



Menucha Lustig
Ra'anana
Chapter Madricha

There is Hope

וקוי ה' יחליפו כח יעלו אבר כנשרים ירצו ולא יגעו ילכו ולא יעפו

"But those who put their hope in the Lord shall renew [their] vigor, they shall raise wings as eagles; they shall run and not weary, they shall walk and not tire."

This is a quote from Yeshayahu (40:31), the Haftarah of this week's parsha.

The past few weeks our nation saw an incredible uptick in "hope." The strength and hope from those on the front lines, and in return, the communities giving and fueling them with strength and hope.

יש תקווה - There is hope.

The definition in the dictionary of "Hope" is "a feeling of trust."

What defines our Jewish soul, is knowing we will win, knowing we are Hashem's chosen nation, knowing there is One Hashem, our loving Father.

Esther, a Holocaust survivor, was living in Brooklyn, NY when her granddaughter invited her to join her school's March of the Living trip. That began Esther's career as a participant of numerous trips to Poland. On all her trips, the coordinators knew Esther never cried.

But one trip was different. It was on her

sixth trip to Auschwitz and while addressing the crowd, Esther began to cry. Shocked by her emotional reaction, the coordinators inquired what had caused Esther to cry. She explained that out of the corner of her eye she saw a group of IDF soldiers in uniform. "I never thought I would see green uniforms in the place where my nightmares of gray SS uniforms took place. What we hoped for all along came true."

Hashem promises Avraham in this week's parsha:

כי את-כל-הארץ אשר-אתה ראה לך אתננה ולזרעך עד-עולם

This is our Land. This Land is my Land. This Land is your Land. This Land will always be ours-forever. As children of Avraham Avinu, we will do whatever we can to protect it, and those who dwell in it, both physically and spiritually. And most of all, we will never stop hoping.



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Emunah & Resilience: Dust as a Symbol of Perseverance

"ושמתי את זרעך כעפר הארץ"

"And I will make your children as the dust of the earth." (13:16)

How are the Jewish people like the dust of the earth and why, out of the many things Hashem could have blessed us with, why did He choose dust?

One symbolism between the Jewish people

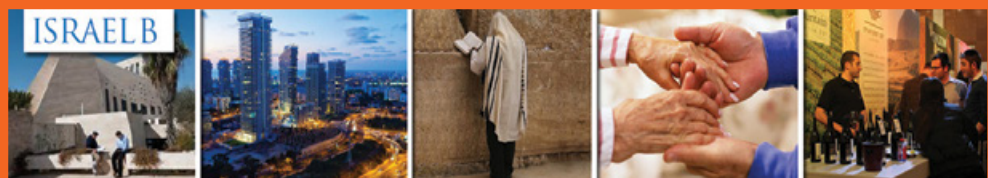
and dust is that everyone walks upon the dust of the earth, and similarly, many nations “step upon” the Jewish people. They kill us in masses and exile us in droves. However, the dust outlasts the people who trod on it, and Hashem blesses us that the Jewish people, too, will prevail over their oppressors.

So many times throughout history people have tried to break us. All of us, especially teens, will come across people who will oppose us and crush us. But throughout all this hardship, we must always remember: “Do not become frightened and abandon your mission,” said Hashem, “because even those people who openly curse and oppose you will envy you in their hearts and pray that their children should be like you when they grow up.”

How we react to difficult situations helps

define who we are as people and what our ultimate priorities are. As we reflect upon this week’s Parsha and the enduring metaphor of dust, let us be reminded that just as dust persists despite being trampled upon, so too shall the Jewish people endure the trials and tribulations that history may bring.

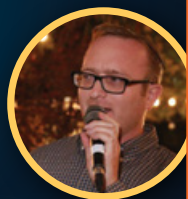
Our strength lies not only in resilience but in how we respond to adversity, rooted in unwavering emunah. Let this be a lesson to all, for in the face of challenges, we can choose unity, compassion, and unwavering commitment to our shared mission, guided by our deep emunah. Together, we can overcome, just as dust rises above those who tread upon it, so too will *Am Yisrael*, fortified by emunah, triumph over those who seek to oppress. Let us carry this message forward, inspiring the world with our unwavering emunah and resilience. ■



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