

Enlightening words that we merited to hear from the Spinka Rebbe Shlit" a Thursday night Parshas Beshalach 5781

*And what about a little effort?*

If I believe that HaKadosh Baruch Hu does everything, why should I worry about earning a living? Why not sit at home calmly and wait for a check to come from Heaven? **Why do you even need to make an effort?**

And who's talking about the fact that, God forbid, if I do go myself to make a living, I can very quickly come to the conclusion and think and be convinced that I am successful and there is no one like me... **so maybe it's really better to stay at home, and that way, be sure that we do not attribute the power of livelihood to ourselves...**

But no, HaShem created the world especially in this way, that we will go out and do, act and perform, until it seems as if we are in control of our situation in the bank, and precisely there we will return our powers to HaShem and remember that he gives us the power to succeed!!

**Precisely this the purpose of creation, that we should do, but we should know that we are not doing! Because if we just sit in our house and wait for the big check, then maybe we will not have the danger attributing the success to ourselves, but if there is no battle, then what exactly do we need the world for???**

Well, if that is indeed the purpose of creation, that we should make an effort and accomplish, then perhaps, in fact, it is better that we begin to engage all our lives in making an effort? Maybe we should get more and more involved in business and not rest for a moment? Because what is not done for the purpose of creation...

There are people in America who on Friday mornings go out to work dressed in Shabbos clothing, work all day long, and towards evening get into their car, park near a Beis Midrash, and enter straight into Shul, dressed already for Shabbos...

If you would ask them, why are they doing this? What would they answer you? They will look at you in amazement and say to you: What can we do about it? This is our livelihood; we cannot give up our work!!

And what, are they right?

Of course not...

But if not, seemingly, if you say they are wrong, and this case is very exaggerated, maybe you could explain where the border is between the duty of making an effort for livelihood and the duty of having Emuna - Faith? How should a person know whether to take upon himself a certain task as a duty of making an effort for livelihood, or whether he should say to himself: Up to here! I am not obliged to exert myself so much!!

**The sign is clear:** Do you remember what was said before, about needing to identify within the effort we are making, the power of the Creator, to remember that He is the one that gives us the power and the ability?

**So as follows:** As long as you make your own effort and remember that HaShem is the one who gives you the power and success, then it is a sign that your endeavours are proper. **But, if you are doing your own endeavours and you are unable to connect your actions to the Creator, this is a sign that your endeavours are not needed!!!**

And what is the sign for this? The sign of this is **the calmness and peace of mind** that accompanies the actions you do! **If you manage to do your endeavour with calmness, without pressure and excitement, it is a sign that your endeavours are proper.**

Because, if you really do believe that HaShem is the one who is responsible for all your successes and that He gives you the strength and the concentration needed and the joy and the will to do what you are doing, then you are not stressed or worried, you do everything patiently and with a clear knowledge that everything is from heaven...

But, if you feel you have a compulsion with the whole issue of making your own effort, if you feel the need for more and more actions, **and you do all the actions with pressure and excitement, without calmness and without respite, it is a clear sign that you are not moving in the desired direction, your efforts are not proper, because you are coming with it to a place, which is the opposite of faith!!!** If you feel that you just 'have' to do it, because if not - everything will collapse... well then, is this the purpose of creation???

*One rule before entering into the war of the soul...*

We talk a lot about 'soul'?

What is a soul?

**A soul is desire**, 'אם יש את נפשכם' 'If you so desire' the possuk says.

Soul is a longing and aspiration for more and more, 'soul' is a term used for something that is stormy and burning, that aspires and wants to move forward and reach new places, without rest, without sitting in one's place ...

**On the other hand, 'soul' is rest**, 'שבת וינפש' 'He stopped and rested' says the verse. **'Vacation'** (in Hebrew is nofesh) - Familiar?

'Soul' is rest, without pressure, without excitement, give the soul its special place, because that is what the soul wants, rest...

Well, is there not a contradiction here? On the one hand we say that the soul is a desire and burning to move forward and achieve, and on the other hand the soul actually expresses the desire to relax and stay at rest!

But, as stated above, why did HaShem send you into such a world, full of confusion? Why did he not create a world that is only full of peace and tranquillity? Why did he not make everything work out for us exactly the way we want?

**Because you do not have to be clever to reveal HaShem in Gan Eden, among the apple trees and the rippling rivers and a world full of smiles, it is not a trick at all...**

HaShem created the world with the goal that we will discover Him specifically from the places where it is dark for us, specifically from the places where we do not feel the Creator, he puts us in situations where we feel contradictions and confusions, where we do not understand what is going on over here, and he wants us to fight and struggle and to not give up. Specifically from there we will identify him and remember him !!

**You will have it difficult; you will think you have been forgotten - but you will overcome and fight to get to know the Creator in this situation as well. This is indeed clever!! This is indeed a trick!!**

But, before you enter into the confrontation and war for faith, **ask yourself: Do I really have the strength to enter? Am I now fit for war, or will it suck out of me all my strength?** If you feel you can enter into the challenge and deal with it properly - congratulations! Enter and fight! Discover HaShem from the challenge!!

But if you feel you do not have the strength for it, if you know that if you enter a certain place, you will leave there only with great disappointment and mentally drained from strength - it is better that you stay outside and not enter like a great hero!!

**Remember! Your calmness comes first!!!** If you feel that you will lose yourself if you enter the confrontation - it is better that you run away from the confrontation, it is better that you go to sleep!! Because if you try to be smart and a big hero, and enter the confrontation without strength, you will come out of there broken and shattered, without the mental strength you wanted to discover, and most importantly - without your serenity!!!

The 'soul' - desire is excellent, but it is only on the condition that it does not take from you the 'soul' - the calmness and tranquility!!!

*Beware, this is a powerful way!*

Here is the place to tell a story told by my Father Zatzal:

A Jew enters the Rebbe in tears: Rebbe, Getzel is stealing my livelihood!!! He opened a fancy new store, selling exactly the same products as there are in my store, but at half the price! And it turns out, he could not find another place to open the store, only in the building opposite my store! Rabbi, what a scandal!! What will happen to my livelihood? Who see to it that my children have bread??

The Rebbe calmed him down for a long time, comforted him and strengthened him in Emuna and Bitachon, **"Do not worry - the Rebbe told him - you will still see that HaShem will still arrange your livelihood for you in an extraordinary way"!**

The next day the Rebbe finds our friend happy cheerful, and dancing, almost bringing Lechaim to the Shtebel...

**"What are you so happy about?"** The Rebbe asked with interest.

**"Rebbe, I'm telling you, just as you said, has happened! HaShem does not abandon his followers, he has indeed taken care of me in an extraordinary way !!"** He danced.

"How did the miracle happen?" Asked the Rebbe, surprised.

"What should I say, Rebbe," the Jew said with shining eyes, "yesterday I left your house reassured and happy, after you explained to me very well Hashgacha Pratis, and I waited to see how HaShem would help me.

Indeed, not a few hours passed, in the middle of the night, **and what did HaShem do? I left the house quietly, I poured a barrel full of fuel in the shop of Getzel, I burned the whole store down for him!!** Ah, how great are the works of HaShem!!!"

You might chuckle at the cute story, but, if we look at it a little, our friend seems to have taken his extraordinary Emuna and Bitachon and used it to extract all the desire for revenge that was in his heart!

R. Asher said: **Our way is a very powerful way, but, as powerful as it is, there is danger!** Just as a person who has a treasure full of money, who can use it for good needs and elevate his blessings to good places, but so to can he fall with it to dark and dangerous places... So too is the way of Emuna, It's powerful and much more powerful than money which is physical which a person has, but it's also with great danger! We need to be careful and be loyal to who give us the strength to go on this path, and to use these abilities for the areas of uplifting difficulties, and not God forbid, to the area of taking control manipulation, and lawlessness!!