



6 Tevet 5780
January 3, 2020

Parashat Vayigash

Yosef Hatzadik finally reveals himself to his brothers. The very first thing he does is to reassure them that he holds no grudge against them. Everything that had happened, although their intentions were not good, was part of Hashem's plan to send Yosef down to Egypt before them.

Can we imagine such a lofty level? Here is a young boy who was so hated by his brothers that they were ready to kill him. They instead decide on a "lighter" punishment and sell him into slavery forever. And now that boy is a king with unlimited power. A regular person would pay them back by locking them up, never to see the light of day again. You would think it would have been kindness if he'd give them only a small taste of their medicine by locking them up and working them for, say, a month. Yes, that would seem kind. If he were superhuman, he would let them off scott free and let their own guilt eat away at them.

But Yosef is way above even that. Not only does he not hold a grudge, but he actually comforts them, reassures them that their intentions had zero effect on the outcome! Hashem has a plan and no one can change it even an iota one way or another.

So often we may be slighted and we feel the need to retaliate. If we're in a righteous mood, we'll ignore it but still harbor resentment in our hearts. We can learn from Yosef that Hashem runs everything. No one has any power or jurisdiction to harm us in the slightest, and if they do, it is all part of a Greater Plan.

Shabbat Shalom,
Rabbi Elnadav