
Bitachon Weekly

----- שליט"א Rabbi Yehudah Mandel -----

הג השבועות תשפ"ו

How Chashuv Is Just Our Wanting to Improve

The Simcha of Shavuos is for officially having accepted the Torah, not necessarily for actually being M'kayem the Torah. We can suggest that the Yom Tov of Simchas Torah is a celebration for finishing the entire Chumash, but Shavuos celebrates the mere acceptance of, and desiring the Torah. When the Yidden decided to do the Korban Pesach, it says: וַיֵּלְכוּ וַיַּעֲשׂוּ בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא they "went" and they "did". Rashi explains that although they hadn't yet done anything, since they were M'kabel to do it, it is as if they actually did it.

The Medrash says that the extra word: וְנִמְלְכָנָה שְׂמִינָהּ מִיּוֹם הַהוּא teaches us: כִּי־נִיּוֹן שְׂנִינְתָנָה דַּעֲמָהּ לְהַתְנַגֵּיךְ הַשְּׁנִינָה הַקְּתוּבָה לְנַעֲמִי מִיּוֹם הַהוּא as soon as Rus just decided to be M'gayer, she became equal to one of the greatest women in Jewish history, Naomi. A person has no idea of the Chashivus of your wanting to improve or deciding to improve yourself! This is why there is so much unnecessary pain going on in so many of us. When we worship humans who only care about success (even in Ruchaniyus) then we are in trouble. Similarly, we have: מִזְמוֹר דָּוִד דָּוִד הַמֶּלֶךְ הַגִּבּוֹר הַיְהוּדִי הַיְהוּדִי הַיְהוּדִי הַיְהוּדִי הַיְהוּדִי Dovid is given credit for building the Bais Hamikdash, even though he never did, because he tried and wanted to do!

The more Simcha you have with your own Torah and Mitzvos, the more you are on the Derech HaYashar. And the more internal or external kvetching and dissatisfaction that you carry around, the more you are away from the Derech HaTorah, Rachmana Litzlan. R' Moshe Feinstein Zatzal said that the reason why so many children of frum parents went off, was because the parents weren't M'kabel their difficulties B'simcha, and the children didn't see the: פְּרִיטָה pleasant way of Yiddishkeit.

All Those Who Were Zoche to Be Part of The Chareidi World Should Dance

On Shavuos, all those who were Zoche to be part of the Chareidi world should dance and dance, and he should sing with his whole heart: בְּרַחֵם הוּא אֱלֹהֵינוּ שֶׁבָרָאנוּ לְקַבּוּדוֹ וְהַבְדִּילנוּ מִן הַתּוֹעִים וְנָתַן לָנוּ תוֹרַת אֱמֶת Blessed be Hashem who created us for His glory, and set us apart from those who go astray, and has given us the Torah of truth. Especially being in such a Torah community as Lakewood. Rabbi Forcheimer Shlita told me, that many, many times when he has a Din Torah, each party is afraid that he is wrong, and each person wants to be sure that the other person isn't getting any kind of injustice!

You have no idea how much pain there is in a life without Torah. Imagine living in a society where Lashon Hara is okay! Or when people are free to their whims, and go do all kinds of Aveiros, like Ka'as and Arayos. It's a different world. We thank Hashem for giving us His holy Torah! And we aren't Jihad-niks, who get a thrill out of killing themselves and others (and these are super "religious" people!)

I heard that when R' Baruch Ber Zatzal said the Bracha of: תַּחֲנוּן Thank You for not creating me as a Goy, he would look outside the window, and say: "I don't mean Davka that lowly water carrier. I mean that clean-cut university student."



However, in a Dor like ours, I would be: מליץ יושר stick up and be Dan L'kaf Zechus, and say Aderaba! A person who serves Hashem with all kinds of worry and pain and Atzvus (sadness) and complaints, may be even greater, since: אגרא אגרא אבות ה כב the reward increases according to your effort. But of course, Le'chatchila we aim for more and more Simcha; especially Sameach B'chelko and Shaar HaBitachon.

Remember this Shavuot to respect every tiny Ratzon, and the faintest of your holy wishes to improve yourself as a mini form of Kabala (accepting on yourself to do) since this is the most you can do for the moment. And the Zechus of appreciating your even inferior Avodas Hashem, will help you grow more and more, with Hashem's help, since Hashem sees that you are satisfied with what you have, albeit as tiny and insignificant as it is.

Be Sameach B'chelko With Your Low or Medium Madrega

There are plenty children and students who need a hard line or else they're in trouble! But the gentile world (which has a tremendous crime rate and much more serious problems) will make you feel guilty for doing your job. And you won't always be doing it in a perfect way, because you're still not R' Yisroel Salanter Zatzal (who said Ka'as HaPanim; not Ka'as HaLev); but you try your best to discipline in a calm manner without Ka'as. Don't expect to be perfect! It's often impossible to do it perfect.

Yet, in your eyes you may be loaded with guilt feelings! "I'm so mean! No Rachmanus!" And you're full of worries that "maybe you'll lose him", Chas V'shalom! Especially if you are a Ka'asan by nature, or in your past younger years you were exposed to lots of Ka'as. You simply can't demand of yourself the high level of Tzadikim. Despite your Bedi'evd job that you do, in proportion to your situation, you're perfect.

And the same with everything else in your life, like Talmud Torah. The Shulchan Aruch says that a person who simply doesn't have the Kelim (abilities) for Talmud Torah is Patur! (He should instead help others learn). Just like a person who is seriously ill cannot fast on Yom Kippur. In fact, for him it is a Mitzva to eat (Pikuach Nefesh). And it may be a Mitzva for a person who can't learn, to stop envying all those "Dirshu" people, and work on appreciating the way Hashem made him.

Some people are only capable for learning Mishna B'rura or Chumash or Tanach, and they should finalize this with their Rebbe, that this is what they'll be doing, and it's just as good as all the Shas' that others complete. I know of a certain Bachur who (unlike his siblings) had major learning difficulties. They decided that he will learn only Chumash. They made him feel good about this.

This Is My Level and It's Final! — It became a Le'chatchila for him to learn just Chumash. He became a new person, and he stopped envying all the Gemara people. "It's only Chumash and that's final!" With time he was very Matzliach, and years later he graduated and today he's learning plenty of Gemara. The same with everything. Today, my Kedusha or Ka'as or Chesed Tefila B'tzibur or Z'rizus or not speaking Lashon Hara level is not so perfect.

But this is my Madrega! And I'm Sameach B'chelko with my low or medium Madrega, since this is the best I can do. And: איזהו עשיר השמט בקלקו who is truly rich? One who is content with what he has in his Madrega in Avodas Hashem!



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