
Bitachon Weekly

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

פרשת קרח תשפ"ו

Sameach B'chelko Is the True Wealth in This World and The True Avodas Hashem

The Me'am Lo'ez [quoting the Alshich] says that Moshe kept referring to them as “Bnei Levi”, because he was reminding them that they were Chashuvim who weren't involved in Chet HaEigel and the Meraglim. “It's not fitting for you to get involved in such lowlife sins like Machlokes!” We have a lesson how to give Tochacha.

The main complaint that Moshe had against: קרח ועדתו Korach and his flock was that they weren't Sameach B'chelko. He was the perfect: מוכיח one to give Mussar for this, since he himself hated: שררה prominence, and he even got punished when he persisted in refusing to become the leader of Klal Yisroel. Moshe truly hated Kavod, and he was the perfect: מוכיח one to give Mussar in this area.

Moshe and Ahron were A-1 Sameach B'chelko, which is #1 in all Avodas Hashem, as it says after the punishments of the Tochacha: **לא עבדת את ה' אלקיך בשמחה** תבא כח מזו Since you did not serve Hashem with Simcha. Perhaps this is why Ketores was chosen as the “test” to see who is fit for the Kehuna. All other Korbanos are: **ריח ניחוח לה'** an appeasing fragrance to Hashem. Although they don't smell good, they are considered a Geshmake: **ריח** fragrance, since the person who brings the Korban is doing Ratzon Hashem. But only Ketores is literally: **ריח ניחוח** actually has a good smell. Perhaps it is a symbol of: **עבדו את ה' בשמחה** serving Hashem with Simcha.

Chazal say: **אין השכינה שורה אלא על חכם גבור וְעשיר שבת צבא** The Shechina rests only on a person who is a Chochom, a Gibbor, and an Ashir [one who is wealthy]. These criteria are all meant to be understood literally; i.e. someone who is wise, strong, and wealthy; and they can also mean: **אִיְהוֹה עֲשִׂיר הַשָּׁמַח בְּחֻלְקוֹ** the true wealth; one who is happy with what he has, **אִיְהוֹה גִּבּוֹר הַכּוֹבֵשׁ אֶת יָצְרוֹ** true strength; one who has control over his desires. etc. Perhaps this is a good reason why Korach wanted Kehuna Gedola, since he was extremely wealthy.

People Can Spend a Lifetime with All Kinds of Pain That Doesn't Really Exist

Dassan and Aviram said: **הַעֲיִי הָאֲנָשִׁים הָהֵם** even if you will poke out their eyes [we will not come]. They were referring to Moshe making them blind. But it was really their own Negi'a which causes blindness, as it says: **כִּי הִשְׁחַד יַעֲנֶה** bribery blinds the eyes of the Chachomim.

When a person accuses another person for hurting him, it may actually be a clear sign that the person is doing just-that to himself! People who don't learn Mussar properly can spend a lifetime of Dimyonos and all kinds of pain that doesn't really exist!

Dovid HaMelech was one of the happiest people who ever lived. Although he called himself a Chasid, and he felt good about himself, yet he also said: **וְחַטָּאתִי נִגְדִי תָמִיד** my sin is before me always; i.e. he was **always** aware of his weaknesses.

So, he never blamed others, and as a result he loved everyone. No more complaints against my “spouse” or “children” or “in-laws” or “parents” etc. It is all me!

R' Gershon Liebman Zatzal was getting loads of unjustified public Bizyonos and unending complaints against him. R' Gershon smiled & told me: “All I have to do is improve myself”.



As well most of the Cohanim Gedolim in Bayis Sheni achieved their high position since they were rich, and they bribed the Roman government to appoint them Cohen Gadol. But the true wealth, i.e. being Sameach B'chelko, they were missing; and they all died because of this. Wealth is actually very important in Avodas Hashem, because an: עשיר wealthy person is already satisfied, and he doesn't have to flatter his litigants if he is a Dayan or a leader. The entire universe respects those who do what they are supposed to do, and those who have Bitachon and are Sameach B'chelko. A Levi who did the wrong Avoda in the Bais Hamikdash [an Avoda intended for a different Levi, like a: מְשׁוֹרֵר שְׁשִׁיעַר בְּשַׁל חֲבִירוֹ designated "singer" who "closed/opened the doors", and vice versa] is Chayav Missa. [Gemara]. When a person does Ratzon Hashem, then: מוֹכֵן הַטְּבַע מִשְׁשֶׁת יְמֵי בְּרֵאשִׁית לְשָׂרְתּוֹ all the forces of nature are programmed from their original creation to serve him.

So feel good about all your efforts and good Retzonos in Avodas Hashem!



Novardok

A 16-year-old Bachur in Bussiéres was doing something wrong, and R' Gershon Zatzal yelled at him. That night, the Bachur went to sleep, and he had already said K'riyas Sh'ma Al HaMitta, when suddenly he heard a knock at his door. It was R' Gershon Zatzal telling him that he had made a Cheshbon HaNefesh, and had decided that he had done wrong by yelling at him. He was now asking Me'chila.

This Bachur became one of R' Gershon's top Talmidim and a major M'zakeh HaRabim. He is now about 80 years old, and he says that he can't forget this story. R' Gershon Zatzal once potched a Bachur, and the next day he called his Yeshiva together for a Shmuess. During the Shmuess, he apologized to the Bachur publicly for hitting him, and he said that Hashem had punished him, and his hand was full of pain all night long. This Bachur told me this story, which he cannot forget [and he loves R' Gershon Zatzal].

Someone once got angry at the Hanahala of Novardok, and he left the Yeshiva and went home. The next day, R' Gershon Zatzal made a special trip, to fall down at his doorstep to ask Me'chila. Needless to say, this brought the boy back to Yiddishkeit.

Being Mach'nia was a major Inyan in Novardok, and those who were into this Sugya were proud of their ability to be Mach'nia. Especially R' Gershon himself, and R' Ozer Schwartz Zatzal and R' Chaim Halperin Zatzal; they were all soft as butter, and they were very sincere [it wasn't just a game to be "Yotzei" asking Me'chila].

They believed that Hachna'a brings all the Brachos, Yeshuos, and Refuos. I have seen first-hand the power of Hachna'a when I needed a Refua. Speaking softly and listening to others, being M'vater and giving in; not getting angry, and not answering back, tolerating a difficult Matzav; all these are forms of Hachna'a. When something went wrong, the #1 form of Teshuva was exercising Hachna'a.

They weren't pushovers in *Novardok*, and I was told that one of their top men had been blackmailed to work for them.

This top man was extremely successful, and it was a tremendous *To'eles* benefit for himself. R' Binyamin Zatzal was a *Baal Teshuva*. He had learned in Gateshead for the last five years with great *Hasmada*, until R' Chaim Halperin Zatzal convinced him to come to *Novardok*, since they worked on not caring about: מה יאמרו הקריות? What will people say??

As soon as he came to R' Gershon, almost immediately, R' Gershon sent him to become a fund-raiser for the *Yeshiva*. The *Yeshiva* became millionaires, and even supported other *Yeshivos* [with a famous \$1000 check to Lakewood]. R' Binyamin became a *Tzaddik Yesod Olam*, and was their pride and joy. He was an older brother to my *Rebbe*, R' Ozer Schwartz Zatzal.



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