַל מִמֶּנִי וְאֶתְּנָה גוֹיִם said unto me: You are My son, this day have I begotten you, ask of Me, and I will give the nations for your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for your possession" (Psalms 2:7–8). **Once** the Messiah ben David saw Messiah ben Yosef, **who was killed, he says** to the Holy One, Blessed be He: Master of the Universe, I ask of you only life; that I will not suffer the same fate. The Holy One, Blessed be He, says to him: Life? Even before you stated this request, your father, David, already prophesied about you with regard to this matter precisely, as it is stated: "He asked life of You, You gave it to him; even length of days for ever and ever" (Psalms 21:5).

נַחֲלָתֶךְ״. וְכֵיוָן שֶׁרָאָה מָשִׁיחַ בֶּן יוֹסֵף שֶׁנֶּהֲרַג, אוֹמֵר לְפָנָיו: רְבּוֹנוֹ שֶׁל עוֹלָם! אֵינִי מְבַקֵּשׁ מִמְּךּ אֶּלָּא חַיִּים. אוֹמֵר לוֹ: חַיִּים, עַד שֶׁלֹּא אָמַרְתָּ כְּבָר הִתְנַבֵּא עָלֶיךְ דְּוִד אָבִיךְ, שֶׁנֶּאֱמַר: ״חַיִּים שָׁאַל מִמְךְ נָתַתָּה לוֹ וְגוֹ״.

Isaiah 11:13

(13) Then Ephraim's envy shall cease And Judah's harassment shall end; Ephraim shall not envy Judah, And Judah shall not harass Ephraim.

ישעיהו י"א:י"ג

(יג) וְסָרָה ֹקנְאַת אֶפְרַיִם וְצֹרְרֵי יְהוּדֶה יִכָּרֶתוּ אֶפְרַיִם ׁלֹא־יְקַנֵּא אֶת־יְהוּדָה וִיהוּדֶה לֹא־יָצֹרְ אֵת־אֵפָרַיִם: אֵת־אֵפָרַיִם:

Ezekiel 37:15-17

- (15) The word of GOD came to me:
- (16) And you, O mortal, take a stick and write on it, "Of Judah and the

יחזקאל ל"ז:ט"ו-י"ז

(טו) וַיְהִי דְבַר־ה׳ אֵלָי לֵאמְר: (טז) וְאַתָּה בֶּן־אָדָם קַח־לְּדְּ'עֵץ Israelites associated with him"; and take another stick and write on it, "Of Joseph—the stick of Ephraim—and all the House of Israel associated with him." (17) Bring them close to each other, so that they become one stick, joined together in your hand.

אֶחָד וּכְתֹּב עָלָיוֹ לְיהוּדָה וְלִבְנֵי ישְׂרָאֵל חֲבֵרֶו וּלְקַח עֵץ אֶחָד וּכְתוֹב עָלָיוֹ לְיוֹסֵף עֵץ אֶפְרַיִם וְכָל־בֵּיִת יִשְׂרָאֵל חֲבַרָו: (יז) וְקָרַב אֹתִם אֶחָד אֶל־אֶחָד לְךָ לְעֵץ אֶחָד וְהִיוּ לַאֲחִדִים בְּיִדְךָ:

Proverbs 28:13

(13) He who covers up his faults will not succeed; He who confesses and gives them up will find mercy.

משלי כ"ח:י"ג

(יג) מְכַסֶּה פְשָׁעָיו לָא יַצְלִיחַ וּמוֹדֵה וְעֹזֵב יְרָחָם:

Midrash Tehillim 100

(1) "He who conceals his transgressions": This refers to Saul, as it is said: "What is this bleating of sheep in my ears?" And Saul said, "They have brought them from the Amalekites" (1 Samuel 15:14-15). "Whoever confesses and forsakes will be shown mercy": This refers to David, who said: "I have sinned against the Lord; please take away the iniquity of Your servant" (2 Samuel 24:10). Immediately, God said to him: "The Lord has also put away your sin" (2 Samuel 12:13).

מדרש תהילים ק׳

מכסה פשעיו זה שאול שנאמר (שמואל-א טו יד-טו) ומה קול הצאן הזה באזני. ויאמר שאול מעמלקי הביאום. ומודה ועוזב ירוחם זה דוד שאמר (שמואל-ב כד יז) ויאמר דוד לאלקים הלא אנכי חטאתי תהי נא ידך בי. מיד אמר לו (שמואל-ב יב יג) גם הי' העביר חטאתך.