

# SICHA POEM

PROJECT LIKKUTEI SICHOS | 5783 - YEAR OF HAKHEL



*Likkutei Sichos, Vol. 15*

## Vayigash, Sicha 4

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It says in the last Passuk of our Parsha,  
 “ויאחזו בה Israel settled in the land of Egypt, in the land of Goshen  
 And they were fruitful and multiplied greatly,  
 For ויאחזו בה two explanations we see.

1. According to Pshat, Rashi’s interpretation,  
 Is that ויאחזו בה means taking possession.
2. The Midrash’s explanation has the opposite meaning,  
 Like a person held against their will, ויאחזו בה, means grasping.

Although the explanations are so different it is clear,  
 That a connection they share.  
 But first we must understand another contradiction,  
 Between our Passuk and a previous one at the ברית בין הבתרים

At that time, to Avraham Avinu, Hashem made it known,  
 That his children would have to go into Galus, to a land that is not their own.  
 They had to experience exile as foreigners,  
 So why does our Passuk say that they possessed the land and were settlers?

Rashi resolves this difficulty,  
 By repeating what we know already.  
 Alone Goshen didn't stand,  
 “It is part of the Egyptian land.”

Settling and possessing Goshen led to the Egyptian slavery eventually,  
 And it is not part of the land of Canaan, which is holy.  
 In the beginning, they settled in Goshen, the choicest part of the land, it is true,  
 But even then, they were foreigners, they knew.

However, according to the Torah's inner dimension,  
 We are still left with the question,  
 We know that to purify every Jew, through slavery, was the exile's goal,  
 So how would they be purified by possessing the land and being in control?

Every detail of the Egyptian slavery,  
 Is found in a spiritual sense, in Torah study.  
 When a Jew accepts upon himself the yoke of Torah and toils in it wholeheartedly,  
 For him to experience physical hard labor isn't necessary.

At first, when the Yidden came, everyone did understand,  
 That Goshen was the Yidden's land,  
 It was actually given to Sara Imeinu years before by Pharaoh the king,  
 They inherited it, governed themselves and didn't experience physical suffering.

But despite the goodness,  
 They were in a state of distress,  
 Because they felt that in Goshen the holiness of Eretz Yisrael wasn't there,  
 They were not in a land where the eyes of Hashem are on it all year.

But once Yosef, his brothers and that generation passed away,  
 The pain of living in a land that was not their own didn't stay.  
 There was a decline in their Torah study,  
 And they began to experience the bitterness of Galus physically.

The Galus grasped them and they were forced to stay,  
 In order to pave the way,  
 For them to elevate and take possession of the sparks of holiness that fell down low,  
 So that they could be spiritually wealthy when out of Egypt they did go.

Possessing and grasping are not a contradiction,  
 But rather they are two parts of our mission.  
 At first we are in control because of the Torah that we study,  
 It keeps us safe from being grasped into the trap of spiritual slavery.

But when we fall, and are held against our will,  
There is work to accomplish still,  
We must take possession of every spark that comes our way,  
So that we can bring Moshiach today!

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