

Rabbi Yitzchak Berkovits
Sanhedria Ha'Murchevet 113/27
Jerusalem, Israel 97707
02-5813847

יצחק שמואל הלוי ברקוביץ
ראש רשת הכוללים לינת הצדק
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ירושלם ת"ו

כס"ד ירושלים ת"ו ט"ז בארחשון תשע"ט

My dear friend Rav Moshe Kormornick has compiled *Short Vorts* – short *divrei Torah* for every occasion to inspire in a matter of minutes in a pleasant, non-intimidating manner.

Whether one is looking for an interesting piece of Torah material to share with the family or one needs to have a Torah idea on hand to inspire acquaintances this book is ideal.

It was always understood that when two Jews meet there is an exchange of “something new” in Torah, and this work will provide it.

May the author continue to inspire with his sincerity, creativity and love for the Torah and Jews.

ברכה,
יצחק ברקוביץ

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Bereishis

וַיִּקְרָא הָאָדָם שֵׁם אִשְׁתּוֹ חַוָּה כִּי הוּא הִיְתָה אִם כָּל חַי
And Adam called his wife Chava because
she was the mother of all living things (3:20)

THE PREVIOUS VERSES in the Torah tell us that Chava was responsible for bringing death into the world as punishment for eating from the tree of knowledge and subsequently convincing her husband to do the same. This being the case, it is very strange that Adam would name his wife 'Chava', a name which refers to her being the source of all *life*; surely the opposite was true?!

After the sin, when Adam and Chava were about to be expelled from the Garden of Eden, Adam was faced with a choice: To dwell on his wife's mistake¹ and consequently live out the rest of his life in bitterness and regret? Or, to put the past behind him and focus instead on his wife's positive qualities and attributes, valuing her *despite* her sin?

¹ The *Ohr HaChaim* for instance learns that Adam did not know that he was eating from the Tree of Knowledge (3:12) and therefore was not as responsible as Chava (*Ohr HaChaim*, Bereishis 3:12 and 3:20).

Shavuos

ON SHAVUOS WE READ the story of Rus (Ruth), the destitute Moavite convert who approached Boaz, the leading Torah authority of the generation and a very wealthy landowner and asked him to marry her. And he said yes!

What did Boaz see in Rus that he agreed to marry her? He saw that she was acting totally for Hashem.¹ As a result, this marriage produced King David, the ancestor of *Moshiach*!²

With this introduction, *Rav Chaim Shmuelevits* used to say that we see from Rus that if there is something you want in *ruchnius*, *spiritual growth*, if your intentions are pure and you stop at nothing, then you *will* get your way!³

We can develop this idea based on another incident from *Megillas Rus*. The opening verse says “a man went from Bethlehem in Yehudah to live in the fields of Moav”.⁴ The very next verse tells us that this man’s name was Elimelech. Why does the *Megillah* go out of

¹ See *Megillas Rus* 3:10.

² Rus was the great-grandmother of King David whom the *Moshiach* is destined to come from.

³ Told over by *Rav Yitzchak Berkovits*.

⁴ *Megillas Rus* 1:1

Marriage and Sheva Brachos

AS ILLUSTRATED IN THE *GEMORA*, the Torah learns several laws regarding marriage from the episode of Avraham purchasing Efron's field as a burial plot for his wife Sarah and for future generations. In addition to these laws, many have suggested the following important marital lesson that this sale teaches: If we study the Torah's account of what transpired, we notice that Efron was initially willing to give away his land to Avraham for free, yet, when Avraham refused to take the gift, Efron sold it for an exorbitant amount of money - '400 large silver coins in negotiable currency'.¹ Since he was initially willing to give it away for free, surely Efron felt that he had achieved the sale of the century - a small plot of land for such an enormous amount of money; he definitely got the better deal! Yet, if we imagine what Avraham would have been thinking when he purchased the field, he would have been far from disappointed, he would have said to himself 'only 400 coins in exchange for a heritage for all future generations, this plot of land is priceless - what a deal!'

¹ Bereishis 23:14-16. The *Gemora* tells us that when Efron insisted on the amount being "negotiable currency", the total sum came to 4 million *dinarim*! (Bava Metzia 87a with *Rashi*)