

THE TRIBE WEEKLY

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From Darkness to Light



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At the start of the war in Israel, after a week of sad news of all the tragedies happening in Israel flooding my phone, a friend asked me a surprising question: "Have you joined the latest WhatsApp group? The one with only good news about Israel?" I wasn't sure if she was serious or pulling my leg. There was a war going on, there were people dying and captured - why should I join such a group? But as the days passed, I started to see it. I started to understand the purpose and value of such a group.

The Tanach (Hebrew Bible) tells us to be a "light amongst the nations" (Yeshaya 42:6), a beacon of light. Being a light amongst the nations means holding ourselves to a higher moral standard, making sure we behave as justly and correctly as we can. And at times like this, with the world watching Israel's every move, with people scrutinising our actions more than ever, maybe we can understand this in a different way too. Perhaps it can also mean: to be someone who sees the light. Someone who can identify the light sparks in the dark times, the 'God' element in the long, dark tunnel.

And this is something that each and every one of us can do. People have been doing amazing things across the Jewish world: from

meals to the Tzitzit-making activities for the benefit of Israeli soldiers, from Israel rallies to prayer services and so many other incredible initiatives. It is looking at examples such as these, and then of course perpetuating them, which can elevate us.

One of the prayers which has been said a lot since the start of the war has been '*Acheinu*'. A few lines long, this heartfelt prayer talks about our brothers and sisters in need. In it, we ask: "May God have mercy upon them and bring them... from darkness to light". From darkness to light. From a time of need to a time of joy. May we, in recognising the light, seeing God, and bringing more light into this world, contribute to bringing those in need to their light. May it be speedily in our days.

Parasha Rebus

A rebus puzzle uses pictures, symbols and letters to represent a phrase. Can you decipher the images below to reveal what Joseph's brothers wanted to do to him?



~~UGH~~
+W



+



IN + 2

THE



Answer: Throw Joseph into the pit