

SICHA POEM

PROJECT LIKKUTEI SICHOS | 5783 - YEAR OF HAKHEL



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Shabbos Hagadol

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The Shabbos before Pesach has a special name
It's called the "Great Shabbos" and it got its name
From the "great miracle" that happened on that day
As the Alter Rebbe in Shulchan Aruch does say

When the Egyptian firstborns heard the frightening news
That sheep were being collected and set aside by the Jews
Because Makkas Bechoros was next, all the firstborns cried
And waged against Pharaoh, and many Egyptians died

The Rebbe asks why the miracle must have a "great" name
In order for the Shabbos to be "great" just the same?
Even if it was an ordinary neis, so to speak
That Shabbos would be great compared to every other week!

A second question that we find is what's really so great
About the war against Pharaoh the firstborns did create?
It didn't seem to do much good, the Yidden weren't saved
When that civil war came to an end the Jews were still enslaved!

Question number three is why do we commemorate
That miracle's day of the week and not the specific date?
This isn't how we mark the miracle of any other holiday
Why is only Shabbos Hagadol commemorated in this way?

The answer to these questions will be clearly seen
 When we understand what Shabbos is and what it really means
 Shabbos is a day of change a day that transforms
 A day that doesn't simply stay with the usual norms

The midrash says that Shabbos brought a monumental shift
 To the relentless busy weekdays, Shabbos was the gift
 Of calmness and serenity, transforming the nature of time
 To a higher holy tranquility, transcendent and sublime

The miracle of the firstborns waging war against their own
 Was a "transformational" miracle, powerfully shown
 The strength and pride Mitzrayim turn against Pharaoh
 And demand that those in charge let the Jewish People go!

This is why this miracle is called "great,"
 Because of the transformation it did create
 It didn't destroy the enemy as one would think it would
 It turned the Egyptian firstborns into a force of good

This is why we mark this miracle on Shabbos specifically
 Because of Shabbos' and the miracle's similarity
 The transformational change of the miracle and of the Shabbos day
 And now all three of our previous questions go away
