

In לאה first marries יעקב, unknowingly because לבן deceived him. After יעקב discovers the truth, לבן tells him (29:27): מִלֵּא שָׁבַע זאת, and then you can marry רחל. Following this, יעקב marries רחל, and the story transitions into the story of the births of the שבטים.

First, לאה gives birth to ראובן, then שמעון, then לוי. When she gives birth to יהודה, רש"י explains that לאה gave him that name to express her immense gratitude to הקדוש ברוך הוא. She recognized that she had received more than her fair portion, as she had already given birth to three sons. The פסוק says (29:35):

וַתִּהְיֶה עוֹד וַתֵּלֶד בֶּן וַתֹּאמֶר הַפֶּעַם אוֹדָה אֶת ה' עַל כֵּן קָרָאתָ שְׁמוֹ יְהוּדָה וַתַּעֲמֵד מִלֵּדָת

The Belzer Rebbe, as quoted by Rabbi Oelbaum, asks a powerful קושיא: What is the connection between לאה naming יהודה and the end of the פסוק, וַתַּעֲמֵד מִלֵּדָת - that she stopped having children?

He answers that we must always thank הקדוש ברוך הוא for the immense חסד He does for us. However, our gratitude should also include a heartfelt request for the blessings to continue. When something wonderful happens, we should always say, "Halivai Veiter" - "Keep it coming!" However, לאה didn't express this sentiment. She thanked Hashem but didn't explicitly ask for more, and as a result, וַתַּעֲמֵד מִלֵּדָת - she stopped having children.

To internalize this lesson, we recite the תפילה of תהיךְ every Friday night between שְׁלוֹם עֲלֵיכֶם and קידוש. In it, we thank Hashem for all the חסד He has done for us and express our desire for His ברכות to continue: וְאַשְׁרֵי אַתָּה עֹתִיד לַעֲשׂוֹת עִמִּי וְעִם כָּל בְּנֵי בֵּיתִי.

From Mama לאה, we learn the importance of always saying, "Halivai Veiter." Whenever something wonderful happens in our lives, we should express gratitude and also ask Hashem to continue bestowing His ברכות upon us.

