# Class # 6 -Interdating, King Solomon and the tree of knowledge

# Senior Fellowship Leadership Program

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<https://youtu.be/N67k2DNuINE> **The Awakening of Motti Wolkenbruch [2018]**

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1. Describe Moti in one or two words? His family? His life?
2. What is lacking in Moti’s (Manhattan) Jewish experience?
3. Laura’s personality is described as “fire”, in what ways is she different from Moti’s lifestyle, and family?
4. What does Moti hope to get from Laura beyond mere sexual fantasy?

Gen.3:3 Rather God knows that in the day you eat of it, your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

Rashi - you will be like God– Creators of worlds.

Rashi identifies the root cause of all Cheyt (sin). Rather than discovering and intelligently implementing Hashems’ Wisdom, we create a fantasy world, in which we are the “star”.

1. Is a child wishing to be an NBA star or a world class ice skater creating a fantasy world for themselves?
2. Is Moti’s choice to do the cheyt of interdating based on the desire to be a “Creator of worlds”?
3. Why is the astronaut who recognizes the small place of Earth in Hashem’s vast Universe so humbled?
4. Does the “Creator of worlds” recognize his small place in Hashem’s universe?
5. What is the causal link between Idolatry and our desire to be a “Creators of worlds knowers of good and evil?
6. The Rabbi’s say: “Whoever has relations with a Non-Jew, it is as if he had relations with a foreign God.” In what way does Moti’s experience explain this saying?
7. What is the causal link between interdating and Idolatry?

Case study in Interdating: King Shlomo – Kings 1: 3 & 11

**3:1** Solomon allied himself by marriage with Pharaoh king of Egypt. He married Pharaoh’s daughter and brought her to the City of David [to live there] until he had finished building his palace, and the House of the LORD, and the walls around Jerusalem.

**11:1** King Solomon loved many foreign women in addition to Pharaoh’s daughter—Moabite, Ammonite, Edomite, Phoenician, and Hittite women, **11:2** from the nations of which the LORD had said to the Israelites, “None of you shall join them and none of them shall join you, lest they turn your heart away to follow their gods.” Such Solomon clung to and loved. **11:3** He had seven hundred royal wives and three hundred concubines; and his wives turned his heart away.

**11:4** In his old age, his wives turned away Solomon’s heart after other gods, and he was not as wholeheartedly devoted to the LORD his God as his father David had been.**11:5**  Solomon followed Ashtoreth the goddess of the Phoenicians, and Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites.**11:6** Solomon did what was displeasing to the LORD and did not remain loyal to the LORD like his father David.

**11:7** At that time, Solomon built a shrine for Chemosh the abomination of Moab on the hill near Jerusalem, and one for Molech the abomination of the Ammonites.**11:8** And he did the same for all his foreign wives who offered and sacrificed to their gods.

**11:9** The LORD was angry with Solomon, because his heart turned away from the LORD, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice and had commanded him about this matter, not to follow other gods; he did not obey what the LORD had commanded.

**11: 10** And the LORD said to Solomon, “Because you are guilty of this—you have not kept My covenant and the laws which I enjoined upon you—I will tear the kingdom away from you and give it to one of your servants. **11:11** But, for the sake of your father David, I will not do it in your lifetime; I will tear it away from your son. **11:12** However, I will not tear away the whole kingdom; I will give your son one tribe, for the sake of My servant David and for the sake of Jerusalem which I have chosen.”

 9) “Solomon allied himself by marriage with Pharaoh king of Egypt.” What does the verse say was King Shlomo’s motivation to marry the “daughter of Pharaoh”?

10) How is Motti like King Solomon? What is the difference between the greatness of King Solomon’s world and Motti’s world?

**Shabbat 56b**

**Rabbi Shmuel bar Naḥmani said** that **Rabbi Yonatan said: Anyone who says that** King **Solomon sinned is nothing other than mistaken, as it is stated: “And his heart was not perfect with the Lord his God, as was the heart of David, his father”** ([I Kings 11:4](/I_Kings.11.4)). By inference: Solomon’s heart **was not equal to the heart of David, his father;** however, **he also did not sin…..**

The Gemara raises another question. **Isn’t it written: “And Solomon did evil in the sight of the Lord”** ([I Kings 11:6](/I_Kings.11.6)), clearly indicating that Solomon sinned? **Rather, since he should have protested against** the conduct of **his wives,** i.e., their involvement in idolatry, **but he did not protest, the verse ascribes to him** liability **as if he had sinned.**

 11. Why is the Talmud bothered by the idea that King Sholomo worshipped idolatry?

12. In what sense was Shlomo’s desire to be a Mashiach / Emperor like worshipping idolatry?

13. In what sense are we all doing the same Cheyt of being Creators of worlds?

**Beraishit 47:27**

וַיֵּ֧שֶׁב יִשְׂרָאֵ֛ל בְּאֶ֥רֶץ מִצְרַ֖יִם בְּאֶ֣רֶץ גֹּ֑שֶׁן וַיֵּאָחֲז֣וּ בָ֔הּ וַיִּפְר֥וּ וַיִּרְבּ֖וּ מְאֹֽד׃

Thus Israel settled in the country of Egypt, in the region of Goshen; they acquired holdings in it, and were fertile and increased greatly.

**Otzar Ha’midrash** – “The land grabbed them and held on to them, if they want to leave before the set time- they would not be able to, like a man who is held without his control…”

14. What problems did the Jewish community in Egypt face which are similar to Motti’s issues?