

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יהו"ה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם אֲשֶׁר קִדְשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצִוָּנוּ לַעֲסוֹק בַּדָבָרִי תּוֹרַה.

Barukh Atah Adonai Eloheinu melekh ha-olam asher kidshanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu la'asok b'divrei Torah.

Soul Spa – <u>P. Hayyei Sarah</u> November 11, 2023 27 Heshvan 5784

Blessed are You, YHVH, our God, eternal sovereign, who sanctifies us in God's connecting command to busy ourselves in words of Torah.

Genesis 23:1-9, 17-19

repetition of length of life,

death -returning to
souls >>
visiting Adam
and Eve?

Cave as womb?

Transitional

Liminal

יִהְיוּ חַיֵּי שָׁרָה מֵאָה שָׁנָה וְעֶשְׂרִים שָׁנָה וְשֶׁבַע שָׁנִים שְׁנֵי חַיֵּי שָׂרָה: וַתָּמָת שָׁרָה בְּקַרְיַת אַרְבַּע הִוּא חֶבְּרוֹן בְּאֶרֶץ כְּנָעַן וַיָּבֹא אַבְּרָהָם לִסְפֹּד לְשָׁרָה וְלִבְכּתָהּ:

ַנְיָּקֶם אַבְרָהָם מֵעַל פְּנֵי מֵתוֹ וַיְדַבֵּר אֶל-בְּנֵי-חֵת לֵאמר: גֵּר-וְתוֹשָׁב אָנכִי עִמָּכֵם תִּנוּ לִי אֲחָזַּת-קֶבֶר עִמָּכֵם

ואקברה מתי מלפני:

= REINCARNATION

= LIMINAL

= PORTAL

וַיָּעַנוּ בְנֵי-חֵת אֶת-אַבְרָהָם לֵאמר לוּ: שְׁמָעֵנוּ אֲדנִי נְשִיא אֱלֹהִים אַתָּה בְּתוֹכֵנוּ בְּמִבְחַר קְבָרֵינוּ קְבר אֶת-מֵתֶךּ אִישׁ מִשֶּנוּ אֶת-קבְרוֹ לֹא-יִכְלֶה מִמְךּ מִקְבר מֵתֶךּ:

> וַיָּקֶם אַבְרָהָם וַיִּשְׁתַּחוּ לְעַם-הָאָרֶץ לִבְנֵי-חֵת: וַיְדַבֵּר אִתָּם לֵאמר אִם-יֵשׁ אֶת-וַבְּשְׁכֶם לִקְבַּר אֶת-מֵתִי מִלְּפָנֵי שְׁמָעוּנִי וּפִגְעוּ-לִי בְּעֶפְרוֹן בֶּן-צחַר:

not stranger to THEM (inversion)

stranger to SELF

וְיִתֶּן-לִי אֶת-מְעָרַת הַמַּרְפֵּלָה אֲשֶׁר-לוֹ אֲשֶׁר בִּקְצֵה שָׁדֵהוּ בְּכֶסֶף מָלֵא יִתְּנֶנָּה לִּי בְּתוֹרֲכֶם לַאֲחֻזַּת-קָבֶר: ... וַיָּקָם שְׁדֵה עֶפְרוֹן אֲשֶׁר בַּמַּרְפֵּלָה אֲשֶׁר לִפְנֵי מַמְרֵא הַשָּׁדֶה וְהַמְּעָרָה אֲשֶׁר-בּוֹ וְכָל-הָעֵץ אֲשֶׁר בַּשַּׁדֵה אֵשֵׁר בִּכַל-גִּבָלוֹ סָבִיב:

לְאַבְרָהָם לְמִקְנָה לְעֵינֵי בְנֵי-חֵת בְּכֹל בָּאֵי שַׁעַר-עִירוֹ: וְאַחֲרִי-כֵן קָבַר אַבְרָהָם אֶת-שָׂרָה אִשְׁתּוֹ אֶל-מְעָרַת שְׂדֵה הַמַּכְפֵּלָה עַל-פְּנֵי מַמְרֵא הִוא חֶבְרוֹן בְּאֶרֶץ כְּנָעַן: 1-2. Sarah's life were 127 years: so were the years of Sarah's life. Sarah died in Kiryat Arba which is Hevron, in the land of Cana'an. Avraham came to mourn for Sarah and weep for her.

3-4. Avraham rose from before the face of his dead. He spoke to the Hittites saying: "I am a stranger oh? sojourning with you. Give me a gravesite holding among you and I will bury my dead before me."

(time, or face?)

5-6. The Hittites answered Avraham saying to him: "Hear us, my lord. You are a prince of God in our midst. Bury your dead in the choicest of our tombs. None of us will deny you his tomb, so you can bury your dead."

7-8. Avraham rose and bowed to the people of the land, the Hittites. He spoke with them, saying: "If your souls have [it in mind] for me to bury my dead from before my face, hear me and entreat to Efron son of Tzohar for me.

9, 17. "Let him give me his cave of Makhpelah, at the end of his field. Let him give it to me, for its full worth in money, as a holding in your midst for burial." ... Efron's field in Makhpelah near Mamre – the field with its cave and all the trees in the field inside its surrounding borders – rose up to Avraham.

18-19. [The land] was Avraham's purchase before the eyes of the Hittites, all coming into its town gate. Then Avraham buried his wife Sarah in the cave of the field of Makhpelah, facing Mamre – now Heyron – in the land of Canaan.

Avra

ADAM EDEN

Avraham was there

Pshat (פשט)	Literal surface • plain	 What is the significance of the literal geographical places What is "stranger" How did Avraham become a "prince of God"? Cave as traditional burying place What does Makhpelah mean? 	
Remez (רמז)	Implication pointer • hint	 What's implied by "before me" / "before my face" What's implied by "your souls" intend for me to bury?	
<u>D</u> rash (דרש)	Description inquire • midrash	 What is Sarah doing there? (The text doesn't say) year = life = NOW Where was Avraham not a stranger? How did Avraham know this place / cave if he was a stranger? 	
<u>S</u> od (סוד)	Secret theological, mystical	 Soujourning and strangerhood vis-a-vis God Souls rather than the minds Cave as portal, liminal, reincarnation —> ADAM AND EVE, EDEN 	

Sforno, Gen. 23:3

עדיין והיה יכול לצאת ולדבר אל בני חת:

ANINUT = sufferingAVELUT = mourning (burial +7th day)

מעל פני מתו.... שלא חל עליו אבלות From the face of his dead – [As he had not buried Sarah yet,] he was not yet a halakhic mourner. So he was able to leave the house and speak [about acquiring a burial site for her].

Ibn Ezra, Gen. 23:3

מעל פני מת<mark>ו.... רמז לגוף. ועוד תמצא פי' From the face of his dead (male</mark>) – Pointing to the לאמר: body (male) [rather than soul (female)].

THE SOUL IS TRANSCENDENT, ISN'T "BURIED"

>> implication: Shekhinah?

Rashi, Gen. 23:4

גר ותושב אנכי עמכם. גַּר מַאַרְץ אַחַרָת וַנְתְיַשֶּׁבַתִּי עַמַכֶּם. וּמִדְרַשׁ אַגַּדַה אָם תִּרְצוּ הַרִינִי גֵּר, וִאָם לָאו אֵהְיֵה תּוֹשָׁב וְאֵטְלַנַּה מָן הַדִּין, שֶׁאָמַר לִי הַקָּבָּ"ה לְזַרְעֵדְּ אֶתֵּן את הארץ הזאת:

- "Prince of God" thing?
- The whole colonial narrative thing
- The current matzav thing
- Land by divine promise?

I am a stranger sojourning with you – A stranger from another land, but I settled among you. A *midrash* explanation: if you want to sell me the land, then I will be a stranger [and pay for it], but if not, I will be as a settler and take it by right, as the Holy Blessed One said to me (Gen. 12:7), "To your descendants do I give this land."

Genesis Rabbah 58:5-6

מֶהֶיכָן בַא מֶהַר הַמוֹרְיַה, ומֶתַה שַׁרַה מאותו צַעַר, לְפִיכַדְ נִסְמִכַה עֲקָדַה לְוַיִּהִיוּ חיי שרה. From where did [Avraham] come? From Mount Moriah. Sarah died from its grief. Therefore the binding [of Isaac] links to "Sarah's life was...."

וַיַּקָם אַבַרָהָם מֵעַל פָּנֵי מֵתוֹ - מַלַמֵּד שָהַיָה רואה מלאד המות מתריס כנגדו. אמר רַבִּי יוֹחָנֶן מִן הָן תְּנֵינַן, מִי שַׁמֵּתוֹ מוּטַל לפניו פטור מקריאת שמע ומן התפלה ומן הַתְּפָלִין ומְכַל מִצְוות שֶבַתוֹרָה, מִן הַכַא, וַיַּקָם... Avraham rose from before the face of his dead – Also means "the face of death." This teaches that he saw the Angel of Death provoking him. R. Yohanan asked: From where is it derived what we learn in [Mishnah Berakhot 3:1]: "One whose dead is lying before them is exempt from reciting Shema, the Amidah, wearing tefillin, and mitzvot in the Torah?" From here: "Avraham arose."

Ibn Ezra, Gen. 23:4

היושב בארץ. אמר הנה אני תושב עמכם והמות גזור עלינו ואין לי מקום שיהיה לי. אחזה כמו נחלה. או מקו' שאוחז אותו בכסף להיות קבר למתי:

גר. לבדו הוא הלן: ותושב. הוא הגר I am a stranger (ger) sojourning (toshav) with you. Give me a gravesite holding among you and I will bury my dead before me" – [Avraham was not a transient stranger (ger) but a resident stranger (ger toshav). He said, "I'm a sojourner among you. We are all sojourners, all mortal, and I have no inherited burial place. "I have no holding" (ahuzah), nowhere bought with silver to be a burial place [= also "I am not held" (ahuzah), no permanence with need to bury my death.

Genesis 23:9,17

וִיתֵן-לִי אֵת-מערת הַמַּכְפֵּלַה אַשֵּר-לו אשר בקצה שדהו בכסף מלא יתננה לי בתוכבם לאחות-קבר: ... ויקם שדה עפרון אַשֶּׁר בַּמַּכְפֵּלָה אֲשֵׁר לִפְנֵי מַמְרֵא ָהַשַּׂדֵה וְהַמִּעָרָה אֲשֵׁר-בּוֹ וְכָל-הָעֵץ אֲשֵׁר בַּשַּׁדֵה אֲשֵׁר בִּכַל-גָּבַלוֹ סַבִּיב: Let him give me his cave of Makhpelah, at the end of his field. Let him give it to me, for its full worth in money, as a holding in your midst for burial." ... Efron's field in Makhpelah near Mamre – the field with its cave and all the trees in the field inside its surrounding borders – rose up to Avraham.

Ibn Ezra, Gen. 23:9

מערה בתוך מערה בתוך מערה: The Cave of Makhpelah – A cave inside a cave.

Rashi, Gen. 23:9

המכפלה - בַּית וַעַלְיַה עַל גַּבַּיו. דַ"אַ שַׁכָּפוּלָה בַּזוּגות (ערובין נ"ג.):

Makhpelah – With a lower and upper chamber. Another explanation – doubled in couples (Eruvin 53a).

B.T. Eruvin 53a

מערת הַמַּכְפֵּלָה, רב ושמוּאֵל, חַד אַמַר: שַׁנֵי בַתִּים זֶה לְפָנִים מְזֶה, וְחַד אַמַר: בַּיִת ועלייה על גַבַּיו. בַּשַלַמַא לִמַאן דַאַמֵּר זָה עַל גַב זה יהו"ה הַיִינו "מַכְפֵּלָה". אֵלַא למאן דאמר שני בתים זה לפנים מזה, מאי "מכפלה"! שכפולה בזוגות. "ממרא קריַת אַרבַּע", אַמַר רַבִּי יִצְחַק, קריַת הַאַרבַע זוגות: אַדַם וְחַוַה, אַבְרַהַם וְשַׁרַה, יצחק ורבקה, יעקב ולאה.

Makhpelah Cave – Rav and Shmuel [debated]. One said: Two rooms, one inside another. One said: One room [below] and [one] above. Granted, to one who says [Machpelah] is one [room] above another, that is the etymology of Makhpelah: "double." But to one who says two rooms, one inside the other, how is that double? This [doubling] are [for the Jewish patriarchs and matriarchs buried] in pairs there in "Kiryat Arba" (i.e. four) of Mamre. R. Yitzhak said: "[Kirvat Arba means] the city of those four couples: Adam and Havah, Avraham and Sarah, Yitzhak and Rivkah, and Yaakov and Leah."

Amidah - Avot

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יהו"ה	Barukh Atah YHVH	Blessed are You, YHVH
אֱלֹהֵינוּ וֵאלֹהֵי	Eloheinu v'Elohei	our God and God of
אֲבוֹתֵינוֹ וְאִמוֹתֵינוּ,	avoteinu v'imoteinu,	our fathers and mothers,
ָאֱלֹהֵי אַבְּרָהָם,	Elohei Avraham,	God of Avraham
אֱל הֵי יִצְחָק	Elohei Yitz <u>h</u> ak	God of Yitz <u>h</u> ak,
ָואל הי יעקב,	v'Elohei Ya'akov;	and God of Yaakov;
אֱלֹהֵי שָּׂרָה	Elohei Sarah,	God of Sarah,
אֱלֹהֵי רִבְקָה	Elohei Rivkah,	God of Rivkah,
אֱלֹהֵי <u>רַ</u> חֵל	Elohei Ra <u>h</u> eil	God of Rachel
ּוְאֱלֹהֵי לֵאָה.	v'Elohei Leiah.	and God of Leah.

Rabbeinu Bahya, Gen. 23:9

R. Bahya ben Asher ibn Halawa, 1255-1340 (Spain)

קומתו של אדם הראשון, והיה נקרא כן מעולם ובני חת לא היו יודעים הטעם למה,

נקרא מכפלה על שם שכפל שם הקב"ה It was called Makhpelah because it was doubled. the Holy Blessed One doubled the [cave's] height to bury the First Adam. It was always called this but the Chidren of Het did not know why.

Genesis 18:1-7

וַיַּרָא אֵלָיו הּהּהּ בְּאֵלֹנֵי מַמְרֵא וְהוּא ישֵׁב פָתַח-הָאֹהֶל כְּחֹם הַיּוֹם: וַיִּשָּׁא עֵינָיו וַיַּרְא וְהַנֵּה שְׁלֹשָׁה אֲנָשִׁים נִצְּבִים עָלָיו וַיַּרְא וַיְּרָץ לִקְרָאתָם מִפֶּתַח הָאֹהֶל וַיִּשְׁתּי חֵן בְּעִינֶיךְ לִקְרָאתָם מִפֶּתַח הָאֹהֶל וַיִּשְׁתִּי חֵן בְּעֵינֶיךְ אַל-נָא תַעֲבֹר מֵעַל עַבְדֶּדּ: יֻקַּח-נָא מְעַט-מִים וְרַחֲצוּ רַגְלַיכֶם וְהִשְּׁצְנוּ תַּחַת הַעֵץ: וְאֶקְחָה פַת-לֶחֶם וְסַעֲדוּ לַבְּכֶם אַחַר הַאַבְרָהָם הָאֹהֱלָה אֶל-שָׁרְדּבַּרְתָּ: וְיְמַהֵּר אַבְרָהָם הָאֹהֱלָה אֶל-שָׁרְ וֹיִמָּהֵר וֹיִאמֶר בָּקָר רַךְ וְשָׁלֹשׁ סְאִים קֶמֵח סֹלֶת לוּשִׁי וַעֲשִּׁי עֻגוֹת: וְאֶל-הַבָּקָר רָץ אַבְרָהָם וַיִּמַהֵר לַעֲשׂוֹת אֹתוּ: וְטִרֹּב וַיִּתֵּן אָל-הַנַּעַר וַיִּמַהֵר לַעֲשׂוֹת אֹתוּ: YHVH appeared to [Avraham] by the trees of Mamre as he sat in the tent door in the heat of day. He lifted his eyes and saw three men standing by him. He saw, ran to meet them from the tent door, bowed to the ground saying, "My Lord, if I found grace in your eyes, do not pass from your servant. Let a bit of water be taken to wash your feet, and rest under the tree. I will get bread to aid your heart, and then you'll pass from your servant." They said, "Yes, do as you said." Avraham rushed to Sarah's tent saying, "Hurry! Make three [parts] of fine meal, knead it and make cakes!" Avraham ran to the herd, took a tender and soft calf, gave it to an aide and hurried to make it.

Zohar 1:127a-128b

רַבּי אֶלְעָזָר אָמַר בְּשַׁעְתָּא דְּעָאל אַבְרָהָם בּמְעַרְתָּא הֵיךְ עָאל. בְּגִין דְּהָוָה רָהִיט אֲבַרְּרֵיה דְּהַהוּא עֶגְלָא דִּכְתִיב וְאֶל הַבָּקֶר כְץ אַבְּרָהָם. וְהַהוּא בֶּן בָּקֶר עָרַק עַד הַהוּא מְעַרְתָּא וְעָאל אֲבַתְרִיה וְחָמָא מַה דְּחָמָא ת"ח כַּד עָאל אַבְרָהָם בִּמְעַרְתָּא בְּקַדְמִיתָא חָמָא תַּמָן נְהוֹרָא, וְאִתְרְמֵי עַפְּרָא קַמֵּיהּ, וְאָתְגְלִי לֵיהּ תְּרִין קּבְרִין אַדְהָכִי אִסְתַּלַק אָדָם בִּדִיוּקְנֵיהּ וְחָמָא לֵיהּ לְאַבְרָהָם וְחַיֵּיךְ, וּבִיהּ יָדַע אַבְרָהָם דְּתַמֶּן הוּא זַמִּין R. Elazar asks: How did Avraham enter the cave? He ran after a calf, as it is written (Gen. 18:7): "Avraham ran to the herd." This calf ran to the cave. Avraham ran after it and saw what he saw.

Come and see: When Avraham entered the cave for the first time, he saw a light. The dust was removed from before him, revealing two graves. Adam rose from his grave in rightful form, saw Avraham, and laughed. By that, Avraham knew that he was destined to be buried there.

Zohar 1:129a

תָּא חֲזֵי, יְרוּשָׁלַיִם כָּל אַרְעָא דְישְּׂרָאֵל אָתְכַּפַּל תְּחוֹתָה. וְאִיהִי קַיְימָא לְעִילָא וְתַתָּא, כְּגַוְונָא דָא יְרוּשָׁלַם לְעֵילָא יְרוּשָׁלַיִם לְתַתָּא, אֲחִידָא לְעֵילָא וְאַחִידָא לְתַתַּא, יִרוּשַׁלַיִם לְעֵילָא....

וְקב"ה עָבַד כּלָּא לְאִשְׁתַּכָּחָא הַאי עַלְמָא כְּגַוְונָא דִלְעִילָא, וּלְאִתְדַּבָּקָא דָּא בְּדָא, לְמֶהֱנִי יְקָרֵיהּ לְעֵילָא וְתַתָּא. זַכָּאָה חוּלָקֵיהוֹן דְצַדִּיקַיָּא דְּקב"ה אִתְרָעֵי בְּחוּ בּהַאי עַלִמָא וּבַעַלמָא דָאָתַיּי Come and see: The whole land of Yisrael is made doubled (*i.e.* folded onto itself) in Jerusalem. It is above and below, an upper Jerusalem (*sefirah*: *Binah*), and a lower Jerusalem (*sefirah*: *Malkhut*)....

God does everything so that what is in this world [below] resembles secretly what is above. They are connected, so God's glory can be established above and below. Let the righteous merit that God will yearn for them both in this world and the world that is coming.

Next Week: Parashat Toldot