

# Shabbat Spice

PARSHAT DEVARIM



## Baseless Love & Respect to All:

### The Solution to Transforming Tisha Be'Av from Fasting to Feasting

By Mrs. Diana Dilamani

This Shabbat is unique as it is actually Tisha Be'Av (the 9th of Av). Since we do not mourn on Shabbat, the happiest day of the week, the fast and the rest of the laws of mourning have been postponed by one day.

Since we have still not lived to see the third Temple, called the *Beit Hamikdash*, we still have some homework to do! It is said that the first two Temples were destroyed due to the Jews' improper conduct. But what caused Hashem the most pain was the *Sinat Khinam* (Baseless Hatred) among the Jews. Therefore, undoing that is what will bring about our Final Redemption.

Respecting one another, also known as *Shalom Bayit*, is being harmonious and kind in every relationship in one's life, such as one's parents, spouse, siblings, children, friends and colleagues. Acknowledging, validating, accepting, smiling at them, offering them a hand, being there for them, speaking calmly to them, complimenting them genuinely, offering encouragement...

When they have a *simcha* or achieve something great, it's feeling as happy for them as if that *simcha* occurred for you personally! When they get a phenomenal bonus at work, it's screaming of joy with them!

When they are going through a difficult challenge, it's praying for them to get through it, listening to them, letting them cry on your shoulder. When a waitress brings a dish to the table after a long wait with a hair in it, it's thanking them, pulling the hair out discreetly and enjoying the meal calmly. Thanking a cashier when they've packed your groceries, telling her how pretty her makeup looks today. Offering a ride to someone carrying heavy groceries or walking in the rain or in very hot temperatures.

Basically, not just not doing anything that you wouldn't want done to you. Rather, doing anything you would want done for you if you were in their situation.

The rewards of *Shalom Bayit* are so great that they encompass every single blessing in this and the next world too. Respect brings down all types of *Brachot* from Above including but not limited to: health, *Parnsassa* (livelihood), fertility, finding one's spouse with clarity, and the most incredible blessing of all, the Final Redemption: The rebuilding of the *Beit Hamikdash*, the end to the Fasting and the start to the Feasting.

May we merit to be united with our loved ones who have been taken too soon, right here, in this world with the *Geula Sbelema* soon, with Mashiach ben David revealed, anointed and accepted by all.

CANDLE LIGHTING 7:48PM | SHABBAT ENDS 8:55PM

FAST BEGINS 8:00 PM

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## Who's Your King

By Brenda Namdar

There is no question that this Parasha is related it to the Nine Days. Eretz Yisrael represents, of course, Eretz Yisrael, but also Eretz Yisrael represents *geulah*, redemption: our personal *geulah*, and of course, b'ezrat Hashem, our national *geulah*, which will happen, hopefully, very soon.

In this week's parshah, Parshas Devarim, Moshe sums up the history of Bnei Yisrael, starting from leaving *Mitzrayim*, Egypt, to the point of entering Eretz Yisrael, which we know he was unfortunately not able to do. The *pasuk* says that Bnei Yisrael will go into Eretz Yisrael after they kill Sichon, the king of Cheshbon.

Rav Kook asked, what does it mean, "after they kill Sichon"? We know Sichon was the king of that city. Rav Kook speaks about the fact that there are those of us who have different "*chesbbonot*" (reckonings): "I will go to Eretz Yisrael after I do this, or after I finish this, or after I figure this out or when I finish going through this situation or that one."

Moshe tells us, though, that in the commandment to conquer the land, the first step in doing so is to kill the king. To conquer our obstacles, to overcome those *nisyonot* (tests), and then, only then, can we go into Eretz Yisrael. Then we can experience our *geulah*. We can put aside our obstacles.

We can put aside our *nisyonos*. Even while going through *nisyonot*, we can choose to put them aside. We can choose to overcome our obstacles and say, "No! We are going to kill the king, and we are going to go into the land. We are ready for our *geulah*."

We are in the Nine Days, and Hashem, it is time for *geulah*. For our personal *geulah* and our national *geulah*, and it is time to go to Eretz Yisrael. The Nine Days began with the sin of the *Meraglim*, the spies, with knowing that the *meraglim* came back creating obstacles, creating *nisyonot*.

It is time to be *metakein*, to repair, that sin; it is time to put away the obstacles; it is time to put away the difficulties and know that even though we are going through difficulties, we are going through *nisyonot*, it is our choice to overcome them, to put them aside, to tell Hashem that now during the Nine Days, we are ready for our *geulah*. We are ready for Eretz Yisrael.

Let us think about those words, let us daven on those thoughts, as we read parshat Devarim this Shabbat.

And with that, I wish you a wonderful day, a beautiful and uplifting Shabbat, a meaningful fast, an easy fast, and BeEzrat Hashem, we will all be joining in Eretz Yisrael on Tisha B'Av celebrating the yom tov, celebrating the joyous occasion as we go into Eretz Yisrael together.

Remember that Hashem is with you, with all of us, today and always.

THANK YOU TO THE SHABBAT SPICE TEAM  
RACHIE DILAMANI, VERONICA KORDMANY  
ALEXIS LIVI, ASHLEY NAMDAR, DANIELLA NAMDAR