

**From the Rising Ocean Waves  
To the Satiating Rising Waters of Matriarch Rivka  
Parshas Chaye Sarah**

by Rabbi Menachem Rokeach

The thousands of people victimized by the unrestrained hurricane Sandy will never forget its horrifying impact. So should it be eternalized by all. It was the subject of all public discussions, all editorials

The authorities who named the awful hurricane “Sandy” could not have chosen a more unfit name. For no matter how forceful the winds, how violent the ocean waves, there exists a divine law bestowing power to the SAND at the shore to push back those furious waves with equal force. So is written by the prophet: Is it possible not to tremble before Hashem “Who has placed the SAND as a boundary for the sea as an everlasting law which it can never pass over” (Jeremiah 5:22).

If this time the SAND gave way to vehement SANDY, the sane mind will seek therein a message of significance.

The ocean waves, moreover, is a source of blessing, causing a pleasant, most welcome breeze. So we deduce from Isaiah (48:18,19): “If you would have listened to My commandments your peace would (flow) like a river, and your righteousness like the waves of the sea”. Waves of the sea, here, is the symbol of tranquility. The sentence concludes: “And your children would be (as abundant) as the sand” an apparent alliance between the waves and the sand.

That message may be manifold. One of them, one conjectures, may be gleaned from the Talmud where the above passage from Isaiah is quoted. In discussing the importance of consideration of another at synagogue prayer, the Talmud teaches (Brochos 5b, 6a): When one completes his prayers, and still waits for another to complete before exiting, he is blessed with the tranquility of the waves of the sea. The key to inner peace, seems to be consideration of another, be it in or out of a synagogue. When this fundamental principle is lacking, the ocean waves cease being a source of

blessing. It can even have a negative impact, as learned from SANDY experience.

It is most heartwarming to witness the outpouring of Chesed among Jews in the East Coast. The trucks loaded with food for those who remained in the stricken area. The Hachnosos Orchim, opening the doors to thousands for Shabbos is a real TIKUN.

This brings us to Matriarch Rivka, showing kindness to Eliezer who came on a mission to match a wife for Isaac. The Torah indicates several times her swift running to draw water for thirsty Eliezer and for all the camels. "She descended to the spring, filled her jug and ascended" (24:16).

The Midrash, quoted by Rashi, interprets "ascended" as a reference not to Rivka, but to the water, i.e. the water, miraculously, ascended to meet her, to enable her even more speedily to provide the water for them.

The waves of the ocean, for fresh air, and peacefulness, and the drinking water by Rivka's well, both have risen. However, SANDY has risen and brought havoc and destruction. Our TIKUN, the outpouring of Chesed, consideration for fellow Jew, will bring Im Yirtza Hashem, a rise in spirit, bliss and blessing. "Let the sea roar, with all that fills it", but for the ascent of mankind, "let the fields rejoice" (Divrei Hayomim I 16:32).