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עקב

MENUCHAS HANEFESH

NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE

THE KEY TO ANSWERED TEFILLOS

THE POWER OF POSITIVE THINKING

RECOGNIZING YOUR POTENTIAL

by Rabbi Yehuda Mandel

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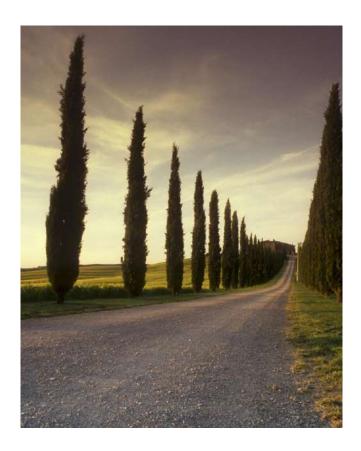


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BITACHON WEEKLY

פרשת עקב תשפ"ה

IN THIS ISSUE

- A PERSON HAS TO LEARN THE SKILLS AND THE BEAUTY OF EIDELKEIT, TACTFULNESS, AND UNDERSTANDING OTHERS WHO ARE DIFFERENT THAN YOU
- THE TRAGEDY OF SIN'AS CHINAM AND ALL MACHLOKES - WHEN ALL A PERSON SEES IS HIMSELF
- YOU ARE CONSIDERED SPECIAL AND IMPORTANT
- IT'S ALMOST AN AVEIRA TO DO ANY TYPE OF AVODA THAT'S NOT FOR YOUR LEVEL
- YOU REALLY CAN'T DEMAND FROM PEOPLE WHO DIDN'T HAVE THE RIGHT CHINUCH
- ACCEPT PEOPLE WITH LOWER CAPABILITY (INCLUDING YOURSELF!)
- WHENEVER YOU ARE INTIMIDATED BY HUMANS, TRY TO ENVISION MOSHE DESTROYING THE EIGEL AND TURNING IT TO DUST
- BEING IN AWE AND HISPA'ALUS OF OTHERS MAKES A PERSON WEAK AND INCAPABLE
- INSTEAD OF BEING BUSY ADMIRING OTHERS, REALIZE YOUR OWN SELF-WORTH
- SPEAKING LASHON HARA DESTROYS THE GIFT OF SPEECH
- THE MORE YOU SEE YOURSELF AS A CHASHUVA BIG TZADIK, THE MORE YOU'LL REFRAIN FROM DOING LOWLY DEEDS
- BE "FULL" AND SATISFIED IN RUCHANIYUS
- STORIES OF NOVARDOK

פרשת עקב

Hachna'a

applies in

all areas,

and the

Rambam

says¹ that a

Melech is

Mach'nía

even to the

lowest of

the low

וּמַלְתֵּם אֶת עָרְלַת לְבַבָּכֶם וְעָרְפָּכֶם לֹא תַקְשׁוּ עוֹד י טז A Person Has to Learn the Skills and the Beauty of Eidelkeit, Tactfulness, And **Understanding Others Who Are Different Than You**

Several years ago, a Yungerman in England put out a book on Chinuch, and he became an instant success. He was on the phone with

his friend, to discuss how he could promote his famous book. His friend's wife took the phone for a minute, and she started giving him all her: דעוֹת beliefs and her lofty opinions why she doesn't believe in his book. His friend's wife was a known liberal-minded person, who was heavily exposed to the gentile way of thinking.

Needless to say, his friend had suffered plenty from his "openminded" rebbetzin. The Yungerman told this woman: "I am so proud of you that you are "man" enough to

voice your own opinion. This is vital for your self-esteem. Always continue voicing your brilliant views, so that the world can benefit from your greatness.

"I'm so happy to hear that you dislike my book. And Halevai: שֵׁיָרָבּוּ כָּמוֹתֶךְ בִּיִשְׂרָאֵל there should be more strong-minded people like you in Klal Yisroel. You are a credit to our holy nation. Tough-minded people command much more respect, and you should keep up the good work, and make sure to put people in their place". (This is exactly what he was doing to her, but I wonder if she had enough intelligence to "chap" his sarcasm). It is sad when people don't have a Chinuch (training) in Hachna'a and Anava. All they believe-in is self-esteem and Ga'ava. Indeed,

פרשת עקב תשפ"ה

in many emergency cases, Ga'ava becomes a big Mitzva. However, ultimately, a person has to learn the skills and the beauty of Eidelkeit, tactfulness, and understanding of others who are a different type than you are.

The Tragedy of Sin'as Chinam and all Machlokes

WHEN ALL A PERSON SEES IS HIMSELF

I once witnessed a family Machlokes, where a member left the house: על דעת with intention never to come back again. I spoke to both parties.

Both felt without a question "I'm right!". Everybody thinks that he's the *Tzadik*, and the other person is intolerable! "How can a person do such a thing, and to his own relative!" Nobody sees another person; all he sees is himself. This is the tragedy of Sin'as Chinam and all Machlokes.

Yirmiyahu wrote Megilas Eicha, and he quoted the very words of Yoshiyahu

רמב"ם הלכות מלכים (ב ו) כדרך שחלק לו הכתוב הכבוד הגדול, וחייב הכל בכבודו, כך צוהו להיות לבו בקרבו שפל וחלל 1 שנאמר (תהלים קט כב) וְלָבִּי חָלַל בִּקְרָבִּי, ולא ינהג גסות לב בישראל יתר מדאי, שנאמר (שופטים יז כ) לְבִלְתִּי רוּם לְבָבוֹ מֵאֶחָיו, ויהיה חונן ומרחם לקטנים וגדולים, ויצא ויבא בחפציהם ובטובתם, ויחוס על כבוד קטן שבקטנים, וכשמדבר אל כל הקהל בלשון רבים ידבר רכות, שנאמר (דהי"א כח ב) שָׁמַעוּנִי אַחַי וְעַמִּי, ואומר (מלכים א, יב ז) אָם הַיּוֹם תָּהַיֵּה עֶבֶד לָעָם הַזַּה וגו', לעולם יתנהג בענוה יתירה, אין לנו גדול ממשה רבינו, והוא אומר (בשלח טז ח) וַנְחַנוּ מָה לֹא עַלִינוּ תַלְנֹתֵיכֶם, ויסבול טרחם ומשאם ותלונותם וקצפם כאשר ישא האומן את היונק, רועה קראו הכתוב (תהלים עח עא) לְרְעוֹת בְּיַעֶקֹב עַמוֹ, ודרכו של רועה מפורש בקבלה (ישעיה מ יא) כָּרֹעָה עַדְרוֹ יִרְעָה בִּזְרֹעוֹ יִקַבֵּץ טָלָאִים וּבְחֵיקוֹ יִשָּׂא עָלוֹת יִנַהֵל.

HaMelech: צַּדִיק הוּא ה' כִּי פִיהוּ מֶרְיתִי איכה א יח deserve Hashem's punishment, because I

rebelled have against command. Yirmiyahu was saying a Hesped on Yoshiyahu's holy Midda of giving-in and admitting you're wrong, even when you have plenty of "proofs" that you're the good-guy. Yoshiyahu was like his Zeide, Dovid, who said: ה' אֶמַר י זי אַב' טזי Shim'i's curses are really coming from Hashem, and he was Mochel (forgave) even when he was right. This is true Anava, and: וַעֲנָוִים יִירְשׁוּ אָרֶץ תהלים לז יא the humble will inherit the earth (and delight in abundant peace). They win, and indeed: דַּוָד מֵלֶרְ יַשִּׂרָאֵל חֵי וְקַיַם Dovid lives forever. Everyone loves an Anav, and dislikes a Baal Ga'ava.

כָּל הַמִּצְוָה אֲשֶׁר אָנֹכִי מְצַוְּךְּ הַיּוֹם תִּשְׁמְרוּן לַעֲשׂוֹת לְמַעַן תַּחִיוּן חא

You Are Considered Special and Important

The *Kli Yakar* explains² that the *Passuk* starts with: לְשׁוֹן יָחִיד singular form, and ends with: לְשׁוֹן רַבְּים plural form because a *Tzadik* is

Yesod Olam, and even a Yachid who does one Mitzva is: מַּכְרִיעַ עַצְמוֹ וְאֶת כָּל הָעוֹלֶם כַּלוֹ לְכַף

זכוּת tips the scales of the entire world L'kaf Zechus, and: יחיד שַׁעָשָׂה תָשׁוּבָה, מוֹחַלִין לְכֶל הָעוֹלָם כּוּלוֹ יומא פו ב if even ONE person does Teshuva, the entire world is forgiven. He continues explaining the greatness of even a single Mitzva. I always wondered why Chazal say that Moshe was: שָׁקוּל equal to the entire כְּנֵגֶד כָּל יִשָּׂרָאֵל Klal Yisroel. We can suggest that Moshe truly believed in: בַּשַּבִילִי נבָרָא הַעוֹלַם סנהדרין לז א the entire universe was created just for ME. and all the Chazal's that glorify the greatness of a Yachid. And indeed, before Moshe was Niftar he kept saying I'm different.

I'm better than the whole world,

and I don't deserve to die. There is a tremendous: אַרִיכוּת lengthiness on this story in the *Medrash* and *Me'am Lo'ez* how *Moshe* fought tooth and nail not to be *Niftar*, and insisting how special he was!

R' Gershon Liebman *Zatzal* used to

Notice how
before the Torah
is given, the
Yidden are told
how unique and
special and
precious they
are. Like
Rabeinu Yonah
says³ that the
first step in
Avodas Hashem
is to know your
own greatness

² כלי יקר עה"פ כֶּל הַמִּצְוָה אֲשֶׁר אָנֹכִי מְצַוּךְ הַיּוֹם תִּשְׁמְרוּן לַעֲשׂוֹת לְמַעַן תִּחְיוּן (ח א) התחיל בלשון יחיד וסיים בלשון רבים תשמרון לעשות למען תחיון ורביתם, לפי שצדיק יסוד עולם ואפילו יחיד שעשה מצוה אחת אשרי לו שהכריע את עצמו ואת כל העולם לכף זכות כו', וכן יחיד שעשה תשובה מוחלין לו ולכל העולם כולו, לכך אמר אשר אנכי מצוך ליחיד תשמרון לעשות למען תחיון, כי שמירת היחיד דומה כאלו רבים שמרו המצות ויגיע התועלת לכולם. ונקט המצוה בלשון יחיד לומר לך שאפילו שמירת מצוה אחת כתקונה גורמת למען תחיון, כדעת ר' יוחנן בסנהדרין (קיא א) שדרש פסוק וּפְעֲרָה פִיהָ לְבְלִי חֹק (ישעיה ה יד) למי שלא שמר אפילו חק אחד, הא אם שמר אפילו רק חק אחד ניצול מגיהנם לפי שהמצוה גוררת מצוה, כמבואר בפרשת שלח לך (טו לח).

³ ספר שערי העבודה לרבינו יונה (אות א) **הפתח הראשון הוא שידע האיש העובד ערך עצמו, ויכיר מעלתו ומעלת אבותיו, וגדולתם וחשיבותם וחיבתם אצל הבורא יתברך, וישתדל ויתחזק תמיד להעמיד עצמו במעלה ההיא ולהתנהג בה תמיד, בכל יום ויום יוסיף אומץ לקנות מעלות ומדות אשר יתקרב בהם לבוראו וידבק אליו וכו' ויצא לו מזה כי כאשר יתאוה תאוה ויעלה בלבבו גאוה לעשות דבר שאינו הגון, יבוש מעצמו ויבוש מאבותיו, וישיב לנפשו ויאמר, אדם וחשוב כמוני היום שיש בי כמה מעלות טובות רמות ונשאות, ושאני בן גדולים בן מלכי קדם, איך אעשה הרעה הגדולה הזאת וכו' ואם חלילה וחס לא יכיר מעלתו ומעלת אבותיו, נקל יהיה בעיניו ללכת בדרכיו הפריצים וכו' על כן האיש העובד ישתדל תמיד להשיג ערכו וערך הצדיקים והחסידים ומעלתם וחשיבותם וחיבתם לפני השם יתברך ודביקותם, ויבין וישכיל וידע כי יוכל להשיג מעלתם וחשיבותם וחיבתם, כאשר יעבוד כמותם כל ימי חייו ועיתותיו ושעותיו ורגעיו כפי כחו והשגתו, כמו שנאמר כי קרוב אליך הדבר מאד בפיך ובלבבך לעשותו, כי הקל יתברך אינו מבקש מבני אדם כי אם לפי כחם כאשר יתבאר בעזרת ה'. וגם האבות ז"ל לא עבדוהו כי אם לפי כחם והשגתם.**

Always defend

yourself,

especially to

your own self,

when your self-

criticism can

hamper your

Símcha level

and make you

nervous, which

diminishes your

Avodas

Hashem

constantly emphasize during *Y'mei Elul* that: יָחִיד שֶׁעָשָׂה תְשׁוּבָה מוֹחֲלִין לְכָל הָעוֹלָם כּוּלוֹ יומא פּוּ ב if even ONE person does *Teshuva*, the entire

world is forgiven. For good reason he became the *Tzadik HaDor* (to quote R' Ahron Kreiser *Zatzal*). It is a constant lifetime job to keep insisting that you're special. Even if you aren't on such a high *Madrega*, you can still consider yourself special and important, and with time, this attitude makes you greater and greater.

מָה ה' אֱלֹקֶיךְ שֹׁאֵל מֵעמָךְ כִּי אִם לְיִרְאָה ייב It's Almost an *Aveira* to Do Any Type of *Avoda* That's Not for Your Level

There is an extremely important *Netziv* on this *Passuk* who

elaborates⁴ how there are 4 types of people, each with his own type of *Avoda*. Some are businessmen who can't be expected to do what *Bnei Torah* do. And an *Osek* in *Tzorchei Tzibbur* is also a category by himself, and: שָׁנִים וּקְטַנִים women and children are *Patur* on plenty. He says that it's almost an *Aveira* to

do any type of *Avoda* that's not for your level! **

And the same person may have changes in

his life. This makes life much easier, when you always have to see your OWN *Matzav*, and don't look at others. We aren't all in one box. You can't expect the same learning from a person who doesn't have the *Kish'ron* (ability) or background as others. Yet, he gets good and jealous when he sees people finishing *Shas*, etc. He's dead wrong! Relax! You're in a different world, with different expectations.

Or an *Osek* in *Tzorchei Tzibbur*; he has all kinds of: פְּטוּרִים exemptions, sometimes *Tefila B'tzibur*, and we have to be careful.

This person may have to forget his good-old *Yeshiva* days, when he may have been much more *Oisgehalten*. He can feel like a *Rasha*, *Chas V'shalom*, since he simply can't stick to his former high level.

There is R' Berel "before" a certain trauma, or his sudden severe sleep disorder, or

ַ הנצי"ב בהעמק דבר עה"פ וְעַתָּה יִשִּׂרָאֵל מָה ה' אֱלֹקֵיךְ שֹׁאֵל מֵעְמָךְ כִּי אָם לְיִרְאָה אֶת ה' אֱלֹקֵיךְ לָלֵכֵת בְּכָל דְּרָכָיו וּלְאַהַבָּה אֹתוֹ 4 וַלַעבֹד אֶת ה' אֱלֹדֶוּךְ בִּכָּל לְבָבָךְ וּבְכָל נַפָּשֶׁךְ, לְשָׁמֹר אֶת מִצְוֹת ה' וְאֶת חֻקֹּתָיו אֲשֵׁר אָנֹכִי מִצַוּךְ הַיּוֹם לְטוֹב לָךְ (י יב-יג) הפרשה תמוה, שהרי כל מה שאפשר לבקש מכח אנוש מבואר בשאלה זו, ומה יש עוד לשאול, עד שבאמת בשוח"ט (תהלים לו) איתא בבקשת דוד (תהלים כז ד) אַחַת שָאַלְתִּי מֶאָת ה' אוֹתָהּ אַבְקָשׁ, שָׁבְתִּי בְּבֵית ה' כָּל יָמֵי חַיַּיּ, לַחַזוֹת בָּנֹעַם ה', וּלְבַקֶּר בְּהֵיכָלוֹ, אמר הקב"ה לדוד, אתה אמרת "אחת שאלתי" ואתה מבקש הרבה! אמר לו, גם אתה אמרת "מָה ה' אֱלֹקֶיךְ שֹׁאֵל מֵעְמָּךְ" ובקשת הרבה. אבל זה אינו אלא לשון הלציי, אבל ודאי גם הקב"ה גם דוד לא בקשו יתירה ממה שהחלו. ויותר מזה קשה, הא דאיתא בגמ' (ברכות לג ב) אטו יראה מילתא זוטרתי היא? ומשני אין לגבי משה מילתא זוטרתי היא. והפלא שהרי לא יראה לבד קא חשיב, ולמה זה הקשה על יראה יותר מעל אהבה ולעבוד בכל נפש? ותו אינו מובן וכו', אבל עכ"ז יש להבין למי נאמרה פרשה זו. אם נאמר לכל ישראל בשוה, היאך אפשר שתהא מדרגה זו יראה ואהבה בפחות שבישראל שאינו משיג אותם כלל, והרי אהבה אינה נמצאת אלא באמצעות תורה או עבודת בהמ"ק, שהן המה ה"לחם" המחברים את ישראל לאביהם שבשמים, כמש"כ בס' במדבר כ"ח ב' בפי' את קרבני לחמי ובכ"מ. והיאך יבא הקב"ה בטרוניא את בריותיו לשאול מהם מה שא"א **בדרך הטבע**? ואם נאמר שלא דבר כאן אלא עם מי שראוי לכך, הלא לא נתפרש עם מי הוא מדבר? אלא ע"כ יש לדקדק ולהתבונן באותה פרשה עצמה **שהקב"ה אינו שואל מישראל אלא מכל אדם לפי ערכו**. שהרי כתיב "לְלֵכֶת" בְּכֶל דְּרָכֶיו, ולא כתיב "וללכת" בכל דרכיו. כמו שכתוב "ולאהבה" אתו "ולעבד" וגו' וכן "לְשָׁמר" אֵת מָצְוֹת ה', ולא "ולשמור". מבואר דכמו התחלת הדבור הוא. ומזה נבוא לענין. **דראוי לדעת שיש ארבע מדרגות בישראל,** שהם א. ראשים ומנהיגים בישראל. ב. ת"ח הנקראים זקני ישראל. ג. בע"ב עוסקים בפרנסתם. ד. נשים ועבדים וקטנים. **וכל אחד מכתות הללו אינו דומה לחבירו בשאלת הקב"ה** ממנו. ומה ששואל הקב"ה מזה אינו שואל מזה, וכמעט שאסור לכת השנית, כאשר יבואר וכו'.

In our days,

ít's not

K'daí to be:

תובע demand

from

yourself so

fast. Just

keep giving

yourself a

pat on the

back, no

matter

what!

before he left Lakewood to go into business in NY, or Mrs. Gold before she had her triplets (which are driving her crazy), or Chaim Smith before he got Semicha, or became the Rosh HaKahal, etc., and the same person "after" the above.

There is a big Yetzer Hara who demands more (or less), and doesn't let you use your Sechel to adjust and realize that today you're

different Matzav. Yet. sometimes we say: לָהַגִּיד שָׁבָחוֹ שֵׁל אַהֵרֹן שֵׁלֹא שִׁינָה the *Torah* praises Ahron that he never had a dip in his Avodas Hashem. Every person is a new world. Although it's a serious lifelong challenge to work hard on Sameach B'chelko, sometimes you may be ready to do more, and you don't even realize your capabilities.

You Really Can't Demand from People Who Didn't Have the Right Chinuch

I don't want to stress this last statement, since it can "kill" many idealistic people who simply don't have the Chinuch for (let's say for

example) more Zikkui HaRabbim, and you really can't demand from people who didn't have the right Chinuch (since their friends and mentors never encouraged Zikkui HaRabbim) even though they have innate capabilities that will never materialize. ******* In Bialystok (*Novardok*) they had two groups: they had the "Lomdim", and the "Mussarniks".

R' Gershon Liebman *Zatzal* was the main Menahel (leader) of the Mussarniks. When there were misunderstanding between the two groups, R' Gershon would tell the Mussarniks to bend backwards, and give-in and be a *Tzadik* to the other type. He said: This person is a fine *Lamdan*, but he doesn't learn Mussar as much as you do.

Therefore we expect YOU, the Mussar'nik

(who is constantly working on his Middos) to be the Tzadik and to

Imagine! The Netziv says that it's almost an Aveira to go higher than where you belong. How can you expect a person who doesn't sleep well at night, or he just lost a million dollars, or he just moved

to a different city, or he was Chas V'shalom diagnosed, or he just lost his job, or just got divorced, etc. to be the same as before? However, R' Yisroel Salanter Zatzal said⁵ that there are no כָּלָלִים rules, and sometimes you can be even better despite the change. But be careful with this last statement!

give in. Don't expect from an American "Harry" or an Israeli or a Russian what you expect from others. Or an older person vs. a younger person. It's worth sitting down with your Rebbe and coming to a clear conclusion at every stage; what you should expect from yourself, and what not to expect.

⁵ אור ישראל (קבוצת מכתבים ומאמרים להלהיב הלבבות ליראת ה' וללימוד היראה והמוסר, לאדמו"ר הרב הגאון רשכבה"ג החסיד והעניו אור עולם המפורסם בכל קצוי ארץ מרנא ורבנא ישראל ליבקין מסאלאנט זצוקללה"ה, חובר מאת תלמידו הרב הגאון הגדול צדיק ונשגב שמו מרן רבי יצחק בלאזער זצ"ל בעל שו"ת פרי יצחק, וילנא תר"ס, מכתב כ, עמ' 66) יקרת מכתב כת"ר מן כ"ב שבט נכון הגיעני. אנכי נחוץ להשיב לכת"ר. כבר כתבתי כי בדרכי תהלוכות המוסרי היסוד הפראקטיש. **ואין לתת** גדר נכון בזה כמו בתהלוכות המסחר. ובפרט לאדם גדול כמי"ב. כבד הדבר למאוד (ואולי קרוב להפסד ח"ו) לכתוב בזה את אשר ינקרו במשכיות לבב איש פרטי. **ובכלל בכחות נפש האדם**. **אין לדמות מילתא למילתא**. יש אשר בדבר אחד נקל לפניו. ובדבר אחר כבד לפניו הרבה להשיגו. ובדבר הקשה ההכרח להתגולל בנחת. ולהשיגו ברוב זמן ועידן. עם התשוקה להשיגו במהרה. והן ב' כחות מתנגדות. אשר צריך האדם לנגוע בשניהם וכו'.

Accept People with Lower Capability (Including Yourself!)

TRUE STORY

I once witnessed a scene that took place with a *Bachur* who was together with a small *Olam* (group) in a *Kollel*. The *Rosh Kollel* had a super plan of covering two blatt a day. The *Bachur* was a big *Baal Kish'ron* (smart) and he screamed at the other boys who were

struggling. Needless to say, they hated him like poison. He simply didn't understand "Why can't you knock-off two blatt a day?" "You're crazy!" "You're a moron!" ********** This is exactly what we all do to ourselves (and to others) when we have to always fit "in the box" and never be our true selves! This is dire cruelty and lack of sensitivity. A heart of stone or a callous person without Sechel. Here is a true Chochom without Daas (sense) who hurts people with the worst Ona'as Devarim (hurtful speech), and we can all be guilty of this behavior when we fail to realize that Yankel the great Askan

simply can't be his old self as the previous *Masmid*.

Just like: נְשִׁים וּקְטַנִים women and children have a totally different world of *Avodas Hashem* than men, and a businessman is not a *Ben Torah* or an *Askan*, so must we all adjust to our present *Madrega* and be happy, without being: אַנְי כְּסִיל בִּקְצֵה אָנֶץ מִשּלִי כִז יִד like a fool who is always looking "elsewhere", which causes all kinds of unnecessary depression and anxiety and all kinds of pain.

וָאָשְׂרֹף אֹתוֹ בָּאֵשׁ וָאָכֹּת אֹתוֹ טָחוֹן הֵיטֵב עַד אֲשֶׁר דַּק לְעָפָר ט כא Whenever You Are Intimidated by Humans, Try to Envision *Moshe* Destroying the *Eigel* and Turning It to Dust

Look how *Moshe* utterly destroyed the *Eigel*, first burning it and smashing it, reducing it to dust and powder. This symbolizes how any

potential *Koach* in the universe (especially *Avoda Zara*) to him is zero minus, since when *Moshe* said: אֵין עוֹד מִלְבִדּוֹ there exists no power other than Hashem, he meant it. His utter destruction of what people considered a god (see RSRH⁶) showed his *Madrega* in *Emuna*.

This is what we should all do: see the entire world in its right perspective and have zero Hispa'alus from massive mountains and tall buildings and oceans, etc. and mainly from important humans; they are all as if smashed into smithereens and into nothingness.

Whenever you are intimidated by humans, try to envision *Moshe* destroying the *Eigel* and turning it to dust.

An *Eigel* is a symbol of a favorite food or wife (like by *Dovid* & *Michal*, *Shimshon* & *Delila*) and it was made out of the most precious metal; i.e., gold. A person like *Moshe* had unreal *Geshmak* in Hashem, and to him, all delicious and precious and beautiful *Kochos* in the world were nil and as if ground into dust compared to his incredible love and *Simcha* and respect and awe for Hashem Himself.

Novardok and
Slabodka both
said it would
be worth being
less of a
Tzaddik, as
long as there is
whole hearted
Shalom and
acceptance
and
understanding
of the other
"Shevotim"

⁶ פירוש הגאון מוהר"ר שמשון בן הר"ר רפאל הירש זללה"ה, עה"פ וְאֶת חַפַּאתְּכֶם אֲשֶׁר עֲשִּיתֶם אֶת הָעֵגֶל לְקַחְתִּי וָאֶשְּׂרף אֹתוֹ בָּאֵשׁ וָאֶכֹּת אֹתוֹ טָחוֹן הֵיטֵב עַד אֲשֶׁר דַּק לְעָפֶר וְאֲשְׁלִךְּ אֶת עֲפֶרוֹ אֶל הַנַּחַל הַיֹּרֵד מִן הָהָר (ט כא) השמדת עגל הזהב ופיזור עפרו היו לפני ארבעים היום, והם נזכרים כאן דרך אגב כהערה נוספת, כנראה **כדי להזכיר לכל הדורות הבאים את האיוולת** שבחטא זה, שכן הם ייחסו כוח אלוקי לעגל הזהב, ואז הוא הושמד בידי אדם ופוזר לכל רוח.

לא תַעַרֹץ מִפּנֵיהֵם ז כא Being In Awe and *Hispa'alus* of Others Makes a Person Weak and Incapable

עָרִיץ means to admire עָרִיץ װַכָּלָּם פּוֹתָחִים אֶת פִּיהֶם וכו' וּמעריצים). It also means to become crushed, or to fear. When you admire a human too much, you don't realize that your Hispa'alus crushes you and diminishes you and makes you susceptible and fearsome. Admiring people can be a big Mitzva and a Zechus. But if the person admiring isn't stable

himself, then it makes him feel insignificant and worthless, at least to some degree. Getting too excited over the greatness of others can hurt your own ego. You melt! You become Battel. The old Novardokers were on guard not to allow the important people in their lives take them over and make them feel zero and Battel. Perhaps that's why the previous Passuk speaks about the: צרעה hornet that Hashem sent out to kill the Canaanim. Why a tiny hornet? ***

Instead Of Being Busy Admiring Others, Realize Your Own Self-Worth

Perhaps it was to show the nothingness of those Canaanim, that even a tiny hornet can destroy them. After

seeing the: צָרְעָה hornet in action, you lose your fear, and become a: לא תַעֶרץ fearless. People think that admiring others and being in awe about them is harmless. They don't realize how admiration and Hispa'alus makes a person weak and

incapable. You become broken with fear. This may be subtle, yet it can ruin people who spend 99% of their energies being busy admiring others, instead of realizing their selfworth.

וַאַשֵּׁר עַשָּׂה לְדַתַּן וַלָאַבִירָם בָּנֵי אֵלִיאַב בַּן רְאוּבָן אַשֶּׁר פָּצָתַה הַאַרֵץ אֶת פִּיהַ וַתִּבְלַעֵם יאו Speaking Lashon Hara Destroys the Gift of Speech

In Parshas Sh'mos, when the Torah first introduces Dasan and Aviram, they became

> known as the Baalei Lashon Hara, and Moshe sees that as the reason for Shi'bud (the slavery of) Mitzrayim. (Rashi⁷). People who speak Lashon Hara destroy the gift of speech, which is special for a Tzelem Elokim, and they don't deserve to exist. An *Eved* doesn't really exist, since he is only an extension of

With the Ma'aseh of Korach, Dasan and Aviram again abused their speech, with their chutzpa and negativism and complaints together with Korach. So when the Adam doesn't use his Tzelem Elokim mouth properly, then the Onesh (punishment) is that the lowest element, the earth, opens its mouth, and swallows the Adam. Or we have Bilam who

abuses his speech, and he has a: חַמוֹר donkey, who symbolizes: חומָרִיוּת physicality and Gashmiyus and lowly: אַרְצִיוּת earthliness, who is M'vazeh the Adam who abuses his speech, like it says: וַיִּפְתַּח ה' אֶת פִּי הָאָתוֹן Hashem opened up the donkey's mouth.

Massive mountains and high skyscrapers, even great Tzadíkím are there for you ONLY to bring you closer to his master. Hashem, not to have your tongue hanging out in awe of a human, and getting depressed why

you aren't on a

higher Madrega

רש"י בפרשת שמות עה"פ וַיִּירָא מֹשֶׁה וַיּאֹמַר אָכֵן נוֹדַע הַדְּבָר (ב יד) וַיִּירָא מֹשֶׁה כפשוטו. ומדרשו **דאג לו על שראה בישראל** ⁷ **רשעים דלטורין** אמר מעתה שמא אינם ראויין להגאל. אַכֶּן נוֹדַע הַדַּבָּר כמשמעו. ומדרשו, נודע לי הדבר שהייתי תמה עליו **מה** חטאו ישראל מכל ע' אומות להיות נרדים בעבודת פרך, אבל רואה אני שהם ראויים לכך.

The Choshen

had:

אַבְנֵי מִלָּאִים

Avnei

"Mílu'im"

("full" stones)

to symbolize

how each of

the Shevotim

felt "full"

with their

own unique

The More You See Yourself as a Chashuva Big Tzadik, The More You'll **Refrain from Doing Lowly Deeds**

People who speak Lashon Hara and degrade their most respectable gift of speech, are: שׁפלים lowly and lowlife mentality, and deserve major Bizyonos and degradation, like a stupid donkey, and to be swallowed by the filthy and lowly earth. The *Gemara* says⁸ that according to some, the true reason why Yehoshua and Kalev

didn't carry any of the giant fruits Eretz Yisroel was because they were *Chashuva* people, and it didn't fit their respectability for them to lift these giant fruits; and it was exactly these two who didn't speak Lashon Hara.

Respectability of is utmost importance! The more you see yourself as a Chashuva big Tzadik, the more you'll refrain from doing lowly deeds, especially Lashon Hara!

ואַכַלתַּ ושַּבַעתַּ יא טו Be "Full" And Satisfied in Ruchaniyus

Avoda This week's *Parsha* has the second Parsha of K'riyas Sh'ma, where the Torah promises that if we will keep the Mitzvos, Hashem will reward us that He will give us food and we will eat and feel full. Rashi says9 that there is an extra blessing here, that even if you eat little, you will feel full as if you ate a lot. Dovid and Moshe couldn't be like Amram

and Yishai (who never sinned even once in their lifetime. Gemara¹⁰) since they were involved in the Tzibbur. The M'zakeh HaRabbim might fall in Invanei Ka'as and Shmiras Einayim, or Hasmadas HaTorah or Kavana in Tefila, or having sensitivity in Bain Adam La'chaveiro. There are many people who often fall in Avodas Hashem and they have pain. They miss their old *Madregos* in learning Torah and in Kedusha, etc. But despite not doing what they used to do or

> desire to do, they are full, since they know: חִישַׁב לַעֲשׂוֹת מִצְוָה וְנָאֵנָס וְלֹא עשַאַה, מַעַלָּה עַלַיו הַכַּתוּב כּאַלוּ עַשַּאַה ברכות וא if a person planned on doing a Mitzva, but in the end he was unable to carry it out, it is considered "as if" he actually did it. can mean be "full" in Ruchaniyus. Even though you do less, but since you desire more, you get double Schar; for what you DO, and for what you WANT to do. Here we have: שֹביעה feeling full by K'riyas Sh'ma, and earlier we had: שָׂבִיעָה feeling full by Birchas HaMazon: וָאָכַלְתָּ וְשָׂבָעִתָּ וּבֵרַכְּתָּ. A Yid should always be full of: שָּׂבִיעָה

satisfaction, like it says: יֹאכָלוּ עַנָוִים וַיִשְׂבָּעוּ תּהלים בב of the humble will eat and be satisfied. The Chovos Halvavos in Shaar HaBitachon brings the *Passuk* of צַדִיק אֹכֶל לִשֹּבַע נַפְשׁוּ וּבָטֵן רשַעים תַּחַסָר משלי יג כה the *Tzadik* eats and feels full, whereas the stomach of the Reshaim is

always empty. The *Gr"a* says¹¹ that if you

⁸ סוטה לד א, הא כיצד, שמנה נשאו אשכל, אחד נשא רימון, ואחד נשא תאינה. **יהושע וכלב לא נשאו כלום**, אי בעית אימא משום דחשיבי, ואי בעית אימא שלא היו באותה עצה.

[.] רש"י עה"פ וָאַכַלַתַּ וְשַׂבַעתַּ (יא טו) הרי זו ברכה אחרת שתהא ברכה מצויה בפת בתוך המעים ואכלת ושבעת. 9 10 שבת נה ב, ארבעה מתו בעטיו של נחש ואלו הן, בנימין בן יעקב, ועמרם אבי משה, וישי אבי דוד, וכלאב בן דוד.

¹¹ הגר"א (ביאור לאגדות סבי דבי אתונא, ד"ה אייתי בודיא, הובא באבן שלמה פרק ג אות ב) כי ענין סימני טהרה שני סימנים, מעלה גרה ומפרסת פרסה. והענין כמ"ש הקדמונים כי בעוף אמרו כל עוף הדורס טמא, והענין כי מאכילת הדבר כפי מזג המאכל כן יהיה טבע האוכל, כי אבר מחזיק אבר, וזה סוד נפש הבהמית שבאדם ונפש החוטאת וסוד הקרבנות כידוע. וכל העבירות והחטאים הכל מחמדה כמ"ש, כי לא תחמוד כולל כל הדברות וכל התורה כמו שהאריכו בזה ועיין בדבריהם. ו**כל**

Bitachon Weekly

NOVARDOK

R' Michoel Tenenbaum *Zatzal* (27 Av 5763) was a *Chashuva* Gerrer *Chasid* who survived the war and he settled in Boro Park. When he was a young bachur, he learned in the

Ostrolanka Branch of Novardok. It made a tremendous impression on him. There was much, much more stress of perfecting Middos than any other Yeshiva. At first, it was difficult to listen to such long Shmuessin, but after a while they got used to it. **

(Slabodka also had not-so-easy types of Shmuessin which you had to get used to). He met many people years later who remained frum only because they once learned in

R' Michoel Tenenbaum only because they once learned in Novardok. The Alter Zatzal was smart, and

he knew how to affect people in a way that it sinks into you and stays there forever.

have *Bitachon* then you always feel full. ***
אָבֶלְתָּ וְשָׁבְעְתָּ וּבֵרַכְתָּ
After feeling full, we are commanded to bentch. *Chazal* say¹² that Hashem gives Klal Yisroel special treatment, since we are only required to bentch after: total fullness, yet we bentch even after just a *K'zayis* or *K'beitza*. But the *Nusach* (text) of bentching is the same, and how

can we say the words: אֶצְכַלְתָּ וְשָׂבָעְתָּ you shall eat and be "full" if you only ate a *K'zayis*? The answer is that *Tzadikim* make themselves happy as if they had שְׁבִיעָה total fullness since they are *Sameach B'chelko*, and because they fill their brains with *Bitachon* for a good future.

The main Yesod of Bitachon is when it changes the person who works at it, and makes him a happy person who is closer to Hashem

העוף הטורף טרף הוא סימן שאין בו מדת ההסתפקות. וכמ"ש סוף מכות בא חבקוק והעמידן על אחת, וצדיק באמונתו יחיה, והוא ההסתפקות. וכן הוא בבהמה סימן מעלה גרה שמסתפק במאכל שבקרבו. וכן מפרסת פרסה הוא סימן שאינו דורס וטורף טרף אלא גדל על אבוסו.

בגמל וארנבת ושפן, סימן טהרה שלהם מעלה גרה, וסימן טומאה שאינו מפריס פרסה, ובחזיר להיפך. והענין כמ"ש במדרש רבה (שמיני יג ה) גמל זו מלכות בבל, ארנבת כו' ע"ש היטב, כמ"ש (תהלים פ יד) יְכַרְסְמֶנֶה חֲזִיר מִּיָּעַר, כמ"ש פסחים (קיח) ע"ש, ואמרו (יומא ט ב) ראשונים עדיפי או אחרונים עדיפי, ואמרו ראשונים עדיפי, אדרבא אחרונים עדיפי דעסקי בתורה, ואמרו, תנו עיניכם בבירה כו', והענין כי ראשונים שנתגלה עונם נתגלה קיצם, אחרונים כו', והטעם כי הראשונים היו מעשיהם הטובים טמונים ועונותיהם גלוים, כי לבם היה טוב ואחרונים להיפך, ורחמנא ליבא בעי, כמ"ש (סנהדרין קו) רבותא למבעי בעי, בשני דרב יהודא כו' ע"ש. ואמרו, ראשונים שהיה בהם ע"ז וג"ע וש"ד אלא שתלו בטחונם בהקב"ה, נמצא כי מעשיהם רע מאוד שכולן ביהרג ועל יעבור עבירות חמורות שבתורה, ולבם היה טוב מאוד שמעלת הבטחון על כולם כנ"ל. ואחרונים עסקו בתורה ובגמילות חסדים, ומפני מה חרבה, מפני שנאת חנם, ללמדך ששקולה שנאת חנם כו', כמ"ש (ברכות סג) איזה פרשה קטנה כו' ואהבת לרעך, והוא מחוסר הבטחון, שכל הקנאה והשנאה ממנו. ולכן ראשונים גלו בג' מלכיות שסימן טהרה שלהם מבפנים וסימן טומאה שלהם מבחוץ, ואחרונים בגלות אדום שנמשלה לחזיר שהוא בהיפך, והוא פושט טלפיו להראות סימני טהרה שלו, ושבע תועבות בלבו. וכן הוא בגלות הזה, מִדָּתֶן של ערב רב "וְנַעֲשֶה לְּנוּ שֵׁם" כנ"ל. וענין סימני טהרה בטלפיו "וְצֵאָ ה וְצוּדָה לִי צִיִד" בכיבוד אב, אבל כי ציד הוא סימן טומאה צד וטורף כנ"ל בפיו שאינו מעלה גרה כו', וז"ש טובה צפרנן של ראשונים (סימן טומאה שלהם) מכריסן של אחרונים, והבן.

¹² ברכות כ ב, דרש רב עוירא, זמנין אמר לה משמיה דרבי אמי, וזמנין אמר לה משמיה דרבי אסי, אמרו מלאכי השרת לפני הקדוש ברוך הוא, רבונו של עולם, כתוב בתורתך (עקב י יז) אֲשֶׁר לֹא יִשֶּׁא פָנִים וְלֹא יִקַּח שׁחַד, והלא אתה נושא פנים לישראל, דכתיב (נשא ו כו) יִשָּׁא ה' פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ, אמר להם, וכי לא אשא פנים לישראל, שכתבתי להם בתורה (עקב ח י) וְאָכַלְתָּ וְשָׂבְעְתָּ וּבֵרַכְתָּ אֶת ה' אֱלֹדָיךָ, והם מדקדקים על עצמם עד כזית ועד כביצה.

There were many Mussar Sedarim with the lights out, and plenty of screaming and crying going on. There was also plenty laughing at the Yetzer Hara going on. I would assume that when your emotions are so involved, then you don't forget so fast. He said that his entire Bar Mitzva was getting an Aliyah in

shul, and after davening, the gabbai held a tray of cake above his head, and gave everyone a piece.

That was the end of the Bar Mitzva. I've heard similar stories of quick and brief Bar Mitzvah's, etc. It's quite possible that they simply didn't have more. But instead of making a shpiel and feeling sorry for themselves, they did the best they could, and didn't care at all. The Alter Zatzal would make a joke out of eating, since they had no food anyway; and he had everyone happy and rolling.

Novardokers Brainwashed **Themselves Until They Were Totally Happy and They Couldn't Care Less**

This is a *Yesod* in many areas, where *Novardokers* laughed their problems, and they brainwashed themselves until they were totally happy and they couldn't care less. They were on fire in general. In the concentration camps before Yom Kippur one year, a Jewish doctor was asked to steal a Tallis for a minyan of Yeshiva boys. They were going to have a minyan for Kol Nidrei, and the leader was a Novardoker. He insisted that since he was the *Chazan*, it's unthinkable for a Chazan for Kol Nidrei not to have a Tallis. The doctor had (with Mesirus *Nefesh*) the capability of sneaking into the

warehouse, and he came back with a Talis

and some Siddurim. The Tallis lifted

house, and the children were acting up at the table. It was Shabbos, and he was saying a *Vort* on the *Parsha* in his usual low and soft voice. His response to the acting up: To speak even lower and softer than usual! And as usual, he was always in a state of good humor. He laughed and laughed. He created a happy home, thanks to his hours and hours of learning Shaar HaBitachon, which is where he got his tremendous Simcha from. His tremendous Hachna'a and Eidelkeit came from hours and hours of learning Shaar HaK'niya. Novardok husbands always blame themselves, since they live by the Chovos Halvavos Shaar

HaBitachon who says13 that when your relatives mistreat you, you should be Mochel them and Davka do lots of Chesed to them: just blame your own sins and do Teshuva. They go with *Dovid HaMelech's Shita*. When Shim'i ben Gera cursed him, he said: It's not him! Hashem is talking to me via him!

My Rebbe, R' everyone's spirits. Ozer Schwartz I was once eating at a Novardoker's Zatzal seemed to always be on such a high, just like his Rebbe. R' Gershon Liebman Zatzal. They probably laughed in their sleep. R' Ozer Zatzal once told me that he has a hard time with crying; his Símcha was oozing non-stop

¹³ חובות הלבבות שער הבטחון (פרק ד, ד"ה אבל פרוש החלק השלישי. בסופו) אבל עניני אויביו וחומדיו ומבקשי רעתו, יבטח בעניניהם על הבורא יתעלה ויסבל חרפתם, ואל יגמל להם כפעלם, **אך יגמלם חסד ויעשה להם כל מה שיוכל לעשותו מן הטוב**, ויזכר בלבו, שתועלתו ונזקו ביד הבורא יתעלה. ואם יהיו סבה להזיקו, יחשב עליהם טוב, ויחשד את עצמו ומעשיו ברוע הקדמותיו אצל אלקיו, ויתחנן אל האלקים ויבקש מלפניו לכפר עונותיו, ואז ישובו אויביו לאהבתו, כמו שאמר החכם: ברצות ה' דרכי איש גם אויביו ישלים אתו.



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Parshas Va'eschanan 5785

Shiur ID	Duration	Language
385355	1:00	English
385356	2:43	English
385952	36:57	English
385357	4:47	English
385956	5:36	English
385957	4:18	English
385958	2:26	English
386840	41:50	English

Questions To Rabbi Mandel



Undergoing Challenges and Great Tests in Life

(The following was said in response to a person undergoing challenges and great tests in life)

Everything will go beautiful. You are getting a great shidduch, that you richly deserve. You are a very special person. Hashem will take good care of you. Laugh off those problems. They will all be forgotten in a short while as if they never happened. Your family member should have a complete *Refua* with *Nissim G'luyim*. Don't let anything bother you; do the best you can. You've come such a long way, you are a walking *Kiddush Hashem*, there's no one like you. You are so unusual. What you've accomplished in such a short time. You are a holy *Neshama*.

I want to tell you one *Yesod*. The *Chofetz Chaim* says that in the next world, the main thing is "What do you look like?" "What are you all about?" Not "How many children did you have", "How much money did you make", "How much did you learn?" Of course, that's important, the *Ruchaniyus* that you did. But more than anything else is "How do you look?" A person like you has overcome so much. You are a person who is happy despite who-knows-what; that is a special accomplishment. The way you look, in the next world, you are with the greatest *Tzadikim*; you should be so proud. Your *Yissurim* and your *Nisyonos* have made you the most unusual person, that should make you so proud. Look what you're becoming. Look what became of you. That's the main part of your life!

Here we have two people. Here's someone with success all over, but he's still angry, he's still jealous. The other guy is maybe not-so-successful, but he purified himself in so many areas. In this world they may look at him like a nebach. But in the next world, he's the big winner, by far! And the other guy is a *Rachmanus*.

Now you, I wish you'll get both worlds. But in the meantime, always be proud of how you are growing, and how great you are becoming. How you are able to weather the storm of things that other people couldn't deal with, and look what you are doing. You must be a very special *Neshama*.

You should get everything good in this world. *K'pshuto* good! What's normally considered good, on all fronts, you should get it in this world. And *Im Yirtzheh Hashem* after a long, happy, productive life, in the next world too.

Something tells me that you would be great for the public, to teach them how to do a lot of things that you did with your life. *Ashrei Chelkichem*. Kol Tuv

You can submit your questions to Rabbi Mandel by emailing them to questionsforrabbimandel@gmail.com

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