

# SPARKS OF EMUNAH



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

PARSHAS VAYIKRA  
SHABBOS ZACHOR  
13 ADAR II, 5784  
ISSUE #4

## CHIZUK from the PARSHA

## DESTROYING AMALEK

תמחה את זכר עמלק מתחת השמים לא תשכח

Wipe out the remembrance of Amalek ... you shall not forget!

What is Amalek? עמלק is the same *gematria* as ספק, because Amalek and *safek* are one and the same. Amalek's goal is to bring doubts into our minds; he makes us wonder (*Shemos 17:7*) אין בקרבנו אם איך - Is Hashem with us? Has He forsaken us? Amalek weakens our *emunah*; he tricks us into thinking that the world runs by laws of nature.

In reality, it is obvious that Hashem runs the world. Nothing happens by chance; Chazal say (*Chulin 7*) that a person can't stub his finger unless it was pre-ordained by Hashem. Think about it: if a small bruise on a pinky is pre-destined, surely "bigger deals" are as well. Health issues, *parnassa* problems, *shidduchim* struggles, etc... Everything is part of Hashem's precise plan, yet Amalek makes us doubt that.

How can we get rid of these *sefeikos*? Doubt is questioning, wondering. We combat it by filling ourselves with the certainty that Hashem is in control and that He runs the world in the best possible way. The *passuk* says (*Tehillim 116:10*), האמנתי כי אדבר - our *emunah* is strengthened through our speech. By speaking about Hashem and His greatness in our conversations with others, we instill *emunah* into ourselves. The more we speak about Hashem, the more we remove the *sefeikos* from our minds.



Amalek fills us with other doubts, as well - **self-doubt**. He causes us to think defeatist thoughts of, "Can I still do *teshuvah*, after everything I've done?" "Who needs me, anyway?" "Are my *tefillos* even heard?" These doubts paralyze us, causing us to give up on ourselves and on our *avodas Hashem*.

In order to destroy Amalek, we need to strengthen our *emunah* in ourselves. We need to remember that we **do** make a difference! Yes, every small *mitzvah* counts! Yes, every little thing we do gives Hashem a *nachas ruach*! Appreciating our worth propels us forward in *avodas Hashem* and allows us to become even better.

Only after getting rid of the Amalek inside us can we feel true happiness and experience the joy of Purim. This Shabbos *Zachor*, let's destroy Amalek once and for all. Let's remove every bit of doubt from our minds and remember that Hashem runs the world, takes care of us every moment, and every small thing we do has enormous value.

Let's get ready for a real *simchas Purim*!

Ish Yehudi, Shabbos Zachor U'michiyas Amalek

## MOHOROSH SPEAKS

## HAPPY PURIM!

“ The clock is ticking... there are only a few hours left until the long-awaited Yom Tov of Purim!

“*A freilichen Purim,*” we all wish each other, but how can we experience the joy of the day?

Mohorosh teaches us not to squander the opportunities we have on this powerful day of Purim. It's a day full of *mitzvos*, as well as an extra-special time to daven. Using this day properly will make your Purim be a truly happy day; not only that, but the joy of Purim will even spill over to the entire year.

### Mikra Megilla

A central part of Purim is the reading of *Megillas Esther*. At first glance, the *megilla* seems to be made up of a series of unrelated events that happened by chance. Achashveirosh decided to kill Vashti - by chance. Esther was forcibly taken as Queen - by chance. Mordechai overheard Bigson and Seresh's plot - by chance. After reading the **entire megilla**, however, the whole picture changes. It becomes blatantly clear that every detail was precisely orchestrated by Hashem as preparation for the *yeshuah*.

(Continued on page 2)

This issue has been sponsored I'luvi nishmas R' Moshe Feinstein zt"l, whose *yahrzeit* is on Shabbos. *Yehi zichro baruch*.

To sponsor, email [thesparksofemunah@gmail.com](mailto:thesparksofemunah@gmail.com)

Dear ...,

I received your letter.

Don't let the *yetzer hara* get you down! Stay strong in your *avodas Hashem*.

The Rebbe says (*Kitzur Likutei Moharan Hashalem 1:6*) that the greatness of a Yid is that he stays strong and continues to serve Hashem even when he goes through difficulties. Even if it seems like he's addicted to *aveiros* and he's drifting further and further from Hashem, he must stay strong with his Torah, *tefilla* and *maasim tovim*.

Mohorosh often repeated this story that he heard first-hand: a young *bachur* who struggled with difficult *nisyonos* once chanced upon a Breslever *shul* in Warsaw. He overheard one *chassid* tell another, "My dear brother, you fell through? You made a mistake? Pick yourself up! The Rebbe says that when we fall, we must get up and keep going."

Years later, this Yid told Mohorosh that those words were all he needed to hear to be *mechazek* him, and he became a staunch Breslever *chassid*.

Keep going with your *avodas Hashem*; don't allow your mistakes to break you. The Rebbe says (*Likutei Moharan 2:48*) that a person needs to be very stubborn in his *avodas Hashem* and not give up on his Torah or *tefilla*. *Avodas Hashem* needs persistence, because the *yetzer hara* comes with lots of ways to try to stop us from doing the right thing. Stay strong; don't allow the *yetzer hara* to triumph.

Learning Torah will give you *chizuk* and keep you strong.

May Hashem bless you with success in all your endeavors.

Adapted from *The Light of Emunah* #1, page 100



Now, 2,380 years later, the Purim story is still a tremendous source of *chizuk* for us. We sometimes feel like Hashem just "forgot" about us and left us to fend for ourselves. The world may seem to be running its own course, without any rhyme or reason, and we feel completely abandoned. Still, we must remember the lesson of the *megilla*: nothing is random. Hashem is always with us, and He is orchestrating every little detail of our lives, creating the most beautiful story.

As you listen to the *megilla*, imagine that **you** are the main character. Imagine that the story is happening to you! Because really, Hashem does tremendous *nissim* for each of us, all the time - they are just hidden from our view. We need to focus on the good and recognize the *nissim* that Hashem does, just like in the times of Mordechai and Esther.

### Purim and Tefilla

*Chazal* say about Purim: כל מי שהוא פושט את ידו לטוב, נותנין לו - on Purim, anyone who asks for *tzedaka* is given; no background checks, no inquiries. In need of some cash? Can't make it through the month? On Purim, everyone will give you something.

The deeper meaning of this, however, is applicable to every single person at each stage of life. Purim is a uniquely powerful day, specially designed for *tefilla*. Whatever we ask of Hashem on this day, we are granted - no background checks, no inquiries. We ask and Hashem helps.

This Purim, grab the opportunity! Take a few minutes to pour your heart out to Hashem. Discuss all your difficulties with Him - tell Him about how hard it is for you to just get through each day; tell Him about your struggles with your fiery *yetzer hara*. Ask Him for everything you need - no request is too big or too small!

It's hard to start talking to Hashem. The words sometimes just don't come forth. And sometimes we tell ourselves, "I don't have time now to really discuss it; I'll talk to Hashem later when I time to go through everything in detail." Or we say, "I'm not in a meditative mood right now. I'll wait until later, when I can work up some emotion." But unfortunately, "later" never comes...

Even mumbling a few measly words, even speaking from a dry heart is so worthwhile. Don't wait! Especially on such a powerful day, speak to Hashem even just a bit - every word has tremendous value.

### Purim and Teshuva

It says in *Tikunei Zohar (57b)* that Purim is like Yom Kippur - Hashem forgives all our *aveiros* on Purim just like He does on the holiest day of the year.

We often feel distant from Hashem. We look at ourselves and realize that we waste our days with foolishness and with *aveiros*. Trapped in our bad ways, we think, "What am I worth? Hashem surely doesn't need me - look how many *aveiros* I do."

However, we must remember that Purim is like Yom Kippur; Purim is the perfect time for *teshuva*. On this day, Hashem doesn't check up on you to see if you are or aren't worthy. Even if you committed the worst *aveiros*, now is the perfect time to reconnect.



(Continued on page 3)

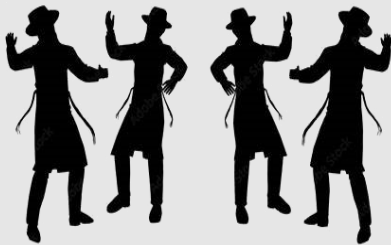


Tell Hashem that you want to be better and beg Him to forgive you. Ask Hashem to help you be *erlich*, and He will most certainly accept you with open arms.

**Hashem, Help Me!**

R' Nossan of Breslev had a talmid R' Meir Tepliker, who inspired many Yidden to come closer to Hashem. One of his many followers was a simple villager who would often come to hear words of *chizuk*.

R' Meir used to host a large Purim *seuda* for all of his *talmidim* each year, where they would dance together with tremendous *simcha* until the wee hours of the morning. One Purim, R' Meir noticed the villager sitting on the sidelines instead of joining in the dancing and festivities. He went over to the villager and asked, "Why the long face? It's Purim! Come dance and be happy!"



The villager just sighed and responded, "How can I be happy when I have a Tzivia on my head?"

Tzivia was the oldest of his lineup of daughters of marriageable age, but he had no money to marry them off. He was under so much pressure that he couldn't even put a smile on his face.

R' Meir responded with a gentle rebuke, "Is this the solution - sitting on the sidelines, depressed? The Rebbe taught us a different solution! When things are difficult, we must turn to Hashem and scream מצוקותי הוציאני Hashem, take me out of my *tzara*! Help me! I can't do this anymore!"

R' Meir grabbed the villager by the arm and pulled him into the dancing ring of already-drunk *chassidim*. He said, "Listen to me! if things are hard, talk to Hashem; scream to Hashem! Repeat after me: מצוקותי הוציאני!"

The villager did as he was told and began to sob. He danced as he cried, all the while repeating, "צרות לבבי הרחיבו ממצוקותי הוציאני... Hashem, help me! Help me! צרות לבבי הרחיבו ממצוקותי הוציאני Hashem, help me!" And so he continued until he got hoarse from screaming.

Shortly after Purim, another Breslever *chassid* was traveling through the neighborhood and stopped at the simple villager's home. Tzivia, the oldest daughter, was busy all the while, preparing and serving food to the guest.

The guest turned to the villager and said, "I have a son of marriageable age; can this possibly be a *shidduch*?"

The overjoyed villager could hardly believe his ears. "I just need to ask my Rebbe, R' Meir Tepliker," He said. "He has taught me how to come close to Hashem through the *sefarim* and teachings of the *heilige* Rebbe Nachman of Breslev. I want his *bracha* before we proceed with the *shidduch*."

Together, the two prospective *mechutanim* traveled to Teplik to R' Meir, and with his warmest wishes, the *shidduch* was finalized. The *tefillos* and tears of the poor villager on Purim had brought about the *yeshuah*.

Be smart! Utilize your Purim and cash in on the tremendous power that it has. Take the time to talk to Hashem, and you will be *zoche* to see *yeshuos* and *refuos*.



parents is so important - it's one of the biggest *mitzvos* in the Torah!

Daven that Purim should be a happy day for you. Daven that you should not feel tense or stressed, and that you should do the *mitzvos* of Purim with *simcha*.

Purim is such a great and holy day! It is a day that we can all reach the elevated level of *עד דלא ידע בין ארור המן לברוך מרדכי* - the realization that everything is from Hashem, regardless of whether you are going through hard times of *ארור המן* or good times of *ברוך מרדכי*.

On Purim, you can attain the level of *bitul*, nullifying yourself completely to Hashem. When a person is *mevateil* himself to Hashem to the point that he doesn't need anything but Hashem, he is always happy and at peace, no matter where he finds himself.

You can scream the words *צרות לבבי הרחיבו ממצוקותי הוציאני* wherever you are; you don't have to be among *anshei shlo-meinu* to talk to Hashem. With the teachings of the Rebbe, you can always feel Hashem's presence.

Yes, being with *anshei shlo-meinu* on such a holy day is nice, but this comes **after** your family. Parents are more important.

May you be successful in all your endeavors.

## WHY IS PURIM SUCH A STRESSFUL DAY?



### Question:

To the Rosh Yeshiva *shlit"á*,

I know that Purim is supposed to be a joyful day, but I find myself dreading the tension that comes along with it.



I b"H have 5 little children, and running across town with them from one set of grandparents to the next is very difficult. The whole process of taking off their coats, showing off their costumes, putting their coats back on and moving on to the next stop on the list is exhausting. The children also get hyper and dysregulated from the sugar overload, which makes the day even more stressful. All this leaves me with little energy or headspace to focus on the *simcha* of Purim.

Why does Purim have to be this way? Why can't we just stay home, make a nice *seuda* with the family and dance and sing for the *nissim* that Hashem did - and continues to do - for us?

Another thing: year after year, I so badly want to spend Purim night with *anshei shlomeinu*. I try not to drink too much all day so that I should be able come to *shul*, but after I help my wife to put the kids to sleep, I just collapse into bed, too. Year after year, I have such regrets afterwards... Every Shushan Purim, when I hear the Rosh Yeshiva repeat the story of מצוקותי הוציאני הרחיבו ממצוקותי הוציאני [see Mohorosh Speaks], it bothers me again that I didn't spend the precious last few hours of this holy day with *anshei shlomeinu*.

Can the Rosh Yeshiva give me some *chizuk* on this?

### The Rosh Yeshiva's Response:

Dear...,

I received your letter.

The way you feel all depends on your outlook. If you would understand what it means to have parents, it wouldn't be difficult at all! To the contrary, you would look forward to every visit with the greatest excitement.

For those who understand the value of parents, visiting

them on Purim is the most special thing. Traveling, bundling and unbanding to show off costumes is not a bother at all - it is the most exciting part of Purim!

Not everyone is lucky enough to have parents to visit. If Hashem blessed you with this wonderful gift, bring your children and go visit them with *simcha*! Bringing *nachas* to

*(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](mailto:rabbirothenglish@gmail.com)  
Whatsapp: (845) 244-1624

For the daily inspiration in Yiddish,  
email: [chizikyomi@gmail.com](mailto: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 songs, delivered to you!

[shop.breslevcenter.com](http://shop.breslevcenter.com)  
Or call: (718) 387-2691

#### היכל הקודש ברסלב לעיקוואד 234 East 5th Street

Sponsorships/ Comments:  
Email: [thesparksofemunah@gmail.com](mailto:thesparksofemunah@gmail.com)

[BreslevCenter.com](http://BreslevCenter.com)