

BITACHON WEEKLY

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פרשת מטות-מסעי תשפ"ה

Life Is a Journey With Stops Along the Way

Parshas Masei begins with the account of all the travels of the *Yidden* in the *Midbar*, naming each of the 42 *מסעות* travels by name, e.g., they left: *דפקה* the place called "*Dafka*" and rested in: *אלוש* "*Alush*". Whoever heard of "*Dafka*" and "*Alush*"? And what difference does it make to us? This whole *Parsha* of: *מסעות* travels is a strong message to us. We need to value every inch of our lives. Everything has a purpose, and the *מסעות* travels were *Nisyonos* in *Savlanus* (patience and tolerance). So many stop-signs all over the *Midbar*; they are a message that in your life, expect loads of: *מניעות* delays and: *מניעות* (things you want that are withheld from you).

When people have a hard time waiting for a *Shidduch*, a business deal, having children, or getting into a *Yeshiva*, etc. they should remember *Parshas Masei*. Life is full of all kinds of disappointments. Not getting what you want is one of the greatest achievements of all mankind; if you accept your situation.

You Get *Olam HaBah* for Accepting All Those Situations That You Don't Want

Waiting and waiting, and forever waiting is a tremendous discipline, and you get *Olam HaBah* for accepting all those situations that you don't want. A: *מסע* is a trip, and we don't attach much importance to a trip, since it's only a medium to get you to your final destination. But a *Yid* has to learn to value every inch of his life, since he is always being tested. And passing tests make you great, and gives you loads of *Schar*. (For example, respect and glorify and be: *מעריך* (give great value to) those precious moments that you are standing like a klutz and waiting for a bus...)

When you rave all-day about the greatness of *Torah*, *Tzedaka*, patience, or *Bitachon*, then it all becomes easier to do, since you are: *מעריך* (you give it value)! And when you make jokes and ridicule sins and weaknesses, they become much easier to overcome.

When *Rabeinu Yonah* in *Mishlei* explains what *Mussar* is, he says "to put-down the bad". And earlier he says that "*Mussar*" means the **scorn** of *Reshaim*, and an awareness of the injury and damage they bring about. And in order to do what you're supposed to do, you need to honor and

True Closeness to Hashem Is When You're in The Distance

Chazal say that when the *Goyim* entered the *Heichal* in order to destroy it, they found the *K'ruvim* hugging each other. Why were the *K'ruvim* hugging each other *Davka* on *Tisha B'av*? For 400 years they were either looking at each other (when Hashem was happy with *Klal Yisroel*), or they were facing away from each other (when Hashem was upset with us). Hugging is a gesture of *L'ma'aseh*, and just looking at each other is a **distant** closeness.

This sounds so odd. When we are in *Galus* and are distant from Hashem, THEN the *K'ruvim* are close; and when we are in *Eretz Yisroel* then they are distant?! It seems from here that there is something about *Galus* that makes it more *L'ma'aseh* than being in *Eretz Yisroel*! **The truth is that the true closeness to Hashem is when you're in the distance, and you wish to be close and you yearn for Hashem!** As the *Passuk* says *ישמח לב מבקשי ה' תהלים קה* Rejoice all you **seekers** of Hashem! We see that the *M'vakesh* (seeker) is the most real! It's the person who strives and struggles; not the person who is already there! It's the potential *Baal Teshuva*, upon whom we say: *במקום שבבעלי תשובה עומדים אין צדיקים גמורים* *Baalei Teshuva* are even GREATER than pure *Tzaddikim*! The one who was already full of dirt and *Tum'ah*, who strives to come back; he ends up higher!

I once heard in the name of R' Yaakov Galinsky *Zatzal*, that the fine Jew who is a big *Rosh Yeshiva* with lots of *Talmidim* and *Kishronos* (ability) and *Kavod* etc., is nothing compared to his Bubby who had loads of struggles and *Tefilos* in order to be *Zoche* to such a grandson. Look how *Rochele* and *Leah* had to struggle; especially *Leah*! With all these tears, she built *Klal Yisroel*!

appreciate what you're doing. In *Mishlei*, *Rabeinu Yonah* says that when you are *M'vazeh Chochma* and *Yiras Hashem*, then you don't learn, and he adds that you will not be *Matzliach* in learning Hashem's wisdom if you don't really value it.

You learn Torah and have Yiras Shamayim because you value and respect what you're doing! And in the next *Passuk*, he says that when you are *Osek* in *Chochma*, it should be so precious and dear to you, that despite the great hardship involved, it should seem to you as if it was nothing. **The reason why it becomes easy to learn Torah is because it is:** יְקָרָה חֲבִיבָה וְחִשּׁוּקָה בְּעֵינָיו **priceless, beloved, and thirsted for by you!**

And he also says : יִתֵּן אֶל לְבוֹ הָעוֹנֵג וְהַשְׁלֹם וְהַגְמוּל וְהַשְׂכָּר : **Think of the pleasure and the peace and Menucha and the tremendous reward that awaits you! Now you'll become a true happy Masmid!**

Novardok

They say that R' Gershon made 1,000 *Shiduchim*, and not one divorce. He would pick out a *Bachur* and a girl at random, and match them. A son of such a union told me that his father and mother are totally incompatible, yet there is 100% *Shalom Bayis*. Also, his *Talmidim* were taught about breaking *Middos*, and they pride themselves with always being *M'vater*. R' Gershon once met an *Adam Gadol*, who was a *Rosh Yeshiva* of a famous *Yeshiva*. The *Rosh Yeshiva* boasted about his high *Madrega* in *Torah*. But R' Gershon boasted that he had zero divorce rate.

I knew a *Novardoker Adam Gadol* who was married to an extremely difficult woman. She had suffered in WWII, and was not 100%. He never had an argument with her. Once, she once told her daughters (in his presence) to wear manlike pajamas (pants) in front of him. He didn't say a word to her, but privately he told his daughters that this isn't allowed. People once asked him why he doesn't divorce, and he replied that the children wouldn't be safe under his wife's care.

He said that a couple without arguments produces *Menucha*, which is like *Gan Eden*. R' Chaim Mordechai Wainkrantz was once approached by a woman who told him that her son was in a lot of pain. He glanced at the boy's face, and he asserted that this is because he is *M'chalel Shabbos*. The boy was in total shock. He used to take hot showers on *Shabbos*, in a place that was impossible to be seen. As soon as he stopped doing this, his pain disappeared.

R' Wainkrantz once had had a massive heart attack. The doctor said that his heart was made out of paper, and it was impossible to live like this. Yet, he led a long and productive life. A *Baal Bitachon* gets different service. Once he was in the hospital getting potassium shots, an excruciatingly painful procedure. Yet, they couldn't see the slightest pain or discomfort on his face.

They asked him about this, and he said that it's a pleasure to have some more pain in THIS world rather than *Gehinom*. This is what 3-4 hours *Mussar* daily produces. (He used to insist on the *Ma'ala* of 3 hours of *Mussar*, in the name of R' Chatzkel Levenstein *Zatza*). I personally believe in the possibility of these *Madregos*, if you work on believing in the power of *Tefila*.

When you have a *Mussar Chinuch* in *Emuna* and *Bitachon*, you realize that the only True Doctor is Hashem. I knew a woman from U. K. who was married to a super-critical husband, who always ignored her, while always being nice to others. **She davened super hard for many years, and in the end she loved all his criticism. When he went to a Chasuna alone, she insisted on coming along with him, to enjoy all that criticism!**

You can't imagine the power of your mind! Those who learn loads of *Mussar* about the greatness of *Bizyonos* learn how to laugh when others cry! Once, a woman screamed at her husband for doing an evil which SHE had actually done, and not him. **He didn't say a word, and slept that night without any anxiety!**