

Shelach 5782: Meraglim/spies: Who overreacted more- God or Bnei Yisrael?



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Chapter 13

בָּהֶם: נְשִׂיא כָּל תְּשֻׁלְחוֹ אֲבֹתֵיךָ לְמִטָּה אֶחָד אִישׁ אֶחָד אִישׁ יִשְׂרָאֵל לִבְנֵי נֹתַן אֲשֶׁר־אֲנִי כֹנְעַן אֶת־אֶרֶץ וְיִתְרוֹ אֲנָשִׁים שְׁלַח־לְךָ

“Send agents for you to scout the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the Israelite people; send one participant from each of their ancestral tribes, each one a chieftain among them.”

הָמָּה: בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל רָאשֵׁי אַנְשֵׁים כָּלָם יְקוּק עַל־פִּי פָּאֵרוֹן מִמִּדְבַּר מִנְּשָׂה אֹתָם וַיִּשְׁלַח

So Moses, by יְקוּק 's command, sent them out from the wilderness of Paran, all of them being men of consequence, *all of them being men of consequence*

אֶת־הָהָר: וְעַל־יָתֶם בְּנֶגֶב זֶה עָלוּ אֵלֵיהֶם וַיֹּאמֶר כְּנָעַן אֶת־אֶרֶץ לְתוֹר מִנְּשָׂה אֹתָם וַיִּשְׁלַח

When Moses sent them to scout the land of Canaan, he said to them, “Go up there into the Negeb and on into the hill country,

אִם־רָב: הוּא הַמַּעֲט הַרְפָּה הוּא הַחֲזָק עָלֶיהָ הַיְנֻשָׁב וְאֵת־הָעָם מִהוּא אֶת־הָאָרֶץ וַיִּרְאִיתֶם

and see what kind of country it is. Are the people who dwell in it strong or weak, few or many?

בְּמִבְצָרִים: אִם הַבְּמַחְנִים בְּהֶנָּה יוֹשֵׁב אֲשֶׁר־הוּא הָעָרִים וּמָה אִם־רָעָה הוּא הַטּוֹבָה בָּהּ יוֹשֵׁב אֲשֶׁר־הוּא הָאָרֶץ וּמָה

Is the country in which they dwell good or bad? Are the towns they live in open or fortified?

עֲבָבִים: בְּכֹנִי יְמִי וְהֵימָיוֹם הָאָרֶץ מִפְּרִי וְלִקְחֹתֶם וְהִתְחַזְקֹתֶם אִם־אֵין עֵץ הַיֶּשֶׁב־אִם־רֹחַ הוּא הַשְּׂמֵנָה הָאָרֶץ וּמָה

Is the soil rich or poor? Is it wooded or not? And take pains to bring back some of the fruit of the land.”—Now it happened to be the season of the first ripe grapes.

וַיֹּם: אַרְבָּעִים מִקֵּץ הָאָרֶץ מִתּוֹר וַיִּשְׁבּוּ

At the end of forty days they returned from scouting the land.

וַיִּרְאוּם וְאֶת־כָּל־הָעֵדוּה דָּבַר אֹתָם וַיִּשְׁבּוּ קִדְשָׁה פָּאֵרוֹן אֶל־מִדְבַּר בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל וְאֶל־כָּל־עַדְתֹּ וְאֶל־אַהֲרֹן אֶל־מִנְּשָׂה וַיִּבְאוּ וַיִּלְכוּ הָאָרֶץ: אֶת־פְּרִי

They went straight to Moses and Aaron and the whole Israelite community at Kadesh in the wilderness of Paran, and they made their report to them and to the whole community, as they showed them the fruit of the land.

וַזֶּה־פָּרְוָה: הוּא וַדְּבַשׁ חָלָב זָבַת וְגַם שָׁלַחְתֶּנּוּ אֲשֶׁר אֶל־הָאָרֶץ בָּאֵנוּ וַיֹּאמְרוּ וַיִּסְפְּרוּ־לוֹ

This is what they told him: “We came to the land you sent us to; it does indeed flow with milk and honey, and this is its fruit.

שָׁם: רָאִינוּ הָעָנָק וְגַם־יְלָדֵי מְאֹד גְּדֹלֹת בְּצִרְוֹת וְהָעָרִים בְּאָרֶץ הַיְנֻשָׁב הָעָם כִּי־עַד אֶפְס

However, the people who inhabit the country are powerful, and the cities are fortified and very large; moreover, we saw the Anakites there.

הַיִּרְדָּן: וְעַל־עַל־הָיִם יוֹשֵׁב וְהַכְּנַעֲנִי בְּהָר יוֹשֵׁב וְהָאֲמֹרִי וְהַיְבוּסִי וְהַחִתִּי הִנְגֵּב בְּאָרֶץ יוֹשֵׁב עַמְלֹק

Amalekites dwell in the Negeb region; Hittites, Jebusites, and Amorites inhabit the hill country; and Canaanites dwell by the Sea and along the Jordan.”

לֵה: נוֹכַח כִּי־יָכוֹל אֹתָהּ וַיַּנְשִׁנוּ נִעְלָה עָלָה וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל־מִנְּשָׂה אֶת־הָעָם כָּלֵב וַיִּהְיֶה

Caleb hushed the people before Moses and said, “Let us by all means go up, and we shall gain possession of it, for we shall surely overcome it.”

מִמֶּנּוּ: הוּא כִּי־תִזְקֶה אֶל־הָעָם לַעֲלוֹת בּוֹכֵל לֹא אָמְרוּ עִמּוֹ אֲשֶׁר־עָלוּ וְהָאֲנָשִׁים

But the other men who had gone up with him said, “We cannot attack that people, for it is stronger than we.”

וְכָל־הָעָם הוּא יוֹשְׁבֵיהֶּ אֹכְלֵת אֶרֶץ אֹתָהּ לַתּוֹר בָּהּ עִבְרָנוּ אֲשֶׁר הָאָרֶץ לֹא־מֵרֵ יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶל־בְּנֵי אֹתָהּ תָרוּ אֲשֶׁר הָאָרֶץ דֹּבֶת וְיֹצִיאֹ מִדֹּזֹת: אֲנָשֵׁי בְתוֹכָהּ אֲשֶׁר־רָאִינוּ

Thus they spread calumnies among the Israelites about the land they had scouted, saying, “The country that we traversed and scouted is one that devours its settlers. All the people that we saw in it are of great size;

בְּעֵינֵיהֶם: הָיִינוּ וְכַן בְּחַגְבֵּים בְּעֵינֵינוּ וְנָהִי מִן־הַנְּפִלִים עֵבֶק בְּנֵי אֶת־הַנְּפִלִים רָאִינוּ וְנָשָׂם

we saw the Nephilim there—the Anakites are part of the Nephilim—and we looked like grasshoppers to ourselves, and so we must have looked to them.”

CHAPTER 14

הָהוּא: בְּלֵילָה הָעָם וַיִּבְכוּ אֶת־קוֹלָם וַיִּתְנוּ כָּל־הַעֲדָה וַתִּשָּׂא

The whole community broke into loud cries, and the people wept that night.

לו־מִתְנַוּ: הִזָּה בַּמִּדְבָּר אֹ מִצְרַיִם בְּאֶרֶץ לו־מִתְנַוּ כָּל־הַעֲדָה אֲלֵהֶם וַיֹּאמְרוּ: יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּנֵי כָל־וְעַל־אֹהֶרֶן עַל־מִשְׁחָה וַיִּלְוּנוּ

All the Israelites railed against Moses and Aaron. “If only we had died in the land of Egypt,” the whole community shouted at them, “or if only we might die in this wilderness!”

“ מִצְרַיִמָּה: שׁוּב לָנוּ טוֹב הָלֹא לָבָד יִהְיוּ וְנִטְפְּנוּ נְשֵׁינוּ בְּחֶרֶב לִנְפֹל הַזֹּאת אֶל־הָאָרֶץ אֲתָנוּ מִבֵּיא יְקוֹק וְלָמָּה

Why is יְקוֹק taking us to that land to fall by the sword?” “Our wives and children will be carried off!” “It would be better for us to go back to Egypt!”

מִצְרַיִמָּה: וְנִשׁוּבָה רָאֵשׁ נִתְּנָה אֶל־אֲחִיו אִישׁ וַיֹּאמְרוּ

And they said to one another, “Let us head back to Egypt.”

יִשְׂרָאֵל: בְּנֵי עֲדַת כָּל־קְהֵל לִפְנֵי עַל־פְּנֵיהֶם וְאֹהֶרֶן מִשְׁחָה וַיִּפֹּל

Then Moses and Aaron fell on their faces before all the assembled congregation of Israelites.

בְּגִדֵיהֶם: קָרְעוּ אֶת־הָאָרֶץ מִן־הַתְּרִים בְּו־יַפְּנֵה וְכָל־בְּרִיָּו וַיְהוֹשֻׁעַ

And Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh, of those who had scouted the land, rent their clothes

מֵאֵד: מֵאֵד הָאָרֶץ טוֹבָה אֹתָהּ לַתּוֹר בָּהּ עִבְרָנוּ אֲשֶׁר הָאָרֶץ לֹא־מֵרֵ יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶל־כָּל־עֲדַת וַיֹּאמְרוּ

and exhorted the whole Israelite community: “The land that we traversed and scouted is an exceedingly good land.

וַדְּבַשׁ: חֵלֶב זָבַת אֲשֶׁר־הוּא אֶרֶץ לָנוּ וְנִתְּנָה הַזֹּאת אֶל־הָאָרֶץ אֲתָנוּ וְהָבִיא יְקוֹק בְּנֵוֹ אִם־חִפְץ

If pleased with us, יְקוֹק will bring us into that land, a land that flows with milk and honey, and give it to us;

אל־תִּירָאִם: אֲתָנּוּ יְקוֹק. מֵעַל־הֵם צִלְמֵם סָר הֵם לְחַמְנוּ כִּי הָאָרֶץ אֶת־עַם אֶל־תִּירָאוּ וְאֲתָם אֶל־תִּמְרְדוּ: יְקוֹק בְּאֶרֶץ

only you must not rebel against יְקוֹק. Have no fear then of the people of the country, for they are our prey their protection has departed from them, but יְקוֹק is with us. Have no fear of them!”

בְּקִרְבּוֹ: עָשִׂיתִי אֲשֶׁר הָאֱלֹהִים בְּכַל־בֵּי לֹא־יֵאֱמִינוּ וְעַד־אֵנָה הִזְהָה עֵם וְנִאֲצַנִּי עַד־אֵנָה אֶל־מִשָּׁה: יְקוֹק וַיֹּאמֶר

And יְקוֹק said to Moses, “How long will this people spurn Me, and how long will they have no faith in Me despite all the signs that I have performed in their midst?”

מִמֶּנּוּ: וְעַצֹּם לְגוֹי־גָדוֹל אֶתְךָ וְאֶעֱשֶׂה וְאוֹרְשֶׁנּוּ בְּדַבָּר אֲכַנְנוּ

I will strike them with pestilence and disown them, and I will make of you a nation far more numerous than they!”

מִקִּרְבּוֹ: הִזְהָה אֶת־הָעַם בְּכַחֲךָ כִּי־הֵעֵלֶיךָ מִצְרַיִם וְשָׁמְעוּ אֶל־יְקוֹק מִשָּׁה וַיֹּאמֶר

בְּקוֹלִי: שָׁמְעוּ וְלֹא פְעַמִּים עָשָׂר זֶה אֲתִי וַיִּנְסוּ וַיִּמְדְּבוּ בְּמִצְרַיִם אֲשֶׁר־עָשִׂיתִי וְאֶת־אֲתֹתַי אֶת־כְּבֹדִי הָרַאִים כָּל־הָאֲנָשִׁים כִּי

none of those involved—who have seen My Presence and the signs that I have performed in Egypt and in the wilderness, and who have tried Me these many times and have disobeyed Me —

יִרְאוּהָ: לֹא וְכָל־מִנְאֲצֵי לְאֲבֹתְכֶם נִשְׁבַּעְתִּי אֲשֶׁר אֶת־הָאָרֶץ אִם־יִרְאוּ

shall see the land that I promised on oath to their fathers; none of those who spurn Me shall see it.

וַיִּרְשָׁנָה: וַיִּרְעוּ שְׁמָה אֲשֶׁר־בָּא אֶל־הָאָרֶץ וְהִבִּיאֲתִיו אַחֲרָי וַיִּמְלֵא עִמּוֹ אַחֲרֵת רֹחַ הַיְיִתָּה עֵקֶב כָּלֵב וְעַבְדִּי

But My servant Caleb, because he was imbued with a different spirit and remained loyal to Me — him will I bring into the land that he entered, and his offspring shall hold it as a possession.

בְּמִדְבָּר: פְּגָרֵיכֶם עַד־תָּם אֶת־זְנוּתֵיכֶם וְנִשְׂאוּ שָׁנָה אַרְבָּעִים בְּמִדְבָּר רָעִים: יְהִיוּ וּבְנֵיכֶם

while your children roam the wilderness for forty years, suffering for your faithlessness, until the last of your carcasses is down in the wilderness.

וַיִּדְעֲתֶם שָׁנָה אַרְבָּעִים אֶת־עֲוֹנֹתֵיכֶם תִּשְׂאוּ לְשָׁנָה יוֹם לְשָׁנָה יוֹם יוֹם אַרְבָּעִים אֶת־הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר־תִּרְתְּמוּ הַיָּמִים בְּמִסְפָּר אֶת־תְּנוּאָתִי:

You shall bear your punishment for forty years, corresponding to the number of days — forty days — that you scouted the land: a year for each day. Thus you shall know what it means to thwart Me.

CHAPTER 15

הָאֶחָד: לְכַבֵּשׁ לְקַבַּח אֹו עַל־הַעֲלָה תַעֲשֶׂה הַהֵינן רְבִיעִית לְנֶסֶךְ וַיִּין

You shall also offer, with the burnt offering or the sacrifice, a quarter of a *hin* of wine as a libation for each sheep.

אתכם: הגר ולגר לכם יהיה אֶחָד ומשפט אחת תורה

the same ritual and the same rule shall apply to you and to the stranger who resides among you.

: יקוק ל תרומה תרימו הארץ מלחם באכלכם והיה

and you eat of the bread of the land, you shall set some aside as a gift to יקוק:

בשגגה: לעשה לכם יהיה אחת תורה בתוכם הגר ולגר ישראל בבני האזרח

For the citizen among the Israelites and for the stranger who resides among them—you shall have one ritual for anyone who acts in error.

השבת: ביום עצים מקושש איש ומצאו במדבר בני ישראל ויהיו

Once, when the Israelites were in the wilderness, they came upon a man gathering wood on the sabbath day.

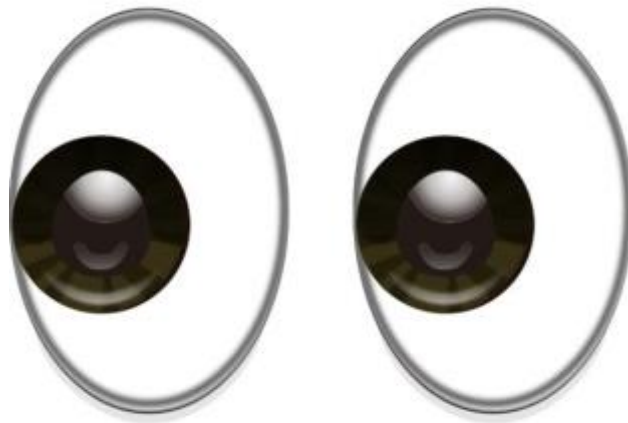
תבלת: פתיל הכנף על-ציצת ונתנו לדרתם בגדיהם על-כנפי ציצת להם ועשו אליהם ואמרת ישראל אל-בני דבר

Speak to the Israelite people and instruct them to make for themselves fringes on the corners of their garments throughout the ages; let them attach a cord of blue to the fringe at each corner.

אשר-אתם עיניכם ואחרי לבבכם אחרי ולא תתורו אתם ועשיתם יקוק את-כל מצות וזכרתם אתו וראיתם לציצת לכם והיה אחריהם: זנים

That shall be your fringe; look at it and recall all the commandments of יקוק and observe them, so that you do not follow your heart and eyes in your lustful urge.

Rashi :



ולא — The verb has the same meaning as in (Numbers 13:25), “and they returned from searching (מתור) the land”. (The translation therefore is: AND YE SHALL NOT SEARCH AFTER YOUR OWN

HEART). The heart and the eyes are the “spies” of the body — they act as its agents for sinning: the eye sees, the heart covets and the body commits the sin (Midrash Tanchuma, Sh'lach 15; cf. Talmud Yerushalmi Berakhot 1:8).

CHAPTER 10

מְנוּחָה: לָהֶם לְתוֹר יָמִים שְׁלֹשַׁת דְּרָר לִפְנֵיהֶם נִסַּע יְקוֹק בְּרִית־י וְאַרְוֹן יָמִים שְׁלֹשַׁת דְּרָר יְקוֹק מִהָר וַיִּסְעוּ

They marched from the mountain of יְקוֹק a distance of three days. The Ark of the Covenant of יְקוֹק traveled in front of them on that three days' journey to seek out a resting place for them;