

PARASHAT BALAK- 2014, 5774-

[This Dvar Torah is designated LeZecher Nishmat:" Chava Rachel bat Sinai, Lewko," my mother in-law, whose 46th yahrtzeit is on Tuesday July 8, 10th of Tamuz]

Lessons To Be Learned From This Weeks Tragedy

The agony of the search and doubt is over, and the tragedy and mourning for Naftali Fraenkel, Eyal Yifrah and Gil-Ad Shaer, HY'D, is now upon us.

The Gemara Menachot (29b), talking about the tragic death of Rabbi Akiva prompted Moshe Rabbeinu to ask HaKadosh Baruch Hu, "Zu Torah VeZu Sechara?" (This is Torah and this is its reward?) To which HaShem responded, "Shetok!"(Quiet!)- Don't ask such questions. We are taught not to ask, but we are also taught to say, "What do we learn from it and what can we do for the future"?

From our tragedy we have learned the power of UNITY. Never, in the history of our nation have we ever experienced such a feeling of Achdut amongst Klal Yisrael, worldwide, since perhaps the days of Matan Torah where we responded *Na'aseh Ve'nishma*, K'ish Echad B'lev Echad. I am convinced that had the three boys been alive at the time of our 18 days of Tefillot, HaShem **could not** and **would not** have ignored the thousands of tears from all Klal Yisrael together. However, being they were not alive at that time it was too late for our tears and Tehilim. As the Mishna in Berachot (54a) states, Crying over that which is past has no validity, example, "If his wife is pregnant, and he says: May it be Your will that my wife give birth to a male" this prayer is not valid.

It is important for us and the world to know that had our prayers not been too late THEY DEFINITELY WOULD HAVE BEEN ANSWERED- by virtue of the tears and power of UNITY. But be assured, the 18 days of tears were not wasted tears. Rav Aryeh Levin of Jerusalem said, "After a hundred and twenty years, when we leave this world and ascend to the heavenly tribunal, we will see how meaningful and precious our tears were to G-d. We will discover that the Almighty Himself gathers them and counts every single teardrop and treasures it like a golden gem. And we will discover that, whenever some harsh and evil decree is looming over the Jewish people, one of our tears comes and washes away the evil, making it null and void. Even one sincere tear is a source of salvation". This lesson is consoling, and certainly worthwhile learning, teaching and remembering! In spite of what people say and think, the Achdut of our people is here. It may be latent and hidden but when need be it rises to the surface and shines with glory and majesty. The *VeAhavat LeRe'acha Kamocha* is alive and may it be a Zechut for the Neshama of the three holy souls of, Naftali Fraenkel, Eyal Yifrah and Gil-Ad Shaer, may their memory be a blessing.