

Dvor Torah for Kalanit & Micha-el 29<sup>th</sup> Shevat 5766

I was very pleased when Isabel asked me to say a few words at this Sheva Boracha.

Ruth and I have known the Wolf family, Millie and Haim (z"l), Kalanit and Shira, for many years. We have been frequent guests at their home as they have been in ours. We have shared both happy and sad events, and tonight we are here to celebrate with Kalanit and Micha-el.

It is a custom to make the Priestly Blessing **ברכת כוהנים** over the couple while they are under the Hupa.

Besides the obvious reason for this blessing, there is another reason that can be learned from the **משנה ברורה** Laws of Duchening (blessing by the Cohanim). The Mishna Berurah says:

- A Cohen should only bless when he is happy **בשמחה**
- Outside Israel he only blesses on Yom Tov Mussaf because only then is he happy, during weekdays or Shabbat he is still thinking about making a living.
- Also he blesses on Yom Kippur because of the happiness at being forgiven ones sins on this day and starting a new year with a clean sheet.
- However, in Israel we bless every day because of the happiness of being in the holy land.
- The Mishna Berurah also says: **יש אומרים** "some say, only a married Cohen should bless because only he is truly happy".

So we can derive from the laws of the **three**-fold Priestly blessing, **three** reasons Kalanit and Micha-el have for being happy.

- A wedding is considered like a personal Yom Kippur for the couple, giving them a new start in life and wiping out any past sins. For this reason they fast before the Hupa.
- Their newly married status – "only one who is married is truly happy"
- They live in Israel

In the parsha Vayetze, Ch. 29 Verse 3, it says **וגללו את האבן** and they (the shepherds) rolled the stone.

Rashi points out that the Targum Onkelos changes the Hebrew word from the past tense to the future tense because the action of the shepherds has not yet taken place. He then goes on to say :

**כל לשון הוה משתנה לדבר בלשון עתיד ובלשון עבר**

and why is this?

**לפי שכל דבר ההוה תמיד, כבר היה ועתיד להיות**

Because anything which has existence now, must have existed in the past and will also exist in the future.

We can apply this to our couple as well, they are here now together, but behind them, stretching back into the past, like a **multi-stranded thread**, are the parents and grandparents and so on back through all the generations. With them in the present now are their families and friends from both sides, and looking to the future we hope to see children and grandchildren and so onwards.

So Rashi is telling us – **life** carries on **without** a break, new strands get added all the time, and some finish, **but the thread continues**.

Now Kalanit & Micha-el have added a **new strand to this eternal thread** with their marriage, and as a Cohen I can say to them:  
May you always be blessed with the triple helping of happiness, that is promised from the three fold Priestly blessing.

Mazel Tov.