



## Eternal End

Throughout his commentary on the Torah, Rashi will connect the events at the end of one *parashah* to the events at the beginning of the next one. As the death of Sarah Imeinu is the first topic in our *parashah*, Rashi recounts that the news of the *Akeidah*, the last topic of the previous *parashah*, was so startling to Sarah that she dies (*Rashi, Bereisheet 23:2*). How are we to understand her sudden death? Additionally, earlier Rashi comments that Sarah's life was "*kulan shavin l'tovah*", all the days of her life were equally good. Can we find goodness in the circumstance of her death?

Every *nisayon* that a person endures is meticulously designed by Hashem according to the individual's distinct capabilities. The Brisker Rav teaches that the *nisayon* of the *Akeidah* was specifically intended for Avraham Avinu and he alone was therefore able to pass it with his unique inner strengths. Sara Imeinu was not involved in this *nisayon*, as such, she was unaware of the details of their journey. Therefore, when the Satan came to tell her what had almost transpired, she could not endure the shock and as a result, died. Sara Imeinu is obviously not disparaged for this; her life is still considered one of goodness and wholehearted service of Hashem, "*kulan shavin l'tovah*."

David Hamelech reminds us that Hashem is "*Hanoten sheleg katzamer, k'for ke'afar yifazer* – He who gives snow like fleece, He scatters frost like ashes" (*Tehillim 148:16*). The Chasidic masters explain that although Hashem may give us "snow," i.e., difficult situations, he also gives us "wool" to warm us. Each of us is equipped with the tools to manage the circumstances we find ourselves in, every *nisayon* fits each person with precision.

Rav Wolbe notes that the unique language *chazal* use to describe Sarah's death indicates the manner in which she passed from this world. The term "*parcha nishmata*," Sarah's soul flew, is the same one used to describe *Am Yisrael's* experience at Har Sinai. "*Parcha nishmatam*," their souls spontaneously left their bodies from the enormity of the Divine spiritual encounter. When Sara Imeinu was told about *Akeidat Yitzchak*, she was so overcome by the magnitude of what had occurred that her soul could not be contained within her physical being. A climactic culmination of how she lived, her death was characterized by her intense desire to connect with her Maker.

The *Koshnitzer Maggid* understands *chazal* as expressing Sara Imeinu's deep yearning to have been part of the *Akeidah*, to have the opportunity to entirely subsume herself within the Divine. Hashem responded to her passionate wish and took her soul. Her death is a testament to

her desire to be *mekadesh shem shamayim*, to sanctify Hashem's Name. In doing so, teaches the Tosher Rebbe, Sara Imeinu infused all Jews with the genetic code to love Hashem unconditionally, to be fully devoted and committed to His Will.

As we continue to fight the battle for our Land and our people, we must always remember that we are servants of Hashem, representatives of His absolute sovereignty in the world. We must fight the battle on the spiritual front as well, pursuing truth, dedicating ourselves to Hashem's Will with devotion, commitment and love, as Sara Imeinu taught us in the way she lived from beginning to end. ■

A poster with a dark blue background. At the top, the text "ADDICTION KILLS" is written in a bold, red, distressed font. Below it, in white, is the question "HOW DO WE HELP THOSE WE LOVE WHO ARE SUFFERING FROM SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND ADDICTION?". In the center, there is a graphic of a black power cord with a three-pronged plug. The plug is emitting bright pink and white lightning bolts. At the bottom right, the text "GET HELP NOW!" is written in a bold, red, distressed font. At the bottom, in white, is the text "YAACOV ROSEDALE, LPC, NCC, CASAP", "Certified Addiction Counselor", "Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselor", and "052-808-4406 | yaacovmr@gmail.com".

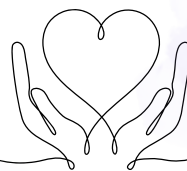
**ADDICTION KILLS**

HOW DO WE HELP  
THOSE WE LOVE WHO  
ARE SUFFERING FROM  
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ADDICTION?

**GET HELP  
NOW!**

**YAACOV ROSEDALE, LPC, NCC, CASAP**  
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Even during these times,  
Everyone deserves  
a safe relationship



You are  
not alone.



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