

About That Aramean...

An Aramean sought to destroy my forefather. [That forefather] went down to Egypt and sojourned there, few in number... (26:5)

WHO WAS THIS ARAMEAN, AND WHOM DID he try to destroy?

Lavan sought to destroy everything, when he pursued Yaakov [in B'reishis 31]. (Rashi)

Here's an alternative explanation: As Lavan and Rivka's mother were sending Rivka off with Eliezer, to marry Yitzchak (B'reishis 24:55), Rashi notes:

Where was [Lavan's and Rivka's father] B'su'el? He wanted to prevent her [from leaving] by poisoning Eliezer, but an angel came and killed him [instead].

Jewish law states that if someone appoints an agent to choose a woman and betroth her on his behalf, and the agent then disappears, the suitor may not marry anyone. Why? Because perhaps, before he disappeared, the agent carried out his mission, and this man is actually married to a now unidentifiable woman. If this gentleman wishes to marry anybody else, how does he know that he won't be marrying his wife's mother or sister? With the agent gone AWOL, who can tell?*

Had B'su'el—the Aramean—succeeded in poisoning Eliezer, Yitzchok—our forefather—would have never been able to marry, and the future Jewish

People would have ended right there!

WHY DOES THE TORAH CONNECT TWO seemingly unrelated events, the Aramean's plot and the Exodus?

Our own Yehuda Spetner (in the name of the Satmar Rav) answers that the first event, in actuality, caused the second:

Yaakov sent and summoned Rachel and Leah... He said to them, "...Your father deceived me, and changed my wages a hundred times! ...Hashem took away your father's livestock and gave it to me..." (B'reishis 31:4–9)

There is an opinion that one of the hundred ways Lavan cheated Yaakov (and tried to "destroy" him financially) was by removing all of Yaakov's ewes. If there were no females, then clearly the males would not be able to reproduce!

Yaakov, however, used mystical means to get around this hurdle, and sheep were born, miraculously. Lavan's trickery left Yaakov with no choice but to accumulate all of his wealth in a supernatural manner.

Years later, Yosef noticed his brothers eating from these flocks without *sh'chita* (ritual slaughter). Yosef then engaged his brothers in a dispute. The brothers held

that, since these sheep had been created supernaturally, they didn't require *sh'chita*. Yosef disagreed and held that, at the very least, the brothers were giving an appearance of impropriety (*mar'is ayin*). When the brothers showed no sign of backing down, Yosef told their father.

The brothers then held a council and determined that Yosef a *rodef*—he was trying to have them removed from the future Jewish People—and that he must be killed before he could do any harm. Instead, as we know, Yosef was sold and wound up in Egypt, where he would eventually provide a home for his family.

Lavan's attempt at destroying our forefather, Yaakov, led straight to the result of Yaakov's descent to Egypt!

MAYER KAHN OFFERS ANOTHER EXPLANATION, in the name of the Alshich *Hakadosh*:

Yaakov initially came to Lavan to marry the woman he knew G-d had intended for him—Rachel—so that he could build a Jewish People through her. As we know, Lavan tricked Yaakov, and married Leah off to him, instead.

Although Yaakov now faced an unforeseen circumstance—Leah produced many offspring before Rachel bore even one child—he still carried on, as if the

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Chavrusos are available noon–1 PM on weekdays, and 8–9:45 PM Sun.–Thurs.

Sunday *Free brunch!*

🖐️🖐️ **America Runs on Torah**
(Jewish Law & Parasha)
Rabbis Dani Schon
and Yisroel Kaufman.....10 AM
Grand Deluxe breakfast served

Tuesday

🧑🖐️ **Partners in Torah
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Rabbi Binyamin Teitelbaum.....8 PM

Wednesday

🧑🖐️ **Torah Treasures for
Seniors at the Mayerson JCC**
Rabbi Yitzchok Preis.....10:30–11:15 AM

🧑🖐️ **Downtown Lunch-n-Learn
at Strauss & Troy**
Rabbi Yitzchok Preis.....12–1 PM

Thursday

🖐️🖐️ **Halacha** (based on the parasha)
Rabbi Chaim Heinemann.....9:10–10 PM
Homemade refreshments served.

Minyanim Daylight Time

Shacharis
Sunday8:15 AM
Monday–Friday7:20 AM
ShabbosN/A

Mincha
Sunday7:45 PM
Monday–Thursday5:45 PM
Shabbos6:30 PM

Ma'ariv
In the Beis Midrash:
Sunday–Wednesday9:45 PM
Thursday10 PM
ShabbosN/A

Every Day

🖐️ **“Dirshu” Gemara Shiur**
(Maseches B'choros)
Rabbi Yitzchok Preis.....
Sunday 7:15–8:15 AM
Monday–Friday 5:50–6:45 AM

🖐️🖐️ **Kollel Yisgaber K'ari**
(amud-a-day of Mishnah B'rurah)
Rabbi Chaim Heinemann.....
Monday–Friday 6:55–7:20 AM

🖐️🖐️ **Kitzur Shuchan Aruch**
Live video conference!
Rabbi Dani Schon.....
Monday–Friday 12:05–12:20 PM

🖐️ **Daf Yomi**
Rabbi Meir Minster.....
Sunday–Thursday 8–8:45 PM
Shabbos (at CZE) 1:00 pre-mincha

🖐️🖐️ **Nightly Halacha Chabura**
Rabbis Dani Schon
& Binyamin Teitelbaum
Monday–Thursday 9–9:45 PM

Chavrusa Learning
(private & small groups).....times vary

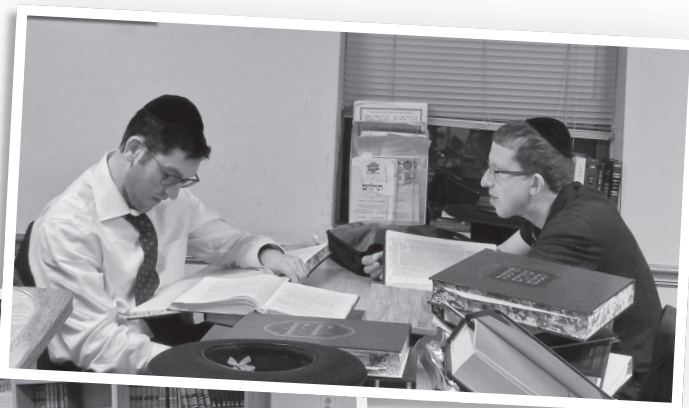
About That Aramean... CONT'D

original state of affairs hadn't changed. Most notably, he treated Yosef, Rachel's firstborn, as if he were truly Yaakov's firstborn.

It is not a stretch to say that Yaakov's overt favoring of Yosef made the brothers jealous, which in turn led them to sell him as a slave, and so on.

So Lavan's attempt to destroy our forefather, Yaakov, eventually led Yaakov to go down to Egypt. 🏺

T'fillin and mezuzah clinic



*This week
at the kollel*