**Questions for Understanding and Reflection**

1. What verse or verses from the readings of the previous Sabbath (Gen 41:38 – ‎‎42:17‎; Psa. ‎‎34; Is 11:2-10, ‎‎16; Mk 3:28-‎‎30‎; Lk ‎‎12:10; and‎ Acts 9:23-‎‎31) were fulfilled in your life during the last week?‎

This week I began to teach at work by designing a display which explains a bit about Chanukah and the Jewish religion. (As Yosef was elevated, so also was I elevated. As Yosef taught, I began teaching in a completely unexpected environment. I am one of the few who can get paid, at work, to study Torah.)

1. From all the readings for this Shabbat which verse or verses impressed your heart and fired your imagination?

I was impressed with the thought of the following “circumcision knife”:

**Matityahu (Matthew) 10:34** Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword.

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Gen. 42:19?

**in your prison** – Where is his prison?

**and you, go bring** – Where are they to go and bring?

**the grain for the hunger of your households** – What grain is this?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Gen. 42:21?

**Indeed** – What is the meaning of the Hebrew word: אֲבָל?

**has come upon us** – What is the meaning of the Hebrew word:. בָּאָה?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Gen. 42:23?

**They did not know that Joseph understood** – What didn’t Yosef understand?

**for the interpreter was between them** – How did the interpreter cause them to believe that they were not understood?

**the interpreter** – Who was this interpreter?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Gen. 42:24?

**And he turned away from them** – Why did he turn away from them?

**and wept** – Why was he weeping?

**Simeon** – Why Shimon?

**and imprisoned him before their eyes** – How is this to be understood?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Gen. 43:2?

**when they finished eating** – When was this?

**when they finished** – What is the meaning of this pasuk?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Gen. 43:7?

**about us and about our family** – What were the nature of these inquiries?

**And we told him** – What did they tell him?

**according to these words** – How is this to be understood?

**that he would say** – What is the meaning of the Hebrew phrase: כִּי יֽאמַר?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Gen. 43:9?

**and stand him up before you** – What does this mean?

**I will have sinned against you forever** – What are the implications of saying forever?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Gen. 43:11?

**then** – What is the meaning of the Hebrew word: אֵפוֹא?

**some of the choice products of the land** – What is the meaning of the Hebrew phrase: מִזִמְּרַת הָאָרֶץ?

**Pistachios** – What are these?

These items were meant to remind Yosef of the smells of home. Yaaqov seemed to doubt the death of Yosef. We recall that the Torah explicitly told us that Ya’aqob treasured Yosef’s dreams and remembered them. When he heard his son’s account of their experience, he immediately thought of Yosef’s dreams.

1. Why are the wicked destroyed by G-d at midnight? Please explain.

Thus we understand that the wicked do their deeds at night and HaShem will deal mida-kneged-mida (measure-for-measure) with them by inflicting their punishment at night.

1. What is the **allegorical meaning** of **“the pit”?**.

The allegorical meaning of a pit is “death”, a prison. The pit is a picture of absolute destitution and powerlessness.

1. As King David the Messiah was reading the Torah Seder for this week, what caught his attention in the Torah Seder for this week that is addressed in his Psalm for this week?

His attention was caught by the night time redemption, which speaks directly to our verbal tally in that the name used by HaShem when He brings judgment: God - אלהים, Strong’s number 0430. Additionally ‘night’ alludes to a second verbal tally: Day - יום, Strong’s number 03117.

1. As the Prophet Yeshayahu read the Torah Seder for this week, what caught his attention in the Torah Seder for this week that is addressed in his prophecy?

The Prophet’s attention was caught by the words “fear” and “God” in our Torah portion. He addressed the fear of God (judgment) in his prophecy.

**Yeshayahu (Isaiah) 57:1** - The prophet was seeing the pit that formed a verbal tally and an allusion to our Torah portion.

1. What important Halakhic question is Hakham Tsefet answering in his narrative of Mark 3:31-35‎?

How does one’s spiritual community (those who study and ‘do’ the mesorah) compare, in importance, to one’s family?

1. What important Halakhic question is Hakham Shaul pointing to in the Tosefta of Lk 8:19-21‎?

How is the mesorah to be handled with regards to the Gentiles? When you come to Yeshua, your family is lost and you will gain a new family.

1. In 2 Luqas (Acts) 9:32-43 Hakham Shaul presents us in the remez two miracles performed by G-d by the hand of Hakham Tsefet. Since the Gemara (remez) is always a commentary on the Mishnah (Pshat), how are these two miracles a commentary on Mark 3:31-35? Please explain your answer.

This woman had many deeds to merit this miracle.

A son of 8 years old is not yet bar mitzvah and therefore he is sinless. Thus the Hakham is his guarantor.

These two miracles are used to explain what was going on in the Markan text.

1. Why were so many Jews and Gentiles accepting the Oral Law and the Rule of the Master through Hakham Tsefet and the other Sheliachim (Apostles) but this is not the case nowadays? Please explain your answer.

2000 years ago the crush of sin had not dulled their senses as much as it has to people today who have “grace” and feel no need to be redeemed. We are seeing the descent of the generations, as our Sages have described. The plethora of “gods” wearied the soul of the civilized Roman. While there were those Romans like the Samaritans that mixed their paganism with the Mesorah, there was a remnant of legitimately enlightened and liberated souls.

1. How does the TV affect the Oikos Domia (Economy of the household) nowadays? And what should we do with it?

The TV draws us away from the mesorah and into a place without meaning. The TV should therefore be greatly limited in favor of Torah study. The best solution is to eliminate, drop it from the eleventh floor, it so that it cannot influence you.

1. ‎Taking into consideration all the readings for this Shabbat what is the prophetic statement for this week?‎

Let us become surety for our “brothers” in order to bring the mesorah to them.

v.12 of Yeshayahu. We need to be strengthened in order to get out of the pit.