

Post-Shloshim Gathering in honor of our beloved teacher, Sh'vat 14th 5784

Rabbi David Ellenson z"l

תלמוד בבלי, תענית ה, ע"ב – ו, ע"א Talmud Bavli, Ta'anit 5b-6a When they were taking leave of one another, כי הוו מיפטרי מהדדי, אַמַר לֵיה [רב נחמן לרבי יצחק]: [Rav Nahman] said [to Rabbi Yitzhak]: לִיבַרְכַן מַר! Master, give me a blessing. אמר ליה: He replied to him: אָמְשוֹל לְךְּ מַשָּׁל, Let me tell you a parable. לְמַה הַדָּבַר דּוֹמֵה? To what is this matter comparable? לאַדָם שָהַיַה הוֹלֶךְ בַּמִּדְבַּר to one who was walking through a desert וָהָיָה רָעֶב וְעָיֵף וְצָמֶא, and who was hungry, tired, and thirsty. וּמַצָא אִילָן שֵׁפֵּירוֹתַיו מִתוּקין And he found a tree whose fruits were sweet וצלו נאה and whose shade was pleasant. ואמת המים עוברת תחתיו. and a stream of water flowed beneath it. אכַל מָפֵּירוֹתֵיו, He ate from the fruits of the tree, וְשַׁתַה מְמֵּימֵיו, drank from the water in the stream. וַיַשַב בַּצִילּוֹ. and sat in the shade of the tree. וכשביקש לילד, אמר: And when he wished to leave, he said: אִילָן אִילָן, בַּמָּה אֵבָרֵכְרּ? Tree, tree, with what shall I bless you? אָם אוֹמַר לָךְ שֵׁיִּהוּ פֵּירוֹתֵיךְ מִתוּקִין — If I say to you that your fruits should be sweet, your ַבַרִי פֵּירוֹתֵיךּ מְתוּקִין! fruits are already sweet; שיָהֵא צִילָּךְ נַאָה — שׁיָהֵא צִילָּך that your shade should be pleasant, והרי צילד נאה! your shade is already pleasant; שתהא אמת המים עוברת תחתיך that a stream of water should flow beneath you, ָהֶרֵי אַמַּת הַמַּיִם עוֹבֶרֶת תַּחְתֵּיךּ, a stream of water already flows beneath you. אלא Rather, May it be [God's] will that all saplings, יָהִי רַצוֹן שֶׁכַּל נָטִיעוֹת שַנּוֹטְעִין מִמְּדְ which are planted from you be like you. יָהִיוּ כְּמוֹתְךָ. So it is with you -אַף אַתַּה, בַּמָּה אֲבָרֶכְךְּ? With what shall I bless you? אָם בָּתוֹרַה – If I bless you with Torah, הַרִי תּוֹרַה, you already have Torah; - אָם בָּעוֹשֵׁר if I bless you with wealth, הרי עושר, you already have wealth; אם בבנים if I bless you with children, הַרֵי בַּנִים, you already have children. Rather, may it be God's will that your offspring shall יָהִי רָצוֹן שֵיִהִיוּ צֵאֱצָאֵי מֵעֵיךְ כַּמוֹתְדְ. be like you.



Plum Street Temple, Cincinnati, 2003