

SICHA POEM

PROJECT LIKKUTEI SICHOS | 5783 - YEAR OF HAKHEL



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Vayeshev, Sicha 3

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Here is an example of a fascinating way
That the Rebbe shows us how to see what Rashi means to say
While we just read the words and think we see what Rashi meant
If we take a deeper dive we see his real intent

The Parsha starts with Yaakov telling Yosef he should go
And find his brothers and the sheep because he wants to know
How they are all doing, so Yosef goes to them
And after looking for a while he finds them all in Shechem

Rashi says that Shechem is a city of bad news
Its destiny is a locale of misfortune for the Jews
Its where the Shevatim behaved bad and where Dinah was abused
And where Dovid Hamelech's kingdom would be split in two

A few questions we must ask: what's wrong with simple pshat?
Why did Rashi feel that he must teach us what he taught?
And the brother's behaving badly, selling Yosef across the border
Happened after Dinah's story, so why did Rashi change the order?

And thirdly why does Rashi change from the Gemara's quote?
"The brothers sold Yosef there" is what the Gemara wrote
But Rashi changes that somewhat and writes more generally
"It was there the Shevatim behaved bad" – that's question number three

To answer all these questions we first answer the third one:
 The brothers actually sold Yosef in a city called Dosan
 So Shechem is not the place they sold Yosef 'cuz of his dreaming
 But it's the place where they "went bad," it's where they started scheming

So why the focus on Shechem? What are we meant to see?
 It's a place where bad things happened related to Yosef personally
 Bad reports about the brothers to Yaakov Yosef related
 Three specific wrongdoings, and that's why he was hated

The brothers married forbidden women he did testify
 And they ate from living animals – eiver min hachai
 They also caused division by making fun of the brothers
 Whom they scorned 'cuz they were born from the maid-servant mothers

Now since Shechem is the origin of all Yosef's travails
 'cuz it was there the brothers hatched the plan that led to Yosef's sale
 It's also the location that for Yosef misfortune brings
 Related somehow to the three above above-mentioned things:

Yosef claimed the brothers ate from animals alive
 - To say an animal killed Yosef the brothers did contrive
 Yosef claimed forbidden marriages the brothers did begin
 - Dinah was taken and hurt, a marriage-related sin

Yosef claimed the brothers said that they were superior
 To the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah because they were inferior
 - The Jewish people split in two, no longer united
 Dovid Hamelech's kingdom from then on was divided

The Rebbe shows us how to learn a Rashi properly
 How sometimes Rashi's message is more than at first we see
 Torah's words are rich and deep each phrase is so exact
 With the Rebbe's help we learn to see just how rich in fact
