

---

# Bitachon Weekly

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

---

## פרשת מטות-מסעי תשפ"ו

---

### A Yid Has to Flood His Brains with Simcha and Positivism

The Ramban at the beginning of Parshas Pinchos says that first the Torah elaborates on the tremendous Schar that Pinchos will get for his heroic deed, and afterwards the Torah speaks about the punishment coming to Midyan. We start with positive. The same with Parshas Re'eh: **I give before you the choice between Bracha and K'lala. First: את הברכה** the Bracha if you will listen to the Mitzvos, and afterwards: **לא תשמעו** the opposite. We always start with positive.

**This is a Chinuch for us to fill our mind mainly with Schar Mitzva and all the good in life and in people**, so automatically when we talk, positive comes out first. A Yid has to flood his brains with Simcha and positivism. Otherwise, when Dovid went to war against Golyas HaPelishti, at first Golyas challenged and said: "If your man wins, then we are all your Avadim (slaves). And if I win, then all the Jews are my Avadim (slaves)". Notice how he starts off negative. And indeed, he got killed in the end.

**Although by nature we may be negative, it's our lifelong job to become positive. It could save you from all kinds of Tzaros.** Notice how in last week's Haftorah, the first Yesod Yirmiyahu has to learn is: **Don't say: I'm just a kid; i.e., don't put yourself down! You'll make it! Don't be afraid! And if you are afraid, then Hashem will punish you! He tells Yirmiyahu: אל תסת מפנייהם פן אחתה לפניהם** **Don't become discouraged from them, lest I humble you before them. Being strong and positive is serious business!**

And look how the Haftorah ends off: **זכרתי לך תסד נעוריה לכתה אחרי** Hashem remembers the favor we did for Him by trusting Him and going into the Midbar. So many praises, as if Hashem owes us. And: **קדש ישראל לה'** we are the holiest people, and: **כל אכליו יאשמו רעה תבא אליהם נאם ה'** those who will hurt them, Hashem will punish.

### A Person Has to Respect Himself and his torah!

The Ran says that if you're Machshiv your own Torah that it will save you. Their lack of respect for their own Torah caused the Churban. We should do Teshuva in the 3 weeks and practice respecting our Torah and Mitzvos, and then our Torah and Mitzvos will save us from so much harm.

The Alter of Slabodka once called two brothers over to talk to them. The younger brother was a bigger Talmid Chacham, and when they left the meeting, he ran ahead of his older brother. The Alter called them both back [without explaining why]. He dismissed them a second time, but the same thing happened, so he called them back. The Alter did this several times, and each time the younger ran first. Finally, he understood the Alters' unspoken message, and he gave his older brother his due respect.

R' Avigdor Miller Zatzal once said that if a Talmid puts his hands around the shoulders of his Rebbe, the Rebbe is obligated to stop him: "I'm not your buddy!" When Shaul HaMelech was too much of an Anav and didn't stick up for himself, he was told off by Shmuel HaNavi: **הלוא אם קטן אתה בעיניך ראש שבטי** You think so little of yourself; you are the head of the nation! A person has to respect himself and his position. Not everybody is fit to be a "Gantzer Anav" and belittle himself. When someone once asked R' Shlomo Wolbe Zatzal how to work on Anava, he responded: "I think we have to work on Ga'ava!"



## Your Wars Against the Yetzer Hara Have All Kinds of Rewards

Only by the war against Midyan does the Torah elaborate about the: שָׁבִי וּמְלִקוֹת booty (and extensively)! Perhaps since this is a clear war against the Yetzer Hara (Arayos), a person should realize that the Schar for your wars against the Yetzer Hara have all kinds of rewards. **For one Shmiras Einayim there are many Cheshbonos. You get paid for the Tza'ar, for Simcha, for all kinds of details you don't even know about. Don't view Schar Mitzva as one simple reward. It's millions of various goodness, in all kinds of shapes and forms, just like the: שָׁבִי וּמְלִקוֹת various spoils of war, etc.**



# Novardok

R' Gershon Liebman Zatzal said that if there wouldn't have been a His'nagdus (opposition) to Mussar then there wouldn't have been a Nazi Holocaust. Those who were against Mussar were Gedolei Torah and Gedolei Yisroel. Yet, such a His'nagdus (opposition) was a major: פְּגַם blemish in Klal Yisroel. R' Ruderman Zatzal once wanted to go to a new Yeshiva where the Rosh Yeshiva was a phenomenal Gaon and Ilui Atzum on the caliber of R' Chaim Brisker Zatzal. All the Iluy'im were running, because this Gaon was a: מְרַגְלִיּוֹת פֶּה מְפִיק מְרַגְלִיּוֹת brilliant teacher oozing with pearls of wisdom. When I was a bachur, I came across a Lomdishe Shtikel that he wrote, and it was indeed very Geshmak and unusual. I loved it. It was deep and very Lomdish & understandable.

When R' Ruderman Zatzal told the Alter of Slabodka about his plans, he called him over, and took him to a bridge above a lake. Suddenly, he said: "Jump right here!" Better drown here than destroy yourself in that place." R' Ruderman Zatzal remarked that from that entire Yeshiva, only one Bachur remained frum. And he explained because the Yeshiva had no Mussar and no Mashgiach. But these days, such things don't happen.

Yet, it's not so Pashut without Mussar. A Talmid of R' Elya Svei Zatzal told me that once he told a group of Talmidim during Bain HaZemanim that the Velt doesn't chap how Mussar is everything. This same Talmid is in charge of getting positions for Yungerleit when they leave Bais Medrash Gavoha. He told me that **whoever works with him testifies that the Yungerleit who learn Mussar are much happier and are Sameach B'chelko.** You can see a notable difference.

Two Yungerleit had an argument, and came over to R' Elya Lopian Zatzal to decide who's right. R' Elya asked: "Which one of you learns Mussar?" "He's right!" A person who learns Mussar is a real person, who recognizes the frailties of a human being, and when he opens a Mussar Sefer it's like saying "I need to improve". One of the great Baalei Mussar said that the act of learning Mussar gives a person Schar as if he was M'kayem: כָּל הַתּוֹרָה כְּוִלָּה the entire Torah, since he is Mach'nia, and he shows his Ratzon Tov to do Ratzon Hashem.

Even though R' Ahron Kotler Zatzal was extremely busy, he was extremely Makpid to learn Mussar B'hispa'alus as part of Yeshiva. Mussar Seder was one Seder you can't ever miss. A young Bachur once told R' Yehuda Jacobs Zatzal that **he wants to make his Mussar Seder #1 for the rest of his life. R' Yehuda Jacobs Zatzal became very excited, and he didn't stop raving what a Gevaldige idea,** and how such a person will never really fall by the wayside, and he will always be connected.

There was a Bachur a Yasom who for a year davened for the Amud, and everyone was Nis'pael by his Varm'keit (warmth). It was a high-level quality davening, full of feeling. I asked the Bachur about what's going on unusual in his life. He told me that his Rebbe learns lots of Mussar daily with his Talmidim.



T O S U B S C R I B E

weeklybitachon@gmail.com

Bitachon Hotline: US 732-719-3898 · EY 079-704-0068

Vaadam from Rabbi Mandel: Kol Halashon 718-906-6400 (1, 4, 93) · TorahAnytime 718-298-2077 §130