

Parshas Mikeitz

This week's Parsha is Miketz, and Shabbos Chanukah and Rosh Chodesh Teves. It is one of the few times when you can have a packed Shabbos with all the extras: in Benching you say Retzei, Yalah Viyavo, and Al Hanisim; in Shomeh Esrai you say Yalah Viyavo and Al Hanisim; and we take out three Sifrei Torah (Shabbos, Rosh Chodesh, and Chanukah).

Having a 'full' Shabbos with all the extras is special and fills the day with more opportunities to connect with Hashem. This connection we need more than ever, given the darkness that befell the Jews of Sydney, and globally, with the Chanukah Massacre at Bondi Beach, specifically at a Chabad-hosted event, that was aimed at spreading light.

In this week's Parsha, Yosef was enlisted by Pharaoh to interpret his dream, which led to Egypt's success during the famine. Yosef credited his interpretation to Hashem. The dreams are about preparation; success arises from adequate planning. First, Yosef's appointment as viceroy prompted preparations for Yakov and his family's arrival, and the circumstances that led to Yosef's rise to power were his proposal to prepare for famine.

In Perek 41 posuk 40, Rashi says on "Al Pi Yishak Kol Ami" (and under your direction all my people will be provided for), Yishak means (as Onkelos says) be provided for. Furthermore, Rashi states that the use of the word Neshek (the root of the word Yishak) means "administrator" and "offer yourself with purity" (from Tehillim 2:12).

The word נשק means "gun" but is also the abbreviation for the Chabad outreach "Neiros Shabbos Kodesh," a campaign implemented by the Rebbe to ensure that every Jewish girl and woman lights candles for Shabbos and Holidays. (A little joke that the administrator of the household is responsible for lighting the candles).

The meaning, then, of Chanukah and the massacre at Bondi connects to the power given to Yosef by Pharaoh for administering salvation to Egypt. The Rebbe taught us that by performing Mitzvos, such as Neshek, we will spread light in the world, become the administrators of goodness, and prepare the land (as Yosef did) for the Mashiach, so that Hashem and all His glory will be known to everyone. Furthermore, the message of Chanukah and programs like those at Bondi are a light in the dark. That is, when there is terrible evil, it gets outshone by our doing Mitzvos, and in that way, we instill goodness and Godliness into the land and the world around us so that we can welcome Mashiach Now.

Good Shabbos and Happy Chanukah, and may the families of the victims merit comfort in Zion in Yerushalayim, and may those who need have a speedy and complete recovery.