

טועמיה - חיים

לחיות עם הזמן בשבת קודש

A Taste of Shabbat – Parshat Ki Tezai 5777

By Rav Mordechai Elon (edited and translated by his students)

The mitzvah of appointing a queen

To be the king of the castle

In Parshat Shoftim the Torah spoke about cities and states, in our parsha we hear about homes and the intimate side of our life.

In our homes there are no judges or police, but it is possible to be a king. We are obligated to be our own judges and policeman

כִּי תִהְיֶינָה לְאִישׁ שְׁתֵּי נָשִׁים קָאָהוּבָה וְקָאָהוּבָה וְהָאָהוּבָה וְהָאָהוּבָה
וְיִלְדוּ לּוֹ בָנִים קָאָהוּבָה וְהָאָהוּבָה וְהָאָהוּבָה וְהָאָהוּבָה.¹

If a man has two wives, one loved and one hated, with children from both, and the first born from the hated wife.

The Torah tells us about a man who made a legitimate choice (then) to marry two women, but because of human nature one becomes loved and one hated. His love of the loved one brings him to try and give a preferential inheritance to his non-first born son.

Putting limits on love

This is not a story from long ago, it is fresh from this morning. Not only lust should be limited in order to keep the Jewish home standing, but sometimes love too. This sounds dangerous, but sometimes if we don't limit love, it can burn up all we have and miscarry justice of the first born, just because "it is natural to love one wife more than the other".

Even if neither wife is hated, the less loved is hated more. Even if she doesn't feel it, her children and grandchildren will

Love heels all

There are no judges and policeman, you are the king, or more so, there is a queen. Connecting the parsha of judges, police, kohanim, prophets and

kings to the laws of "if a man has two wives" and "if you have a rebellious son" is the law of the "the beautiful woman". This is a story of true intense love without ulterior motives. The war is just and the soldier is a tsaddik. Even so love is so strong it can encompass all, causing you to forget everything else, past present and future.

Victory at home

The verse in psalms

כָּל כְּבוֹדָהּ בֵּית מַלְךְ פְּנִימָה...²

The king's daughter is all glorious within

Can be explained that the glory of the Jewish women "בת" is when she is driven (מלך in Hebrew is a king and also to be lead) inwards. She isn't appointed by court, or gives commands to soldiers or police, but she reigns because inside ourselves we have internal "judges and police" that help us enforce on ourselves proper behavior in our homes and private lives.

This is why the parsha dealing with love and hatred in domestic situations is called

כִּי תֵצֵא לַמִּלְחָמָה...³

When you will go to war

The true battle, the true and everlasting victory is made there, at home.

¹ דברים כ"א, ט"ו.

² תהילים מ"ה, י"ד.

³ דברים שם, י'.