

A-280

## Last Blessing or Last Fling

- m. INE: Grimes's response to Peter - little time left - spend it wisely!  
ON THIS VICTOR DAY WHEN WE WAKE UP TO FACE THAT LIFE NOT ENDING

LISTEN TO ISAAC: וְיִשְׂחָק הָיָה מְצַחֵה אֶל יִצְחָק בֶּן יִצְחָק ... (וְיִשְׂחָק לֵאמֹר)  
ב'... וְיִשְׂחָק הָיָה מְצַחֵה אֶל יִצְחָק בֶּן יִצְחָק ... (וְיִשְׂחָק לֵאמֹר)  
(translate and explain)

HAVE TAKEN CARE JACOB \* IS SORT PERSON ALWAYS BE CREDIT...yosheiv ohalim...  
BUT WHAT OF ESAU?? - ALWAYS BE CONDEMNED PLAY THE SAVAGE? -UNWANTED,  
UNLOVED, FEARED AND HATED? ETERNALLY ENSTRANGED FATHER HEAVEN?  
SHALL NOT BE SAID HIM DID SOMETHING NOBLE ALL LIFE?

DEATH'S APPROACH SPURS IZAAC TO HEIGHTEN LIFE'S BLESSING

— ESAU MOTIVATED SAME CONSIDERATION BREVITY LIFE, EVENTUAL DEATH.  
BUT LOOK HOW DIFFERENT A CONSTRUCTION HE PLACES ON THIS INEVITABLE FACT:

אִיזֵר יָרָא הַנֶּחֱמָה אֶת אֶתְנָתוֹ וְהָיָה  
(elaborate)

FOR ISAAC, IMMIMENCE DEATH INCENTIVE LEAVE BLESSING  
FOR ESAU, WAS REASON TO FAST ON LINTELS

FOR ISAAC, DEATH SIGNAL REENFORCE SPIRITUAL WORTH CHILD  
FOR ESAU, WAS EXCUSE FORFEITING BIRTHRIGHT

THIS IS HOW DEATH CLEARLY DEFINES ESSENCE MAN'S PERSONALITY, BY MAKING  
HIM CHOOSE BETWEEN: LAST BLESSING...OR LAST FLING!

4. ALL US ACQUAINTED W SUCH CASES APPROACHING DISASTER ACTING ASTEST DISTINGUISH  
BETWEEN ISSACS AND ESAUS

TWO YOUNG MEN (SEEM REMARKABLY ALIKE PERSONALITY, BACKGROUND) OFF TO WAR.  
ONE ACHEIVE DIGNITY, SPIRITUAL WHOLESOMENESS FROM SAME EXPERIENCE

WHICH LEADS OTHER TO IMMORALITY, NIHILISTIC OUTLOOK...

ONE FINDS G-D IN THE FOXHOLE... THE OTHER SEEKS ESCAPE FROM HIM IN FOXHOLE  
AWARENESS DEATH HAS MADE ONE CHOOSE LAST BLESSING, OTHER LAST FLING  
THAT'S WHY LAST WAR TURNED SOME RELIG YOUNGSTERS INTO CYNICAL ADULTS

& FLIGHTY YOUNGSTERS INTO SERIOUS, DEDICATED, PIOUS ADULTS

"BEHOLD I AM GOING TO DIE" HAS FORCED UPON THEM ULTIMATE CHOICE THEIR  
LIVES: HOW TO LIVE IN THE FACE OF DEATH

IT IS MOST FATEFUL CHOICE ANY MAN CALLED UPON TO MAKE: LAST FLING, OR BLESSING

- #8 → 5. AND NOT ONLY IS THIS CHOICE BETWEEN CONCENTRATED GOOD OR CONCENTRATED  
LACK OF IT TRUE FOR APPROACH END OF LIFE - BUT ALSO FOR END ANY PARTICULAR  
PERIOD IN LIFE. TAKE YOUNG MAN ABOUT TO BE MARRIED. IMPORTANT PERIOD  
HIS LIFE DRAWING TO A CLOSE. I TALK TO MANY SUCH WHO EXPERIENCING LAST  
SYLLABLES CELIBACY... AND IN BEHAVIOR MAN AT THIS TIME HAVE CLUE TO  
HIS WHOLE CHARACTER, HIS MORAL AND RELIGIOUS DISPOSITION - AS WELL AS  
GOOD HINT OF HOW HE'LL LIVE OUT HIS MARRIED LIFE.... EITHER "LAST FLING"  
k'chol ha'goyyim.... BACHELOR PARTIES..... OR: FASTING... yom-kippur Minchah.

6. SAME APPLIES AN EARLIER PERIOD LIFE OF MAN, WHEN STILL CHILD, WHEN PARENTS  
PREPARING HIM FOR APPROACHING END CHILDHOOD, BEGINNING ADULT LIFE.  
PARENTS REALIZE CHILDHOOD A PRECIOUS STAGE LIFE. QUESTION: WHAT DO WITH IT?  
FIRST BLESSING OR FIRST FLING?... OUR CHILDREN BEING REARED AGE WHEEL  
TIME TURNS FAST. NO TIME FOR MUCH FRIVOLITY. MANY THINGS WILL SOON CROWD  
THIER DAYS AS THEY GROW UP. WHAT WILL IT BE? \* LINTELS OF LUXURY,  
THE nezid adashim OF DANCING, PIANO, ELOCUTION LESSONS, FOLLOWED BY PORRIDGE  
SCOUTS, FRATERNITIES, 101 OTHER DIVERSIONS \* HARMLESS & PLEASANT AS THEY  
ARE - OR: THE brachah OF JEWISH EDUCATION.... NOT S.S. BUT..... ISAAC OR ESAU

7. OUR GENERATION EVEN MORE AWARE OF END OF WORLD THAN THAT OF 20 CENTURIES AGO, WHEN END-WORLD AND KINGDOM OF G-D EXPECTED MOMENTARILY.  
 —H-BOMBS, I.C.B.M.S HAVE MADE UNIVERSAL DESTRUCTION AN IMMEDIATE AND REAL POSSIBILITY  
 END OF WORLD NO LONGER MATTER THEOLOGICAL SPECULATION  
 IS OVERWHELMINGLY REAL THREAT, MADE POSSIBLE BY SCIENCE, ENGINEERING, & HANGING ON THIN THREADS DIPLOMACY, POLITICS.  
 "BEHOLD I AM GOING TO DIE" OF IMMEDIATE IMPORTANCE EVEN TO YOUNG MAN, WOMAN IN PRIME HEALTH  
 THEREFORE: EVEN WHILE DIPLOMATS CONCERNED PREVENTING FRIGHTFUL POSSIBILITY, PROBLEM FOR EACH US: HOW REACT TO DREAD THREAT OF END? FOR PSYCHOLOGICALLY, IT DOES AFFECT US....

SHALL WE DEDICATE SELVES TO WHAT IMPORTANT, SACRED IN LIFE & TRY FOR LAST BLESSING AS DID ISAAC? -

OR SHALL WE CONCLUDE THAT SINCE DEATH IMMINENT, NOTHING ANY LONGER OF ANY IMPORTANCE, HENCE SELL BIRTHRIGHT, TAKE LAST FLING AT BANQUET OF SELF-INDULGENCE IN WILD, PAGAN TRADITION OF ESAU?

IS OUR REACTION TO THE SOMBER MOOD OF OUR TIMES TO BE THAT OF THE RABBIS: *shuv yom echad lifnei missas'cha...* (which means every day)....  
 OR: THAT OF THE PAGAN QUOTED BY ISAIAH WHO SAYS:

"אכלו ושתו כי מחר מתים" *le'chol u'setiv ki machar mitim*

SHALL OUR ATTITUDE BE THAT OF MOSES, WHO IN FINAL SIDRA READ THIS HOLIDAY ROUNDS OUR CARRER, PREPARES TO DIE WITH SONG *v'zos ha'brachah*....  
 OR THAT OF A DON QUIXOTE WHO ECHOES THE SENTIMENT OF AN AGE WHEN HE SAYS:  
 "MAKE HAY WHILE THE SUN SHINES"?

- (8. KORETZER REBBE WAS TALMID OF BAAL SHEM TOV. SAID OF BAAL SHEM, THAT WHEN REALIZED HE WAS GOING TO DIE, EXCLAIMED: RIBBOBO SHEL OLAM, I MAKE THEE A GIFT OF THE REMAINING HOURS OF MY LIFE. - THAT IS THE WAY TO LIVE: TO REACT WITH SPIRITUAL MIGHT AND HEALTH TO THE THOUGHT OF DEATH, TO MAKE OUR HOURS AND DAYS AND YEARS GIFTS TO THE CREATOR)
9. THE GREAT CHOFETZ CHAYYIM ONCE SAID THAT A MAN'S LIFE CAN BE COMPARED TO A POST CARD... WHEN HE BEGINS TO WRITE, LARGE LATERS, LONG SPACES, FILL WITH TRIVIAL EXCHANGES.. "HOW ARE YOU?".. "WEATHER GOOD"..... BUT AS DRAW TO END OF CARD, REALIZE IMPORTANT MESSAGE STILL UNDELIVERED, BEGIN TO WRITE SMALL, CRAMPED, WRITE ON MARGINS, ON REVERSE SIDE, SKIP CONJUNCTIONS & PREPOSITIONS, ONLY MOST IMPORTANT WORDS - & THEY ARE CHOSEN WITH GREAT CARE. \*\*\*\*\* SO LIFE MAN- IN YOUTH WASTES TIME IN FRIVOLITY, NONSENSE, THE TRIVIAL... AS MATURES & REALIZES END MUST INEVITABLY COME, BEGINS CONSERVE TIME, DEVOTE EFFORTS ONLY WHAT HAS ULTIMATE MEANING, REAL SIGNIFICANCE.....

10. SO MANY OF US TOO BUSY FOR FULL JEWISH LIVING IN OUR YOUTH AND EARLY MATURITY...POSTPONE IT FOR OLD AGE, AS IF TORAH MADE ONLY FOR RETIRED PEOPLE... WELL, IN THIS ATOMIC, SUPERSONIC, ROCKET & SATELLITE AGE, WE NO LONGER HAVE THE SECURITY OF MAKING SUCH LONG-RANGE PLANS.

EVEN AT THE TOP OF THE POST CARD WE'VE GOT TO BEGIN CRAMMING, DISCARDING THE TRIVIAL AND CONCENTRATING ON THE MOST IMPORTANT....FOR OUR ERA IS FULLY CHARACTERIZED BY ISAAC'S STATEMENT lo yadati yem mossi.

WE HAVE GOT TO DECIDE TODAY FOR TOMORROW: SHALL WE MAKE A GIFT OF OUR HOURS TO G-D - OR FRITTER THEM AWAY IN NEUROTIC QUEST FOR "FUN" AND "GOOD TIMES", WHICH LEAVE US EMPTIER AFTER EXPERIENCING THEM THAN BEFORE?

SHALL WE, IN WHATEVER YEARS G-D CHOOSES TO GIVE US, GRASP A LAST brachah - OR SELL OUR bechorah? - LIKE ISAAC, REACH FOR THE LAST BLESSING... OR LIKE E SAU, PUT ALL OUR ENERGY INTO A GRAND LAST FLING?

11. THE QUESTION, MY FRIENDS, IS A MOST CRUCIAL ONE. AS WE RISE TO YIZKOR AND THE MEMORY OF OTHER MORTALS WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE US, WE MUST FACE THE TRUTH AND UNDERSTAND THAT

HOW WE LIVE IN THE FACE OF DEATH DETERMINES,  
ULTIMATELY, WHETHER IT WAS WORTH OUR BEING  
BORN IN THE FIRST PLACE.