

Pshats for Shots

A project of JewishDrinking.com



Welcome

Welcome to the sixth 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. An archive of Pshats for Shots is available at <http://jewishdrinking.com/pshats-for-shots-parashah-sheets/>

Why Did Yaakov Bring Wine to His Father?

In this week's Torah portion, we read of the following: "וַיֹּאמֶר, הַגֵּשָׁה לִי וְאֶכְלָה מִצֵּיד בְּנִי--לְמַעַן תִּבְרַכְךָ, נְפֹשִׁי; וַיָּגֶשׁ-לוֹ, וַיֹּאכַל, וַיָּבֵא לוֹ יַיִן, וַיִּשְׁתְּ [Yitzchak] said, 'Serve me and let me eat of my son's game that I may give you my innermost blessing.' So he served him and he ate, and he brought him wine and he drank" (Gen. 27.25). On the face of it, Yaakov's bringing wine to his father while eating is nothing strange and perhaps wine was a common beverage accompaniment to meals.

However, another curious Medieval comment is that the wine was brought out, in the words of Hezekiah ben Manoah (1250-1310), "שהיין מערבב", "קצת דעתו של אדם ולא ידקדק אם הוא עשו ויגש-לו, ויאכל, ויבא לו יין, וישת" – since wine can somewhat jumble up one's mind, and he would not be concerned if he was Esav or not" (חזקוני). Now, whether Yitzchak intentionally would want wine to cause him to relax and not worry about potential Esav-imposters, it could almost be more easily seen as a move made by Yaakov to relax Yitzchak and to take off any potential sharpness of his mind and to contribute to any confusion of ascertaining the identity of which son was providing him this meal.

One thing that slightly stands out is that Yitzchak requests food, which Yaakov brings him, but also brings him wine - why did he do this? On the one hand, it could simply be that Yitzchak actually wanted wine, but simply had not articulated it. The reason that Yitzchak would have wanted wine at this moment was to, in the words of Rabbi David Kimhi (1160–1235), "לשמח לבו", "to engadden his mind so that he would bless him with a good intentionality" (רד"ק).

Either way, Yitzchak certainly didn't protest being brought wine with his
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meal, and, amidst his blessing, provides a literary echo a few verses later when he blesses his son with “וְרַב דָּגָן וְיַיִן” – an abundance of new grain and new wine” (Gen. 27.28). It would seem that, as an expression of his gratitude for being provided this food and wine, Yitzchak wanted to bless this son of his with these provisions, and did not feel tricked by having been provided wine.

Shabbat shalom!

Bottle of the Week



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

Look for Next Week's Weekly Podcast/Video Episode 🎧🎥



Taking this week off for Thanksgiving from a podcast/video episode, stay tuned for next week's episode on "Wine in the Mishnah" featuring Prof. Rabbi Avi Walfish

Drinking Halakhah of the Week

“Wine exempts the blessings for all types of beverages” (שו"ע או"ח קע"ד:ב) – יין פוטר כל מיני משקים is a fairly straightforward *halakhah*, as wine is the most prized beverage in Judaism. The origin of this *halakhah* comes from Rabbi Hiyya, who stated in the early 3rd century CE: “אמר רבי חייא פת פוטרת כל מיני מאכל ויין פוטר כל מיני משקים” “Rabbi Hiyya said: ‘Bread exempts all types of food, and wine exempts all types of beverages’” (*Berakhot* 41b). This exemption not only works for the post-consumption blessing, but even for the pre-consumption blessing (רמ"א (לשו"ע או"ח קע"ד:ב).



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 – ideas are welcome! *Le'chaim!*