

# BITACHON WEEKLY

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פרשת וירא תשפ"ה

## Bitachon Makes a Joke Out of The Limitations Of "Impossible" Situations

The passuk says וְתַצְחַק שָׂרָה RSRH *Zatzal* points out how *Klal Yisroel* was created by so much laughter over something so absurd and ridiculous, and how *Sara* found out accidentally and it struck her so suddenly. This is the essence of *Klal Yisroel*. *Orchos Chaim* of the *Rosh* says that the main difference between *Klal Yisroel* and *Goyim* is *Middas HaBitachon*, and "*Bitachon*" and "*Badchan*" (comedy) are related.

Just as *Klal Yisroel* left "*Mitzrayim*" which means "boundary" and an "enclosed" place, so does the world need our *Bitachon* which makes a "joke" out of the limitations of "impossible" situations.

אֲשֶׁר הִתְעַלְלֵתִי בְּמִצְרַיִם בְּאֵיב Hashem made fun of the *Mitzri'im*. This is just an example of how He makes a comical joke out of "limitations" and all those locked *Matzavim* of *Yi'ush*. And this is the job of a *Yid*, to break barriers all his life, by playing-down his pecklach, since Hashem can do anything. In this way he saves the world, and he brings-up the *Bitachon* level.

Laughter kills all our problems. It opens us up and eases us from stress (לְחֻצְוֵנוּ) and pressures which the world is full of. The more you work on laughter, the further you go (and the longer you live!) In *Madregas HaAdam*, the *Alter Zatzal* says that there is nothing "weird" or "strange" or "ridiculous" that Hashem cannot do. **The weirdest and craziest Yeshuos can come to a Baal Bitachon.**

With the birth of *Yitzchok*, the seeds of *K'riyas Yam Suf* were born. And every *Yid* can create more and more weird *Yeshuos* in his life, and prove the greatness of Hashem and the stupidity of *Tevah* and all its limitations.

**The True Greatness of a Human Is Davka to Have a Negative Side Which He Overcomes**

The greatness of *Sara Imeinu* is that she was human with a gut reaction of laughter, which she overcame with blind *Bitachon*.

## When A Person Truly Respects Himself, He Can Have Amazing Respect for ALL Humans

The passuk says וְאִם נָא מְצַאתִי חֵן בְּעֵינֶיךָ אֵל נָא תַעֲבֹר מֵעַל עַבְדְּךָ It is awe inspiring how a great and famous person like *Avraham Avinu* should have such amazing respect for what appeared to be three low-life Arabs! We can suggest because just like his very name means greatness (אב - רם exalted father) so did he respect all humans, since we are all a: חֵלֶק אֱלֹהִים מִמֶּעַל a piece of Hashem *Mamash!* Indeed, *Avraham* was the first person who found Hashem, but he also found himself!

All this took place while he had just had a *Bris Mila*, which is a most remarkable *Mitzva*, as if to say that Hashem's creation of man is lacking, and the human has to "fix": כִּבְיָכוֹל (if it was possible) what Hashem left out! גדולה הכנסת אורחים יותר מהקבלת "Inviting guests is even greater than greeting the *Shechina!*" was said about this incident! It was when he just had a *Bris Mila*, that *Avraham* got the message that Hashem wants the human to: כִּבְיָכוֹל (if it was possible) have something "over" Him!

This is the opposite of *Dor HaMabul* which were *Nichshal* in *Gezel* and *Arayos*, i.e., not being serious about the rights of a human, and "making cheap" the whole: בְּרִיאָה world and the holiness of mankind. At the end of our long *Galus*, we need extra work to appreciate ourselves and our true greatness.

## The True Self-Esteem Person Recognizes His Own and Other People's Gadlus

Then we have *Avraham Avinu* giving *Tochacha* to a powerful king without *Hispa'alus*. The true self-esteem person can be extreme in recognizing his and other people's *Gadlus*, and he is also tough and unafraid of even the mightiest. His energy spills over to those around him, as it says by *Avraham*: וַיִּרְקֵא אֶת חֲנִיכָיו יַד יָד He galvanized his disciples.

And do you know why *Avraham Avinu* went all out for the wicked *Anshei Sedom*? He was fighting for the honor of a *Tzelem Elokim*, which the *Mitzva* of *Bris Mila* had taught him!

After all, if she had no challenge or *Yetzer Hara* to feel differently, what *Ma'ala* and value is her *Bitachon*? And just as the very essence of *Klal Yisroel* was built on laughter, it was also built on an action which was criticized, as Hashem said to *Avraham*: דַּבֵּר יְיָ גֵי-טִי לָמָּה זֶה צָחָקָה שָׂרָה הִיפְלֵא מֵה' דְּבַר יְיָ גֵי-טִי Why did *Sara* laugh? Is there anything that Hashem cannot do??

The true greatness of a human is *Davka* to have a negative side which he overcomes. Perhaps this is the reason why *Avraham* fed the *Malachim* (they “needed” him), to be *M'ramez* that an *Adam* is greater than a *Malach*, since only an *Adam* says: בְּשִׁבְלִי נִבְרָא הָעוֹלָם the entire universe was created just for me, and a *Malach*, being only a *Chelek* (portion) of the *Adam's* world, needs an *Adam*.

*Sara* denied laughing, since she was afraid. This is the very essence of every *Oved Hashem*. אֵשֶׁבַע יָפֹל צְדִיק וְקָם מִשְׁלֵי כֵּד טוֹ A *Tzaddik* falls seven times, and gets up; i.e., a person who always makes embarrassing mistakes which he'd like to deny, and then he tries again and does *Teshuva*. So don't *Redd-Zich-Ein* (convince yourself) that you, or all those *Tzaddikim* you admire, aren't full of mistakes. *Sara* was most probably the biggest *Tzadekes* in the history of mankind.

## Novardok

### Being Alone with Hashem

*Toras Avigdor* (R' Avigdor Miller *Zatzal*) in last week's *Parsha* (5784) discusses the importance of being alone with Hashem; this is what *Avraham Avinu* was always doing. He mentions how the holy *Baal Shem Tov* was alone in the forest for weeks. Also, R' *Yoizel*, the *Alter* of *Novardok Zatzal* had two huts in the forest; one that only his wife knew about (and no one else could get to him), the other, only his *Talmid*, R' Yoel *Baranchik Zatzal* knew about. I can't agree more than to the greatness of being alone with Hashem.

The *Alter* of *Novardok Zatzal* says that Hashem is the *Shoresh* (source) of all your *Hatzlachos*. This turned me on big time! **You want to be successful? Keep going back again and again to the Source of all goodness Who controls everything, and is stronger and more powerful than Hamas** and your issues and crazy problems and relationships, your health, your learning *Torah* and *Shviras HaMiddos*, your very life! Every time you run to Him, you are demonstrating that by you, אֵין עוֹד מְלַבְדֵּי (there exists no power other than Hashem) is real, and as a result Hashem will give you much more than other people. When I'm alone in the car, or taking a walk, I'd much rather chap a schmooze with Hashem than learning or listening to tapes, etc. The more you're with Hashem, the better! And for sure, Hashem appreciates your preferring His company than to all your friends and relatives! (Of course, use your *Sechel* as always.)

### About Mussar

R' *Yerucham Levovitz Zatzal* said that *Mussar* is a “goldgrube” (goldmine), since learning *Mussar* saves a person from judgement in *Olam HaBah*. R' *Chatzkel Levenstein Zatzal* said that an *Oved Hashem* has a different *Cheshbon* than others. R' *Mordechai Schwab Zatzal* said that to be considered an *Oved*, you have to serve Hashem beyond the way one normally serves him. Even if he makes an effort that goes a **little** beyond one's natural inclinations.

I double-checked this story: An old *Novardoker* who used to give out *Sifrei Mussar*, came in a dream to someone (who is still alive) who is doing the same thing, and he told him that because he spread *Mussar*, he was *Zoche* to come to his place in *Gan Eden* in only ½ hour after his *Petira*.

They say that people who had tremendous *Yissurim*, *Rachana Litzlan*, go straight to *Gan Eden*. In *Novardok* they also say: אוֹ מוֹסֵר אוֹ יִתְיַסֵּר “Either learn *Mussar*, or suffer *Yissurim*. *Mussar* and *Yissurim* have the same *Shoresh* (root). Make life easy and get involved in *Mussar*, and: אֲשֶׁרִי הִלְקֵכֶם fortunate is your lot. *Mussar* is *Gevaldig*; it shows that you're trying to improve. And even if you don't succeed, Hashem is interested in our intentions. It shows *Hachna'a* and admittance that you need to improve. *Hachna'a* and *Hoda'ah* are #1 forms of true *Teshuva*.