

SPARKS OF EMUNAH



HEICHAL HAKODESH BRESLEV WEEKLY NEWSLETTER
BASED ON THE TEACHINGS OF MOHOROSH ZT"l
GIVEN OVER BY THE ROSH YESHIVA SHLIT"l

PARSHAS PIKUDEI
6 ADAR II, 5784
ISSUE #3

Chizuk from the Parsha

KEEP GOING

כי ענן ה' על המשכן יומם ואש תהיה לילה בו לעיני כל בית ישראל בכל מסעיהם

The cloud of Hashem will be on the mishkan by day and a fire will be on it at night, before the eyes of all the Yidden in all their journeys.

We all make mistakes and lose sight of what's important. Sometimes we become so steeped in the physicality of this world that we drift very far from Hashem. When we get an awakening and realize how we have strayed, we try to return to Hashem but we find it very difficult.

The Rebbe explains (*Likutei Moharan 1:115*) that it is the *middas hadin* which doesn't allow the way back to be simple. This is why a person hits roadblocks and obstacles in his very holy intent to become close to Hashem, causing him to get so discouraged that he just gives up.

The secret to success is understanding that Hashem, in His infinite mercy, conceals Himself **within** the difficulties, within the obstacles. Knowing this, a person can persevere in his quest. If he doesn't get fazed by the darkness and he persists, he will find Hashem right there, waiting for him.



ויעמד העם מרחק ומשה נגש אל הערפל אשר שם אלקים (*Shemos 20:17*)

The Rebbe explains the *passuk* as follows: When the Yidden saw the cloud and the fog obscuring *Har Sinai*, ויעמד העם מרחק - the simple Yidden stood from afar; they were afraid to come close. When faced with difficulties, the majority of people just throw up their hands in defeat. But וימשה - a Yid who follows the *da'as* of a *tzaddik*, נגש אשר שם האלקים - goes straight to the fog and murkiness, because he knows the האלקים - that is where Hashem is!

This is the incredible secret that the Rebbe revealed to us. No matter how far a Yid has strayed, no matter what he has done, he can always do *teshuva* and return to Hashem. Yes, the beginning will be hard - oh, how hard! - but he must remember that Hashem is there **within** the fog, **within** the darkness. If he stays strong, he will overcome the difficulties and become an *erliche* Yid.

This week's *parsha* teaches us the same thing. The *mishkan* was the place where the *shechina* rested and spread Hashem's light all over the world, but על המשכן - there was a cloud over it. That's the way of the world: before achieving holiness, you will first have to contend with clouds and darkness.

Getting discouraged? Remember that ואש תהיה לילה בו - even when it's dark, the fire of Hashem burns within; לעיני כל בית ישראל - for **you**, and for every single Yid! בכל מסעיהם - No matter where you find yourself, no matter what you've done until now, there's always a way for you to return to Hashem.

Mohorosh Speaks

משנכנס אדר

At last, we are in the month of Adar Beis and Purim is fast approaching!

The light and joy of Purim is palpable from the beginning of Adar. The Gemara says (*Yerushalmi Megilla*) that *megillas Esther* can be read all through the month of Adar. Therefore, if a person is going on a long journey and will be away on Purim without a *megillah*, he can already be *yotzei* the *mitzvah* from *Rosh Chodesh Adar*. The entire month is somewhat like Purim itself.

משנכנס אדר מרבין בשמחה!

These words are said, sung and hung on signs all over. Joy is such an essential part of Purim and all of Adar. Yes, it is a *mitzvah* to be happy all year (*Likutei Moharan 2:24*), but in the month of Adar, מרבין בשמחה - we need to **increase** our *simcha*, doing everything in our power to be happy. We hang up signs as a reminder to do everything possible to remain happy, no matter what.

When we are happy during this month, we tap into all the good *hashpaos* of these special days.

The Gemara says (*Beitzah 15b*) הרוצה שיתקומו נכסיו - he who יטע בהק אדר

(Continued on page 2)

I received your letter.

How fortunate you are that you learn the *daf* Gemara each day! Your Torah learning will protect you from all harm.

In *Sipurei Maasios (Story 7)*, the Rebbe speaks about the king who was afraid that people would come kill him. The mountain reassured the king, saying, "If the *daf* is your shield, you need not fear anyone or anything." This refers to the *daf* Gemara - as long as a person learns Torah, he will be protected from harm.

Every word of Torah you learn will come to help you in your time of need. Chazal relate (*Chagiga 15b*) that the daughter of Acheir (a *tanna* who became an *apikorus*) came to Rabbeinu Hakadosh and asked for food. After hearing whose daughter she was, he asked in wonder, "He still has children and grandchildren who are alive?! The Torah says (*Iyov 18:19*) that *apikorsim* will not have any living descendants. How can it be that there are surviving children of this *rasha*?"

To which the girl replied, "Please remember the Torah which my father learned, not his evil deeds!"

Immediately following her words, a heavenly fire descended and consumed Rabbeinu Hakadosh's chair in defense of Acheir. He began to cry and declared, "Behold, even when a *rasha* learns Torah it comes to his defense; how much more so when Yidden who **do** believe in Hashem learn Torah - it will surely stand up for them and protect them."

Hold onto the *daf*; stay strong with learning Torah each day, just as you are with putting on *tefillin*. Mohorosh used to quote the *gaon* R' Sheftil (the son of the *Shelah Hakadosh*), who wrote in his will, "Learning a *daf* Gemara each day should be as important to you as putting on *tefillin* - do it every day without compromise."

May Hashem bless you with success in all your endeavors.

Adapted from *The Light of Emunah* #2, page 276



wants to yield a good crop should grow the plant called "*Adar*." What is this *Adar* plant? Why will it make a person be successful?

The Rebbe teaches (*Sefer Hamiddos, Simcha 2:1*) that success comes from being happy. This is what the Gemara is teaching us: הרוצה שיתקומו נכסיו - if you would like to be successful both in *ruchniyus* and in *gashmiyus*, יטע בהך אדר - instill in yourself the *simcha* of *Chodesh Adar*. Your happiness will help you succeed.

Am I Really Happy?

How can a person know if he is really happy?

The nature of joy is that it spreads. Real, internal happiness is contagious - it spills forth and expands to include others, making them happy as well.

Adar, the month of joy, personifies this. It's a month full of *chessed*: first is *Shabbos Shekalim*, which teaches us to give *tzedakah*, followed by the *minhag* to give *tzedakah* on *erev Purim*. Then *Purim* itself is full of *tzedakah* and *chessed*: we give *mishloach manos* and *matanos l'evyonim*, we invite family and friends for the *seuda*, and we already begin collecting money for *kimcha d'pische*! We do so much *chessed* this month, because when we are truly happy, we want to give to others so that they should be happy as well.

But How Can I Be Happy?

"Be happy" is easy to say and very hard to do! Every person has hardships that can break his spirit to the point where he can't even put a smile on his face. But being happy when everything goes well is nothing special. True greatness is when you are happy **despite** your difficulties. If you can strengthen yourself to be *b'simcha* even when times are tough, then you are truly great.

Such emotional fortitude is only possible with *emunah*. Remind yourself of the basics: Hashem is always with you. Everything He does is with tremendous *rachmanus*. Absolutely nothing happens by chance. Taking this to heart will keep you strong in the face of life's difficulties, and you will be able to stay happy in all circumstances.

Here's another way to make yourself happy: Think into the *mitzvos* you do each day, most of which come so naturally. They are all part of the Torah that we have the special privilege to keep - this is a reason for unending celebration! How long are we in this world for? Just a few short years... How happy we must be that we can fill our days with *mitzvos* that'll carry us forevermore!

Do you keep *Shabbos*? Do you eat kosher food? Do you have a *mezuzah* on your door? Dance and sing! You are following a commandment given by Hashem Himself - to little you! This is surely a reason to be happy! When you rejoice with each *mitzvah* you do, you demonstrate your belief in Hashem. You show that you believe there's a Master of the world, and that His Torah and *mitzvos* are eternal.

This was the wickedness of Haman when he told Achashveirosh "ודתיהם שונות מכל עם" - Rebbe Nossan

(Continued on page 3)





explains as follows (*Likutei Halachos, Nefilas Apayim, 4*): Haman was saying that keeping the Torah makes the Yidden different from all other nations. Not because they have *mitzvos* - every nation has a set of laws that they must follow - but rather because of the **way** they follow *halacha*. Other nations' laws are always played around with; the people come with many ways to sidestep them. There's definitely no joy there. The Yidden, on the other hand, rejoice in doing the *mitzvos* - to the fullest extent! That's what bothered Haman so much. He couldn't handle that we do *mitzvos* happily and we are connected to Something higher.

Mitzvos are a source of joy for every single Yid.

Today is Not Here to Stay

Hardships come up. We all have days when life drags us down and it's hard to be happy. Remember, though, that this day will soon be history and this challenge will be just a memory. Don't let it get you down! Don't waste your time on this world in a bad mood.



Chazal say (*Tanchumah Shemini*) אין השמחה ממתנת לאדם, לא כל מי ששמח היום שמח למחר - don't wait to become happy, because happiness is fleeting; it isn't sustainable unless you work on **making yourself** happy, no matter what you are going through. Don't push off happiness for tomorrow - you don't know what tomorrow will bring! Work on being happy **today!**

Your happiness is not dependent on your circumstances. The choice of how to live your life lies in **your** hands. ראה אנכי נותן לפניכם היום וקללה - Hashem gives you the day itself; you choose what to do with it. By choosing to focus either on the positive or on the negative, you make it a happy day or a sad one. ובחרת בחיים - choose the good life, the happy life. The successful life.

Getting There

Working on yourself? Don't do it alone!

An important part of *chassidus* Breslev is *hisbodedus*, talking to Hashem in your own words. Tell him all that is on your mind: all that you are grateful for, all the things that bother you and everything you're working on. Ask Him to help you in all areas of your life - including self-improvement.

The Rebbe says (*Likutei Moharan 1:52*) that when a person asks Hashem for help in his *avodas hamiddos*, he should focus on one *middah* at a time. He should ask and plead and beg for help and work on that specific *middah*, only moving on to the next after he succeeds in conquering the first one. The obvious question arises: which *middah* should be first? When we are full of bad *middos*, where should we begin?

Mohorosh says that the first *middah* to work on is *simcha*. All other bad *middos* stem from sadness and depression; through happiness, we will improve in all areas.

Fortunate is he who is happy in the month of *Adar* - and all year long! Even more fortunate is he who is able to make others happy; nothing is greater than that.

A freilichen tamid!



time you daven. Look at what you do have - a home, food, clothing

etc. - and realize that it's all from Hashem.

Nobody knows what his future holds; nobody can foresee what lies ahead. To reassure himself that he will never be forsaken, a person can look back at his past and see how compassionately Hashem has taken care of him all his life. Mohorosh often quoted the Chasam Sofer, who says on the *pasuk* וראית את אחרי (Shemos 33:23) - look at your past and see what *chessed* I have done with you until now, ופני לא יראו - even though you don't know what will be in the future. We must trust that Hashem will continue to take care of us as He took care of us in the past.

Do your utmost to respect your wife and speak to her kindly. The Rebbe says (*Likutei Moharan, 1:69*) that a person's wealth is in the merit of respecting his wife. Don't insist on always being right; nothing bad will happen to you if you acknowledge another's idea or opinion.

If you will gladden your wife and show her respect, you will be *zoche* to prosperity.

WHY AREN'T MY TEFILLOS ANSWERED?



Question:

To the Rosh Yeshiva *shlit"a*,

I really enjoy listening to the *shiurim* given by the Rosh Yeshiva and I try to implement what I hear - thank you for all the *chizuk!*

I have been working to improve in various aspects of *Yiddishkeit*. However, there is something that bothers me and I was hoping for some insight. I try to do *hisbodedus* and ask Hashem for whatever I need, but it often seems to me that my *tefillos* are not being answered. Even after davening a lot, I do not receive what I was hoping for.

I've been struggling with *parnassa* for many years, and despite constantly davening for a *yeshuah*, my situation has not improved. I feel like Hashem doesn't hear my *tefillos*.

Really, I know that this is a *nisayon* and I shouldn't despair, but how long will I have to wait for my salvation?

The Rosh Yeshiva's Response:

Dear...,

This situation must be so hard for you. *Parnassa* struggles can be so difficult, robbing a person completely of his peace of mind.

Put your struggles aside for a moment and take a minute to think about Who has granted you life and sustained you until now. When you look back at all the years that have passed, you will realize that Hashem **does** listen to your *tefillos* - it is He who gave you life and kept you alive until now!

When a person davens, he sometimes thinks that his



tefillos will be answered immediately and his *yeshuah* will fall from the sky. Often, the outcome is not exactly as he expected, and becomes dejected and wonders if his *tefillos* are even being heard. If the person would think into his situation, however, he would realize that he manages to keep going despite his difficulties. He puts food on the table each day, his wife and children are taken care of... This is in the merit of his *tefillos*.

Instead of saying, "Hashem isn't listening to my *tefillos*," recognize that Hashem **does** listen each and every

(Continued on page 3)

KOL BRESLEV: (212) 444-9191

Shiurim, Daily Inspiration, Songs, Stories for Children and more!

Israel: 0797040066 / England: 03303502361 / Canada: 4383008080



KVAL FIN CHIZIK: (212) 444-9169

Hotline for Women - Shiurim, Daily Inspiration, Recipes and more!

Israel: 0797040069 / England: 03303502363 / Canada: 4383209090

Subscribe Today!

Receive this newsletter weekly, as well as short clips of life-changing inspiration!

Email: rabbirothenglish@gmail.com
Whatsapp: (845) 244-1624

For the daily inspiration in Yiddish,
email: chizikyomi@gmail.com

Inspiration to your Door

Looking for more? You can receive all Breslev books and pamphlets, as well as CD's, USB's and SD cards with shiurim and/or songs, delivered to you!

shop.breslevcenter.com
Or call: (718) 387-2691

היכל הקודש ברסלב לעיקוואוד

234 East 5th Street

Sponsorships/Comments:
Email: thesparksofemunah@gmail.com

BreslevCenter.com