

BITACHON WEEKLY

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פרשת ויחי תשפ"ו

A "Curse" May Be the Greatest "Blessing"

When *Yaakov* gave *Brachos* to his children, the first three received *Tochacha*, and of those two, he cursed their anger. How would you feel if you found out you are a descendent of one of these unfortunate *Shevotim*? Or if you came from *Bnei HaShefachos* [which were four *Shevotim*] and not from the *Chashuvim*. I would say that any *Shevet* would be jealous of *Shevet Yehuda*, who appeared to be a total winner; receiving *Malchus*, leadership, and the *Bnei Torah*. We all bear *Davka* his name: "*Yehudim*".

Hashem made this world with various kinds of people. Some are poor, some are rich, some are healthy, some are sick, some are smart, some have learning disabilities, some have good social skills, and others have social issues. Each *Shevet*, and each individual came to this world with unique tools, capabilities, and agendas in *Avodas Hashem* they need to accomplish, for them to reach perfection. There are no two people with the exact same agenda in *Avodas Hashem*.

We all need to try to perfect ourselves in *Middas HaBitachon* in different ways. A person who feels like he was born with two strikes against him, or he feels cursed, needs to work on *Gam Zu L'tovah* and to see the good in all that appears to him as evil. He can work on changing his perspective to a positive one, and will actually see his problems as attributes to his success. Hashem knows his *Neshama* is good at this type of *Avoda*, therefore he is being tested with this exact test. He can pass the test and become very great.

Sure enough, the three *Shevotim* given *Tochacha* instead of *Brachos*, turned out to be some of our most successful ones. Our best *Shevet* is *Davka Shevet Levi*, who never sinned in *Chet Ha'egel* like everyone else. *Shevet Shimon* produced our super special *Melamdin*, and the future of *Klal Yisroel* is in their hands. *Shevet Reuven* were the mighty ones, who fought our wars with *Mesirus Nefesh* on the front lines.

If you are a "leader" and a "better person", your job is not to look down at others, since there is a special *Gehinom* for *Baalei Ga'ava*

[*Gemara*]. If you are a "lesser type", your job is to appreciate yourself **and to build yourself up constantly**.

Shaar HaBitachon helps everyone in different ways. The more you work on yourself, the greater you become.

Manoach was an *Am HaAretz* from the lowest *Shevotim*, yet he was *Zoche* to be the father of *Shimshon*

To Blow Up Your Past Sins Is a *Yetzer Hara*

So many of us have grown up in a frum atmosphere, where not doing what's proper can be looked at with overexaggerated criticism: "You *Rasha* who doesn't learn/daven enough; who isn't really nice." All kinds of unending criticisms. Even for real serious *Aveiros* (*Min HaTorah*) you can't look at yourself as a *Rasha* or a fool or a loser.

Look how *Yosef* insists that his brothers consider their past as only a *Chesed Min HaShamayim*! **It is a *Yetzer Hara* to blow up your past sins and we all tend to do these things.** You try your best to do *Teshuva*, and you move on, no matter what you did.

Some people always feel that everything they do is no good, and when something bad happens, they get dizzy in the many possibilities of mistakes and sins that they did, which is causing their failures or problems, etc. Those people need to be extreme in *Chazzering* the *Chazal* of: אל תצדיק הרבה: STOP BEING SUCH A TZADDIK. You're not a big-enough *Tzaddik* to blame yourself **or others** for everything! **Some people need a lifetime of *Chazzering*:** אל תצדיק הרבה: stop being such a *Tzaddik*.

Many, many of our *Dor* are loaded with this mentality. And although they should work on laughing at these stupidities, they will still get major *Schar* for their lifetime of pain and anguish, even if it is unfounded. In *Novardok*, they would tell themselves: "You're full of baloney. Deep down you love getting depressed, so now you have some good excuses".

HaGibbor who led *Klal Yisroel* for many years. Yet, *Menashe* the king of *Yehuda* lost his *Olam HaBah*, despite his great *Yichus*.

Your Difficult Nature Can Be Your Greatest Asset

R' Shimshon Refael Hirsh says that the fact that the tribes of *Shimon* and *Levi* were scattered all over when during our *Galus*, was of great benefit to *Klal Yisroel*.

Klal Yisroel needs people with fiery and proud dispositions, who keep alive the energy, the courage, and the noble Jewish pride, especially in *Galus*. Most of the teachers and *Batei Midrashim* came from *Shimon* and *Levi*. R' Yisrael Kanarek told me about a *Yeshiva Bachur* in prewar Europe, who was extremely quiet. This caused him to learn a tremendous amount of *Torah*, and he became a great *Talmid Chacham*. Very often quiet people have much less *Aveiros* than others. No *Lashon Hara*, *Ona'as Devarim*, *Ga'ava*, *Ka'as*, embarrassing others, etc. They can be much purer and holier than outgoing people.

On the other hand, a loud type of person can have loads of *Mitzvos*, if he is always speaking to others in *Divrei Torah*, or words of *Chesed* that help people.

The *Yetzer Hara* wants us to belittle the natural capabilities that Hashem gave us, and to desire instead what other people have. In *Ruchaniyus* this may sometimes be helpful, as *Chazal* say: קנאת סופרים תרבה חכמה ב"ב כא א Jealousy between scholars motivates them. But if your *Kin'ah* just leaves you unhappy and frustrated, you need to learn the *Mussar Seforim*.

Novardok

When the *Alter* was *Niftar*, the *Novardokers* got together and promised to give their lives for fighting for the truth. The *Novardoker Bachurim* used to go to the small cities to recruit new *Bachurim*. R' Yitzchok Shenker *Zatzal* told how *Novardokers* came to his city and promised the parents that *Novardok* was loaded with eggs and butter, with food on end. Just what these starving people wanted! Seventeen parents sent their boys. They arrived to the *Ezras Nashim* of a dark and old *Bais Medrash*. This was the "great *Yeshiva*", and zero food, not even bread! They had to pick up the leftovers of the people living there. When one parent found out that *Novardok* had less food than at home, he brought back his sons, along with thirteen others. Only two stayed, and they were the only ones who remained from Jews!

Thanks to these "lying" *Novardokers* and their "nasty" tactics, the famous *Steipler Gaon* came to *Novardok*. Look how the history of the *Gadol HaDor* is based on their lies! There is a similar story told about the *Hanahala* of *Slabodka* who saved R' Ahron Kotler *Zatzal* from going off the *Derech*, by intercepting the letters that his sister sent him. The *Steipler* said that *Shitas Novardok* is total truth. Once on *Erev Pesach*, the *Alter* came home to find his wife full of worry. They were very poor, and she didn't know how they would obtain their needs for *Yom Tov*.

The *Alter* said that he doesn't understand her concern, since in eight days it will be over anyway. When he missed a train, he would say: Look how early we are for the next train! danger.

When the *Steipler* was *Rosh Yeshiva* in *Bais Yosef* of *Bnei Brak*, he once had it announced that he would be giving a *Shiur* in his house. He gave the *Shiur* while lying in bed, covered by a blanket. Later, the *Talmidim* asked the *Rebbetzin* if his health was okay. She explained that his clothing tore, and he had no other clothes to wear while his torn clothing was being repaired.

Only a *Novardoker* doesn't mind doing something like this. Rav Nekritz *Shlita* of Boro Park told a story about R' Chatzkel Abramsky *Zatzal* who remembered coming to *Novardok*, and the *Alter Farhered* quizzed him in *Gemara* with *Tosafos*. The *Alter* was impressed, and he said that R' Chatzkel deserved a glass of tea. The *Alter* didn't have sugar, so he got a sugar cube **on credit** from the grocery store!

R' Nekritz *Shlita* said that we see how the *Alter* knew how to be *M'chabed* a *Bachur*, and R' Chatzkel never forgot this! The *Steipler's* family considered him a total *Novardoker*, with his never going to doctors, etc.