Bitachon Weekly

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פרשת בלק תשפ"ד

The Tragedy of Being a "Bilam" [A Super*Success]

I'm overjoyed because: *I'm poor *I'm single *ugly *dysfunctional *A depressive type *from a broken home *always coming late *a sloppy type *a loner with few friends *lacking social skills *unpopular in the family *weak in learning *too cool *too serious *always making mistakes *always saying the wrong thing *not capable *not respected *inappropriate *full of anxiety *loads of unwanted issues *too much *Ga'ava* *too much *Anava* [and people take advantage of me] *I'm always ignored *I'm overweight *I have impulsiveness *addictions *chronic jealousies *uncontrollable lusts *an angry nature *too sensitive *getting old *a weak disposition *physical weaknesses *disease, *Rachmana Litzlan* *no *Parnasa* *bipolar *ADHD *OCD *all kinds of mental and/or physical issues *Rachmana Litzlan* etc. etc. עַד אֵין שִׁיעוּר the list goes on and on.

These are all *Min HaShamayim*, and are all for the good. Each person has the perfect Chisaron that he needs for his Shleimus. Either to tolerate or to overcome, partially or completely. [You need a *Rebbe* and plenty of *Tefila* to know how to deal with your personal challenge]. For good reason, *Tanach* and *Chazal* are loaded with stories of even our greatest *Tzadikim* who suffered from all kinds of *Ruchaniyus* and *Gashmiyus* difficulties; they are examples for all of us. Calm down and be happy! We are in Hashem's hands, and He knows exactly what He's doing!

All your life, you may be thirsting for a *Yeshua* in the area that Hashem made you weak. Often, it would be the worst thing for you if you got what you wanted. Here's a poor man, who finally became wealthy and comfortable. But with money comes a new *Yetzer Hara* which he never had before. This can ruin him *Chas V'shalom*, and send him straight to *Gehinom Chas V'shalom*.

The *Goyim* wanted a *Navi*, so they got *Bilam*. R' Chaim Kanievsky *Zatzal* says that *Bilam* actually started off being a nice person, but thanks to the lofty levels he reached, he became a super *Rasha* and *Baal Ga'ava*. When you "have it all" you have zero, because being a *Baal Ga'ava* means an express ticket to the worst *Gehinom*, *Rachmana Litzlan*. *Moshe Rabeinu* was unusual; he had everything, yet he gave Hashem the credit, and he became the *Anav Mi'kol Adam*.

People who are *M'kabel Yissurim B'ahavah* are *Zoche* to tremendous *Tikkunim* for their *Neshama*. The *Zechus* is priceless, and many other *Yidden* benefit from one *Yid's Kabbolas Yissurim B'ahavah*. Truly accepting *Yissurim* with your whole heart [as best as you can] can be a *Segula* to quickly rid yourself of them, *B'ezras Hashem*.

Is Your Connection with Hashem Temporary or Permanent?

Rashi says וַיִּקָּר is a *Lashon* of: עַרְאִי וְטוּמְאָה short-term and *Tum'ah*. *Bilam's* connection with Hashem is only temporary, whereas by *Moshe* it says וַיִּקְרָא- a permanent loyal connection. **We need to spend as much time as possible with Hashem, Who is: מְקוֹר כָּל הַהַצְלָחוֹת שֶׁבָּעוֹלָם the source of all the *Hatzlachos* in the world, and less and less time trying to impress people, who have no real *Koach* over you.**

A person should always daven that his involvement with Hashem should be more and more dominant, and not to be so heavily involved in wondering what people think of him. To do as many "*Pratim*" as possible, and not to be afraid of a *Basar V'dam*, who is truly zero compared to Hashem.

It is recommended to have a set time to schmooze and thank Hashem (in English!) and to beg Him to help you make Him your main *Chavrusa* (יְדִיד נֶפֶשׁ אָב הָרַחֲמָן close Friend and loving Father) instead of being similar to *Bilam*, *Chas V'shalom*, who made Hashem secondary, *Rachmana Litzlan*, and the *Kavod* he received from humans his #1 concern, *Rachmana Litzlan!* If you do this, you will become a super *Mutzlach!*

When you see others [or yourself] who have *Yissurim,* you may often look down at them. It may seem there's something wrong with them, or they are being punished for some *Aveira*. But *Shlomo HaMelech* calls them privileged people. The *Chofetz Chaim* once encouraged a *Bachur* to do a *Shidduch* with a girl, since her father was a *Baal Yissurim*. The *Chofetz Chaim* lived with the *Emes,* without being affected the way *Goyim* think, or by *Daas Baalei Battim* the opposite of Daas Torah.

Strive to Have Tolerance for Imperfection and for When Things Don't Go Your Way

Learning *Shaar HaK'niya* was #1 in *Novardok. Hachna'a* will save you from nervousness and impatience. You'll be able to tolerate those traffic jams, all those unwanted people, and your own mistakes and failures. The Germans were famous for "being on time" and being *M'sudar'dik* organized and their perfect workmanship etc. Look how much *Ga'ava* "being perfect" can produce! And *Sedom* was a perfect country: כְּגַן ה' לך יג י like Gan Eden.

So thank Hashem for all your shortcomings! [But don't stop trying to improve!] **Say: I love being "Mr. Not Perfect". It causes me to have so much less *Ga'ava* in my life! Better more *Anava* with less *Ga'ava*, than to be a *Tzaddik* with *Ga'ava.* [*Chovos Halvavos*].**

Hachna'a is closely related to *Bitachon,* since it brings to *Menucha*, which is the foundation of *Bitachon*. [*Chovos Halvavos*]. An *Anav* is a relaxed person who has an easier time tolerating difficult situations and difficult people. He has *Menucha* and *Bitachon*. He knows that Hashem is in charge, and everything is for the good, even when he doesn't understand.

Novardok

R' Yitzchok Orlansky *Zatzal* was once walking in the street, and he tripped and almost fell; but he caught himself before he could fall. He made a remark that the falling would have been *Gevaldig* for him, since it's *Yissurim* which has tremendous *Kapara* value. People don't live with these thoughts, and it is a severe loss for them.

A *Baal Mussar* lives with *Chazal*, who say that every tiny inconvenience is real *Yissurim* and is a great *Kapara*. You need to thank Hashem for these ongoing tiny daily *Yissurim*, and then you *Mamash* lose your sins, and spare yourself more serious *Yissurim*, like a trip to the hospital, *Chas V'shalom*, and even from the worst *Gehinom*.

It is a *Bracha* to be forgetful, or to be delayed in traffic, or to have a person in your life who hurts you regularly. Such a person is: אֵינוֹ רוֹאֶה פְּנֵי גֵּהִנּוֹם not going to suffer in *Gehinom*, providing you always thank for those *Yissurim*. Those who live with *Chazal*, like *Novardokers* did, are truly happy people; especially if they learned the appropriate *Mussar* and they keep repeating how: יִסּוּרִים מְמָרְקִים *Yissurim* cleanse your soul from all your sins. The rest of the world lets everything go over their heads. They lose tons, and they live an empty life compared to the real *Baalei Mussar*.

There was a *Rebbe* in Bais Shraga of Monsey who was a *Novardoker*, and his name was R' Gendel *Zatzal*. His wife wasn't well, and he had to run the whole house himself. His house was spotless. He did everything *B'simcha*, like a true *Novardoker* who sees every part of his life to be perfect and never complains against Hashem. They say that he would learn three hours of *Mussar* before davening. This is the secret of success. He was also a big *Talmid Chochom*.

R' Yaakov Koppel Pasternak *Zatzal* was a *Novardoker* who was a *Rav* in Kensington. A typical fearless *Novardoker*, he was very smiley and friendly. He had loads of serious personal *Yissurim*, yet he was total *Simcha*, and would dance at *Chasuna's* like a young *Bachur*.

He told me that the long hours of *Limud HaMussar* that he had, saved his life. He said to me: כָּל זְמַן שֶׁאַתָּה אוֹחֵז אַתָּה נִיצָּל (a person who is drowning in the ocean, while he holds on to the raft, he's saved). While you keep learning *Mussar* you'll be okay. As soon you stop, you're in trouble, *Chas V'shalom*. Both these people were strong personalities; nice, but not pushovers.

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