

“Confidence comes not from always being RIGHT, but from not fearing to be WRONG.”

Ruth Rabbah 5:6	רות רבה (וילנא) פרשה ה:ו
<p>If man does a mitzvah, he should do it with a full heart. Had Reuven known that G-d would eventually write that 'Reuven went and saved his brother', Reuven would have unashamedly carried Yosef on his shoulders all the way back to his father. Since he did not realize that this narration would appear in the Torah, he devised a clandestine plan which was not completely successful.</p> <p>Had Aharon known that his greeting to Moshe upon Moshe's return from Midian would be recorded in the Torah, then he would have gone out to greet Moshe with musical instruments and dancing.</p> <p>Had Boaz realized that G-d would publicize his generosity to Ruth, he would have provided her with a fully catered meal, rather than feeding her a few kernels of grain!</p> <p>In days gone by a person would do a mitzvah and the prophet would record it. Nowadays when a person does a mitzvah, and people scorn, who writes down who was right?</p> <p>Eliyahu writes it down and Mashiach, and God Himself sign it in affirmation.</p>	<p>א"ר יצחק בר מריון בא הכתוב ללמדך שאם אדם עושה מצוה יעשנה בלבב שלם שאלו היה ראובן יודע שהקב"ה מכתוב עליו (בראשית ל"ז) וישמע ראובן ויצילהו מידם, בכתפו היה מוליכו אצל אביו, ואילו היה יודע אהרן שהקב"ה מכתוב עליו (שמות ד') הנה הוא יוצא לקראתך, בתופים ובמחולות היה יוצא לקראתו, ואלו היה יודע בעו שהקב"ה מכתוב עליו ויצבט לה קלי ותאכל ותשבוע ותותר, עגלות מפותמות היה מאכילה, ר' כהן ור' יהושע דסכנין בשם ר' לוי לשעבר היה אדם עושה מצוה והנביא כותבה ועכשיו כשאדם עושה מצוה מי כותבה, אליהו כותבה ומלך המשיח והקדוש ב"ה חותם על ידיהם, הה"ד (מלאכי ג') אז נדברו יראי ה' איש אל רעהו וגו'.</p>

It seems as if the midrash is saying that Reuven, Aaron, and Boaz were looking for publicity. Had they known their stories would have been recorded in the Torah, they would have acted in a more elaborate and exciting manner.

What is this midrash coming to teach us?

Rabbi Frand on the Parsha- Parshat Vayeishev

This Medrash always bothered me. It seems to be saying that Reuven, Aharon and Boaz were publicity hounds. Had they known that "The Press" was going to be there, then they would have done a better job. But since they did not think it would make the front page, they did less than they could have.

The Medrash obviously wants to praise these individuals -- they were all doing good things. So what is the meaning of that statement that "Had they known... they would have done it on a grander scale"?

The interpretation of the Medrash is as follows. They were not interested in publicity. They were not interested in the front pages. However, each of these individuals had a lot of doubt whether what he was doing was correct. They did not know -- in each case -- whether they were doing the proper thing at all.

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The Medrash answers its own question "Eliyahu will write it down and the Messianic King and G-d Himself will sign it in affirmation. Concerning this it is written [Malachi 3:16] "Then the G-d fearing men spoke to one another and the L-rd listened and heard it. And a book of remembrance was written before Him for those who feared the L-rd and for those who valued His Name highly."

The prophet Malachi is speaks of a period -- just prior to the coming of the Messiah -- when everyone would laugh at those who observed the Mitzvos. Everyone will say "these guys are behind the times; they are not modern; they are not 'with it'". It will appear that the other forces are the ones that are prevailing.

Perhaps in those times, people will also be reticent and hesitate to take a stand. People will again think "we are in the minority; maybe they are right and we are wrong." Malachi talks about a time when people will perhaps be ashamed to do what they think is right, like Reuven and Aharon and Boaz.

So G-d testifies that at the end of the days, before Moshiach, "You do what you know is right. Keep the Torah; keep the faith; keep the flame burning. I and Eliyahu the prophet and the Moshiach himself are going to write about you that you were right all along."

Values Auction

Object: To recognize and think about what values are most important to us

Rules:

- Everyone will be given money to bid on a value
- A list of values will be read in the order that they will be auctioned off
- Each person must bid for the value he would like to "buy" and that he feels is most valuable

Processing Points:

- What value, that you think is important, do you spend the least time developing? Which value do you spend the most time developing?
- What are the three top values that are most important in your life? Why?

