

BITACHON WEEKLY

BY: RABBI YEHUDAH MANDEL SHLITA

פרשת ואתחנן-נחמו תשפ"ה

Your “Broken Soul” Side of You Brings You Closer to Hashem

Coming to *Eretz Yisroel* is loaded with unending goodness; taking over homes and cities and vineyards and all kinds of loads of goodness that we didn't have to produce. The *Canaanim* did the work, and we just moved in since it was all ready-made for us. This is a major danger; i.e., when everything is spoon-fed to you and you are loaded with ארץ זבת חלב ודבש a land flowing with milk and honey. You lose that “broken soul” side of you, which brings you closer to Hashem.

Look how the *Torah* has to warn: וְרַם לְבַבְךָ וְשָׁכַחְתָּ אֶת ה' עַקְבֵּי חַיִּיד you may become a *Baal Ga'ava*, and forget Hashem. *Moshe Rabeinu* was: מוֹשֶׁה רַבֵּינוּ כֹּבֵד פִּה וְכַבֵּד לָשׁוֹן וְעֵרֵל שְׁפָתַיִם handicapped in the area of his mouth, tongue, and lips, 3 different major *Chesronos* in speech. *Punkt* in the area that every leader must have! Such a person is broken, and he relies on Hashem more and more. I once had a talk with R' *Yehuda Jacobs Zatzal* about how when people are learning *Shaar HaBitachon*, that's a sign that something in that person's life is not going well.

/ You feel like a *nebach*. / You're full of anxiety. / You had bad relationships back home. / You're lacking in *Kishronos* (ability). / You have “rough edges” in your personality. / You are weak physically or mentally. / You're suffering with your *Parsha* of *Shalom Bayis*. / Aggravation from your kids. / You have a mental block in your learning. / You're too quiet and depressive. / You have no friends. / People aren't *Machshiv* you. / You aren't so *Ehrlich* or honest or *Oisgehalten* (trustworthy) in your business dealings. / Your family wants you out. / You're that black sheep. / You're forgetful. / You aren't *M'sudar*. / You have a bad reputation. / You have an issue with *Ka'as* or *Ta'ava* or jealousy. / You eat too much. / You aren't “one of the boys”. / You're too frum or too rigid or too modern. / You're in the wrong community. / Your physical appearance makes you self-conscious. / You have no self-esteem. / You never really became what you could have become and all kinds of difficulties.

Believe it or not, these are examples of leadership qualities, since they bring you close to Hashem. Look at *Moshe*, *Yosef*, and *Dovid*; all were away from home because they got into trouble.

Being Inadequate Is a *Bracha* in Disguise, but “Having It All” Can Be a Grave Danger

And *Yehoshua* was very weak in learning and they called him a *Tipesh* (fool)! (*Chazal*). One of

What Do You Do When Your *Tefilos* Don't “Work”?

TRUE STORY

A *Yungerman* was paid a free ticket to come to an out-of-town community to spend *Shabbos* there and be *Mashpia* (have positive influence) on them. He was an A-1 and much celebrated public speaker. He davened a lot that Hashem should help him make a great speech, and bring lots of: הַשְׁפָּעוֹת טוֹבוֹת (goodness from *Shamayim*) to the *Olam* (crowd). However, the first night he spoke, he noticed plenty of people leaving in the middle, and/or falling asleep on him (seems like the davening didn't work...? What do you do now??).

He was looking through his notes, and at his diary full of *Hashgacha Pratis* stories, when he noticed that many years ago he had had the same exact predicament. Instead of kvetching to Hashem, he had thanked Him for the “great speech” that he made, and how they all loved him and begged him to come again. Also, in his notes he had once mentioned how he had davened for something, and what he asked for simply didn't happen. He had been greatly disappointed, so he decided: הַעֲקוֹשׁן יִצְלִיחַ the stubborn will be *Matzliach*, and he davened again, and he had a *Yeshua*. So he davened again, which involved going against his nature to be *Mya'esh* and give up.

The next time he spoke he was a major “hit”! They loved his speech and he became very popular with them.

the famous shortcomings these days is not being *M'sudar'dik* (organized). And it can cause havoc on your productivity. People are annoyed with you, and they are right! Do you know who was 100% *M'sudar'dik*? The cruel, wicked *Amaleki* Germans! By them, everything was done with efficiency and order and professionalism. And Hitler, *Y'mach Sh'mo*, was a fantastic speaker!

And they were very intelligent and capable, *Y'mach Sh'mam*! (P.S. This doesn't mean that you shouldn't try to improve!)

Remember how *Moshe Rabeinu* had constant difficulties, like when he said: עוד מעט וסקלני בשלח יז ד They are on the verge of stoning me! And: איך אשא לבידי טרחתם ומשאטכם וריבכם דברים א יב How can I deal with the everyone's squabbling all by myself? This is the normal mode, since *Moshe* is an example for the *Klal*. So don't think that there is something wrong with you. On the contrary! It is a *Ma'ala* to have those unwanted issues and weaknesses. They save you from becoming an arrogant *Amaleki* type, *Rachmana Litzlan*!

Being Impressed by Scary or Important or Talented People Diminishes Your Self-Worth

Twice the *Torah* calls *Avoda Zara*: השחתה destruction. When you get carried away by the greatness of certain people and other fascinating creations of Hashem, you are destroying yourself, *Chas V'shalom*. You are a *Tzelem Elokim*, and when you focus your *Hispa'alus* mode on scary or important or talented people (or the fascinating sun and moon and stars and any creation), then you diminish your self-worth.

אָרור הַגִּבֹּר אֲשֶׁר יִבְטַח בְּאָדָם יִרְמִיָּה יז ה Cursed is the man who has *Bitachon* in a human. Getting impressed and worshipping anything outside Hashem is a form of *Avoda Zara*, which pulls you down. It makes a person cheap, since he forgets Hashem who created everything. A person himself is the: תִּרְ הַבְּרִיאָה crown of creation, and he is *M'chuyav* to respect himself. Birds, animals, fish, people, celestial bodies; they can all become forms of *Avoda Zara*. Just because you enjoy "nature" doesn't mean that it's giving you *Yiras Shamayim*.

The evil Germans were fascinated with "nature" and look what they did to the world! When you see the greatness of Hashem inside all His creations, then you grow. They were meant to give us *Yiras Shamayim*, but if you focus only on them, then you've got symptoms of *Avoda Zara*. This includes those fascinating trees, those amazing, delicious foods, and everything! Including those wonderous airplanes and skyscrapers, and anything interesting in this universe.

Novardok

R' Yisroel Movshovitz Zatzal

MASHGIACH OF YESHIVAS BAIS YOSEF NOVARDOK IN BIALYSTOK

R' Yisroel Movshovitz Zatzal was beloved and admired by everyone. In Siberia he was the pillar of strength, whose relaxed smile went full force despite horrific conditions. R' Dovid Zaritzky Zatzal who learned in *Radin* writes about him, and how *Bnei Torah* from all *Yeshivos* looked up to him.

Sometimes there were *Bachurim* in *Bialystok* who got carried away in *Avodas Hashem*, and they needed an "air conditioner" to cool them down. R' Yisroel was the perfect person who knew how to deal with them. One of the top *Novardokers* (I believe it was R' Nekritz Zatzal) once felt that he needed to "cool off", so he spent a few weeks learning *Chasidische Seforim*.

By the way, he wasn't at all a *Misnaged*, to even the most controversial *Chasid*. He had roots and a background that gave him a good *Chasidische* exposure. **(Unfortunately, much *Machlokes* goes on only because people don't really know the other *Shita*, and they judge from the distance).**

I personally know more than one person of great stature who loves "the other *Derech*", because they had been exposed more than their contemporaries.