

Pshats for Shots

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Yoseph Sending Provisions to His Father

When Yoseph is sending provisions with his brothers back with them to their father (“וַיִּתֵּן לָהֶם וַיִּתֵּן לָהֶם צֹדֶה יוֹסֵף עֲגָלוֹת עַל-פִּי פֶרְעֹה וַיִּתֵּן לָהֶם צֹדֶה לְדֶרֶךְ Joseph gave them wagons as Pharaoh had commanded, and he supplied them with provisions for the journey” (Gen. 45.21)), he provides his brothers with changes of clothing and Binyamin with silver and lots of clothing (Gen. 45.22), but what does he provide for his father?

“וּלְאֲבִיו שְׁלַח כְּזֹאת עֲשָׂה חֲמֹלִים נִשְׂאִים מְטוֹב מִצְרַיִם וְעֹשֶׂר אֶתְנֶת גִּשְׁמֵת בָּר וְלֶחֶם וּמִזֶּזֶן לְאֲבִיו לְדֶרֶךְ” And to his father he sent the following: ten he-asses laden from the best of Egypt, and ten she-asses laden with grain, bread, and provisions for his father on the journey” (Gen. 45.23). While I am quite curious about these items, a curious term actually stands out: what is “From the best of Egypt”?

Well, you guessed it: wine, of course. How else is anyone supposed to travel? With just food?

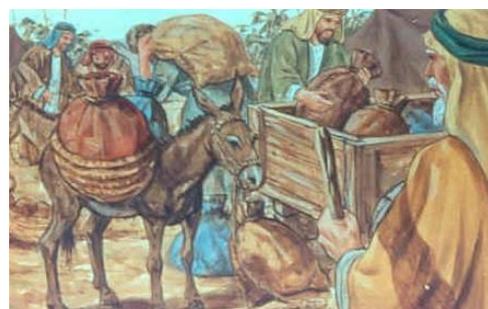
The Talmud inquires what this “from the best of Egypt” is, which yields the following text: אמר רבי בנימין בר יפת אמר רבי אלעזר שיגר Rabbi Binyamin bar Yefet said: “Rabbi Elazar said: ‘He sent him wine, which the elderly find pleasing” (bMegillah 16b). Of course, this text is somewhat surprising: why is

it only the elderly who find wine pleasing? Certainly, anyone would find it pleasing, right?

It’s not entirely clear, although Rashi thereupon writes “לפי שדעת זקנים נוחה” Since the disposition of elders

are calmed with it – this is the best thing of all for him” (ד”ה שיגר לו יין), perhaps that the peace of mind that wine can provide is the best thing for him. It’s interesting that Rabbi Binyamin bar Yefet quotes Rabbi

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Pshats for Shots

Welcome to the eleventh issue of “Pshats for Shots”, a one-page resource for helping providing brief, drinking-related *divrei Torah* for each parashah, along with a Drinking Halakhah of the Week.

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.

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Elazar as saying that the wine constitutes from amongst the best of Egypt, which sounds an objective best, whereas Rashi describes this as a subjective best for elderly folks.

Nevertheless, elsewhere in the book of Genesis, we have seen that, even when fleeing from destruction, Lot's family made sure to bring a lot of wine, enough to get him beyond drunk two nights in a row (Gen. 19).

Here, we see royal provisioning on wagons, we should fully expect wine to be included. Why didn't the verse mention wine, specifically? Perhaps it would have been assumed to have included amongst the various provisions.



Shabbat shalom!

1. This is the term found in many manuscripts (see MSS Vatican 134, Oxford Opp. Add. fol. 23, Goettingen 3, NY- Columbia X 893 T 141 (Cf. Munich 95)), while MS Munich 140 and the printed editions (Pesaro & Vilna) witness שלח.

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Drinking Halakhah of the Week

Having recently discussed blessing wine prior to consuming it in these pages (see issues #5-9), we now move on to some considerations of following-up one's drinking with a blessing. Rabbi Yosef Karo (1488-1575) writes in his *Shulhan Arukh*: " אין לברך אחר יין שבסעודה " הדברכת המזון פוטרנו One need not bless following the meal's wine, since the *Birkat HaMazon* covers it" (שו"ע (או"ח קעד:ו).

While wine merits a special and distinct blessing over it to kick-off one's consumption of it *even* within a meal, as we've seen previously, its post-consumption blessing is subsumed within the post-meal blessing.



The reasoning for this subsuming is described by Rabbi Avraham Gombiner (1635-1682) as " דהוי כדברים הבאים מהמת הסעודה כיון דבא לשרות המאכל Since it is amongst those things that are brought out on account of the meal, since it helps digest the food" (מגן אברהם קע"ד:ח).

Next week, we will continue in this same section of the *Shulhan Arukh* concerning what happens with wine that was consumed prior to the meal...

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! לרחמים!