

A True Yarei Shamayim Doesn't Look Down at Anyone

The Passuk says about Amalek **וְלֹא יִרְאֶה כֹּהֵי חַיִּים** - **כָּל הַנְּחָשִׁים**. Those who attack the weak and those who struggle behind everyone, are g-dless people. **וְיִשְׁקֶשֶׁת אֶת נַרְדְּדֵי קִהְלֵת גֹּט**. Hashem is always sticking up for the underdog, and we are also required to always remember to include the poor and the destitute at our table when we have a good time. The *Torah* is loaded with unending concern for the *Levi*, the *Ger*, the *Yasom* and the *Almana*.

Even just feeling superior to others and degrading them, is a sign of g-dlessness. A person thinks that he created himself, and he looks down at the nebachs who aren't as smart, rich, talented, or popular as he is.

When you remember that Hashem created you, and every inch of strength and success in your very being is all the work of Hashem, then you don't look down at others, because you realize that we are all the same. In fact, the more a person has, the more he is *M'chuyav* to be thankful to Hashem, and he has a hard job. (*Chovos Halvavos*).

Hitler, *Y'mach Sh'mo*, killed well over 100,000 young German children who were either retarded or mentally and/or physically unstable. They were useless for his new government, *Y'mach Sh'mam*. (He did the same to 50,000 adult Germans). By a *Yid*, **these underlings are the precious part of his life. When he respects the poor and the downtrodden, he becomes great, and he earns a good life in *Olam HaZeh* and in *Olam HaBah*.**

Just as looking "down" at others comes from a lack of *Yiras Shamayim*, so does looking "up" to people and being afraid of them. Compared to Hashem, we are all equal. We are all: **בְּרֵאשִׁית** His creations, while He is the **בּוֹרֵא** Creator.

Novardok

To truly enjoy this world, you need your mind in *Shamayim* (כפי הסבא זצ"ל). When R' Ben-Tzion Bruk *Zatzal* spoke in Beth Medrash Gavoha, he was so engrossed in the *Mussar Shmuess* that he was giving, that it looked like he was in a different world. It was a packed *Bais Medrash*, but I wonder if he had any idea of how big his audience was. I'm sure it wasn't important to him. He was a person who talked about the *Yamim Nora'im* like a real upcoming court case. And he was heavily engrossed in the details of how to deal with it. When you truly feel Hashem, then the rest of the world is zero to you.

I just got off the phone after talking with one of the 14 *Bachurim* from the *Novardok Yeshiva* in *Eretz Yisrael*. By just talking to him, I felt like I was in a different world. He discussed *Elul* with a happy voice, but with utter seriousness. The biggest *Bnei Torah* and *Roshei Yeshiva* in *Eretz Yisrael* have remarked that these bachurim are uncommonly "healthy" spiritually. (They love people, but aren't afraid of them, and aren't *M'chanef* (sweet-talk) them. They are seriously concerned about each other's welfare, in *Ruchaniyus & Gashmiyus*.)

He told me that in *Elul*, they usually learn about an hour or two of *Mussar*. And this they learn first thing in the morning, or else, by the time you learn *Mussar* you are already far away into your regular *Da'agos* (worries). They try to have their heads full of *Chovos Halvavos*, *Shaarei Teshuva*, and *Madregas HaAdam*, etc. They keep learning these *Seforim*, and they sit on a *Passuk* until it sinks in.

The idea of *Elul* is to keep your regular schedule, but in a stronger way, in *Torah* and *Tefila*, etc. I heard the same thing in the name of R' Nossen Wachtfogel *Zatzal*.

During *Elul*, many *Bachurim* from other *Yeshivos* would come to *Novardok*, including R' Chaim Shmuelevitz, who considered *Novardok* to be more on fire than the greatest *Baalei Mussar* of the times. When the *Bachurim* would cram together to hear a *Shiur* or *Shmuess*, the son-in-law of the *Alter*, R' Yisroel Yaakov Lubchansky *Zatzal*, would walk slowly between the rows, and **very, very** gently would tell them to be careful not to push each other.

Being gentle and *Eidel* was a major *Novardok* issue, despite their fire. No heavy *Kana'us* type "Mussaring-out" people; just *Eidelkeit*, which is the Jewish way, as it says: **וְיִקְרָא תוֹלְדוֹת כֹּזֵב** the "voice" is the voice of *Yaakov*.