Bitachon Weekly

———— By Rabbi Yehudah Mandel שליט"א ————

פרשת תולדות תשפ"ז

Insist On Being Yourself and Use the Unique Kochos That Only You Have

Rashi says that Yaakov learned in two Yeshivos; the Yeshiva of Shem, and the Yeshiva of Eiver. Shem and Eiver were a father and a son. Why do they need two separate Yeshivos? Were they not able to get along with each other?? We can suggest that since Chazal say: חַיָּב כָּל אֶחָד וְאֶחָד לוֹמַר בִּשְׁבִילִי נִבְרָא הָעוֹלָם סנהדרין לז א "Every person is obligated to say: "the entire universe was created just for me", every human being is a new world by himself; a world that nobody else has any Shaychus with. Of course, you must respect your parents. But there is a famous Halacha that says you don't have to listen to them if you desire to go to a different Yeshiva than their liking.

There are people who actually destroy themselves, since they are so hooked on to their past. They turn their ancestors into g-ds, Rachmana Litzlan, and they never become their true unique selves. Indeed, often it is a big Inyan to stick to the Minhagim and Masores of your past (אַל תִּטֹּשׁ תּוֹרַת אִמֶּךָ) and those who hold onto their roots come out ahead. But notice how Avraham was Chesed and Yitzchok was Tefila and Yaakov was Torah. This is not a lack of Kibud Av; i.e., when you insist on being yourself and using the unique Kochos that only you have.

תִּתֵּן אֱמֶת לְיַעֲקֹב מיכה ז כ "Yaakov epitomizes truth" would suggest that Davka Yaakov had to learn in two different Yeshivos, since he symbolized truth. Do you know why there can be loads of Machlokes between Shitos? Because each Shita doesn't go past his nose, and simply has no understanding of an opposite kind of Shita. Rabeinu Yonah did Teshuva half his life for going against the Rambam. If such a giant (who was the author of Shaarei Teshuva) erred in this area; who is big enough to start with Shitos?

That's why Moshiach hasn't come yet, despite our illustrious Galus, that is so full with Torah and Mesirus Nefesh. A person is dominated by his environment, and his lack of understanding people who were raised differently. Only a person who was raised to go to two opposite Shitos can be a true person. For good reason we Paskin like Bais Hillel over Bais Shamai. →

Kabalas Yissurim B'simcha Is Considered Breaking Middos

Years ago, I needed a certain Yungerman, and I kept running after him. I suspected that he wasn't Machshiv me, when I saw that he never answered my phone calls. Many, many times I have found out that my Bizyonos were Dimyonos. Either the person's telephone broke, or he has a Simcha in the family and is too busy, or he does this shtick to everyone. Always be Dan L'kaf Zechus. It's healthier for you! And you live longer and happier.

In this case, I decided to be Mya'esh from that person, and to be Mispallel that I get my needs from a more accommodating kind of person. But I felt that I needed him for working on my lust for Kavod, and to not-care about rejection. So I Davka called and called, and I kept saying how happy I was with being rejected. After a while, I actually enjoyed my rejections. Just then, he called me, and he became warmer and nicer and even more accommodating than ever.

I know two cases of people who had no children for many years, until they psyched themselves into being **happy** without children. "I love having no children! It's a Rachmanus on those who have children which brings so many Da'agos (stress) and responsibilities. etc." Right after they did this, she became pregnant.

There is tremendous power in breaking Middos and going against your Tevah not to want what you would normally want, and being M'kabel Yissurim B'simcha and being M'vatel your Ratzon to Ratzon Hashem.

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There was nobody like Bais Hillel! Why? Because they quoted their competitor's Shita before their own! And therefore they are close to the truth; not biased, and full of Negi'a.

R' Gershon Liebman Zatzal told me that average person is loaded with Negi'os from head to toe. Actually, he has no mind of his own; he's only parroting the way he was raised. So Yaakov Davka went to two Yeshivos. Now we have: אֱמֶת לְיַעֲקֹב the real truth. And when it comes to going against your own father in your understanding of the Torah, it is an open Gemara in Kiddushin that says that even father and son become the worst enemies, and afterwards, they make up and become best friends. However, although you are supposed to have your own mind, yet there is a time and place to Davka be M'vatel yourself to your parents.

Rebbetzin Matisyahu Salomon ע"ה told me that although her father was a simple Jew, he was Zoche to the most unusual Gedolim for sons-in-law. This is because he married a woman only because his parents told him to. (Again, watch out! Every case is different). It is striking that Yitzchok Avinu seemed to honor Eisav's being an "Ish Sa'deh" when he said: רְאֵה רֵיחַ בְּנִי כְּרֵיחַ שָׂדֶה אֲשֶׁר בֵּרְכוֹ ה' כז כז he smells like the "Sa'deh" (field) that is blessed by Hashem. And this explains why Yitzchok had a special Kesher (connection) with Eisav, like it says: וַיֵּצֵא יִצְחָק לָשׂוּחַ בַּשָּׂדֶה כד סג Yitzchok went out to daven in the Sa'deh (field).

And this is why Eisav was so involved in his Kibud Av; he considered himself as going in the same M'halech in Avoda as his father. Except his father was Mispallel in the Sa'deh, and Eisav was busy hunting animals in the Sa'deh. Of course we have no understanding of these people. But it would appear that Eisav made a mistake going a Derech that was not for him, and what is good for a father, may be poison for a son.

And Yaakov, by not becoming an Ish Sa'deh like his father, and staying in the Bais Medrash, did much better. I know a Yungerman whose father was a Talmid Muvhak of a famous Tzadik Yesod Olam. But that Tzadik was very critical. He told me that his father may have blossomed under his Rebbe's criticism, but it was very detrimental for him, and he went a totally different positive Derech.

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Novardok

When I was a Bachur learning in Yerushalayim, R' Shimshon Pincus Zatzal took me and my friends to hear a Novardoker Shabbos Shuva Drasha. R' Ben-Tzion Bruk Zatzal gave the Drasha in his Yeshiva. It was quite dramatic. At first, he said Divrei Torah about Teshuva. Slowly but surely, he got involved in Mussar and His'orerus with a Niggun. It was towards the end of Shabbos, and all of a sudden, he signaled for someone to close the lights. He became more and more Nis'orer about the truths in life, and the importance of saving your holy Neshama before it's too late, Rachmana Litzlan.

My friends never forgot that Shabbos Shuva Drasha. They talked about it for months and months. Novardokers strive to be Baalei Ruach, and they are on fire. They sing and dance a lot, B'shita, for Ruach. In R' Gershon's Yeshiva, the learning was very animated. It was full of Pilpul Chaveirim, and plenty of screaming in the Bais Medrash. The davening and Mussar was B'hispa'alus and fire, B'shita.

הִתְעוֹרְרִי! They wake you up in Novardok; no sleeping allowed! You live only once, and you can't afford to wake up some day and find out it's time to say good-bye to Olam HaZeh, and you are totally unprepared because "I wasn't the Mussar-type", "I wasn't the Masmid-type", or "I wasn't the spiritual-type". In Novardok, they said: WAKE UP NOW! הִתְעוֹרְרִי! No excuses! You have a gold-mine of Torah, Kedusha, Middos Tovos, Chesed, Mussar, Simcha, Bitachon, Chochma, and Yiras Shamayim; but you aren't using it!

That's why having a Chabura was so important in Novardok. When you sleep and look for excuses, your friend gives you a pinch. You do that to him as well. We work together as we grow and grow!

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