

Elijah: Bridging Worlds *Dor L-Dor*

אַלְיָהוּ הָיָה שְׂכִיחַ בְּמַתִּיבְתָא דְרַבִּי. יוֹמָא חַד, רִישׁ יַרְחָא הָוָה, נִגְהָ לִּיהּ וְלֹא אֶתָּא. אָמַר לִיהּ: מַאי טַעֲמָא נִגְהָ לִּיהּ לְמַר? אָמַר לִיהּ: אֲדֹא וְקִימְנָא לְאַבְרָהָם וּמְשִׁינָא יְדִיהּ וּמְצָלִי, וּמְגִנְיָא לִיהּ. וְכֹן לְיִצְחָק, וְכֹן לְיַעֲקֹב. - וְלוֹקְמְנָהוּ בְּהַדִּי הַדְּדִי! - סָבְרִי: תְּקַפִּי בְּרַחֲמֵי, וּמֵייתִי לִיהּ לְמַשְׁחַ בְּלֹא זְמַנִּיהּ. אָמַר לִיהּ: וְיֵשׁ דּוֹגְמַתָן בְּעוֹלָם הַזֶּה? - אָמַר לִיהּ: אֵיכָּא, רַבִּי חֵיָא וּבָנָיו. גָּזַר רַבִּי תַעֲנִיתָא, אַחְתִּינְהוּ לְרַבִּי חֵיָא וּבָנָיו. אָמַר "מְשִׁיב הַרוּחַ", וְנִשְׁבָּה זִיקָא. אָמַר "מוֹרִיד הַגֶּשֶׁם", וְאַתָּא מֵיטְרָא. כִּי מְטָא לְמֵימַר "מְחִיָּה הַמֵּתִים", רְגַשׁ עֲלֵמָא. אָמַרִי בְּרַקִּיעָא: מַאן גְּלִי רְזִיָא בְּעֵלְמָא? - אָמַרִי: אֵלְיָהוּ. אֶתִּיּוּהוּ לְאַלְיָהוּ, מְחִיּוּהוּ שְׁתִּין פּוֹלְסֵי דְנוּרָא. אֶתָּא אִידְמֵי לְהוּ כְּדוּבָא דְנוּרָא, עַל בֵּינֵיהוּ וְיִטְרְדִינְהוּ.

Elijah would come to the Bet Midrash of Rabbi [Yehudah HaNasi]. One day—it was Rosh Hodesh, the celebration of the new month—Rabbi waited for him, but he did not come. When he arrived, Rabbi said to him: Why was the master late? Elijah replied: First, I got Abraham up, washed his hands, waited for him to pray, and laid him down again. Then I did the same for Isaac, and then for Jacob.

You should have awakened them all at the same time! Rabbi said. Elijah answered: I reasoned that if they all prayed together, their prayer would be so powerful that it would bring the Messiah before his time. Said Rabbi: Are there any like those three living in this world? Yes, Elijah answered, Rabbi Hiyya and his sons.

Rabbi decreed a fast and summoned Rabbi Hiyya and his sons to lead the prayer. Rabbi Hiyya prayed: *Let the wind blow!/mashiv ha'ruach!* and it blew fiercely. He prayed, *Let the rain fall!/morid ha-geshem!* and the rain began to fall. He was about to pray, *Revive the dead/m'chayeh ha-metim!* and the world trembled.

In heaven they said: Who has revealed secrets to the world? Others replied: Elijah. They summoned Elijah and lashed him with 60 pulses of light. Elijah, in the likeness of a fiery bear, entered the prayer group and scattered it.

Babylonian Talmud Baba Metzia 85b

