

Parsha Pearls

FROM THE WORDS OF THE GEDOLIM

Devarim 5768

"You have encircled this mountain long enough; turn yourselves northward, and command the people, saying: You are passing through the border of your brethren, the children of Esav...do not start a fight against them..."
(2:3-5)

The Midrash Tanchuma associates these verses with the Three Oaths with which G-d bound the Jewish people in Shir Hashirim. According to the Tanchuma, the Three Oaths are: not to reveal the end, not to force the end, and not to rebel against the governments. The Tanchuma adds an ominous version of the punishment for violating the oaths: "If you keep the oaths, good, but if not, I will permit your flesh like the deer and hinds, which have no one to avenge or seek out [their killers] – so too I will not avenge your blood."

The Buber edition of the Tanchuma, first printed in 1885, contains an additional paragraph that is not in the standard text. This paragraph counts four oaths instead of three, because it considers Shir Hashirim 5:8 to be one of the oaths. The four oaths are: not to force the end, not to ascend from exile in great numbers ("hamonim hamonim"), not to rebel against the governments, and not to reveal their secrets.

In the Talmud (Kesubos 111a), the oath against going up from exile is expressed with the words "going up as a wall". Most understand this to mean any mass immigration, even with permission from the ruling power. There is a minority opinion (Avnei Nezer) that the oath only prohibits military conquest or immigration against the will of the ruling power. This parallel text in the Buber Tanchuma, which was compiled before the closing of the Talmud, indicates that the majority opinion is correct and any mass immigration is forbidden. Of course, the Zionist state with its military conquest violates the oath according to all opinions.

Those who do not have e-mail can now receive this sheet free every week by regular mail. To order write to the address below.



True Torah Jews
183 Wilson St. PMB 162
Brooklyn, NY 11211

For additional copies of this publication,
or to sponsor an issue,
PLEASE CALL 718-841-7053.