
Bitachon Weekly

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

פרשת ואתחנן-נחמו תשפ"ו

Tefila is Stronger Than the Greatest Power on Earth

Why did Hashem have to tell Moshe to stop davening to Him that he should allow him to enter Eretz Yisroel? Let Moshe daven all he wants! Hashem is the boss, and He doesn't have to allow Moshe to get what he wants?

The Meforshim say that Hashem made the Tevah of the world that Tefila must work if you persist. Some Tefilos are answered in one day and some in ten years. But sooner or later it **must** work. So, Hashem had to stop Moshe from davening because if not, then He would **have** to give him something that Hashem didn't really want to give him.

Avshalom rebelled against his father Dovid. When Dovid found out that Achitofel also joined the rebellion, Dovid became afraid, because asking Achitofel for advice was like asking the Urim v'Tumim, and having Achitofel as his advisor made Avshalom a sure winner.

Dovid started davening to Hashem that He shouldn't allow Achitofel's Eitza be accepted. Suddenly, Dovid's loyal friend Chushai HaArki appeared to Dovid, and promised to help by spying for him and trying to undo Achitofel's Eitza. When Avshalom asked Achitofel what his next move should be, Achitofel said he should immediately go with 12,000 men to chase Dovid, and he personally would kill Dovid. His Eitza was accepted, until Avshalom asked Chushai his opinion.

Chushai said that Dovid was too powerful, and it's best to first gather a large army like the sand by the sea, and then attack Dovid. Avshalom liked Chushai's Eitza and listened to him. When Achitofel saw that his Eitza wasn't accepted, he immediately left the army camp, went home, and hung himself. Sure enough, in the end Avshalom was killed, and Dovid won the war.

The question arises: Why was Achitofel so sure that Avshalom would lose when he listened to Chushai HaArki? The answer is: Tefila! Those who understood the rules of Hashgacha Pratis and Bitachon [like Chushai and Achitofel] knew that all Dovid needed was **time** to continue davening as much as possible.

REMEMBER THE GOODNESS OF YOUR LIFE

Parshas Va'eschanan is the harsh Mussar that Moshe gave Klal Yisroel. It is also loaded with reminding us how Hashem made us so great. Also, Yetzias Mitzrayim is mentioned 10 times throughout the Parsha. A person needs to constantly remind himself of all the Yetzias Mitzrayim type of goodness that he has throughout his life.

This is actually the best way to succeed; by never forgetting all that ongoing past goodness of your life.

This Parsha shows how the Torah is always emphasizing that Hashem wants only good for you, like it says: וְלִמְעַן תִּפְאָרִיד וְלִמְעַן תִּשְׁמַחְךָ יְיָ אֱלֹהֶיךָ דַּוָּא so that you should live long, etc. We see from Yetzias Mitzrayim and its constant reminders that Hashem wants to make us happy, and how continuously positive a person has to be. A person has to always remind himself of his past Yeshuos, and to view Torah and Mitzvos as the most wonderful opportunities of his life. Indeed, you need to be "drunk" with positivism. There is good reason for so much repetition. And our nature makes us repeat and repeat all the negatives and doubts and fears and worries of our life. Going through Parshas Va'eschanan many times can give you a big boost.

Especially with all the self-esteem build up; how the Torah keeps pointing out how special we are. The most ideal daily Mussar Seder should have: loads of past sweet memories of Yeshuos and loads of Chazal's that glorify the goodness that Hashem gives us and how great you are.



That's why Achitofel [Dovid's enemy] advised to kill Dovid right away, before Dovid has a chance to really daven. Chushai knew that even if you have an army as big as the sand by the sea, you'll still lose if Dovid has more time to daven! [Heard from R' Nosson Wachtfogel, in the name of the Chasam Sofer].

If you still have a week before you will see the doctor about a scary health issue, or an important meeting about your future financial situation, calm down; you have a full week of davening available, and in one week you can sometimes turn over a situation for the better, and even cause Nissim! And if it's a month? Your confidence soars! You have so much time to daven!

A Goy once stole some valuables and dumped it in a Jew's house. The police arrested the Jew, and sentenced him to be hung in a week, despite his pleading that he was innocent. The K'sav Sofer spent this week with sleepless nights and long trips to the authorities, in a vain attempt to save this Jew. The night before the hanging, his father, the Chasam Sofer came to him in a dream, and accused him for not doing anything for the Jew. [For despite all his efforts, the main effort, Tefila wasn't really done]. The K'sav Sofer woke up the whole town, and they got together to daven for hours. The next day, as the Jew was being led to be killed, the Goy suddenly decided that he should admit the truth; which he promptly did, and the Jew was saved!



Novardok

TO LOVE HASHEM WITH YOUR ENTIRE LIFE

When I asked R' Gershon Liebman Zatzal why he ended up by the Nazis, whereas most Novardokers ended up in Siberia, he told me that when the Nazis came to his Yeshiva and everyone ran away, he remained, since he had heard so much about the Nazis, that he was overcome with curiosity to see what they were all about.

I told this over to R' Galinsky Zatzal, and he laughed. He told me that R' Gershon was just playing down his greatness, and he told me the real story, which was different. When the communists became powerful and wouldn't allow any Torah learning, the entire Novardok movement decided to leave Russia, and steal the borders to Poland.

I'm not sure of the exact numbers, but for sure the lion's share of hundreds of Novardokers made it across the border with Nisei Nissim and replanted Novardok Yeshivos all over Poland. They were learning Mussar and whispering Pesukim of Bitachon throughout the dangerous ordeal. While the Steipler Zatzal was crossing the border, he suddenly found himself along with the Goyishe guide... who was a woman.

He risked his life not to be Nichshal in Yichud, and he turned back immediately, which is extremely dangerous! Being real is #1 in Novardok, and: **לְהַשְׁתַּדֵּל לְאַהֲבָתוֹ** to love Hashem "with your entire life" (i.e., being willing to give up your life) is a reality in their lives. When R' Gershon hid from the Nazis by standing by Davka a THIN tree, **he was only being "Yotzei" the Mitzva of Hishtadlus**. He even spoke publicly about not being afraid of those Reshaim! People admired his greatness in Bitachon, but nobody was holding on his Madrega. I heard another story from a person who saw R' Gershon learning in a *Bais Medrash* while *Yidden* were hiding in all kinds of trap doors, while the Nazis were making a house-to-house search. When this person asked R' Gershon how he can put his life in *Sakana* (danger), he answered that when he notices the Nazis coming near him, he gets up from his seat, and stands by the wall to be out of their view.

But **never** does he do any **serious** hiding like everyone else. *Shlomo HaMelech* said: **חֲרַדַּת אָדָם יִתֵּן מוֹקֵשׁ מִשְׁלֵי כֵס כֹּה** your fear itself causes your *Tzara*! Not only wasn't R' Gershon afraid, but he actually organized a *Yeshiva* in the ghetto that was under the Nazis! All his life, he laughed at the world, and during the war, his greatness became apparent.



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