Bitachon Weekly

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פרשת בהעלותך תשפ"ד

Lift Yourself Up to Be Happy and Proud with Your Avodas Hashem

The physical *T'nufa* "lifting" of the *Levi'im* was actually a symbol of: וְיִגְבַּהּ לִבּוֹ בְּדַרְכֵי ה' "Lifting" your heart for the service of Hashem. We find this principle repeated again, this time in the *Mishkan* and the *Kelim*. The roof of the *Mishkan* had a covering made of *Tachash* skin; this is an animal who is happy and proud of its pretty colors. [*Rashi*]. Although the roof of the *Mishkan* was assembled from four kinds of materials, only the *Tachash* was visible [from a helicopter view]. And when they wrapped the *Kelim* of the *Mishkan* during travel [end of *Parshas Bamidbar*], all the *Kelim* [besides the *Aron*] had the *Tachash* skin as the outside and visible wrapping. We see the importance of: וְיִגְבַּהּ לִבּוֹ בְּדַרְכֵי ה'.

And in the beginning of *Parshas Naso*, all the types of skins are mentioned only by *Remez*, except for the *Tachash* which is mentioned openly. Since the *Tachash* boasts about itself, the *Torah* gives it the most conspicuous role. When you build yourself up and appreciate yourself, then the world agrees with you and respects you as well. People who don't respect themselves, are not respected by others either. [There are exceptions though].

The *Tachash* is given the most attention, even though its very existence was only temporary; unlike the *Tcheiles*, *Argaman*, *Tola'as Shani*, etc. which are permanent creatures [from sheep and goats]. Even if you aren't that great, you still get rewarded for appreciating yourself. [This is similar to the *Orchos Tzaddikim*, who says that having *Simcha Shel Mitzva* gives you 1,000 times more *Schar*].

When You Are Happy and Act Rich with A *Mitzva,* You Always Come Out Ahead

So always appreciate and glorify yourself, and respect the even minimal Avodas Hashem that you do. You'll come out ahead. When the *Yidden* would bring their *Bikkurim*, the rich people would bring them in beautiful gold and silver baskets, while the poor would bring them in cheap wicker baskets. The expensive baskets would be returned back to the rich, but the poor would lose them. This can be a *Remez*. When you are happy and act rich with a *Mitzva,* you remain happy. But when you act poor and unhappy, then you lose.

Envy Is Ignorance!

Many years ago, I was loaded with envy over the *Rebbe* of my parallel class. He had so many *Maalos* that I didn't have. It appeared to me that he was having a "smooth ride" as a *Rebbe*, while I was constantly struggling, with plenty of difficulties.

Towards the end of the year, I was deciding that maybe I should approach the other *Rebbe* next year, and I'll be his *Talmid* so he can teach me how to teach properly. I'd get my act together once and for all! The very same day that I had these thoughts, he approached me.

He told me about how he's concerned that he isn't capable to control a class the way I do. [By the way, I davened plenty for having more control and discipline]. I asked him if he was *Stam* kidding and trying to make me feel good! He was very strong in reassuring me that he honestly wishes he could do a job like me.

I remember how years ago a major *Lamdan* and *Masmid* in Lakewood wished he could have the job of a *Melamed* like me, & I wished that I could sit and learn like him. He told me: Guess what? The *Yetzer Hara* is winning on all fronts!

I once had tremendous *Kin'ah* for two extremely *Chashuva* people. But being very involved with Hashem and always writing *Hashgachos* does wonders. Within a week of my envious thoughts, the very person whom I envied called me up & started crying about his hard life! And two weeks after I envied the other *Chashuva* person, his son opened up to me, and I saw how foolish was my envy.

The World Around Us Is Loaded with All Kinds of Negative Messages

When people are constantly focusing on the truths of their lives, a new world can open up for them. You need lots of *Mussar*, thanking again and again for what you **do** have, and to ignore what you **don't** have. The Yetzer Hara is always on your case "proving" how you are zero, by constantly reminding you of your lack of ability, your Aveiros, and your failures. He is a great professional liar!

The only ones who notice such a successful person are others, so that the *Yetzer Hara* can promote their constant envy-problem. But the person himself can fail to enjoy and appreciate the gift and *Zechus* that Hashem has given him. The *Yetzer Hara* doesn't want a person to have *Simcha Shel Mitzva*, since it gives him 1,000 times more *Schar*.

Novardok

I once spoke to an old *Novardoker Zatzal* who had unusual success in raising his children. His wife once told me that she can't get over the unbelievable *Nachas* she was *Zoche* to. He said that he makes his children feel so highly regarded, that they are always trying to live up to his expectations. Of course, there is **zero** *Ka'as* in the house. *Ka'as* is a major no-no by *Novardokers*.

R' Wainkranz *Zatzal* once told me: Never, ever, should there be any *Ka'as* **whatsoever** in the home. The *Novardokers* had *Vaadim* once a week, and home life was a major issue. I was once a guest by the son of a *Chashuva Novardoker*. I noticed how the father was extremely supportive of his son. He listened with enthusiasm to everything his son said, and he made his son feel good to the utmost. He laughed at his son's jokes, and agreed to all his son's "*Chochmos*".

I once visited an old *Novardoker*, and I ate in his home. He kept complimenting his wife's food. His wife was somewhat a nervous type, and she didn't appear so positive. She yelled at him, but he didn't flinch. It all went over his head, and he continued to praise his wife's great cooking.

A daughter-in-law of an old *Novardoker* once told me that her father-in-law respects her to the extreme. He listens to her wishes as if she was *Daas Torah*. She feels that he is **real** about this; not just a put-on for the sake of peace. He learns loads of *Mussar* to get like this. Her husband told me that some of his father's *Derech* rubbed off on him, and if he didn't learn *Mussar* he would have easily gotten divorced.

Respect for Others Is #1 In *Novardok*

The *Alter Zatzal* wrote 3,000 *Maalos* about his wife. A *Menahel*, a *Rosh Yeshiva*, or a *Rosh Kollel* is of extreme importance by them. I heard a story about R' Galinsky *Zatzal* who started crying in public when he felt that the *Olam* wasn't giving a certain *Gadol* the proper respect. I once walked together with a *Novardoker* into a house, and he saw a picture of R' Shach *Zatzal* on the wall.

He became entranced, staring at the picture and praising R' Shach *Zatzal* with utmost awe and reverence. This happened again with the picture of another *Gadol*. This *Novardoker* was a big *Tzaddik*, and after he was *Niftar* he appeared many times to his children in dreams. He told them how wonderful it is in *Olam HaBah*, and how much he benefits from the massive amount of *Mishnayos* that his children learn *L'ilui Nishmaso*. He has also helped them with *Shiduchim* and with getting jobs! גְּדוֹלִים צַדִּיקִים בְּמִיתָתָן!

When R' Koslowitz *Zatzal* was leaving *Yeshivas Baranovitch* during WWII, he saw R' Yisroel Yaakov Lubchansky [a *Gadol B'yisroel* & son-in-law of the *Alter*]. He was standing near the *Mikva*, washing his face with water that *Yeshiva* boys used when they washed up for the *Mikva*. This water was so precious to him, that he didn't feel the dirt involved. Imagine the reverence this *Tzaddik* had for *Bnei Torah!* Seeing this gave R' Koslowitz so much *Chizuk*, that it kept him going throughout those turbulent times.

These are the same *Novardokers* who laugh at public opinion, and don't care what people think of them. They are given a *Chinuch* not to fear *Bizayon* [who cares?!]. Yet at the same time, look how they seem like just the opposite with their tremendous respect they have for people!

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