



## DREAMS

The book of B'reishit is filled with dreams. In Parshat Vayeitzei, Yaakov has his famous dream with the angels going up and down a ladder. In last week's Portion we see the terrible results caused by Yosef sharing his dreams with his brothers, and the dreams of Par'o's butler and baker. This week we learn that even Par'o had dreams that he couldn't decipher.

Rav Avichai Katzin had a very nice article about dreams in the weekly Hebrew pamphlet, distributed free, called L'ORO - giving insights from Rav Kook on the weekly portions. (I find this little pamphlet helpful to gain insight into Rav Kook's lofty insights in a more down to earth way).

He says that Rabeinu Bechaye writes that there are three types of dreams. The first type are regular dreams that people may have at night. This would be like Yosef's dream where "the sun and moon and 11 stars are bowing down to me" which causes Yaakov to exclaim, "What is this dream that you dreamt?" which the Ramban explains to mean that Yaakov was reprimanding Yosef that if these are the kinds of dreams you are having it's a sign that these are your thoughts. Your head must be filled with thoughts of ruling over your brothers. He doesn't look at this type of dream as a direct message from God.

Rabeinu Bechaye calls the second type of dream, "A dream of Ru'ach HaKodesh" and the third type "A real NEVU'A - prophecy". What is the difference between these last two types of dreams. "A dream of Ru'ach HaKodesh" is not clear and needs someone to interpret it, such as Par'o and his servants' dreams. Yaakov's dream, HINEI ANOCHI IMACH - I [God] am with you" is a real prophetic dream.

Rabeinu bechaye was talking about dreams our forefathers dreamt. What about simple mundane dreams that we might remember one morning when we wake up, or might even wake us up at night? How should we relate to those?

The gemara says "three things require [that we ask for] RACHAMIM; a good king, a good year, and a good dream." Rav Kook, in (EIN AYA) explains the connection between these three things. He says that a person might think that there is no reason to pray that a king, the year, or a dream will turn out good. Why? The person might think it is out of his hands to change how a king will act ( since the king - [or president] has a mind of his own and acts accordingly). But that is a wrong conclusion - and the Gemara wants us to know that our prayers can help. He explains that we might not ask for RACHAMIM for a good year at the right time. We must do it at the beginning of the year (as we do on Rosh Hashana) because that is the auspicious time - MEIREISHIT HASHANA AD ACHARIT HASHANA.

And what about dreams. Rav Kook says people might tend to belittle the significance of dreams and not pray that they have good dreams at night.

But he explains that sleep and dreams are an integral part of our existence and have a major effect on our wellbeing - it is definitely important to pray for good dreams.

Then there are what we refer to as dreams, what we have when we are awake and alert. Like the dreams of the Maccabim in the Chanuka story as well. If the Jews living during the time of Antiochus hadn't dreamt of a better time, of a time when they could practice their heritage freely, then they would not have had the initiative to fight against the Syrian-Greeks. We might not be eating latkes and jelly donuts today if not for their dreams.

Then there are the dreams that parents have for the children that they bring into the world - that they will grow up to be good people who will play a unique role in the continuation of the chain of Jewish survival.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish my daughter Tova and her husband Mordechai Elkin mazel tov on the birth of their new son. May all their dreams come true. Mazel tov to the grandparents, great-grandparents and all the family.

We should all be able to say "I have a dream!" and run with those dreams. And may we pray that the dreams come out well - B'SHUV HASHEM ET SHIVAT TZION HAYINU K'CHOLMIM (Tehilim 126:1) Chanuka sameach!

These traditional Portuguese breakfast treats are perfect for Chanuka.

## **PORTOGUESE SONHOS "DREAMS"**

1 cup water

pinch of salt

10 gm. unsalted butter

1½ Tblsp sugar

¼ tsp vanilla (optional)

1 cup flour

4 eggs

oil, for frying

cinnamon, sugar, honey, maple or chocolate syrup for topping

While preparing the batter, heat oil until it reaches 185°C.

In a heavy saucepan, bring water, butter, sugar and salt to a boil, stirring until butter melts. Using a sifter, gradually add flour into the hot liquid, stirring constantly with a large wooden spoon until it thickens and forms a ball around the spoon. Remove pan from heat and add eggs one at a time beating before adding the next egg. Continue to beat the mixture until it begins to become shiny. Drop by large spoonfuls into the hot oil, only two at a time (so oil temperature won't drop). Turn once and when lightly golden, remove from oil using a slotted spoon. Drain on paper towels. Keep warm on a paper lined baking sheet in a 95°C oven until all the dreams are ready to serve. Sprinkle with cinnamon, sugar, or drizzle with honey glaze, maple syrup, or other favorite glaze and serve warm. ♪

**Happy Chanuka**