

BITACHON WEEKLY

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פרשת ראה תשפ"ד

את הברכה אשר תשמעו וגו' והקללה אם לא תשמעו וסרתם מן הדרך יא כז-כח

The True *Eved Hashem* Couldn't Care Less About How "Well" He Is Doing

HE IS HAPPY WITH HIS TRYING AND STARTING; REGARDLESS IF HE IS REALLY "MAKING IT"

Notice by the *Bracha* the *Torah* doesn't elaborate: "If you will **do** the *Mitzvos*" just: אשר תשמעו if you will **listen**; whereas by *K'lala* the *Torah* goes into the details of: וסרתם the actual wrong behaviors. It sounds like as long as you "listen", and you are *M'kabel* & try, you already have a *Bracha*.

Similarly, it says: וְהָיָה אִם שָׁמַעַתְּ אֶת קוֹל דְּבַר יְיָ אֱלֹהֶיךָ וְעָשִׂיתָ אֵת כְּלֵי צִוְיָתוֹ יִשְׂרָאֵל וְיָשָׁב אֶת אֶרֶץ מִצְרָיִם וְיִשְׂרָאֵל יִשְׁמַע אֶת קוֹל דְּבַר יְיָ אֱלֹהֶיךָ וְעָשִׂיתָ אֵת כְּלֵי צִוְיָתוֹ וְיָשָׁב אֶת אֶרֶץ מִצְרָיִם and *Rashi* says: שָׁמַעַתְּ means even a little, then: תִּשְׁמָעוּ you will be *Zoche* to much more. *Moshe Rabeinu* was the greatest person who ever lived. Yet, he is loaded with trying and starting; yet not really making it. *Rashi* says that the *Yidden* get the credit for burying *Yosef* (since they completed the *Mitzva*) even though *Moshe* was the one who began the *Mitzva*, by looking for *Yosef's* body in *Mitzrayim*, while everyone else was busy getting gold from the *Mitzri'im*.

Similarly, *Moshe* set aside three: עָרֵי מְקִלָּט *Arei Miklat* (cities of refuge) in *Ever HaYarden*, which couldn't accomplish anything anyway until the other three were designated in *Eretz Yisroel*. And *Moshe* only "saw" *Eretz Yisroel*, without ever entering. If you're always trying and wanting to finish *Shas* or being a big *Tzaddik* - yet you aren't making it - maybe you have a *Shoresh* or a *Kesher* with the *Neshama* of *Moshe Rabeinu*...

Of course, we have no *Shaychus* with understanding these things; but for sure the stories of our greatest person should give us much *Chizuk*. *Moshe Rabeinu* was probably the happiest and the most accomplished person that ever lived. He was known as an *Eved Hashem*. The *Anav Mi'kol Adam* couldn't care less about how "well" he was doing. He was a person who was constantly in touch with Hashem with plenty of *Mussar* on *Emuna* and *Bitachon*, and he was detached from the *Olam HaZeh* ways of thinking (people's opinions, etc.).

He tolerated all the horrific *Lashon Hara* about him, and all the ungratefulness. He is the example for all of us. You do the best you can; you don't need all those successes, which are usually *Redifas HaKavod* or *Ga'ava* (כְּחֵי וְנַעֲמִים יְדִי "my" accomplishments). It's all *Hevel*, and when you keep learning *Mussar*, nothing bothers you (with Hashem's help). On the contrary: לְפָנִים צַעֲרָא אֲגָרָא אַבּוּת the difficulty only adds to your reward. This is why *Moshe* was so successful, because he didn't care about being a *Mutzlach* and a winner.

"I try so hard to be nice, and I'm still not appreciated." I wish I would work harder on *Kedusha*, or learning, or *Tz'niyus*... The *Alter Zatzal* says that all you have to do is try as best you can, and then you will get *Si'ata D'shmaya*.

Your Instability in Life Makes You Connected to Hashem and TRULY Stable

A kosher animal chews its cud and has split hooves. "Split hooves" means an animal that has an "unstable" base. This is the type of animal Hashem wants us to eat, since those who have their "feet on the ground" and "know all the answers", forget Hashem, *Rachmana Litzlan*. A fragile human whose base is somewhat shaky isn't such a *Baal Ga'ava*, so he runs to Hashem much more!

This is why we always have issues! We don't want to be a solid tough lion, who has his feet on the ground and is cruel. And indeed, the unstable kosher animals are soft and gentle. Your instability in life is supposed to soften you and make you an *Eidele Yid*. And your constant *Bitachon* in Hashem makes you feel stronger and happier than all the powerful predators.

Rabeinu B'chayei says that pain and suffering and being hungry gives a person *Mussar*, and makes him great with *Middas HaBitachon* which is: עֵיקָר הַמְצוֹת כּוֹלֵן the *Ikar* of all the *Mitzvos*!

Story: I knew a woman who tried and worked really hard on *Bain Adam La'chaveiro*, but she was not very *Matzliach*; she often did more damage than good (perhaps because of her difficult background). When she became elderly, people said that she had *Ruach HaKodesh*, & she knew things about people without being told. Hashem rewarded her lifetime of consistent frustrating *Avoda* in an area that she wasn't good at. And surely her *Olam HaBah* is much greater than all those who had an easy and respectable *Bain Adam La'chaveiro*. זיע"א
I know that I have a nasty side to me (it's usually a *Dimyon!*) but I'd LIKE to be a nicer person! רחמנא ליבא
יְיָ Hashem wants our intentions! These are the thoughts of a true *Tzaddik*.

Elul: Appreciate Even the Slightest Ratzon for Teshuvah

In the precious *Y'mei Elul*, Hashem wants us to make a big *Shepil* about even our slightest *Ratzon* for *Teshuva*, and *Chizuk*, *Chizuk*, and *Chizuk* is called for without end. To value *Elul* is #1, and value yourself, and the sweetness of coming close to Hashem. Don't be fooled when everything goes wrong during *Elul!*

R' Chatzkel Levenstein *Zatzal* says that it's always like that! הַעֲקוֹשׁ יִצְלִיחַ The one who is stubborn will be *Matzliach!* Don't be impressed with your failures. When you feel that you are not *Matzliach*, you constantly say: ***Aderaba! The Yetzer Hara only starts up with the best people, like me!***

The more I mess up with *Ka'as*, or *Kedusha*, or *Bittul Torah*, or not being involved in *Elul* and *Teshuva*; the more I am sure that I'm *Davka Gevaldig!* **Not being *Mya'esh* despite all kinds of unfortunate *Yeridos* (failures) is the biggest *Zechus* in the world!! So hold on! (P.S. Don't look for trouble!!).**

שִׁבְעַת יָפֹל וְצָדִיק יָקוּם מִשְׁלֵי דֵד טו A *Tzaddik* falls seven times, and gets up. I was told in *Novardok* by R' Elya Rotnemer *Zatzal* that a *Tzaddik* is a person who falls, and yet he keeps going! I had a great *Elul* this year! Even though I got worse and worse and everything went wrong, I still wasn't *Mya'esh!* What a success!"

Novardok

I was present when a renowned *Chassidic Adam Gadol Zatzal* got nervous when R' Malkiel Kotler *Shlita* (who was half his age) came to visit him. He anxiously asked his *Gabbai* how to react. This person was a *Gaon* and a big *Tzaddik*. I also heard a tape of a true *Rash'kebe'hag*, and as he was speaking, he remarked quietly: "I hope I'm making a good impression."

Although *Novardokers* specialized in not worrying about these things (and it's certainly an A-1 *M'halech* for so many of us) yet, if you aren't that "*Middas HaHish'tavus* person" (who doesn't care if people praise him or criticize him), you can still become an *Adam Gadol* with plenty of *Olam HaBah*. People are so worried about being insecure, that this: גּוֹפָא (itself) makes them even more insecure. "So I'm not perfect! So what?!"

What's Wrong with Being Insecure?

"I make mistakes all day long." For *Elul*, do *Teshuva*, and for a change, learn how to tolerate yourself (*Bitachon!*). All your weaknesses are *Yissurim* that you should be happy with; and they will save you from *Gehinom*. "I'm a little crazy" (just like everyone else; only that they do a good job in hiding their *Meshugassen*). "I don't mind my wife and/or *Chavrusa's* weirdness... they're just like me." (Have a sense of humor! It's healthy!)

A Polish *Yiddene* (Jewish woman) used to say about *Shiduchim*: "I'm not the best, and I'm not looking for the best."

Those Nasty Red Lights Are *Min HaShamayim*

In our high-stress society, industriousness is glorified and respected, and you feel good when you're always moving and doing. This is why the USA has such a high state of diseases caused by stress. So Hashem created red lights for all those impatient people (*Chet HaEigel* was caused by impatience) so they should relax with a deep breath, and practice *Bitachon*, *Menucha*, and *Savlanus!* (And take a break from: כְּחִי יַעֲצֶם יְיָ). R' Zundel of Salant *Zatzal* said: כָּל עִכְבָּה לְטוֹבָה Every delay is *L'tovah*