



• Because they should have repaid the kindness that Avraham Avinu had shown to their ancestor Lot.

Furthermore, they are reproached for not coming to Israel's aid immediately after the Exodus, when the nation was still enduring great hardship in the wilderness and had not yet received the *mann* or the water from Miriam's well.

Instead, they waited until the end of the forty years to offer bread and water, by which time Israel scarcely needed such assistance.

One might nevertheless object that supporting a nation of more than six hundred thousand people required enormous financial resources. Perhaps the Moabites were uncertain whether Israel would reimburse them, and therefore they hesitated to take such a risk. Only after seeing that Israel had paid the children of Esav for food and water did they also come forward to help. If so, how could their offense have been so severe as to justify their permanent exclusion from the congregation of Hashem?

Therefore, the verse adds the second reason: "And because they hired

against you Bilam the son of Beor, from Petor of Aram Naharaim, to curse you."

With this, the Torah reveals the true reason they did not offer bread and water free of charge.

If they wished to defend themselves by claiming that they lacked sufficient financial means, the fact that they promised Bilam an enormous sum of money to come and curse Israel proves precisely the opposite. It is therefore clear that their refusal to provide bread and water free of charge did not stem from concern for their wealth, but from their hatred of Israel.

And when, after forty years, they finally provided bread and water in exchange for payment, they did so not out of concern for Israel, but solely for their own financial gain.

Accordingly, they fully deserved the punishment of having failed to come forth to meet Israel with bread and water, for their conduct was motivated by hatred.

(Zera Shimshon, Parashat Ki Tetzé, art. 7)

## The Tenant Who Appeared Right After the Study

**Rabbi Yehuda Green, from Modi'in Illit, Israel, told us his personal story of salvation:**

The older ones among us remember that the city of Modi'in Illit was founded with the purpose of helping reduce housing costs for parents-in-law who needed to marry off their children and provide them with a home of their own. Today, twenty or thirty years after the founding of the city, Modi'in Illit is filled with Torah scholars and scribes, and demand has increased accordingly. As a result, housing prices are practically the same as in the center of the country.

Thus, after the substantial sums that my parents and parents-in-law contributed—and after adding the savings we ourselves had accumulated over the years—we bought an apartment in Modi'in Illit. Nevertheless, the monthly mortgage payment remained very high. In order to ease this monthly expense, we decided to divide the apartment and build a rental unit so that the rent would serve as essential support toward paying the monthly mortgage.

For a long time, everything went smoothly. However, the tenant who had lived there for several years announced that he was leaving the apartment. We advertised the listing on our own, but no interested renters appeared. Later, we turned to several real estate agents to handle finding us a

tenant, but no one turned up and the apartment remained empty.

A month passed, and then another, while the mortgage payments continued to be mercilessly debited from our bank account. Our relatives mobilized to help us with this important task and tried every possible way to find potential tenants, but they were unsuccessful as well.

Throughout all this time, the situation worried us deeply. One day, as we were discussing the matter again, one of our children proposed an original idea:

**"Why don't we go into the rental unit and study a passage from the teachings of the Zera Shimshon there? After all, its author promised 'houses full of all good things.' Surely we will merit seeing his blessing fulfilled."**

No sooner said than done. We entered the apartment with our books and began studying the teachings of the **Zera Shimshon**, lifting up prayers and supplications that, with Heavenly assistance, we might merit seeing his words come true.

It was something truly extraordinary! That very night, one of the real estate agents called to tell us he had a serious client who wanted to see the apartment. That same night, the lease agreement was signed, with good fortune and blessing.

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