



reconstructionist rabbinical college

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3 Teveth, 5751

Dr. David Roskies
Jewish Theological Seminary
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Dear David:

It was good seeing you at AJS. Sorry we didn't have more chance to talk there, but as usual it was a total balagan.

As I said, I really loved your essay. I thought you offered a rich and original reading of the stories, and especially of the last two. Your interpretation of the bal tfile as "scatology as eschatology" is something that will remain in my memory for a long time!

I especially want to tell you how grateful I was for the serious reading you gave my chapter on the tales. I don't think I have seen anyone else who has gone through my work there as carefully as you have and taken it so seriously. Thank you for doing that and congratulations to you for the ways in which you have gone farther. I really have much nakhes in seeing that.

Two minor points: On page 2 you refer to Shloyme Ephraim as "his only son." There was, in fact, a second son named Yaakov, who also died in infancy or early childhood. On page 13 (one line from the bottom) your reference to the "upper sefirot" is somewhat confusing. These are, in fact, the seven lower sefirot of the ten. In this particular schema, hokhmah and binah seem to be omitted. Of course, in the bal tfile story, you get a more complete sefirotic schema.

All the best. I look forward to being in touch soon. If the rest of the book is anywhere nearly as good as this chapter, you have an incredibly fine piece of work on your hands.

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