The G.O.A.T...Or Is It?

Source Sheet by Effie Klein

ויקרא ט״ז:ה׳-י׳

(ה) וּמֵצֵׁת עֲדַתֹּבְּנֵי יִשְׁרָצֵׁל יִקּח שְׁנֵי־שְׁעִיֵרִי עַזָּים לְחַמָּאת וְאַיּל אֶחָד לְעֹלֵח (ו)וְהִקְרִיב אַהֲרָן אֶת־פַּר הַחַטָּאת אֲשֶׁר־לֵוֹ וְכִפֶּר בַּעֲדִוֹ וּכְעֵד בֵּיתִוֹ (ו) וְלָקַח אֶת־שְׁנִי הַשְּׁעִירִם וְהֶעֶמִיד אֹתִם לִּפְנֵי יְהוָה פֶּתַח אָהֶל מוֹעֵדּ (ח)וְנָתַן אַהֲרָן עַל־שְׁנֵי הַשְּׁעִירָם גּוֹרָלְוֹת גּוֹרֶל אֶחָד לִיהוָה וְגוֹרֶל אֶחָד לְעַזָאוֹל (ט) וְהִקְּרִיב אַהֲרֹן אֶת־הַשְּׁנִיר אֲשֶׁר עָלָה עָלָיו הַגּוֹרָל לַעְזָאוֹל יִעֲמַד־חַי לִפְנִי וְעָשָׂהוּ חַמָּאת (י)וְהַשָּׁעִיר אֲשֶׁר עָלָה עָלָיו הַגּוֹרָל לַעֲזָאוֹל יִעֲמַד־חַי לְפְנֵי יְהוָה לְכַפֵּר עָלֵיו לְשַׁלַּח אֹתֶוֹ לַעֲזָאוֵל הַמִּדְבָּרָח

Leviticus 16:5-10

(5) And from the Israelite community he shall take two he-goats for a sin offering and a ram for a burnt offering. (6) Aaron is to offer his own bull of sin offering, to make expiation for himself and for his household. (7) Aaron shall take the two he-goats and let them stand before the LORD at the entrance of the Tent of Meeting; (8) and he shall place lots upon the two goats, one marked for the LORD and the other marked for Azazel. (9) Aaron shall bring forward the goat designated by lot for the LORD, which he is to offer as a sin offering; (10) while the goat designated by lot for Azazel shall be left standing alive before the LORD, to make expiation with it and to send it off to the wilderness for Azazel.

משנה תורה, הלכות תשובה א':ב'

(ב) שָׂעִיר הַמִּשְׁתַּלֵּחַלְפִי שֶׁהוּא כַּפָּרָה עַל כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל כֹּהֵן גָּדוֹל מִתְוַדֶּה עָלִיו עַל לְשׁוֹן כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל שֶׁנֶּאֶמַר (ויקרא טז כא) "וְהִתְוַדָּה עָלִיו אֶת כָּל עֲלֵיו עַל לְשׁוֹן כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל שֶׁנֶּית הַמִּשְׁתַּלֵּחַמְכַפֵּר עַל כָּל עֲבֵרוֹת שֶׁבַּתּוֹרָה, עֲוֹנֹת בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל". שָׁעִיר הַמִּשְׁתַּלֵחַמְכַפֵּר עַל כָּל עֲבֵרוֹת שֶׁבַּתּוֹרָה,

הַקּלּוֹת וְהַחֲמוּרוֹת, בֵּין שֶׁעָבַר בְּזָדוֹן בֵּין שֶׁעָבַר בִּשְׁגָנָה, בֵּין שֶׁהוֹדַע לוֹ בֵּין שֻׁלָּא הוֹדַע לוֹ, הַכּל מִתְכַּפֵּר בְּשָׂעִיר הַמִּשְׁתַּלֵּח וְהוּא שֻׁעָשָׂה מְשׁוּבָה. אֲבָל אִם לֹא עָשָׂה מְשׁוּבָה אֵין הַשְּׁעִיר מְכַפֵּר לוֹ אֶלָּא עַל הַקּלּוֹת. וּמַה הֵן אֲבָל אִם לֹא עָשָׂה מְשׁוּבִה אֵין הַשְּׁעִיר מְכַפֵּר לוֹ אֶלָּא עַל הַקּלּוֹת. וּמַה הֵן הַקְמוּרוֹת הֵן שֶׁחַיָּבִין עֲלֵיהֶם מִיתַת בֵּית דִּין אוֹ הַקְמוּרוֹת. הַחֲמוּרוֹת. וּשְׁבוּעַת שָׁוֹא וִשְׁקָר אַף עַל פִּי שָׁאֵין בָּהֶן כָּרֵת הֵבי הַקּלּוֹת: וּשְׁאָר מִצְוֹת לֹא תַּעֲשֶׂה וּמִצְוֹת עֲשֵׂה שָׁאֵין בָּהֶן כָּרֵת הֵם הַקּלּוֹת:

Mishneh Torah, Repentance 1:2

(2) The Azazel-goat, because it is atoning for all Israel, the High-Priest confesses over it in the speech of all Israel, even as it is said: "And confess over him all the iniquities of the children of Israel" (Lev. 16.21). The Azazel-goat, moreover, atones for all transgressions mentioned in the Torah, both, minor and major, whether one committed it in spite or whether he committed it in error, whether it was done by him knowingly or unknowingly— **for all the Azazel-goat atones, provided the sinner did repent. But if he repenteth not, the Azazel-goat atones not save for his minor sins.** And, what are the minor and what are the major sins? The major sins are such as carry the guilt of death or excision, included among which are also vain and false swearing, although they do not carry the guilt of excision; and all other prohibitive or mandatory commandments which do not carry the guilt of excision are the minor. 2Shebu'ot, 2a; Ibid. 12b; Yoma, 85b. C.

ויקרא ט״ז:כ״א-כ״ב

(כא) וְסָמַּך אַהַרון אֶת־שְׁתֵּי ידו [יָדִיו] עַל רַאשׁ הַשָּׁעִיר הַחַי וְהִתְוַדָּה עַלִּיו אֶת־כָּל־עֲוֹנֹת בְּנֵי ישְׂרָאֵל וְאֶת־כָּל־פִּשְׁעֵיהֶם לְכָל־חַטֹאתֶם וְנָתָן אֹתָם עַל־רָאשׁ הַשָּׁעִיר וְשִׁלַּח בְּיַד־אִישׁ עִתִּי הַמִּדְבָּרָח (כב) וְנָשָּׁא הַשָּׁעִיר עָלֵיו אֶת־כָּל־עֲוֹנֹתָם אֶל־אָבֶץ גְזֵרָה וְשִׁלַּח אֶת־הַשָּׁעִיר בַּמִּדְבָּתִּ

Leviticus 16:21-22

(21) Aaron shall lay both his hands upon the head of the live goat and confess over it all the iniquities and transgressions of the Israelites, whatever their

sins, putting them on the head of the goat; and it shall be sent off to the wilderness through a designated man. (22) Thus the goat shall carry on it all their iniquities to an inaccessible region; and the goat shall be set free in the wilderness.

רש"י על במדבר י״ט:כ״ב:ה׳

(ה) פרה אדמה. מָשָׁל לְבֶן שִׁפְחָה שֶׁטִּנֵף פָּלָטִין שֶׁל מֶלֶךְ, אָמְרוּ תָּבֹא אָמוֹ וּתְקַנֵּחַהַצוֹאָה, כָּךְ תָבֹא פָּרָה וּתְכַפֵּר עַל הָעֵגֶל (תנחומא):

Rashi on Numbers 19:22:5

(5) פרה אדמה A RED COW — Why this rite was performed with a cow may be exemplified by a parable it may be compared to the case of a handmaid's child that defiled the king's palace. They said: Let the mother come and wipe up the excrement. Similarly here: since they became defiled by a calf, let its mother (a cow) come and atone for the calf (cf. Midrash Tanchuma, Chukat 8).

מגילה ט״ז ב:כ׳-י״ז א:א׳

אמר רבה אמר רב יצחק בר שמואל בר מרתא גדול תלמוד תורה יותר מכבוד אב ואם שכל אותן שנים שהיה יעקב אבינו בבית עבר לא נענש דאמר מר למה נמנו שנותיו של ישמעאל כדי ליחס בהן שנותיו של יעקב דכתיב (בראשית כה, יז) ואלה שני חיי ישמעאל מאת שנה ושלשים שנה ושבע שנים כמה קשיש ישמעאל מיצחק ארביסר שנין דכתיב (בראשית טז, טז) ואברם בן שמונים שנה ושש שנים בלדת הגר את ישמעאל לאברם וכתיב (בראשית כא, ה) ואברהם בן מאת שנה בהולד לו את יצחק בנו וכתיב (בראשית כה, כו) ויצחק בן ששים שנה בלדת אותם בר כמה הוה ישמעאל כדאתיליד יעקב בר שבעים וארבעה כמה פיישן משניה שתין ותלת

Megillah 16b:20-17a:1

Rabba said that Rav Yitzhak bar Shmuel bar Marta said: Studying Torah is greater and more important than honoring one's father and mother, and a proof of this is that for all those years that our father Jacob **spent in the house of Eber** and studied Torah there **he was not punished** for having neglected to fulfill the mitzva of honoring one's parents. As the Master said: Why were the years of Ishmael mentioned in the Torah? For what purpose were we told the life span of that wicked man? **In order to** reckon through them the years of Jacob. As it is written: "And these are the years of the life of Ishmael, a hundred and thirty-seven years" (Genesis 25:17). How much older was Ishmael than Isaac? Fourteen years. As it is written: "And Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore Ishmael to Abram" (Genesis 16:16). And it is written: "And Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him" (Genesis 21:5). And it is written with regard to Jacob and Esau: "And Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them" (Genesis 25:26). Based on these verses, how old was Ishmael when Jacob was born? Seventy-four. How many of his years remained then until his death? Sixty-three, as Ishmael died at the age of a hundred and thirty-seven.

בראשית ד':י׳

(י) וַיָּאמֶר מֶה נָשֻׂיתָקוֹל דְּמֵי אָחִיךּ צֹעֲקִים אֵלַי מִן־הָאֲדָמָח

Genesis 4:10

(10) Then He said, "What have you done? Hark, your brother's blood cries out to Me from the ground!

רש"י על בראשית מ״ה:כ״ז:א׳-ב׳

(א) את כל דברי יוסף. סִימָן מָסַר לָהֶם בַּמֶּה הָיָה עוֹסֵק כְּשֶׁפֵּרֵשׁ מִמֶּנּוּ – בְּפָרָשַׁת עָגְלָה עַרוּפָה, זֶהוּ שֶׁנֶּאֱמֵר וירא את העגלות אשר שלח יוסף,

וְלֹא נֶאֱמַר אֲשֶׁר שָׁלַח פַּרְעֹה: (ב) ותחי רוח יעקב. שָׁרְתָה עָלִיו שְׁכִינָה, שַׁפֵּרְשַׁה מִמֵנּוּ:

Rashi on Genesis 45:27:1-2

בג). (1) .(a) ALL THE WORDS OF JOSEPH — As evidence that it was Joseph who was sending this message he had informed them of the religious subject he had been studying with his father at the time when he left him, viz., the section of the Heifer (עגלה) that had its neck broken (Deuteronomy 21:6). It is to this that Scripture refers in the words "And he saw (i.e comprehended the meaning of) the עגלות (here to be taken in sense of Heifer) which Joseph had sent — and it does not state "which Pharaoh had sent" (as one would expect if ותחי רוח יעקב (Genesis Rabbah 94:3). (2) ותחי רוח יעקב THE SPIRIT OF JACOB [THEIR FATHER] REVIVED — The Shechinah that had departed from him, rested again upon him (cf. Onkelos).

רש"י על בראשית מ״ה:כ״ז:א׳

(א) את כל דברי יוסף. סִימָן מָסַר לָהֶם בַּמֶּה הָיָה עוֹסֵק כְּשֶׁפֵּרֵשׁ מִמֶּנּוּ – בְּפָּרִשַׁת עָגְלָה עֲרוּפָה, זֶהוּ שֶׁנֶּאֱמַר וירא את העגלות אשר שלח יוסף, ולא נֵאֱמַר אַשֶׁר שָׁלַח פַּרִעֹה:

Rashi on Genesis 45:27:1

(1) .(גב) ALL THE WORDS OF JOSEPH — As evidence that it was Joseph who was sending this message he had informed them of the religious subject he had been studying with his father at the time when he left him, viz., the section of the Heifer (עגלה) that had its neck broken (Deuteronomy 21:6). It is to this that Scripture refers in the words "And he saw (i.e comprehended the meaning of) the עגלות (here to be taken in sense of Heifer) which Joseph had sent — and it does not state "which Pharaoh had sent" (as one would expect if עגלות meant wagons) (Genesis Rabbah 94:3).

THE MEANING OF עזאזל

רש"י על ויקרא ט״ז:ח׳:ב׳

(ב) עזאזל. הוא הַר עַז וְקִשֶׁה, צוּק נָבוֹהַ שֶׁנֶאֱמֵר אֶרֶץ גְזֵרָה — חֲתוּכָה:

Rashi on Leviticus 16:8:2

עזאזל (2) עזאזל AZAZEL — (The word is taken to be a compound of עואזל "to be strong" and אל "mighty"). It was a precipitous and flinty rock — a towering peak, for it is said (v. 22) "[and the goat shall bear upon it their iniquities into] an גזרה means to cut) — into a craggy land (Yoma 67b).

יומא ס״ז ב:ו׳-ז׳

תנו רבנן עזאזל שיהא עז וקשה יכול בישוב ת"ל במדבר ומנין שבצוק ת"ל גזירה תניא אידך עזאזל קשה שבהרים וכן הוא אומר (יחזקאל יז, יג) ואת אילי הארץ לקח תנא דבי ר' ישמעאל עזאזל שמכפר על מעשה עוזא ועזאל

Yoma 67b:6-7

§ The Sages taught: The word Azazel indicates that the cliff the goat is pushed from should be rough and hard. I might have thought that it may be located in a settled area. Therefore, the verse states: "In the wilderness." And from where does one derive that the goat is pushed from a cliff? The verse states "gezeira," indicating an area that is sharp, like a cliff. It was taught in another baraita: Azazel is a reference to the hardest mountain, and so it says: "And the mighty [eilei] of the land he took away" (Ezekiel 17:13). Azazel is interpreted as azaz-el, with the term el connoting something rough and hard. The school of Rabbi Yishmael taught: Azazel is so called because it atones for the actions of Uzza and Azael. These are the names of "sons of God" who sinned with "daughters of men" (Genesis 6:2) and thereby caused the world to sin during the generation of the Flood.

רד"ק על בראשית ו׳:ב׳:א׳

(א) ויראו בני אלהים, בני השופטים והגדולים ומנהיגי המדינות, כי הם נקראו אלהים, כמו "אלהים לא תקלל" (שמות כ"ב) והדומי' לו. וכן תרגום אונקלס בני רברביא, ודרש עזא ועזאל רחוק. ובב"ר (כ"ו) רבי שמעון בן יוחאי מקלל לכל מאן דקרא להו בני אלהים, תני ר"ש ב"י כל פרצה שאינה מן הגדולים אינה פרצה; ועוד אמרו למה קורא אותם בני האלהים, ר"ח ור"ל תרויהון אמרין שהרבו ימים בלא צער ובלא יסורין; רב הונא בשם ר' יוסי אמר הרבו ימים כדי לעסוק על התקופות ועל החשבונות ועל המזלות, והוא הטעם שכתבנו למעלה באריכות שנות האנשים הנזכרים.

Radak on Genesis 6:2:1

(1) ויראו בני האלוהים, the sons of the judges, the elite of the species who are here referred to as אלוהים לא תקלל, just as in Exodus 22,27 אלוהים לא תקלל, "you must not curse a judge." There are numerous similar examples in the Torah of the attribute אלוהים being applied to morally high ranking human beings. Onkelos also translates it in this vein when he speaks of בני רברביא. The explanations offered that the Torah refers to Uzza and Uzael are very far fetched. (compare Torah shleymah on this verse). [The two aforementioned are supposed to have been angels who had voted against the creation of man and who belittled man's effort to conquer the evil urge. They were supposedly punished by being consigned to earth to experience life on earth by themselves. Instead of proving their superiority, they were the first to succumb to the allurement of physically attractive females. Their request to return to the celestial regions was denied by G'd. Ed.]

According to Bereshit Rabbah 26,5 Rabbi Shimon ben Yochai cursed anyone who translated the words בני האלוהים as "the sons of G'd." He added that when the elite of the people are themselves guilty of the sins they want the common man to refrain from, their efforts are doomed to start with. Another reason offered why these people were referred to as בני האלוהים,

(according to both Rabbi Chaninah and Rabbi Shimon ben Lakish, is that these were the people enjoying carefree long lives, free from sickness and other impediments. [This may have given them the illusion of being able to get away with whatever they felt like doing. Ed.] Rav Hunna, quoting Rabbi Yossi, says that these people were granted such long lives in order to enable them to study the sky, observe the orbits of the stars and make calculations resulting in our calendar.

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