

BITACHON WEEKLY

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פרשת קדושים תשפ"ד

The Yetzer Hara Makes the Most Repulsive Things Seem Appealing

Parshas Achrei Mos and *Kedoshim* (this week and last week's *Parsha*) enumerate the entire list of *Arayos*. I counted 4 times the word: תועבות "abominations" in the last few *Pesukim* of *Parshas Achrei Mos*. In *Parshas Kedoshim* we have the word: זמה (depraved) twice.

In *Parshas Kedoshim* we have (depravity) זמה יט טט. אל תחלל את בתך להזנותה ולא תזנה הארץ ומלאה הארץ זמה יט טט. Don't profane your daughter! So many derogatory words describing *Z'nus* as the lowliest and most disgusting and repulsive activity. At the end of

Parshas Achrei Mos I also counted 6 times the word *Tum'ah* in relation to *Arayos* – it's unclean and filthy – dirt! Vomit! (*Tamei* means unclean) and at the end of *Parshas Kedoshim* we have Hashem Himself saying: וְאֶקְרָא בָם כ כג "I'm disgusted with them!" (*Arayos* is also called: השחטה "destruction" in *Parshas Noach* by the *Dor HaMabul*).

There is good reason why the *Torah* is constantly describing *Arayos* in a negative way. Otherwise, it can actually be appealing, *Rachmana Litzlan*. One of the *Gedolei Yisroel* said: "They call it "love", and we call it "Kares"; i.e., you're being cut off and lost forever if you get involved! One of the *Eitzos* that *Chazal* give is by realizing the stench of this *Sugya*.

I know stories of R' Avigdor Miller *Zatzal* how he gave *Eitzos* to people who had *Nisyonos* in these areas by realizing the ugliness and animalistic nature of *Arayos*. It is interesting that *Shlomo HaMelech* in *Mishlei* describes people involved in *Arayos* as having no *Sechel*. And he is: מְדַגֵּשׁ (stresses) the greatness and sweetness of

Respect Your Struggles! They are Your Ticket to Greatness

Chazal say that when a person keeps away from *Arayos*, he becomes *Kadosh*; whereas stumbling in *Arayos* makes a person *Tamei*. The story is told about one of the biggest *Gedolim* of the last *Dor* who was able to sense if a person was truly holy, or if he had *Tum'ah* in his system, *Rachmana Litzlan*. (He would not shake the hand of such a person).

(And there were very few people whose hand he would shake). This *Adam Gadol* was once told about a big artist whose pictures were very real. The artist drew a picture of *Yetzias Mitzrayim*, and the *Gadol* didn't like the picture. He noticed that the noses of the *Mitzri'im* and the Jews were similar, and his father had told him that they are different.

Imagine! This *Tzaddik* never saw a *Goy* in his life! No wonder he was so sensitive to a person's *Kedusha* level! Obviously, his parents, who were *Tzaddikim Yesodei Olam* had kept him away from all *Tum'ah*, and he was able to become a world-famous giant of giants, a *Tzaddik Yesod Olam Mamash!*

When us Americans hear this story, we get depressed, since we've seen loads and loads of *Tum'ah* throughout our lives. So why did R' Nossan Wachtfogel *Zatzal* say in the name of R' Elchonon Wassermann *Zatzal* that American *Yeshiva Bachurim* will bring *Moshiach*??

The name of this *Adam Gadol* has been omitted intentionally, in order not to undermine his greatness to the slightest; especially since I consider him my *Rebbe* in many ways. Yet, an American "Harry" has to realize that he actually has an edge over a *Tzaddik* like this.

Perhaps we are on an even a **greater Madrega**, having experienced *Goyishe Tum'ah* from our youth. Regardless if your exposure was: deliberate or by mistake, willingly or against your will, it affects your *Neshama*, and it makes your struggles in *Avodas Hashem* more difficult. Such a person is used to certain *Tum'ah*, and he needs to struggle with it.

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