

## Hatishkach-Miketz

*“Hatishkach ishah ulah merachem ben-bitnah gam-eleh tishkachnah ve'anochi lo eshkachech.  
Hen al-kapayim chakotich chomotayich negedi tamid.”*

*“Can a woman forget her nursing child, Or fail to have compassion upon him? She may forget, but know it or not, Israel you are always before Me... Behold I have engraved my people, on the palms of My hands. Your walls are always before me, Israel. How can I forget?” (Hatishkach, Joel Chernoff, based on Isaiah 49:15-16)*

*“For G-d is not so unfair as to forget your work and the love you showed for him in your past service to his people - and in your present service too.” (Heb. 6:10, CJB)*

*“Lest I forget Gethsemane, lest I forget Thy agony, lest I forget Thy Love for me, lead me to Calvary.” (J. Hussey)*

### Adonai Does Not Forget!

*“Wherever you are, be there!”* Yosef was involved with all of his heart in his not-so-great situation—a jail. He must have read the Book of Proverbs in his Gedeon’s green little NT where it states: *“Seest thou a man diligent in his business? he shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean men.”* (Prov. 22:29, KJV) But being in jail was not Yosef’s business, it was the warden’s business. Yet, even when it isn’t his business but his misfortune, Yosef adheres to *“Whatever work you do, put yourself into it, as those who are serving not merely other people, but the L-rd.”* (Col. 3:23, CJB) While companions, friends, family, and even brethren may forget, the L-rd does not forget. He is there. If we operate with and within His principles, he gives us success: *“But ADONAI was with Yosef, showing him grace and giving him favor in the sight of the prison warden...because ADONAI was with him; and whatever he did, ADONAI prospered.”* (Gen. 39: 21-23)

*“Nevertheless, the chief cupbearer didn't remember Yosef, but forgot him.”* (Gen. 40:23) Yosef is almost 30 years old, from seventeen to thirty—how quickly do the years pass! No freedom, no wife, no children, no bank account, no property, no fun. Even more painful, these last two years had to be the most difficult two years in Yosef’s life—*“I am getting old, and nothing is happening. Betrayed again! This time by my own companions in misery...”* What would you (and I) do? Give up, get bitter, become selfish, curse G-d, maybe? Not Yosef—he kept on keeping on. These trials are not insignificant nor are they trivial. I can only imagine. With every day’s routine, boredom, misery and no future in sight, would some be tempted to give up. I can also imagine Yosef reviewing the events of 13 years ago, with his brothers, with his dad, when the world was ahead and he was invincible. Then 3 years ago, when he was in charge of the affairs of one of the most important men in all of Egypt. Was it worth it? Maybe if he had given into the woman, he’d still be in charge and with prestige. Does it pay to serve G-d? Yes G-d is with me, but I am in this hole, in these conditions, in this miserable situation, in this endless spiral to never-land. If only I had not shared my dreams. If only I had not screamed. If only I had not worn my coat of many colors, if only I had not told my father what my brothers were doing. If only I had negotiated with Potiphar’s wife. If only I were dead...

Two years to the day after the release of the Chamberlain of the Cupbearers, on the anniversary of the hope lost, the last time he got excited about something happening, on this, another miserable day at the jail, at night, Scripture tell us that Pharaoh had a dream. Who can you trust? Answer: “not my brothers, not my employer, not the people I serve, not my comrades and fellow companions in misery, no one! That is, no one except יהוה. Evidently, Yosef had trust (faith) in יהוה throughout his life. Thirteen years have passed since Yosef was first sold and became a slave. Can you imagine trusting יהוה that much? Yosef trusts, but he never forgets and evidently, he never doubts either.

### The Death of a Vision

*G-d’s ways are not our ways* (Isaiah 55:8, 9). Scripture tells us that: *“Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; but blessed is he who keeps the Torah.”* Or in the more familiar version: *“Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth Torah, happy is he.”*(Proverbs 29:18) We need a vision, a revelation from G-d.

That is what Isaiah, Ezekiel, Jeremiah, and Rabbi Sha'ul got. We must have more than goals and dreams, we must have His strategy, His plan, His knowledge, His goals for us. In short, we must have a personal revelation to guide our paths and give us direction. This is our "Garmin" for life's paths.

However, when G-d is really interested in bringing forth something great, He often causes the death—even double & triple deaths of vision. These deaths are all related to the potential (gifting) He has given unto us. After the dreams and interpretations which clearly came from G-d as a gifting unto *Yosef*, there he is in this situation. In trouble (one more time) for exercising his G-d-given gifts. How often do we despair in the gifting G-d has given us when they seem to bring nothing but troubles! Is G-d causing multiple deaths of vision in your life? Perhaps the release from prison and the palace are just around the corner...

Vision is what we receive, it is what we see, it is what we lose, and it is how we get discouraged when we notice the difference between what we know (envision) and what actually is (reality). In spite of success in our endeavors, we have also experienced failures. Failures prompt us to ask 'what am I doing' or 'Am I in the right place' or 'Is this G-d's Will?' I believe it is important to be honest about ourselves and honest about our motives or we might not be able to make it to where G-d wants us to go ultimately because hardship and opposition will surely come our way. We need a vision to start, and to know the what, where and when to say and how to do things. A vision to keep you going, regardless of circumstances, because often circumstances are against you. If we can catch a fresh vision in these days, we'll be able to continue in the path He has laid for us. If we are able to renew what G-d gave us, we'll be able to serve Him in a happy and successful way. On the anniversary of *Yosef's* forgotten day, the cupbearer remembered *Yosef*, יהוה never forgot, and the rest is history...

Ten years ago, December 27, 1998, I received vision for the MJAA from Rose Price, Jnathan Settel and Rabbi Judah Hungerman. Then on January 23, 1999 I wrote check 1493 applying to the IAMCS, nearly ten years after being denied in December 1993 for invalid reasons. On December 26, 1999 we were admitted to the IAMCS (after all the difficulties with the Simpkins and Kol Machiach). On January 4, 2000 we got our certificate of membership. On December 21, 2008, nearly ten years to the date after the original vision from Rose, I gave my first ever teaching (in English) to the SE Regional MJAA conference. Adonai never forgot...