

ALL FOR MY PEOPLE – AHAVAS YISROEL

Background

The Assyrians were to be the nation to exile the Jews. However, they themselves were so wicked that they merited destruction. HASHEM wanted to send Yonah to Nineveh, their capital, to bring them to repent.

Yonah's reaction was: "I want no part of this. HASHEM, if You wish to punish your people, You are the Master of the Universe. You know best, but count me out."

And so Yonah ran, knowing that since prophecy was no longer given outside of Israel, he would not receive the actual message that he would have to bring to Ninveh.

Rebbe Yochanan explains that Yonah went away to die (*Mechilta*). He knew full well how this was going to end, but he was so dedicated to his people that nothing mattered, not even his life.

Questions

Rashi explains that Yonah was first swallowed by a male fish, but it was too comfortable — and he didn't repent. HASHEM brought a female fish, where Yonah was uncomfortable, and that caused him to *daven* to HASHEM.

This Rashi is very difficult to understand. We are dealing with a very dedicated man. He is ready to give up anything for his principles. Why would a little discomfort change things? It almost like saying: "He may be willing to give up his life, but take away his room service, and he'll cave."

ספר יונה פרק ב

(א) וימן ידוד דג גדול לבלע את יונה ויהי יונה במעי הדג שלשה ימים ושלשה לילות:

(ב) ויתפלל יונה אל ידוד אלהיו ממעי הדגה:

"HASHEM brought a large male fish to swallow Yonah, and Yonah was in the fish for three days and three nights. And he prayed to HASHEM from the innards of the female fish." - Yonah 2:1-2

רש"י יונה פרק ב פסוק א

(א) דג גדול - זכר היה והיה עומד בריוח ולא נתן לב להתפלל רמז הקב"ה לדג והקיא לתוך פיה של נקבה שהיתה

מלאה עוברי' והיה שם בדוחק ויתפלל שם שנאמר ממעי הדגה:

It was a male, and he remained in it in comfort, and didn't pay attention to davening. HASHEM brought a female fish and had the male spit Yonah into it. The female fish was filled with eggs, and he was squeezed. Then, Yonah davened to HASHEM.