

BITACHON WEEKLY

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פרק ב א חשפ"ז

Be M'chanech in A Happy Way

BY LAUGHING AT THE STUPIDITY OF SIN

Hashem is of course the best *M'chanech*, and He chose making jokes out of *Mitzrayim* and their *Treife* lifestyle in order to give the best and most effective *Mussar Shmuess* and to help us overcome our *Yetzer Hara* in a happy way with our laughing at the stupidity of sin. Not always do people know how to be *M'chanech* others properly.

The *Gemara* warns a *Rebbe*: *לעוזם תהא שמאל דזקה ימין מקרבתה* You are *M'karev* (bring close) strongly, with your right (dominant) hand, and if you need to reprimand, do it lightly, like a weak left hand. And not like *Elisha HaNavi* who pushed away his *Talmid*, *Geichazi* with two hands! There was no *Tzaddik* like *Elisha HaNavi*, who cried bitterly when he realized the cruelties the *Melech Aram* would eventually do to *Klal Yisroel*.

He didn't talk to women, and the *Shunamis* said: *קדוש הוא* he is a holy man. He performed double the *Nissim* of his *Rebbe*, *Eliyahu HaNavi*, and he was *M'kadesh Shem Shamayim* many times. He left his beloved family in order to be with *Eliyahu HaNavi*.

Yet, *Chazal* criticize *Elisha* for pushing away his *Talmid*, *Geichazi* with two hands and caused him to become a *Metzora*. *Geichazi* went off the *Derech*, and he lost his *Olam HaBah*. When *Elisha* asked *Geichazi* to do *Teshuva*, *Geichazi* told him "Because of you, I went off the *Derech*, when you said: *חוטא ומחייב את הרבים, אין לך לשבות תשובה* One who causes the *Rabim* to sin, is not granted the opportunity to do *Teshuva*." (*Gemara*). **Sometimes the wrong *Mussar Shmuess* (as true as it can be) may be poison.**

An *Adam Gadol* once told me that what I heard from a different *Adam Gadol* was poison for me, but good for others. The *Mesillas Yesharim* speaks about a *Gadol* who can help others because he himself had gone through the same *Nisyonos*. I know stories of people demanding *Torah* and/or *Chesed* from others (which is indeed *Gevaldig*, bringing major *Yeshuos* and *Brachos*; and plenty *Gehinom* without them!) and they can *Mamash* kill them if these *Shmuessin* are not appropriate for them.

The *Yetzer Hara* Has All Kinds of Tricks Just to Make You Depressed

How dare you stop learning? / Where are your feelings for others? / What happened to your *Zikkui HaRabbim*? / You are Over on (violating): *צם רעך!* / According to *Chazal* you are a *Rasha*! / Your low *Kedusha* level and your unending *Ka'as*! / You should be whipped for your *Atzvus* (depression) level! / What's with you? Where's

How Can I Be Afraid? Hashem Is Everywhere!

When R' Galinsky *Zatzal* was in Lakewood, I was schmoozing with him in the home of a very *Chashava Yungerman*. It had been during the Yom Kippur War, and R' Galinsky mentioned that he had been called to speak for the troops who were stationed at the front lines. They were quite depressed, and R' Galinsky did a great job cheering them. He was in a dangerous area, and I believe he was flown there by helicopter.

Someone asked him why he wasn't afraid. He said: "How can I be afraid? Hashem is everywhere!" I was told that R' Galinsky was sent on a secret mission by a *Gadol HaDor*. He had to go to an extremely hostile Arab country, and give a message to someone. He did this twice, and he wasn't wearing any disguises!

I heard the same type of story about R' Gershon *Zatzal*. He was sent by a *Gadol HaDor* through Nazi controlled territory in order to rescue this person's *Rebbetzin*. They say that she was afraid to go with him, and he came back empty-handed. When he was asked if he could make a second attempt, he said that he couldn't. Even the greatest *Baalei Bitachon* know their limitations.

your *Simcha*? Or *Bitachon*! / You're an ingrate! You have no *Middos*!

Although people may not be saying things like this to you, many, many, people have *Chazal*'s in their heads that are causing "slow death" to their energy level, since their guilt is all over themselves. **You yourself could be that Rebbe who pushes his Talmid with two hands and is too harsh!**

You may need plenty of: **אָוֹת רְחַמְתָא פְּטִירָה ב"ק כ ה ב** (a person who acted involuntarily who is not responsible) and: **אֵין פְּקֻדָשׁ בְּרוּךְ הוּא בְּבִטְרוּנִיא עַמּוֹ בְּרִיאָתָיו ע"ז ג א** from His creations, and you may in a sense be considered a: **תִּינְקָ שְׁנִשְׁבָה לְבִן הָנָגָרִים** baby who grew up among the gentiles (who knows nothing about *Yiddishkeit*), or a *Bechina* (type) of a: **שְׂזָפָה** (mentally impaired) who is *Patur* (exempt) from all the *Mitzvos*. Of course, you need to watch out, and have a *Rebbe* guide you. A *Yungerman* cried like a baby to me, since a great person refused to acknowledge the severe traumas, he had gone through, which were causing all kinds of debilitating problems in *Ruchaniyus* and *Gashmiyus*. He said: "Stop being a baby and move on."

Of course, there are no: **כָּלִילִים** rules, and there are plenty of success stories where people blindly followed their *Rebbe* or parents, and were *Zoche* to great things. I once met a *Chasidishe Admor* who is a major *Talmid Chochom*. He told me that many people need to avoid **Mussar Shmuessin** that are: **תַּעֲבָה** (exacting) and make demands on people. Often, the best *Shmuess* is constant appreciation for your positive side, and **keep out of all mistakes and sins and weaknesses. The Yetzer Hara has all kinds of tricks just to make you depressed.**

Novardok

When they were learning *Mussar* in *Bialystok Yeshiva*, one of the *Menahalim* remarked that he'd be surprised if millionaires wouldn't result from so much *Mussar* on *Bitachon*. The war broke out, and virtually all *Novardok Yeshivos* were destroyed by the Nazi's, *Y'mach Sh'mam*. R' Gershon Liebman *Zatzal* survived the war, and started a *Yeshiva* in *Fublaines*. The *Yeshiva* was as poor as you can imagine.

The *Madrega* in *Ruchaniyus* was unbelievable. The *Hasmada* and the *Yiras Shamayim* and the *Mussar*. People have told me how this place was "on fire", and was *Mamash Kodesh Kodoshim*. R' Gershon *Zatzal* ran it, and he had great *Hasagos* (standards/ambitions).

The poverty was unbelievable. *Novardokers* are soldiers who can tolerate lack of *Gashmiyus*, and to an extent, they desire a simple lifestyle. But sometimes you actually have no food! A certain R' Sayagh *Shlita* was there the day that they had no food. He told me that R' Gershon *Zatzal* said that he had *Bitachon* that they'd have a great supper. *Fublaines* was a tiny village composed of a few blocks, and they were nowhere near civilization. That night, a truck came to them mysteriously. This truck was on the way to a frum school to bring them food, and it got lost and ended up in *Fublaines*. They said that they didn't know what to do with the food, and they might as well give it to the *Fublaines Yeshiva*. They all received a sumptuous meal, just like R' Gershon said!

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When I was first told about R' Gershon *Zatzal*, he was in *Bussières*, and then he was a multimillionaire! They were "rolling in dough" *Mamash*, and they sent me a free ticket to visit them. When R' Gershon visited *Bais Medrash Gavoha*, he said a *Shmuess* in the *Bais Medrash*. afterwards, he went into the office with R' Shneur Kotler *Zatzal*. Before he left *BMG*, he left R' Shneur a \$1,000 check!

R' Shneur *Zatzal* said: "This is a historical check". No one ever heard of one *Mosad* giving a check to another *Mosad*! And they say that R' Gershon was supporting two *Mosdos*; one in *Eretz Yisroel*, and one in America. And he was spreading his own branches all over France. I visited several of them. They had big giant buildings and were run very professionally. *Novardok* did major *Kiruv* all over France. And R' Gershon never knew a word of French.