

BITACHON WEEKLY

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פרשת בלק תשפ"ה

Things That Go Bad Can Be a Prelude to Something Extra Good

Chazal say that *Bilam's Brachos* were even greater than the *Brachos* of *Yaakov* and *Moshe*. *Yaakov* and *Moshe* first gave *Tochacha* to *Klal Yisroel*, and only then did they give *Brachos*. But the *Brachos* of *Bilam* had no: פגם flaw. **Look how *Davka* the worst of the worst produces the best of the best. The next time things go bad and you're getting depressed, don't be so impressed. It may be a *Hakdama* (prelude) to something extra good.**

Look at how those ugly wicked poisonous snakes became the great *N'chash HaN'choshes* which gives instant healing! There is so much "bad" in this world which is really a stepping stone to the greatest goodness. *Bilam* was either the son of *Lavan*, or *Lavan* himself, about whom it says: ולבן בקש לעקור את הכל *Lavan* tried to uproot us entirely. *Lavan* was the worst of the worst, even compared to *Paroh HaRasha*.

The Worst *Midda* Can Be Channeled to Reach the Highest *Madregos*

And where did *Avraham* and *Yitzchok* insist on getting *Shiduchim* for *Klal Yisroel*? Not in *Canaan*, but *Davka* by *Aram*; *Lavan's* country! *Avraham* means *Romemus*, and *Sara* also means: שררה nobility. *Canaan* means *K'niya*, i.e., bending and humility; and *Aram* means *Romemus*. Even the worst form of *Romemus* and true wicked *Ga'ava* can be channeled to the highest *Madregos*.

And often you *Davka* need a wicked trait to give you success. לעולם יעסוק אדם בתורה ומצוות אפילו. A person should learn *Torah* and do *Mitzvos Shelo Li'shmah* (for the wrong reasons) because eventually he will do it *Li'shmah* (to serve Hashem). **Use your *Yetzer Hara*!** So many of those wild kids turn out the greatest! A lazy person can sometimes be a big *Ma'ala*, since he has less *Ga'ava* and he sins less. A quieter person has less *Lashon Hara* and: אונאת דברים hurtful speech and *Ka'as* in his system.

Every *Chisaron* Has a *Ma'ala*

Always build up your *Chisaron* and see good in it! The person with *Yissurim* has much more humility and less *Gehinom*. The lustful *Baal Ta'ava* should know that he has tremendous potential to becoming a fiery *Oved Hashem*! But *Ga'ava* is actually a #1: שלא לשמה (ulterior motivation) since the *Chovos Halvavos* says that without it you can't be a real *Anav*.

People like us may need a lifetime to keep working on *Kosher Ga'ava*. And look how

Being A "Frum" Type Isn't Always a *Ma'ala*

Bilam davened that he should be like the: ישרים *Yesharim* (upright). He didn't say "*Tzaddikim*" or "*Chasidim*," because being a: ישר *Yashar* is exactly what he was missing. The *Netziv* says that the *Avos* were: ישרים *Yesharim* because they were nice to their enemies, i.e., they had *Shviras HaMiddos* and going against their *Tevah*; this is what *Bilam* lacked.

He had plenty of spiritualism, being a *Navi*, and by: בלק בן Balak, the son of *Tzipor* (bird), they say that a bird had special powers. Actually, a bird is a spiritual being in the sky, but the *Treife* predatory birds can be the lowest creatures. How careful a person must be to acquire a *Rebbe* to get the right *Chinuch*, especially in what's good for his *Neshama*. Being a "frum" type isn't always a *Ma'ala*. He may have to become a *Baal Ga'ava* if his nature is to be too soft, etc. Or **if he always feels that he does everything wrong, then he has to *Davka* feel he's perfect.** R' Shlomo Freifeld *Zatzal* told me that when he wants to get angry, he *Davka* doesn't. Each person needs the proper medicine for his *Neshama*. **A kvetchy person needs to thank over time, even when he's doing sins, or during the worst difficulties.**

Davka from *Bilam HaRasha* came such wonderful *Brachos*. We also find that Hashem causes the biggest *Tzaddikim* to descend from the worst *Reshaim*. Like *Haman*, *Sis'ra*, and *Sancheirev* (and almost even *Nevuchadnetzar*) had children who were the greatest *Tzaddikim*, like *Rabbi Akiva* and *Rabbi Meir*.

We can even suggest that we can learn from the bad *Middos* of *Bilam*; how he loved *Kavod* to the extreme, since in *Avodas Hashem* so often those who love *Kavod* work harder and become greater. Also, we see his unusual determination ignoring all the signs against him, And despite his foot being crushed, and a *Malach* going against him, he continued to pursue his wicked agenda to curse *Klal Yisroel*. So should we not be impressed by those many setbacks, **like when our *Bitachon* doesn't seem to work; we continue without *Hispa'alus***. Look how *Bilam* continues on, despite his: חמור donkey going against him.

If *Yidden* would run after *Kavod* and keep moving to the extreme that *Bilam* did, then we'd have so many more *Gedolei Yisroel* (מאן יבין תתקננו תהלים קיט צח) We become smarter by learning from our enemies).

Novardok

R' Shlomo Figer *Zatzal* said that in *Novardok* they would *Davka* go outside on a freezing night, and walk a mile to get something that was important for the *Yeshiva*. They would also go into a drug store and ask for nails if they were extremely shy types. However, they were careful not to make a *Chilul Hashem*, and everything they did was carefully calculated.

R' Yitzchok Gurwitz was a *Talmid* of R' Gershon during the war. After the war, he came to America, and was learning in *Novardok Bais Yosef* of *Boro Park*. One day, the news came that a certain famous *Novardoker* was coming, a real "*Shem Davar*" (celebrity). The *Bais Medrash* was abuzz with excitement. Finally, this *Novardoker* arrived at the *Yeshiva*. Noticeably sticking out of his jacket pocket was a newspaper, in English (which to him was like Chinese, and he obviously couldn't read it). He was aware of all the "hype" around him, and he wanted to downplay all the *Kavod* he was getting.

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A certain couple were married a bunch of years, and despite trying many different treatments, nothing worked. Finally, the doctors gave up hope on them ever having children, and even the most optimistic doctor had just given up hope. Finished. The day she found out that she isn't capable of having children, the wife went home and put on her *Shabbos* clothing, and cooked up a whole meal for her and her husband. When her husband came home, he asked her: What's this all about? She said: I am giving up on having kids. I don't need kids. They keep you up at night. I'm so excited just to have you! I am being *M'kabel* everything with *Simcha*. The VERY NEXT DAY she received a phone call from her doctor, the one who had just given up hope, that they found a new approach to help them, and 9 months later they had their first child! She sincerely accepted her situation, it wasn't fake, she threw in the towel, and made a party with real *Simcha* over her *Matzav*. That has the biggest power.

A woman was trying to get her daughter into a girl's high school. She spent months and months pleading with 4-5 high schools, but they all said that they have no room. One day, she turned on one of my hotlines, and she decided to say: "I'm so happy NOT to get into a school. This is wonderful, being stuck at home without a school, etc." She is a nervous type, and she didn't mean a thing she said (of course). Yet, within half an hour, she got a telephone call from a top, top school that her daughter can be accepted!

A *Yungerman* called me about his son, who is constantly being rejected by every *Shidduch* they redd him. I told him to keep saying how he loves to get rejected, and in a short time the last rejection changed their mind, and today his son is a *Chosson*!

עיקר חיות האדם שביירת המדות ואי לא למה לו חיים The main point of life is *Shviras HaMiddos*, and without it, what is the point of living? (*Gr"a*). **Being satisfied even when not getting what you want**, and the *Zechus* of going against your nature, is *Kodesh Kodoshim* and can give the biggest *Yeshuos*.