

Rabbi's Column – April 20, 2020

Text Torah Thursday: Continuing with a verse from where the in person class left off:

Genesis 37:19

Each person said to his brother, "Look, this master of dreams is arriving."

Neither Rashi nor Sforno have anything to add to this verse.

Rabbi Steinsaltz: "Look, master of dreams" his dreams summarize their hatred of him, so mentioning them in this fashion sets their mind towards anger and hatred; "this" the idiomatic expression is a way of making something strange, so at this point Joseph is now considered as if he is a stranger.

In this age of the novel coronavirus and our isolation, I am going to be doing something a bit different. Based upon a request, I will be running a version of Torah Thursday via Zoom. Based on the text I have at home, I will be beginning at the very beginning, but using the commentaries of Ibn Ezra and Nachmanides as translated by Michael Carasik. The actual Zoom invitation will appear below the rest of my column.

Between Passover and Shavuot, there is a tradition to count 50 days. There are multiple reasons for counting them, and a few reasons for some of the traditional behaviors associated with the counting of the Omer. One reason is agricultural - there is a summer/spring wheat which grows during that time frame, and if it doesn't grow properly then food may be scarce later in the year (the details escape me, but when we lived in California several people who grew up on farms let us know how nervous that time frame was.) The Torah also tells us to count the days between redemption and revelation, which was also a nerve-wracking time period (Does Moses really know where we are going? What kind of mountain is this anyway? What are we supposed to do about food and water, etc. etc.) Supposedly as well, students of Rabbi Akiba died from a disease one year during this time (although everyone seems to agree that nobody died on LaG BaOmer [day 33]) so many people avoid getting haircuts, buying new clothes or listening to live music - all signs of grieving, just in case. Today, we have one mourning day and a number of celebrational days during this time frame. Yom HaShoah v'HaGevurah commemorates the Polish experience during the Holocaust. Yom HaZikaron mourns all those who died so Israel the country might live. Yom HaAtzmaut celebrates the current iteration of the State of Israel. Yom Yerushalayim celebrates the day what Jerusalem was reunited under Israeli control, which freed up everyone to visit their own religious areas in the city.

As the sun sets later and later, another possible innovation is either streaming services (presuming the Covid-19 isolation ends) or doing them as well via Zoom or something similar. More details on that in the next few weeks.

Here is hoping that you are all as healthy as you can be, and that soon we will be able to meet up with each other, appreciating each other more because of the current difficulties.

Dave Lerner (in this case Rabbi Larry Moldo) is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Torah Thursday

Time: Apr 23, 2020 12:00 PM Mountain Time (US and Canada)

Every week on Thu, until Jun 4, 2020, 7 occurrence(s)

Apr 23, 2020 12:00 PM

Apr 30, 2020 12:00 PM

May 7, 2020 12:00 PM

May 14, 2020 12:00 PM

May 21, 2020 12:00 PM

May 28, 2020 12:00 PM

Jun 4, 2020 12:00 PM

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Weekly: https://zoom.us/meeting/tJUvd-CsrzMjEtBAGgA70SOBqwWR_UcEidHJ/ics?icsToken=98tyKuCprDsJHtWduRGDRowcAligXejzmFxEj7d_vTjiIncDUSz0J_V1AI1KE_3Z

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/91209418984?pwd=YmdrTVlxQQpsWEppemJPNS9CRUVDdz09>

Meeting ID: 912 0941 8984

Password: OnbvK6