



PARSHA



וְגֶשֶׁת

3 Sources

In this week's parsha Yaakov gives Yosef an additional portion in the land of Israel.

Bereishit 48:22

And now, I assign to you Shechem, one portion more than to your brothers, which I wrested from the Amorites with my sword and bow."

בראשית מ"ח:כב
וְאַנְיִ נְתַתִּי לְךָ שָׁכֹם אֶפְדָּעַלְאַחִיךְ אֲשֶׁר
לְקֹחַתִּי מִידְךְ אָמֹרִי בְּמִרְבֵּי וּבְקַשְׁתִּי:

Yaakov describes himself as having conquered Shechem through physical combat, using weapons ("my sword and my bow"). However, the Gemara interprets these weapons as metaphors for something far more powerful.

Gemara Bava Basra 123a

And with regard to Jacob's bequest to Joseph, the verse states: **“Moreover I have given to you one portion above your brothers, which I took out of the hand of the Amorite with my sword and with my bow”** (Genesis 48:22). The *baraita* explains the verse: **But is it so that Jacob took the portion with his sword and with his bow? But isn't it already stated: “Through You do we push down our adversaries; through Your name do we trample those that rise against us. For I trust not in my bow, neither can my sword save me”** (Psalms 44:6–7)? **Rather**, what is the meaning of “with my sword”? This is referring to **prayer**. What is the meaning of “with my bow”? This is referring to **petition**.

גמי' בבא בתרא דף קכג.
ואומר: "וְאַנְיִ נְתַתִּי לְךָ
שָׁכֹם אֶפְדָּעַלְאַחִיךְ אֲשֶׁר
לְקֹחַתִּי מִידְךְ אָמֹרִי
בְּמִרְבֵּי וּבְקַשְׁתִּי" – וכי
בְּמִרְבֵּי וּבְקַשְׁתִּוּ לְקֹחַ?!!
ונִהְלָא כָּבֵר נָאָמָר: "כִּי לֹא
בְּקַשְׁתִּי אֶבְטֵחַ, וּמִרְבֵּי לֹא
תּוֹשִׁיעַנִּי!" אֶלָּא "מִרְבֵּי" – זו
תְּפִלָּה, "קַשְׁתִּי" – זו בְּקַשָּׁה.

Yaakov used the power of *tefilah* to conquer Shechem.

Meshech Chochma on Bereishit 48:22

With my sword and with my bow - Onkolos translates this as “with my prayer and my petition.” ‘Prayer’ refers to the set and established prayers. ‘Petition’ refers to requests that [the Sages] said “If a person wants to create or add requests similar to the other blessings, they can ask for whatever they need.”

משך חכמה על בראשית מ"ח:כב
בְּחַרְבֵּי וּבְקַשְׁתִּי תֵּא בְּצִלּוֹתִי וּבְעוֹתִי.
צְלָוֹתִי הָוָא סִדְרָתִי תְּפִלָּה
הַקְּבוּעַ...וּבְעוֹתִי הָוָא בְּקַשָּׁה אֲשֶׁר
אָמַרְוּ אָם רָצָה אָדָם לְחַדֵּשׁ בְּתִפְלַתְוּ
מְעַין כָּל בְּרָכָה שָׁוֹאֵל אָדָם צְרָכֵיו

Whether it was Yosef or Yaakov who cried, this is clearly one of the most emotional scenes in the entire Torah.

2 Quotes

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– Albert Smith

“*Words are weapons. They should be handled with proper care.*” - Joe Abercrombie

1 Question

What are different feelings and emotions that have made you cry?