

# BITACHON WEEKLY

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פרשת משפטים תשפ"ה

## One Who Has Only Hashem, Doesn't Need People

The passuk says, *Imagine if a person would actually feel that Malachim are always surrounding him and protecting him. Hashem positions His Malachim to protect you wherever you are. Or better yet, feeling that Hashem Himself is right next to you at all times. Dovid HaMelech was famous for being unusually close to Hashem. How did this happen?*

*Dovid was told by his father, Yishai, to go to the battlefield, and bring food for his brothers who were soldiers in Shaul HaMelech's army. When Dovid came, he noticed that nothing was happening. The Yidden were petrified, since the Pelishtim had a powerful giant on their side, Golyas HaPelishti. Golyas had challenged them that they should send one of their soldiers to him, and whoever overpowers the other will decide their fate. If Golyas kills him, then all Yidden are his Avadim.*

*And if the Yid overpowers Golyas, then all the Pelishtim lost the battle. Everybody was terrified until Dovid arrived. When Dovid's older brother Eliav saw Dovid, he accused him of being a wicked shepherd, who isn't doing his job and taking care of the sheep. Dovid could have told him that his father Yishai sent him to the battlefield, but Dovid said nothing. Why?*

**Notice how Dovid has no interest in defending himself to his big brother.** A true Melech has *Middas HaHish'tavus*, i.e., he doesn't care if people love him or hate him! He has only Hashem, and he doesn't need people! The *Chovos Halvavos* at the beginning of *Shaar HaBitachon* says that if you have *Bitachon* in humans, then Hashem leaves you in their hands, and you lose true *Bitachon* in Hashem.

### **A Person Without Family Support, Learns to Be Totally Dependent on Hashem**

*It seems odd that the first 30 years of his life Dovid lived alone. His family despised him, thinking he was a Mamzer and they were hoping that his unsafe job (of taking care of his sheep in dangerous areas) would kill him. Yet, Dovid told Shaul HaMelech that he is ready to take on Golyas, since he already killed a lion and a bear who tried to kill his sheep.*

*Dovid said that as soon as the lion grabbed the sheep, he pulled it out of his mouth, and he killed the*

### **The Greatness of Our Yissurim We Are Having Now in The Next World.**

*There is a story about a kindhearted Poritz (landlord) who had to leave his estate, so he appointed a substitute to oversee his business and collect rent, etc. He instructed the substitute to be nice to the Jew who rented by him. But the substitute was a rabid anti-Semite, and as soon as the Poritz left, he charged the Jew double, an amount which was impossible for the Jew. As a punishment, the Jew received 50 lashes. When the Poritz returned, he found out what happened and was horrified. He hung the evil substitute, and he paid the Jew 50 gold coins, a coin for every lash. The Jew came home depressed. He told his wife that he wished he had received 100 lashes, then he'd get 100 gold coins. The Chofetz Chaim says a similar Mashal, and he points out the greatness of Yissurim in the next world.*

*Look what happens when someone steals your ox; you get back double. But if the thief Shechts or sells it, you get back 5 oxen! **The more pain, the more you come out ahead! If people would constantly review these Yesodos, life would be much easier to live.***

*I have a Sefer with a: ליקוטי collection of sayings about the Ma'ala of Yissurim. If you keep learning it, it will change your life completely. Also, when a person accepts his Yissurim, he becomes a great Tzaddik, and the Yissurim become much easier, or disappear altogether, with Hashem's help. **Just keep saying that you are happy with them even if you don't mean it in your heart. This has great power and positive energy.***

lion! What kind of recklessness is this? A normal person would run for his life, and be happy that the sheep would be eaten instead of him! **However, a person who lives without family support, like Dovid, learns to be totally dependent on Hashem.**

And he has a totally different *Shulchan Aruch*. He doesn't have the normal warmth, love, and support that families and friends are supposed to give, and he becomes alone with one support; the: בורא עולם Creator of the world! He's *Mamash* in his own world, and he can have a high level of *Bitachon* since his sole support in life is Hashem Himself!

No wonder *Dovid* had no interest in defending himself to his older brother, *Eliav*. He doesn't need *Eliav's* support, *Kavod*, and recognition, since *Eliav* was never a source of strength in *Dovid's* life; only Hashem.

### **Try To Make an Impression ONLY On Hashem, Not on People**

Instead of depending on family and friends, it's preferable to be close to Hashem. Notice how *Dovid* was always loaded with enemies, and even betrayal on the part of *Klal Yisroel*. They ridicule him, desert him, and are disloyal to him, and his life has one chain of the worst enemies; *Avner, Shaul, Avshalom, Sheva ben Bichri, Shim'i ben Gera, Do'eg, Achitofel*; it's just unbelievable!

It seems that Hashem wanted *Dovid* to always be pure of the need of human approval, so he can be a true *Melech* who doesn't need people. We have a lifetime to spend trying to wean ourselves from our lust for *Kavod* and recognition, approval and support of humans; and to spend loads of extra time running to Hashem.

## Novardok

Many of our *Gedolei Yisroel* were in a different world when it came to *Bitachon*. I was told by a close *Talmid* of R' Ahron Kotler *Zatzal* that he was "treading very lightly on *Tevah*", and he did a minimum of *Hishtadlus*, like knocking on a door "only a drop" when collecting for a *Mosad*. One knock; I'm "Yotze" already, and I'm leaving.

I know a story about R' Ahron *Zatzal* where he blasted a wealthy person since he didn't approve of his *Treife Shitos*, and he really let him have it full force. This is despite that this person was in the process of giving Lakewood a tremendous amount of desperately needed money.

After this episode, R' Ahron was *Mya'esh* on getting the money, but he didn't care. In the end, this person respected R' Ahron and gave him the money nonetheless. I once heard a story about R' Ahron where he was asked by a *Torah* builder if he can say certain *Shitos* that weren't 100% kosher, in order to "buy-off" the American "*Oilam*" who weren't really ready for the "extremism" of Lakewood *Shitos*. R' Ahron said that with *Sheker*, you can't build *Emes*.

There is a famous story where somebody got up at a parlor meeting and said that Lakewood *Yeshiva* was there to produce *Roshei Yeshivos, Rabbonim, and M'chanchim*, etc. for the public. R' Ahron got up and said that the *Yeshiva* was there for producing people who did nothing but just learning *Torah!* Surely this wasn't a view that a practical minded American understood; but R' Ahron didn't care. And this is exactly why Lakewood was *Zoche* to have such phenomenal *Hatzlacha*, since R' Ahron cared only about Hashem's opinion, and not what "so and so" thinks, etc.

I know many great *Novardokers* who chose R' Ahron as their *Rebbe* after WWII, like R' Kalman Goldberg *Zatzal* and R' Chaim Zaitchik *Zatzal* [who was the *Baal Tefila* in Lakewood in R' Ahron's days on *Yamim Nora'im*. R' Ahron's *Bitachon* and fearlessness of people, his *Middas HaEmes*, his uncompromising "extremism" for *Yiddishkeit*, and love for *Torah*; are familiar concepts in *Novardok*.

Also, R' Ahron's disregard for *Gashmiyus*. I once heard a story where R' Ahron ate his food in a non-conventional way, but it was done in private. The *Gadol HaDor* [R' Ahron] didn't do weird things in public, since his "*Kavod HaTorah*" is *Kodesh Kodashim*.