

TANAKH

תנ"ך

THE HOLY SCRIPTURES

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Blessings of the deep that couches below,  
 Blessings of the breast and womb.  
<sup>26</sup> <sup>f</sup>The blessings of your father  
 Surpass the blessings of my ancestors,  
 To the utmost bounds of the eternal hills.<sup>f</sup>  
 May they rest on the head of Joseph,  
 On the brow of the elect of his brothers.

<sup>27</sup> Benjamin is a ravenous wolf;  
 In the morning he consumes the foe,<sup>g</sup>  
 And in the evening he divides the spoil.”

<sup>28</sup> All these were the tribes of Israel, twelve in number, and this is what their father said to them as he bade them farewell, addressing to each a parting word appropriate to him.

<sup>29</sup> Then he instructed them, saying to them, “I am about to be gathered to my kin. Bury me with my fathers in the cave which is in the field of Ephron the Hittite, <sup>30</sup> the cave which is in the field of Machpelah, facing Mamre, in the land of Canaan, the field that Abraham bought from Ephron the Hittite for a burial site—<sup>31</sup> there Abraham and his wife Sarah were buried; there Isaac and his wife Rebekah were buried; and there I buried Leah—<sup>32</sup> the field and the cave in it, bought from the Hittites.” <sup>33</sup> When Jacob finished his instructions to his sons, he drew his feet into the bed and, breathing his last, he was gathered to his people.

**50** Joseph flung himself upon his father’s face and wept over him and kissed him. <sup>2</sup> Then Joseph ordered the physicians in his service to embalm his father, and the physicians embalmed Israel. <sup>3</sup> It required forty days, for such is the full period of embalming. The Egyptians bewailed him seventy days; <sup>4</sup> and when the wailing period was over, Joseph spoke to Pharaoh’s court, saying, “Do me this favor, and lay this appeal before Pharaoh: <sup>5</sup> “My father made me swear, saying, “I am about to die. Be sure to bury me in the grave which I made ready for myself in the land of Canaan.” Now, therefore, let me go up and bury my father; then I shall return.” <sup>6</sup> And Pharaoh said, “Go up and bury your father, as he made you promise on oath.”

<sup>f</sup> *Meaning of Heb. uncertain.*

<sup>g</sup> *Meaning of Heb. uncertain; others “booty.”*

<sup>7</sup>So Joseph went up to bury his father; and with him went up all the officials of Pharaoh, the senior members of his court, and all of Egypt's dignitaries, <sup>8</sup>together with all of Joseph's household, his brothers, and his father's household; only their children, their flocks, and their herds were left in the region of Goshen. <sup>9</sup>Chariots, too, and horsemen went up with him; it was a very large troop.

<sup>10</sup>When they came to Goren<sup>a</sup> ha-Atad, which is beyond the Jordan, they held there a very great and solemn lamentation; and he observed a mourning period of seven days for his father. <sup>11</sup>And when the Canaanite inhabitants of the land saw the mourning at Goren ha-Atad, they said, "This is a solemn mourning on the part of the Egyptians." That is why it was named Abel-mizraim,<sup>b</sup> which is beyond the Jordan. <sup>12</sup>Thus his sons did for him as he had instructed them. <sup>13</sup>His sons carried him to the land of Canaan, and buried him in the cave of the field of Machpelah, the field near Mamre, which Abraham had bought for a burial site from Ephron the Hittite. <sup>14</sup>After burying his father, Joseph returned to Egypt, he and his brothers and all who had gone up with him to bury his father.

<sup>15</sup>When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrong that we did him!" <sup>16</sup>So they sent this message to Joseph, "Before his death your father left this instruction: <sup>17</sup>So shall you say to Joseph, 'Forgive, I urge you, the offense and guilt of your brothers who treated you so harshly.' Therefore, please forgive the offense of the servants of the God of your father." And Joseph was in tears as they spoke to him.

<sup>18</sup>His brothers went to him themselves, flung themselves before him, and said, "We are prepared to be your slaves." <sup>19</sup>But Joseph said to them, "Have no fear! Am I a substitute for God? <sup>20</sup>Besides, although you intended me harm, God intended it for good, so as to bring about the present result—the survival of many people. <sup>21</sup>And so, fear not. I will sustain you and your children." Thus he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

<sup>22</sup>So Joseph and his father's household remained in Egypt. Joseph lived one hundred and ten years. <sup>23</sup>Joseph lived to see children of the third generation of Ephraim; the children of Machir son of Manasseh were

<sup>a</sup> Or "the threshing floor of."

<sup>b</sup> Interpreted as "the mourning of the Egyptians."

likewise born upon Joseph's knees. <sup>24</sup>At length, Joseph said to his brothers, "I am about to die. God will surely take notice of you and bring you up from this land to the land that He promised on oath to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob." <sup>25</sup>So Joseph made the sons of Israel swear, saying, "When God has taken notice of you, you shall carry up my bones from here."

<sup>26</sup>Joseph died at the age of one hundred and ten years; and he was embalmed and placed in a coffin in Egypt.

קח

Egypt.”<sup>18</sup> So God led the people roundabout, by way of the wilderness at the Sea of Reeds.

Now the Israelites went up armed<sup>d</sup> out of the land of Egypt. <sup>19</sup> And Moses took with him the bones of Joseph, who had exacted an oath from the children of Israel, saying, “God will be sure to take notice of you: then you shall carry up my bones from here with you.”

<sup>20</sup> They set out from Succoth, and encamped at Etham, at the edge of the wilderness. <sup>21</sup> The LORD went before them in a pillar of cloud by day, to guide them along the way, and in a pillar of fire by night, to give them light, that they might travel day and night. <sup>22</sup> The pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night did not depart from before the people.

**14** The LORD said to Moses: <sup>2</sup> Tell the Israelites to turn back and encamp before Pi-hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea, before Baal-zephon; you shall encamp facing it, by the sea. <sup>3</sup> Pharaoh will say of the Israelites, “They are astray in the land; the wilderness has closed in on them.” <sup>4</sup> Then I will stiffen Pharaoh’s heart and he will pursue them, that I may gain glory through Pharaoh and all his host; and the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD.

And they did so.

<sup>5</sup> When the king of Egypt was told that the people had fled, Pharaoh and his courtiers had a change of heart about the people and said, “What is this we have done, releasing Israel from our service?” <sup>6</sup> He ordered<sup>a</sup> his chariot and took his men with him; <sup>7</sup> he took six hundred of his picked chariots, and the rest of the chariots of Egypt, with officers<sup>b</sup> in all of them. <sup>8</sup> The LORD stiffened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and he gave chase to the Israelites. As the Israelites were departing defiantly,<sup>c</sup> <sup>9</sup> the Egyptians gave chase to them, and all the chariot horses of Pharaoh, his horsemen, and his warriors overtook them encamped by the sea, near Pi-hahiroth, before Baal-zephon.

<sup>10</sup> As Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites caught sight of the Egyptians advancing upon them. Greatly frightened, the Israelites cried out to the LORD. <sup>11</sup> And they said to Moses, “Was it for want of graves in Egypt that you brought us to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, taking us out of Egypt? <sup>12</sup> Is this not the very thing we told you in Egypt, saying, ‘Let us be, and we will serve the Egyptians, for it is better for us

<sup>d</sup> *Meaning of Heb. hamushim uncertain.*

<sup>a</sup> *See on Gen. 46.29.*

<sup>b</sup> *Heb. shalish; originally “third man on royal chariot”; hence “adjutant,” “officer.”*

<sup>c</sup> *Lit. “with upraised hand.”*

26O Jeshurun, there is none like God,  
Riding through the heavens to help you,  
Through the skies in His majesty.  
27 <sup>1</sup>The ancient God is a refuge,  
A support are the arms everlasting.  
He drove out the enemy before you  
By His command: Destroy!  
28Thus Israel dwells in safety,  
Untroubled is Jacob's abode,<sup>m</sup>  
In a land of grain and wine,  
Under heavens dripping dew.  
29O happy Israel! Who is like you,  
A people delivered by the LORD,  
Your protecting Shield, your Sword triumphant!  
Your enemies shall come cringing before you,  
And you shall tread on their backs.

**34** Moses went up from the steppes of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the summit of Pisgah, opposite Jericho, and the LORD showed him the whole land: Gilead as far as Dan; <sup>2</sup>all Naphtali; the land of Ephraim and Manasseh; the whole land of Judah as far as the Western<sup>a</sup> Sea; <sup>3</sup>the Negeb; and the Plain—the Valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees—as far as Zoar. <sup>4</sup>And the LORD said to him, “This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, ‘I will assign it to your offspring.’ I have let you see it with your own eyes, but you shall not cross there.”

<sup>5</sup>So Moses the servant of the LORD died there, in the land of Moab, at the command of the LORD. <sup>6</sup>He buried him in the valley in the land of Moab, near Beth-peor; and no one knows his burial place to this day. <sup>7</sup>Moses was a hundred and twenty years old when he died; his eyes were undimmed and his vigor unabated. <sup>8</sup>And the Israelites bewailed Moses in the steppes of Moab for thirty days.

The period of wailing and mourning for Moses came to an end. <sup>9</sup>Now Joshua son of Nun was filled with the spirit of wisdom because Moses had laid his hands upon him; and the Israelites heeded him, doing as the LORD had commanded Moses.

<sup>m</sup> Others “fountain.”

<sup>a</sup> I.e., Mediterranean; cf. note at 11.24.

<sup>10</sup>Never again did there arise in Israel a prophet like Moses—whom the LORD singled out, face to face, <sup>11</sup>for the various signs and portents that the LORD sent him to display in the land of Egypt, against Pharaoh and all his courtiers and his whole country, <sup>12</sup>and for all the great might and awesome power that Moses displayed before all Israel.

חזק חזק ונתחזק

## Pesachim 54b

תנו רבנן: שבעה דברים מכוסים מבני אדם, אלו הן: יום המיתה, ויום הנקמה, ועומק הדין, ואין אדם יודע מה בלבו של סבירו, ואין אדם יודע בקו משפכו, ומלכות בית דוד מתי תחזור, ומלכות ספרד מתי תבנה.

Apropos the list of items created during twilight, the Gemara cites that **the Sages taught: Seven matters are concealed from people, and they are: The day of death; and the day of consolation from one's concerns; the profundity of justice, ascertaining the truth in certain disputes; and a person also does not know what is in the heart of another; and a person does not know in what way he will earn a profit; and one does not know when the monarchy of the house of David will be restored to Israel; and when the wicked Roman monarchy will cease to exist.**



דמדליא ובסיס אנירא.

**which is situated at a high altitude and whose air is scented.**

הווא יומא דנח נפשיה דרבי, גזרו רבנן מעניתא, ובעו רחמי, ואמרי: כל מאן דאמר "נח נפשיה דרבי" — ידקר בתרב.

§ It is related that **on the day that Rabbi Yehuda HaNasi died, the Sages decreed a fast, and begged for divine mercy so that he would not die. And they said: Anyone who says that Rabbi Yehuda HaNasi has died will be stabbed with a sword.**

סליקא אמתיה דרבי לאיגרא, אמרה: עליונים מבקשין את רבי, והמתונים מבקשין את רבי. יהי רצון שיכופו המתונים את העליונים. כיון דחזאי פמה זימגי דעניל לבית הכסא וקלץ תפילין ומנח להו וקמפטער, אמרה: יהי רצון שיכופו עליונים את המתונים.

**The maidservant of Rabbi Yehuda HaNasi ascended to the roof and said: The upper realms are requesting the presence of Rabbi Yehuda HaNasi, and the lower realms are requesting the presence of Rabbi Yehuda HaNasi. May it be the will of God that the lower worlds should impose their will upon the upper worlds. However, when she saw how many times he would enter the bathroom and remove his phylacteries, and then exit and put them back on, and how he was suffering with his intestinal disease, she said: May it be the will of God that the upper worlds should impose their will upon the lower worlds.**

ולא הוה שתקי רבנן מלמיבעי רחמי. שקלה כוזא, שדייא מאיגרא [לארעא], אישתיקו מרחמי, ונח נפשיה דרבי.

**And the Sages, meanwhile, would not be silent, i.e., they would not refrain, from begging for mercy so that Rabbi Yehuda HaNasi would not die. So she took a jug [kuza] and threw it from the roof to the ground. Due to the sudden noise, the Sages were momentarily silent and refrained from begging for mercy, and Rabbi Yehuda HaNasi died.**

אמר ליה: ליתסזי לי מר. אתסזי ליה. אמר ליה: הנה ליה למר צערא? אמר ליה: כמישחל בניתא מחלבא, ואי אמר לי הקדוש ברוך הוא זיל בכהוא עלמא כד הוית — לא בעינא, דנפיש ביעתותיה.

**Rava said to Rav Nahman: Master, appear to me in a dream after your death. And he appeared to him. Rava said to him: Master, did you have pain in death? Rav Nahman said to him: Like the removal of hair from milk, which is a most gentle process. But nevertheless, were the Holy One, Blessed be He, to say to me: Go back to that world, the physical world, as you were, I would not want to go, for the fear of the Angel of Death is great. And I would not want to go through such a terrifying experience a second time.**

*A Prayer When Mourning a Parent  
Who Was Emotionally Unavailable*

I missed you when you were alive. I missed the words you never spoke, the affection you didn't give, the apology you wouldn't make. I missed the relationship we never had, the acceptance you couldn't offer.

I've spent my whole life missing you, longing for the parent you could never be. And now that you are gone I miss you even more. I don't want to stop hoping for you to change. I don't want to stop waiting for you. It's hard to let you go, to concede that things between us will never improve.

I love you. And though you weren't able to express it, I believe you loved me too.

May God be with you and bless you with peace. Amen. ✧