



SIMCHAT SHMUEL

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Each year as we read *Parshat Vayeira*, and recall *Avraham Avinu's* incredible legacy of total faith and trust in *Hakadosh Baruch Hu*, I am particularly drawn to three *pesukim* in the midst of the account of the *Akeidat Yitzchak*.

וַיִּקַּח אַבְרָהָם אֶת־עֵצֵי הָעֹלָה וַיַּשֶּׂם עַל־יִצְחָק בְּנוֹ וַיִּקַּח בְּיָדוֹ אֶת־הָאֵשׁ וְאֶת־הַמֵּאֲכָלֶת וַיֵּלְכוּ שְׁנֵיהֶם יַחְדָּו: וַיֹּאמֶר יִצְחָק אֶל־אַבְרָהָם אָבִי וַיֹּאמֶר אָבִי וַיֹּאמֶר הֲנִי בְנִי וַיֹּאמֶר הִנֵּה הָאֵשׁ וְהָעֵצִים וְאַיֵּה הַשֶּׁה לְעֹלָה: וַיֹּאמֶר אַבְרָהָם אֶלְקִים יִרְאֵה־לּוֹ הַשֶּׁה לְעֹלָה בְנִי וַיֵּלְכוּ שְׁנֵיהֶם יַחְדָּו

Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and put it on his son Isaac. He himself took the firestone and the knife; and the two walked off together. Then Isaac said to his father Abraham, "Father!" And he answered, "Yes, my son." And he said, "Here are the firestone and the wood; but where is the sheep for the burnt offering?" And Abraham said, "G-d will see to the sheep for His burnt offering, my son." And the two of them walked on together. (Bereshit 22:6-8)

Yitzchak Avinu, sensing what is about to transpire, turns to his father, and asks where is the animal which will be offered unto the *Ribono Shel Olam*. *Avraham Avinu* replies with these powerful words:

"*Elokim yireh lo HaSeh, Bni... G-d will reveal to us the sheep, Bni-my son.*"

The *Kedushat Levi, Reb Levi Yitzchak of Berditchev zy'a* offers a unique interpretation to explain *Avraham's* reply to *Yitzchak*.

Elokim yireh lo HaSeh, Bni - Hashem will reveal to us whether the offering will

indeed be a sheep, **or if you, B'ni - my son is to be that offering.** As stunning as this reading of the statement may be in and of itself, perhaps equally stunning is the verse's conclusion- *vayeilchu shneihem yachdav, and the two of them walked together.*

Rashi explains, that even upon hearing his father confirm that which he already may have intuited, that indeed he is to be the offering, *Yitzchak Avinu* walks together with his father, *vayeilchu shneihem yachdav, and the two of them walked together - with equal intent in their hearts.*

Each of these giants of faith were willing and ready for this inconceivable test, indeed they were ready to face this ultimate challenge, together.

During the past many weeks, *Am Yisrael* has faced our enemies and come together in the spirit of *vayeilchu shneihem yachdav*, in a way that has been unprecedented in most of our lifetimes.

Yehi Ratzon, May it be that despite the many challenges that these uncertain and turbulent times have dictated for us, we will continue to find ways to be there for one another, and to strengthen and support one another, so that we may indeed traverse these trying times, together. May we soon be blessed, *B'Ezrat Hashem, to return* to a normal routine, inspired to build an even more vibrant, united community here in *Artzeinu HaKedosha*. ■