

Bitachon Weekly

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

פרשת שופטים תשפ"ו

The Entire Greatness of Man Is, To Have A Yetzer Hara and Not to Give Up

The Meforshim ask: Isn't this the wrong request, to have a Melech just like the Goyim? Wasn't this the main Tayna that Shmuel had when Klal Yisroel asked: **שִׁמְעָה לָנוּ מֶלֶךְ לְשִׁפְטֵנוּ כְּכָל הַגּוֹיִם** Appoint for us a Melech who will judge us "like the rest of the nations"? Do you know that when Shaul lost his Malchus, Shmuel cried all night?! Why did he cry so much, if he was so against having a Melech?

According to the Malbim, Shmuel didn't want a Melech since it detracts from Bitachon. Without a Melech it's total Bitachon without Hishtadlus, and with a Melech there is Hishtadlus of having a Melech help you win wars. And who is the greatest hero in Klal Yisroel? **דָּוִד מֶלֶךְ הַמּוֹשִׁיָּח** Dovid Melech HaMoshiach! Moshiach himself is a Melech!

This Bedi'eved Matzav of Malchus is our greatest legacy! Notice that the Y'mei Teshuva of Elul is also odd. We take it for granted that we sinned throughout the year, and here we go again with a full month of Teshuva.

And loads and loads of: **עַל חַטָּא נִשְׁחַטְּאנוּ לְפָנֶיךָ**. Look how we are always sinning, and always doing Teshuva. The human being was meant to be Le'chatchila an ongoing problem of: **שָׁבַע יָפֹל צָדִיק** A Tzaddik falls seven times, and gets up. And Dovid, being the Bedi'eved Plan B, is our Le'chatchila! In fact, he had an unusual difficult Yetzer Hara, a red flaming Admoni like Eisav. **The entire greatness of man is if he has a major Yetzer Hara and he conquers it, i.e., if he's always falling, and yet he keeps trying without Yi'ush. These are our main hero's; our "Dovid's".**

This is exactly why Dovid was Nichshal with Bas Sheva: **לְהוֹרֹת** to be an example that a person can do Teshuva. When Klal Yisroel asked for a: **מֶלֶךְ כְּכָל הַגּוֹיִם** king like all the nations, they fell in Bitachon. The Orchos Chaim of the Rosh says that the main difference between a Yid and a Goy is Bitachon. Since we're only human, we will fall into needing a: **מֶלֶךְ כְּכָל הַגּוֹיִם** king like all the nations.

When You Ask Hashem for Something, Keep Reminding Him of The Past Goodness He Has Done for You

In Elul, we say "L'Dovid Hashem Ori", where Dovid HaMelech asks Hashem: "Please don't forsake me; You have always helped me!" This form of davening is an excellent way to awaken Rachamei Shamayim: "Please help me, since You have helped me till now!". This is how Moshe Rabeinu succeeded in attaining forgiveness after Chet HaMeraglim. He said: Please forgive them: **כַּאֲשֶׁר נִשְׁאַתָּה לָעַם הַזֶּה מִמִּצְרַיִם** "as You shouldered them until now".

And by Chet HaEigel also, Moshe said: "Do not destroy your nation, for whom You have done such wonderful things, taking them out of Mitzrayim with miracles" This is a powerful lesson in how to daven. When you ask Hashem for something, keep reminding Him of the past goodness He has done for you!

How would **anyone** feel when you keep telling him: "Remember how good you have been to me till now! Remember how much you loved me!" A person should always ask Hashem to guide him how to daven, in the way he will have the best results.

You'll be saying again and again: **זְכַרְנוּ** Remember us for life. When you're always in a "thank you" mode, you show that you appreciate and that in itself is the biggest Zechus to have a Ksivah Vachsimah Tovah.



The Worst Yerida Can Turn into the Example of Yiras Shamayim

Look how asking for a king was considered the worst Yerida, and in the end, the Melech becomes the example of Yiras Shamayim! The Melech has two Sifrei Torah, and is a super Tzadik. Dovid called himself a Chassid. Just like Dovid had a special Yetzer Hara, so is the very essence of Malchus a Yerida. But by Hashem, every Yerida is: לְצוּרָה עֲלֵיהָ for the purpose of Aliya, and the worst: הַמֵּלֶךְ הַשֵּׁנִי sinner ends up on top of everyone! בְּמִקּוֹם שֶׁבְּעָלִי Baalei Teshuva are even GREATER than pure Tzaddikim! בְּמִקּוֹם שֶׁבְּעָלִי בְּרִיכוֹת לַדָּבָר

The Only Way to Be Higher Is to Have a Bigger Yetzer Hara That You Conquered

The very essence of a Melech is a person who is higher. He is anointed with oil which floats on top of all other liquids. He has a high throne and a crown. **The only way to be higher is to have a bigger Yetzer Hara that you conquered.** Every Yachid has to emulate the Melech (כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּנֵי מְלָכִים הֵם) Every single Yid is a prince) and rule over his Yetzer Hara.



Novardok

ELUL

In Novardok, the same person could suddenly be told to go in an opposite direction when needed. Chaim is using a super vitamin which is curing him. But Berel shouldn't get near this vitamin. It's **poison** for him, since he has a totally different nature, and he needs different treatment. Every Elul and Adar, the Novardokers would have Bedidus for four weeks. They would reassess their Matzav, with their Vaad friends deciding.

“At this point, you need more Mussar or more Torah or more Chesed”. Or “stop your Chasadim; you aren't learning enough”. Or “stop your learning, the Klal needs you”. Every Prat (detail) of their lives and their Hanhagos were tailor made for each Yachid (individual). The #1 Shita of Novardok, of course, was Bitachon. Their positivism was unreal. R' Gershon said publicly that these days, our main Teshuva in Elul should be to improve in Middas HaBitachon.

During Elul, even the biggest Tzaddikim would disappear to be alone with Hashem. R' Elchonon Wassermann Zatzal would visit the Chofetz Chaim during Elul, and later he would visit the famous Mussar Yeshiva, Kelm. Although in those days they had much more Mussar than our Yeshivos have, yet, during Elul there were Yeshiva Bachurim who would visit special Mussar Yeshivos to give themselves an extra injection of Yiras Shamayim. Some of these Mussar Yeshivos could learn Mussar for **hours!**

Many of these Mussarniks would cry whenever they davened Shmoneh Esrei, and this was all year round! Imagine Elul! During Elul, they would be extra careful with Shmiras HaChushim watching their “senses” i.e. they would watch their mouths, ears, and eyes. They felt that learning Mussar doesn't accomplish that much, if you are always exposing yourself to the opposite of Mussar.

This “Shemira” was from the [unwanted] sights of pre-war eastern Europe, where the streets were a “dream” compared the American streets of today [the Treife Gass street]. The overexposure can hurt your Yiras Shamayim. However, in a sense, our Dor can be considered greater, since we try despite being in a mud-hole of Goyish'keit and materialism.

Imaging the high Madrega of a person in our lowly generation who makes a slight attempt to copy our glorious past! And if he can't do a decent Shmiras HaChushim, then he davens before learning Mussar, and he begs Hashem that the Mussar should sink into his Neshama and turn his Lev Even unfeeling heart into a Lev Basar sensitive heart.



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