

February 1991

Seeds of Division
(Letter from Yochannan Abraham)

Dear Phinehas,

The time that you and Mizpah spent here with us was so precious. Now it's like a wonderful dream we experienced; but I'm convinced you both were really here and we had wonderful fellowship together. It's so wonderful to see how much you've both increased in every way. It's clear that our Father's favor is upon you. May you continue to increase until you're the exact image of our Master.

An interesting incident happened recently here that could have had very serious consequences. I'd like to share with you what our Father spoke to us. May it be of benefit to all of you there.

Brother A had been working on the generator for the woodshop for a long time. He and his workers spent many sleepless nights putting it together in such a way that it would last. There was much pressure to be done quickly because all the woodworking machines would soon be in the new woodshop. A couple of times someone would come with a snack to sustain them through the nights and days.

At the same time Brother B and the carpentry crew spent sleepless nights and days moving heavy machinery to the new woodshop. They were also pressed for time because of the up-coming expositions in Paris and Spain. They would have to make a lot of furniture in very little time. The generator would have to be ready as soon as the electricity was finished and the last machine in place. Pressure ... much pressure everywhere ...

Red eyes ... frayed nerves ... two, three days no sleep ... Tamar, wife of Gidon making sure that her husband and the woodshop workers were well-fed and cared for ... Hassidah, wife of Kefa, backing her up.

Finally the woodshop is near finished. Most of the machines in place and ready to run. Brother B asks Nashon when will the generator be ready. Nashon says definitely First Day

morning. Brother B is happy. First day morning arrives. Brother B has his whole crew in the workshop preparing everything to start working immediately when the generator is hooked-up. Daniel comes to Brother B, saying that the generator is not finished. Brother B is surprised and a bit vexed. He and one crew member go to see why it's not finished.

Brother A is under tremendous pressure, expecting Brother B to come any moment, yet trying to solve an emergency in which a car won't start because of a weak battery. Brother B drives into the garage, Brother A tosses the jumper cables to Tahar Takif and runs off, saying the he has to get the generator ready. There is a discussion between Brother B and Brother A. One of Brother B's workers takes the tractor to use at the woodshop. Brother A rushes over to the tractor, opens the drainage for the fuel, purposefully causing diesel to spill out onto the ground. Brother B asks what he's doing. Brother A responds that he's treating Brother B the same way that Brother B would treat him. Not clearly understanding what he meant, Brother B asks him to at least put a bucket under the diesel.

After many jokes and comments about the generator and Brother A's perfectionism by almost everyone who passed-by, the generator was finally finished and put in place.

The carpenters began a grueling "PUSH"...days and nights without sleep. Different incidences arrive, showing evidence of worn bodies and emotions.

Preparation Day arrives...everyone tired and dirty. Brother B too tired and dirty to go to Oloron to shower. Word comes to Sarah to hold a bathtub free for Brother B as soon as one is empty at noon.

The message comes to Sarah five minutes before noon. She dashes out of our room with a child in tow, hurries to the large bathroom on the second floor, finds it empty, breaths a sigh of relief; and then Brother A walks in with towel and bathing apparel in his arms. He greets Sarah and makes a move toward the bathtub. She quickly tells him that he will have to take his turn after Brother B; because the tub is reserved for him. He'll be coming in just a moment.

... One fine straw quickly laid upon the heavy baggage straddling the already over-laden camel's back, and the camel finds himself suddenly on his belly, feet splayed out in four different directions, with a broken back ...

Brother A explodes, not able to contain any longer the ever-increasing pressure of his pent-up emotions, heated by the many unexpressed thoughts accumulated over a period of time. He blasts Sarah with such things as the carpenters receiving favoritism and the garage crew being neglected. He told her that they even get more cookies than those in the garage. After having vented his over-taxed emotions, Brother A goes back to his room.

Sarah, stunned, not knowing what hit her nor why, faithfully maintains her post until Brother B comes for his shower. She shared her disturbing experience with her husband and Ha Emeq.

A few days later we had a meeting concerning Brother A, because he wanted to know if there were things working him that would hinder the kingdom. Brother B and Brother C were there; the two people with whom he had the most difficulties. Other responsible brothers were there also.

Yoneq opened the meeting by stating that Brother A had expressed that he wanted to know what was working in himself. He went on to say that if Brother A cannot judge himself, then he must be judged.

It came out that there had been many jokes, criticisms and actual cynical remarks concerning the amount of time and effort that were being put into preparing the generator. Brother A's name was becoming the object of ridicule. These things had a very telling effect on him, provoking certain attitudes and reactions.

Brother C had said that he had expressed many things to Brother A to show him that many things were not necessary and the work could be shortened. Brother A responded in one incident to Brother C, "Either you are ignorant or you don't know what you're talking about." Brother C felt that there was no need for further conversation, but rather a meeting was necessary.

I don't remember all the points that were discussed, but Yoneq looked up the word PERFECTIONIST in the dictionary. A perfectionist is someone who wants the best or nothing at all. If it's not the best, then he would rather not have it.

Yoneq also brought out how Brother B and some of his crew had not gone to Brother A in a good way. He had seen and heard how they left the carpentry shop to go see why the generator was not ready. They did not leave in a good way.

Brother A spoke in his own defense, saying that he was deeply sorry for what he had done, but we had to see how terribly wrong Brother B was. He went all the way back to the salt factory in Bayonne where according to him, Brother B was filled with pride and arrogance; especially when he stood between two rooftops. Yoneq brought it out that Brother A had been jealous that he himself had not been the head of that project, seeing that he had been in the Edah a lot longer than Brother B. Brother A assented that this was true, but he was sure about Brother B's pride. Some of us told him that his jealousy colored everything in his relationship to Brother B, even to the day of the meeting. It was difficult for Brother A to see the seriousness of his own sin. Yoneq asked how he had been able to go to the Master's table with such things stored in his heart.

He bowed his head at one point, saying how he felt totally misunderstood. We told him that he had to humble himself and die, confessing his sin without trying to show how wrong others were. We let him know how his way of being does provoke certain reactions in his brothers. He had never come to a place to receive his brothers, especially if what they were bringing was different from his opinions.

We labored with Brother A for a few hours until he finally began to see and feel the weight of his own sin. He saw how he went totally against the New Covenant when he treated Brother B as he thought Brother B would treat him. He clearly confessed that it was his being filled with pride, strife, and jealousy that was at the root of the whole situation.

Yoneq called Brother A to get down on his knees with him, and we would all pray for him. Before we prayed, Brother B confessed how he saw that his critical or joking attitude

towards Brother A engendered disrespect in his carpentry crew towards Brother A. Brother C confessed the same, seeing how these things caused discontentment even in Brother A's crew. They came to a point of almost dreading anything he wanted them to do.

After these confessions we prayed for healing to come to Brother A, and that he could see his brothers rightly. He wept. We left the room hugging one another, and being truly reconciled.

The thing that struck me most was how quickly and subtly the seeds of FATAL DIVISION had already crept in among us. Had this issue not been settled, we would have fatally divided somewhere along the line. There were already signs of strife between carpentry and garage crews.

I'm truly thankful for our Father's faithfulness to bring everything to the light. Nothing can remain hidden with Him.

May these things be of help to all of you there in Gad.

In Yahshua's name I send my love to you and your wife.

Yochannan Abraham

P.S. It was also clear that Brother A's wife had neglected to care for him and his crew when they worked days and nights without sleeping.

Tamar and other wives whose husbands are on the carpentry crew made sure that the carpenters lacked nothing. Brother A felt that the Body was preferring one crew over another, when in reality it was the faithfulness of the wives at work. His wife along with other garage wives should have taken the initiative to provide for their husband's crew.

It is from these actual incidences that wars between crews begin, then between clans, and finally between tribes. when it reaches these proportions we can be sure that His Spirit is no longer with us. May this never come about!!!