

BITACHON WEEKLY

BY: RABBI YEHUDAH MANDEL SHLITA

פרשת אחרי-קדושים תשפ"ו

The True Oved Hashem Is a Happy and Content Person Who Is Missing Nothing

Upon his first entry into the *Kodesh HaKodoshim* on *Yom Kippur*, the *Cohen Gadol* would scoop a **full** shovel of burning coals from the top of the *Mizbeach*. He would also take: **ומלא** his hands **full** of *Ketores*. We can suggest that a "full" handful symbolizes a person who is **full**, like *Yaakov Avinu* who said: **יש לי כל וישלח לגי** I have EVERYTHING (my hands are **full**, and I'm a happy and content person); not like *Eisav* who said: **יש לי רב** I have plenty (i.e., "I have a lot, but not enough").

Dovid HaMelech said: **ה' רעי לא אֶחָסֵר תהלים כג א** Hashem is my Shepard (so) I will never be lacking. The true *Oved Hashem* is missing **nothing** (despite all *Dovid's* horrific *Nisyonos*). *Yaakov* also had unusual *Nisyonos*, yet he said: **יש לי כל וישלח לגי** I have EVERYTHING. *RSRH Zatzal* says that this is because by *Yaakov*, "having" means the opportunity to grow, and therefore he even welcomed his difficulties, since they are all opportunities of growth.

To Rejoice with Another Person's Success, You Must Feel Fulfilled and Happy with Yourself

The: **מִחְתָּה** shovel was also full (of burning coals), and *Chazal* say that the *Kodesh HaKodoshim* became "full" with smoke (of the *Ketores*). And *Ketores* is: **מַעֲשֵׂרֶת** a major *Segula* to become rich! (*Chazal*). *Ketores* symbolizes having everything, and: **אִזְהוּ עֲשִׂיר** Who is truly "rich"? One who is *Sameach B'chelko*, i.e., content with what he has. Who is the only person who may enter the *Kodesh HaKodoshim* on *Yom Kippur*? Only the *Cohen Gadol* (*Ahron*). How did *Ahron* become *Cohen Gadol*? **לִב שִׂשְׁמָה בְּגִדוּלַת אָחִיו** Because his "heart" rejoiced with his brother's greatness, so he received the *Choshen* on his "heart", which had 12 **מְלוּאִים** *Avnei Milu'im* (stones that **filled** their boxes).

Each *Shevet* **filled** his golden box with his unique precious stone; so too should every person **feel fulfilled with his unique Avodas Hashem without having any Kin'ah of others**. How does a person become happy (*Ahron*) when his younger brother (*Moshe*) gets a higher position than himself? When he is himself a **fulfilled** happy person!

Chazal say that *Ketores* also symbolizes *Simcha* (*Zohar*) and *Bitachon* (*Medrash*). The *Gr"a* explains that when

Bitachon Makes You a New Person

A *Yungerman* who is a major *Masmid*, *Talmid Chochom*, and *Rosh Chabura* would come home full of stress, since he had a difficult childhood. He now learns *Shaar HaBitachon* and other *Inyanei Bitachon* for over an hour daily. **As he learns Mussar, he gets happier and happier, and his wife and children are overjoyed**. I was asked: **תורה מה תהא עליה** "But what will be with all the learning he is losing out? He is wasting so much precious time by working on *Simcha* and learning *Inyanei Bitachon*! Do you know how much *Torah* he could have learned instead?? Such a major *Ben Torah* should lose so much *Torah* on a regular basis??

Do I need to decide such a *Shayla*? Take your pick: Do you want to be a bigger *Talmid Chochom* and keep hurting your wife and kids (and yourself) and quite possibly end up in the hospital, with physical or mental issues, and be *Nichshal* in either *Kin'ah*, *Ta'ava*, *Kavod*, *Ga'ava*, **שְׁפִלוּת הַבְּהִמִי** lowliness like a loser, and all kinds of unhealthy complexes and depressions (or all of the above, *Rachmana Litzlan*) ... or not?!

It is obvious that Hashem wants this *Yungerman* to take care of: **שְׁבִירַת הַמְדוּת** his main purpose in life; i.e., *Shviras HaMiddos*. And if a person does *Ratzon Hashem*, there is no doubt that he will come out ahead, even in his learning.

the *Gemara* says that the *Churban Bais Hamikdash* happened because of *Sin'as Chinam*, the *Gemara* really means that they did not have *Bitachon*, which is the root cause of *Sin'as Chinam*! And *Bitachon* means being a *Sameach B'chelko*. The *Kiyum* (support) of the *Bais Hamikdash* is having an *Ahron* type of *Cohen Gadol*, whom everyone should emulate. The first *Avoda* of *Kodesh HaKodoshim* on *Yom Kippur* is **filling** the *Kodesh HaKodoshim* with *Ketores*.

Sameach B'chelko Comes BEFORE Any Other Area in Avodas Hashem

You don't start any *Avodas Kapara* (i.e., the blood of the *Korban*) until you first take care of *Ketores*. So many people suffer throughout their lives despite their greatness in *Torah* and *Chesed*. And like *Chazal* say that during *Bayis Sheini* they were *Osek* in *Torah* and *Chesed*, and despite this there was a *Churban* because of *Sin'as Chinam* and lack of *Sameach B'chelko* (*Bitachon*), so we understand how **the finest *Bnei Torah* and *Y'rei Shamayim* can suffer physically and mentally, and their lives can be ruined since they never had time for working on the #1 issue; i.e., *Bitachon*!**

טו לא עֲשִׂיר הַשָּׁמַיִם בְּחֵלְקוֹ! You are not responsible to get it all done! *Who is truly rich?* One who is content with what he has. Before the *Cohen Gadol* starts shechting an ox and a goat, etc. he takes care of *Ketores*: הַמַּעֲשֶׂה which makes him (truly) rich; i.e., **first comes the *Sameach B'chelko* issue!** If *Gedolei Yisroel* like the *Shomer Emunim* and *Chofetz Chaim* believed that's it's *K'dai* to lose lots of *Torah* and *Avoda* to cheer and be *M'chazek a Yid*, וְקָל וְנוֹמֵר, *surely you are obligated to be *M'chazek* yourself!*

Novardok

TRUE STORY TOLD BY R' YAAKOV BERMAN SHLITA, IN THE NAME OF R' BEN-TZION BRUK

A group of *Talmidim* were learning in a shul with *Bitachon* that Hashem would provide them with stuffed duck and old wine, because they wanted to work on the *Midda of Bitachon*. In the morning, a woman brought them bread, which they refused. Towards evening, an old lady came in requesting they come to her house since she needed a *Minyan* for her *Seuda* in honor of her husband's *Yahrzeit*. She would be serving good food, including stuffed duck and old wine! Again, they refused because they were *M'kabel* to remain in shul. A half hour later she returned with all the food, since she couldn't find a *Minyan*. **The power of *Bitachon* can give you exactly what you want!**

Yesod of Novardok: Repetition

In *Bialystok*, they taught you again and again that the current era is: שְׁעַת הַשְּׁמַד a time of religious persecution, which means that you don't surrender an inch of *Yiddishkeit*. (*Gemara*). **By constantly hearing these fiery words during their *Mussar Vaadim*, the *Novardokers* were able to hold strong throughout the worst *Nisyonos*.** Getting used to being *Moser Nefesh* was their *Derech*, and by constantly hammering in these concepts, they became more and more real.

This is a #1 *Yesod of Novardok*: **Repetition, repetition, repetition, is what it takes.** If you have some weakness (like *Ka'as*), don't just hear a nice *Vort* about this issue; when you constantly talk about it, it sinks in, and you become a new person. I personally witnessed how the *Tzaddik*, R' Pinchos Menachem Malach *Zatzal* was reading a *Novardok* song about being a tough soldier and becoming like *Rabbi Akiva*, who was ready to have iron rakes destroy his body.

Novardokers never make *Cheshbonos* and plans, like the *Gemara* warns: אַל תִּצַר תִּצַר מָחָר יבמות סג ב: Don't worry about tomorrow's problems. Their situations were so difficult, they would not have been able to last even one day, if not for the fact that they threw all their *Cheshbonos* and worries on Hashem. They weren't involved in *Protec'tzia* (i.e., flattering the rich) and trying to get on the good side of important people. תַּמִּים תְּהִיָּה עִם ה' "Have *Temimus* with Hashem" was a favorite *Mussar* refrain.