

Chesed L'Avraham Avraham Hamalach

Parshas Mikeitz

"And it was at the end of two years" (Genesis 41:1). According to the interpretation of the sages, two years are symbolic of a complete cycle, wherein judgments reach their fullness, balance, and elevation.

Pharaoh's dreams (Genesis 41:1) represent processes of spiritual refinement in humanity, where concealed wisdom is drawn out. Pharaoh, representing the forces of materialism, dreams of sustenance and famine cycles, embodying the challenges humanity faces to refine itself spiritually. This refinement involves balance and harmony, a connection to both the material and the spiritual, symbolized by "lip" (speech) and "light" (clarity), ascending from below to above.

Joseph (symbolizing wisdom and spiritual leadership) is elevated as he brings understanding to these mysteries, demonstrating how Divine guidance can inspire practical solutions. His wisdom is described as emanating from "speech of light," which surpasses intellectual comprehension. This unique synthesis enables both material success and spiritual clarity to coalesce into one.

"And Pharaoh spoke to Joseph" (Genesis 41:15): Pharaoh's words are indicative of the potential to rise beyond the superficial into a place of wisdom. When this process is completed, the inner refinement leads to unity and balance, allowing one to conquer their challenges and ascend to clarity.

"And Joseph said" (Genesis 41:16): Joseph's words represent the initial sparks of redemption from confusion to enlightenment, setting in motion the ultimate purpose of overcoming challenges and connecting to the Divine.

There were seven thin cows, representing the forces of negativity that devour holiness. And since the forces of evil grow stronger only through what they receive from the holy, the "thin cows" represent the descent of holiness into a state of weakness due to the presence of evil. The dream and its interpretation illustrate the process by which spiritual clarity and light are restored, elevating the world from chaos to order.

The seven fat cows, by contrast, signify the power of abundance, clarity, and holiness that ultimately overcomes the forces of negativity. According to the sages, the interplay between the fat and thin cows reflects the eternal battle between good and evil, where the ultimate victory is always with holiness.

Joseph's interpretation of the dream provided the solution to the famine by offering wisdom and foresight. This demonstrates how Divine wisdom illuminates the path forward even in the darkest moments. Joseph, empowered by his connection to the Divine, became a vessel for bringing light and salvation to the world.

The seven years of plenty symbolize the abundance of Divine wisdom and the potential for spiritual elevation. This wisdom is meant to prepare for times of challenge, ensuring that the light of holiness remains strong even in moments of darkness. Joseph's role as a leader demonstrates the power of combining spiritual insight with practical action, creating a lasting impact.

The final outcome is one of triumph: the forces of holiness not only survive but flourish, ascending to greater heights and spreading light throughout the world. This illustrates the process of refining and elevating all aspects of creation, bringing everything closer to its ultimate purpose.