

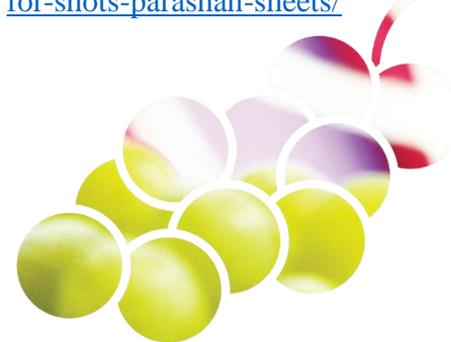
# Pshats for Shots

## A project of JewishDrinking.com



### Welcome

Welcome to the fifth issue of "Pshats for Shots", a one-page resource for helping providing brief, drinking-related *divrei Torah* for each parashah. Wonderful for kiddush clubs, Shabbas meals, or any other gathering in which you need to turn to *al regel ahat* parashah-related *divrei Torah*, "Pshats for Shots" is a project of [JewishDrinking.com](http://JewishDrinking.com). An archive of Pshats for Shots is available at <http://jewishdrinking.com/pshats-for-shots-parashah-sheets/>



### Considering Hospitality When Drinking – Why Didn't Lavan Provide Beverages?

In this week's Torah portion, we see a lot of drinking, all of which occurs in chapter 24, most of which appears in two separate sections: the first chunk is verses 11-27 when Avraham's servant encounters Rebecca by the well and she provides him water for both him and his camels, then we later read of Avraham's servant recounting the story to Lavan in verses 34-48. Within these two chunks of verses, we see the phrases drinking (שתייה) and giving drink (השקאה) eight times each, so there is a lot of drinking, even if it's of the non-alcoholic variety. But drinking is still drinking.

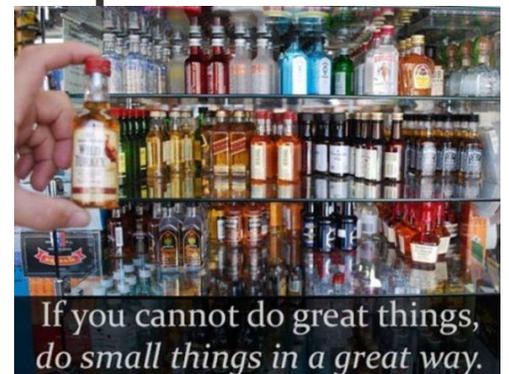
One of the fascinating things that occurs is that even though there is a lot of drinking, there is one verse where it is conspicuously absent. At the outset of the meal in which Lavan hosts Avraham's servant, we read of them sitting down to eat in verse 33. In a chapter that is chock-full of drinking references, it is peculiar to read of them

only sitting down to eat and not drinking. Why would they not be drinking? Was Lavan being stingy with serving wine and/or water to his guest?

Whether or not Lavan was being stingy or otherwise not fully hospitable to Avraham's servant, it could be that Avraham's servant's recounting of Rebecca's hospitality in providing both him and his camels water to drink made Lavan consider providing beverage to his guest. Now whether it appealed to his sense of hospitality in realizing that a guest travelling through a desert might be thirsty or

*{continued on next page}*

### Inspirational Quote



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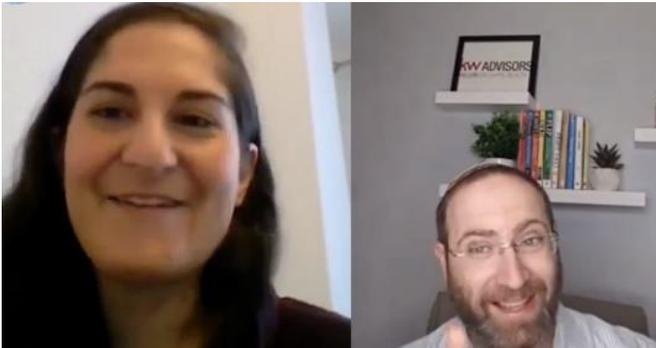
simply that, after hearing about all that water-drinking, he, himself, got thirsty and decided to share in drink with his guest.

Either way, it seems as that, even if one forgets or otherwise doesn't serve beverages one's guests, maybe a little reminder can help us all in our own hospitality.

Shabbat shalom!

## Weekly Podcast/Video Episode

*More on Lot's Drinking with His Daughters*  
Featuring Rabbi Eryn London, JOFA UK's scholar-in-residence



Check out

<http://jewishdrinking.com/beverages/wine/discussing-lots-drinking-with-his-daughters-featuring-rabbi-eryn-london/>

## Bottle of the Week: Basil Hayden's

"For me, when it comes to Bourbons, Basil Hayden is where it's at," writes Yossi Mandelbaum. "I'm not good at talking about notes of vanilla and stuff like that, but it's very smooth and very enjoyable."



-If you have any bottles (Bourbon, wine, Scotch, beer, tequila, etc.) on which you would like to share a recommendation, please email [Drew@JewishDrinking.com](mailto:Drew@JewishDrinking.com)

## Halakhah of the Week

– “One blesses ‘Blessed is the Creator of the fruit of the vine’ over wine amidst the meal; the bread does not exempt this blessing” (ש"ע או"ה קע"ד:א) is a fairly straightforward *halakhah*, although wine is the singular exception in requiring a blessing, as foods typically that occur as part of the meal do not require a blessing, however, as recorded in the Talmud, wine is different, since it generates a separate requirement for its own blessing (*Berakhot* 41b-42a).



If you are or know of someone who struggles with alcohol abuse, alcoholism, or other substance abuse, there are resources out there to help. You can check out <http://jewishdrinking.com/alcoholabuse/>

## “Because man does not live on bread alone” (Deut. 8.3)

JewishDrinking.com is a new project, begun in the fall of 2019 to serve as the #1 resource for texts, wisdom, and more on drinking in the Jewish tradition. With source sheets, weekly parashah sheets, weekly podcast/video episodes with guests, articles, and more, JewishDrinking.com seeks to shed light on this human activity. If you have comments, questions, suggestions, on either this parashah sheet and/or the website, please email [Drew@JewishDrinking.com](mailto:Drew@JewishDrinking.com) – ideas are welcome! *Le'chaim!*