

From the Pen of Rabbi Nachman HaKohen Kahana

VAYAKHEL-P'KUDEI

People are worried and are asking what is happening in our beautiful Medinat Yisrael. My answer is encapsulated in a short parable:

A plane was experiencing dramatic turbulence. All the passengers were frightened to death except for one young girl who sat very calm. After the plane stabilized, they asked her why was she had not been frightened and she replied: "My father is the pilot."

In Eretz Yisrael, our Father in Heaven is the Skipper, the Captain, the Pilot, the Master of all. His purpose, direction and goal are being implemented by HaShem to draw us closer to Him in preparation for the final ascent to the peak of our Jewish Mount Everest - the restoration of our former greatness as the spiritual center connecting Heaven and Earth. The method HaShem is using is social and religious centrifugation, which is separation through sedimentation - a process whereby the denser particles sink to the bottom of the container, while the more lightweight particles remain suspended.

More on this later.

"Mathematics is the alphabet with which God has written the universe" said Galileo Galilei (1564-1642), an Italian astronomer, physicist and engineer.

Perhaps he was inspired by what

Rambam stated in Chapter 3 of the Laws of Tshuva:

Every individual has merits and demerits. One whose merits outnumber his demerits is catalogued a tzadik, but one whose demerits are more is a rasha. So it is with a nation and with all humanity (that numbers determine the future).

Rambam continues to explain that HaShem's reckoning is not calculated only on the basis of the number of merits and sins, but takes into account their magnitude. There are some individual merits which outweigh many sins and, in contrast, one sin that may outweigh many merits.

It is no secret that we are experiencing a traumatic social period. Good-meaning people are endeavoring to unite the extremes in order to find a modus vivendi, but with little success. Why?

The answer lies in the following allegory:

A man was down on all fours searching for a lost object. A curious passerby asked:

Q. What did you lose?

A. My wallet on the next street.

Q. So why are you looking for it here?

A. There it's dark, but here there's a street light.

The peacemakers are looking in the wrong direction. They view the controversy as a political one, where the losers

are refusing to accept the outcome of the democratically-held elections. This is partly correct but not correct enough to produce a solution.

We are experiencing a social challenge in the making over the last 75 years in the Medina. It is a repeat of Jewish history where Torah-loyal people are pitted against rejectionist Jews who wish to throw off the Torah yoke placed upon our national collective shoulders at Mount Sinai.

It is a replay of those who danced in a frenzy around the Golden Calf, while the Levites fought to protect the Torah we had just received from the Creator Himself.

This present episode is a long-awaited timebomb, as predicted in the Torah:

Vayikra 20:22-24:

You shall keep all My statutes and all My ordinances and observe them, so that the land to which I am bringing you to settle in will not vomit you out.

You shall not follow the practices of the nation that I am driving out before you. Because they did all these things, I abhorred them.

But I have said to you, You shall inherit their land, and I will give it to you to possess, a land flowing with milk and honey. I am the Lord your God who has separated you from the gentile nations.

HaShem built into the fabric of nature that the land of Israel cannot suffer

iniquities (sins), and eventually vomits out (expels) the deniers of Torah from the land.

The deniers claim falsely that their religious involvement is a private affair; so that if they choose to eat a cheeseburger on Yom Kippur day, no one is harmed.

They claim falsely that if consenting adults want to indulge in Torah-prohibited relations, it harms no one.

They claim falsely that they have the right to live like a goy in Israel's democratic society, while no one is harmed.

All of their claims are false, so what is true?

A basic principle in Judaism is that HaShem instills in all people the physical and mental ability to sin but not the halachic right to sin. A driver's license awards one the legal permission to drive but not the right to drive recklessly.

This principle is more serious in the Land sanctified by HaShem, where a sin affects not only the perpetrator but the population at large.

I recall that, once, a guest of ours, who was a well-known rabbi from New York, excused himself from our Shabbat table to go to the bathroom. After a few moments, the smell of cigarette smoke emerged from the bathroom. I was in a quandary as to what I should do when he would return to the table. It is one thing

when a Jew violates the Shabbat in the public domain, but another thing when one invades your private domain. However, my first reaction was to throw him out from our home, because he had desecrated the values I hold holy within our very private sanctuary.

Eretz Yisrael is HaShem's sanctuary in this world. When a person sins - first by demonstrating against the Torah, and then withdrawing and investing money abroad - the vomiting process begins. The land expels him.

Three months ago, the citizens of Israel went to the election booths to decide which ideology would define the State of Israel for the foreseeable future. The majority voted for conservative, pro-Judaism and pro-Eretz Yisrael parties. This clear majority rejected the center and left parties that desire freedom to decide one's gender, freedom from our time-tested values and mores, and freedom to reject the Creator and the traditional values and social way of life as defined by the Torah. In short, The outcome was pro-HaShem versus the antis.

In the end, the rejectionists will either return to the Torah or not be here.

This is HaShem's method of social and political centrifugation to separate the deniers from the believers.

I thought that I was up-to-date on current events, until I received a phone call from a trusted friend (R.O.) who

informed me of the rapidly increasing antisemitic wave filling the hollow spaces in American society. Things that I was not aware of since I have been living in Israel for more than 60 years and not having visited America for more than 25 years.

Perhaps this is HaShem's way of bringing G-d-fearing Jews home - those who are prepared to sacrifice for the privilege of defending and building the Land.

The demographic balance in the country changes every day to the good of Torah, with the large birthrate of religious people and the very small birthrate among the secular. The protestors see the writing on the wall, but they cannot erase it even with all their shouting.

It appears that HaShem is changing gears, and we are accelerating toward the configuration necessary for the final redemption of Am Yisrael.

No one promised us a smooth ride. There are people who won't pay to take a pleasant walk but do pay to experience the pendulum ride, roller coaster and Ferris wheel, because it makes them feel alive. The rebuilding of the Jewish State in our ancient Holy Land is what makes us feel alive as we actualize the promises of our holy prophets.