

# THE WEXNER FOUNDATION

## THE TORAH OF LEADERSHIP

January 13, 2021 | Erica Brown | Burying Issues

Jessica Semel: Same - my daughter works at Hillel at Pitt - their building is closed to students too.

Angie Atkins: Refua shlema to everyone's friends and family and the whole wide world elkaabrahamson: Virtual ruggelach

Becca Thomas: Erica's source sheet for today:

[https://www.wexnerfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/1-13\\_Genesis-50-Burying-Issues.pdf](https://www.wexnerfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/1-13_Genesis-50-Burying-Issues.pdf)

Goldie Lansky: Who do we think the women are?

Susie Sorkin: I'm drawn to the rather disgruntled woman in the foreground

Sue BK (she/her): Are there two women in the upper left corner?

Judy Oberlander: all the objects in the foreground are carefully curated and placed to focus the eye on Joseph

Jacqueline Shelton: Some are closer and some are further away. The closer sons seems more engaged and closer to their father perhaps distressed.

Jessica Semel: Female figures - angels waiting?

Angie Atkins: Has to be someone to clean the linens

Sue BK (she/her): They are still aware that they have not resolved what they did to their brothers.

howardtepper: they are still feeling guilty and unresolved

Jacqueline Shelton: Although Joseph says he forgives his brothers.

Jeni Friedman: Didn't Joseph also hear what was said on the deathbed?

Lena Katsnelson: Correct me if I am wrong but Joseph had already tested their ability to love a sibling by planting the goblet on Ben and that seemed to me to be the moment of judgment in which Joseph decided to forgive them bc they had learned their lesson so to speak?

Jacqueline Shelton: Maybe he feels their pain and fear about their relationships. He is the "bigger" one here and is taking it all in.

Nina Butler: The brothers no longer had their father, even just his presence, to protect them

Sonia: he has failed in his relationship with his brothers and vice versa

Caroline Harris: Sad wasn't there with his father to hear his wishes directly

Goldie Lansky: No time remains to make amends and come together. If Jacob was a reason for the brothers to come together, now he is dead.

Lena Katsnelson: He could also be crying because of how he sees they see him

Susie Sorkin: +1 Lena

Goldie Lansky: Unless Joseph assumes the role to keep the family together. What a job!

Sue BK (she/her): I think he's crying because he's realizing that his brothers see their relationship as transactional. Even though he doesn't feel he wants to take revenge on them, he is seeing that they think he will want revenge.

Jeni Friedman: "I will sustain you and your children" is a very parental action

Jeffrey Spear: We see these issues arise when the patriarch of a family business dies. One child accepts the responsibility for sustaining the family. Lots of issues!

Neil Hazan: It happens in a marital context all of the time

Neil Hazan: (Don't ask any of my former wives, please)

elkaabrahamson: Isn't this the litmus test for real forgiveness - you don't bring it up again?

Susie Sorkin: In a family, we all have "roles" that get settled really early (like "Joe is always late") and no matter what you do, that sticks. Perhaps now that Jacob died, the feelings of their resentment are coming back to the surface and Joseph realizing they still see him as separate

Caryn Rosen Adelman: holidays trigger lots of revisionist memories for families

Carrie: And the litmus test for t'shuvah

Jessica Semel: The siblings in relationship to sharing care for parents

Lisa Lisser: There are also issues that we think are resolved and then something happens 20 years later and it comes back - the me too movement raised many issues I had put to bed back in the 90s - issues my daughters never heard

Jessica Semel: Same Lisa - my kids can't believe it.

Angie Atkins: This is why the teshuva is such an amazing mechanism (since we don't bring offerings anymore) — we eventually hopefully bring reflection, and genuine remorse...maybe not until forgiveness round #2 (or 3 or 4)...but eventually — and hopefully before death, but that's why the death bed is such a catalyst (or funerals). As for siblings, in some ways we work so hard to get over the Mishegas with our parents, we don't have enuf energy left for siblings — and so many things are left unresolved. (Using Neil's method of not really talking about myself here...just, ya know, in general!)

Judy Oberlander: "resolution" has so many different connotations..for different parties and at different moments in time...we often tend to gloss over and not check in with those around us, both in a community leadership setting and in our personal lives...

Bob Wertheimer: What do we do? How do we respond to these issues?

Barry Etra Atlanta Prez: That's why mishegas and mishugenah have the same root...

Jacqueline Shelton: We need to be brave and courageous to re-open those conversations and moments to look at them again and more deeply in the context of really making change.