

BITACHON WEEKLY

BY: RABBI YEHUDAH MANDEL SHLITA

פרשת שופטים תשפ"ד

A Rebbe Has to Be Someone Who Understands You and Your Nisyonos

There are two *Pessukim* in this weeks' *Parsha*, **שׁוֹם תְּשִׁים עֲלֶיךָ מֶלֶךְ מִקְרֵב אֲחִיךָ יֵד טוֹ נָבִיא מִקְרֵבךָ מֵאֲחִיךָ יח טו**. The *Passuk* uses identical: *לְשׁוֹנוֹת* (expressions) by both the *Melech* and the *Navi*. They both need to be one of **you**; a brother and a: *קָרוֹב* relative from among **you**. Besides the simple *Pshat* (that a: *גֵּר* convert cannot be a *Melech* or a *Navi*) we can say a big *Yesod*. The *Navi* will give you *Mussar*, and the *Melech* is an example for you to follow. You cannot be expected to follow an act that you have no *Shaychus* with.

Someone who is "up in the clouds" and has no *Yetzer Hara*, cannot be involved with your life. He has to be a person who understands you, and has been through similar *Nisyonos*. For good reason *Dovid* had to be an *Admoni* and a descendent of *Mo'av*. He had all those nasty *Nisyonos* and even worse than most people. Now you feel comfortable with "one of your own"; you can listen to him, and try to emulate him.

One Who Is Involved in *Bitachon* & *Hashgacha Pratis* Is a Special *Chashuva* Person

Nachum Ish Gam Zu. "*Ish*" is a *Lashon* of *Chashivus*. The person who is involved in *Bitachon* and *Hashgacha Pratis* is not *Stam* a nice *Tamim*; he is a special *Chashuva* person. Those who learn *Shaar HaBitachon* and are *Osek* in *Inyanei Emuna* and *Bitachon* should always build themselves up and be extra proud of themselves, for the simple reason that they are more involved directly with the *Melech* of the whole world.

Like the *Rambam* says that he'd rather teach *Emuna* than any other topic. He is also automatically strong and happy; he is close to Hashem, and it says: **עַז וְהִדְדָּהּ**

עַז וְהִדְדָּהּ there is strength and joy in His place.

Also, he is extreme, that in the face of the worst situations he says *Gam Zu L'tovah*, and he expects *Davka* the best outcome. (*Maharal*).

And a *Melech* is known for extreme *Bitachon*, since the statement: **אֲפִילוּ חֶרֶב חִדָּה מוֹנַחַת עַל צְנֹאָרוֹ שָׁל אָדָם**, "As impossible as your situation may seem, NEVER give up hope!" was said by *Dovid* and repeated by *Chizkiyahu HaMelech*. Being extreme in *Bitachon* is *Malchus*, and you're a *Chashuva* "*Ish*"! Be proud! *Rabeinu Yonah* says that "standing" is the stance of a person who has *Bitachon*; we see that *Bitachon* is an *Inyan* of *Chashivus* in general.

Also, since his very name was *Ish Gam Zu*, we see that a person can have a constant involvement in these *Sugyos* (topics) and become a total "shtick" *Baal Bitachon*, who monitors every move in his life based on the principles of *Bitachon*.

When You're Really in A Good Mood, You Forgive All Wrongs & Enjoy Loving People

I was davening *Shachris*, and many nervous and worrisome thoughts came to my mind, so I kept changing them for positive *Bitachon* thoughts. I also tried to have *Kavana* on the beautiful words of *Shachris* and I tried to believe that all my *Tefilos* will be answered. All this lifted my spirits and I had a: **רוּחַ נְדִיבָה** generous spirit.

I loved everybody as a result, and I cheered up the *Goyishe* mechanic who had just fixed my car. Believe it or not, much *Shalom Bayis* problems are there because a person doesn't like his job or he's a worrier type who doesn't work on having positive thoughts. When you're really in a good mood, you forgive all wrongs and you enjoy loving people!

Bitachon Means You're "On Top" Of A Situation, And You Aren't *Nis'pael*

A reason why a *Melech* is: **מְיוֹחָד** unique for *Bitachon* can be because a *Melech* is smeared with oil. He is "on top" like oil, and *Bitachon* means you're "on top" of a situation, and you aren't *Nis'pael* (impressed). The whole idea of *Malchus* is not being *Nis'pael*, since *Hispa'alus* means being "under" and impressed, which is a *Shiflus*

and a lack of strength.

Notice how a lion (who is a king) is always “cool”; unaffected and unafraid. He is calm and relaxed, and is proud and “on top”. He is indeed super strong, and those who keep *Sh'mita* (*Baalei Bitachon*) are called גְּבֵרֵי כַח עֲשִׂי גְבֵרֵי כַח עֲשִׂי “strong” ones, who do His command. (*Medrash*). Some say that: יִבְטַח בַּה' יִרְמִיָּהוּ ז"ל is a *Lashon of Gevura* (strength).

My *Rebbe* told me that *Bitachon* and *Ga'ava* are similar. And just as *Malchus/Bitachon* means no fear of “people”, so does it mean no fear of life’s issues. The king is: מְיֻחָד לְמַלְחָמָה unique for war because he is strong.

Novardok

Elul is the best time to work on your *Middos*. For example, a person gets married in order to raise a family, which is a big *Mitzva*. But *Middos* are an overriding importance in your life, and your spouse is invaluable for this. Don’t forget! You came to this world mainly to work on your *Middos*.

You may need to work on *Anava*, and a bossy spouse is perfect for this. I knew a big *Tzaddik* who prided himself in his ability to be pushed around and obey all his wife’s oncoming orders. She pushed him around, and he acted (*L'havdil*) like a puppy dog and like a rag! However, when it came to his learning & *Avodas Hashem*, he could be tough as nails... and in his polite way, he did what he wanted.

So many precious *Middos*: The true *Ga'ava* and the true *Anava*. Soft types who are serious about their *Middos*, realize that they need to toughen up and practice being a man, and not a piece of butter. You need a *Rebbe* to guide you. Otherwise, you may decide that you are a nebach, when in truth YOU are the troublemaker.

The *Chochom* says: **“When my spouse (or other close relative, or friend) yells at me about things that I really didn’t do, I don’t mind in the least.** It all goes over my head, and **I never argue back or defend myself** (which is the most ridiculous waste of time and energy). And sometimes the other party may even be right; in which case I’ll try to improve myself if possible.

Some people get panicky when they hear lies, especially about themselves. “But it’s not true! How can you say that??” “Smart people who don’t really care, live longer and happier. If you’re really into truthfulness, then remember THIS truth: Any form of *Yissurim* (like getting yelled at) in this world, saves you from *Gehinom*, which is much worse than the entire Nazi Holocaust.

During *Elul*, even the biggest *Tzaddikim* would disappear to be alone with Hashem. R' Elchonon Wassermann *Zatzal* would visit the *Chofetz Chaim* during *Elul*, and later he would visit the famous *Mussar Yeshiva, Kelm*. Many of these *Mussarniks* would cry whenever they davened *Shmoneh Esrei*, and this was all year round! Imagine *Elul*! During *Elul*, they would be extra careful with *Shmiras HaChushim* (watching their “senses”, i.e., mouths, ears, and eyes. (*Seforim*). This was from the [unwanted] sights of pre-war eastern Europe, where the streets were a “dream” compared the American streets of today. However, in a sense, our *Dor* can be considered greater, since we try despite being in a mud-hole of *Goyish'keit* and materialism.

Imaging the high *Madrega* of a person in our lowly generation who makes a slight attempt to copy our glorious past! And if he can’t do a decent *Shmiras HaChushim*, then he davens before learning *Mussar*, begging Hashem that the *Mussar* should sink into his *Neshama*, and turn his: לֵב אֶבֶן cold heart into a: לֵב בָּשָׂר feeling heart.

Elul is the time to work on *Bitachon* and *Simcha*. *L'Dovid Hashem Ori*, which is said every day during *Elul*, really calms you down with *Bitachon*. But first, we need to realize the gravity of our *Matzav* during *Elul*. Then, our *Bitachon* is real; that despite our great fear of *Yom HaDin*, we still have *Bitachon* that with Hashem’s help we will have a *Shana Tova*.