

פרשת תצורה

גליון 24

שבת זכור

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מאת ר' ש. קאפלן שליט"א

"ואתה תדבר אל כל חכמי לב אשר מלאתיו רוח חכמה, ועשו לי בגדי אהרן לקדשו ולכהנו לי." (כ"ה, ג),
And you shall speak to each of the wise-hearted people whom I have invested with a spirit of wisdom, and they shall make the garments of אהרן to sanctify him, so that he shall be a כהן unto Me. When looking at such a פסוק a very simple question arises: the פסוק begins with "ואתה תדבר אל כל חכמי לב" – *'and you shall speak to all the wise men,'* however, the פסוק does not continue to tell us what מרע"ה was told to tell these wise men?

The סופר explains: "אנשים יש להם חכמה בלב, יותר ממה שחושבים." *People have in their hearts, much more than they think they have.*
 We need to tell us | **"כגרגיר הזרוע שאם יעדור ויחרוש יצמח, ואם לאו ירקב."
 Like a seed which is planted; if it's watered and nurtured it will grow and flourish, if not, it remains to rot in the ground.** | other people about these

"hidden wisdoms." We need people to reveal the חכמה. There are people who live their entire life without being told about these "חכמות". Eventually, they die without actually putting into action their true potentials in life.

He continues to quote the following חובת הלבבות נטועה: "בלבות האנשים יש חכמה נטועה", *In the hearts of people there is a wisdom planted;* "אם יבא מי שיעוררם על זה", *if somebody comes and inspires them,* "יוצא המטמון ההוא ויגדל לעין כל", *this hidden treasure emerges which allows a person to grow and flourish,* "ואם לאו יהיה נעלם", *however, if a person is not told by others about their inner wisdom, it will remain concealed forever.* כגרגיר הזרוע "כגרגיר הזרוע שאם יעדור ויחרוש יצמח, ואם לאו ירקב.", *Like a seed which is planted; if it's watered and nurtured it will grow and flourish, if not, it remains to rot in the ground.*

Explains the סופר with a beautiful explanation: "ואתה תדבר אל כל חכמי לב", Tell those who have wisdom in their heart. What should מרע"ה tell them?! That they are filled with a spirit of wisdom! Tell them they can do it! Tell them "אשר מלאתיו רוח חכמה" – you are

filled with a spirit of wisdom. Only once they have been told – once their potentials have been revealed, then, ועשו לי בגדי אהרן, and they will be able to do it.

Tell them they can do it! Just tell them.

There was a איד in ישראל – walking down the busy streets of ירושלים and he passed by a pizza shop. In the shop, one of the workers there caught his eye. He thinks to himself, “Wasn’t this our חבר from ישיבה? He was the greatest למדן of the ישיבה! I’m sure he’s the owner here!”

He walks in and begins to speak with his old friend from ישיבה. “I’m a simple worker here... that’s all...”

“That’s very interesting,” replied the man, “weren’t you the biggest למדן of the ישיבה... what made you become a worker in a pizza shop?”

“Was I the biggest למדן?! No one ever told me that!” replied the worker.

A phenomenal story. We must tell each other "אשר מלאתיו רוח חכמה" – we can do it; *we can become a למדן*. The more we tell each other, the more we bring out each other’s כוחות and true potentials in life.

(שיחת מוסר תשל"ב) ר' חיים שמואלביץ זצ"ל speaks about this subject in length, and he would say, “Just like it’s vital for us to inform others about their potential, a person too, must inform himself about his own potential and כוחות!”

Not just bringing out the כוחות in others, we must also bring out the כוחות in ourselves. We must believe in ourselves – build our confidence: **WE CAN DO IT!**

It’s vital. The כוחות we have are only going to emerge if we believe in ourselves and tell ourselves that indeed we have such כוחות.

A few years ago, I went out with a few בחורים to make a BBQ. One of the בחורים touched another בחור’s hand with the boiling hot tongs by mistake. We didn’t know what to do. We tried tissues. We tried water. We went to one hospital which was closed. We had to travel all the way to a different hospital... למעשה to cut the long story short, the בחור is fine today, ב"ה it wasn’t anything serious.

When we returned, we thought to ourselves, “How can we go away like this without taking a first aid kit?!”

We came and told the organiser of the trip, to warn him for future hikes.

“There was a first aid kit,” replied the organiser, “it was at the bottom of the rucksack!”
However if we are not going to know about the first aid kit, it’s a waste of time!

You can have the כוחות – the cure "על המקום", but if we’re not told about it, it’s a waste of time, or as the חובת הלבבות calls it, *it is like a rotting seed*.

If a person is not told by others – or doesn’t tell himself about his inner powers, it’s all *gornished*.

In fact, the רמב"ן in this weeks פרשה writes regarding the פסוק, "ויגבה לבו בדרכי ה'" – a person must lift his heart בדרכי ה'.

I want to share with you the following story which brings out this point in a very powerful way: There was a youngster who after learning in כולל went to work. It wasn’t going well. He tried different jobs, but to no avail. From one to the next. Nothing was working. He was running into debts, until eventually he reached a *matzev* where he owed twenty thousand dollars. What’s going to be? He didn’t have a job?!

One fine day, he sees a job advertised for a job in Manhattan. He goes to Manhattan for an interview, while realizing he had arrived a little too early.

He decided to use these few minutes to take a relaxing walk in central park. He walks up and down, deep in thought thinking about all his צרות and worries. He sits down on one of the benches and suddenly feels a tap on his back. He turns around and he sees a man dressed in pyjamas.

The fellow starts conversation and says, “I see you look very troubled. Maybe I can help you with your problems.”

“How can a random person who I have never met before help me?” asks the youngster. “I can help you,” replied the man, “I live opposite central park and I have seen you pacing up and down looking very troubled.”

Realizing he was speaking to someone who owns an apartment opposite central park - worth 20 million dollars, he began to let out his צרות.

“I am Warren Buffet,” said the man, “I feel I can trust you and I understand you will use the money I lend you wisely. Here is a check for two million dollars. Use it, invest it, and I trust you to return it in one year. Meet me at this bench with the money.”

He took the check and walked away feeling really happy with himself.

He took the interview, and a few days later he was given the job. After a few weeks he was given a better job... a few months later he began to receive commissions.

After the year was complete, this man was stable and living comfortably, still leaving a plenty of money in the bank. He was *ממש* rising – becoming richer and richer.

He didn't forget about his old friend from the park bench, and he returns to the park, *וכך הוה* – the man is there sitting on the bench wearing the same pyjamas.

“Thank you so much Mr. Buffet,” said the *איך*, “and I must tell you I owe you so, so much. The truth is, I still have in my pocket your same check, I never cashed it. However, the fact I walked around with a two-million-dollar check in my pocket, it gave me a tremendous confidence. I went to the interview with a confidence, I began my job with a confidence... and because I gained so much confidence there was no need to cash your check!”

Suddenly, two people come from behind dressed in white clothes and they take away this Warren Buffet.

They tell the *איך*, “I hope he has not been disturbing or bothering you...”

“What do you mean?” he asks.

“We have a mental home just outside central park. This fellow often jumps out the window and escapes the mental home. He pretends to be President Bush or Warren Buffet, and sometimes he gives out worthless cheques... just throw his silly cheques in the bin.”

As they pull him away the check falls out his hand onto the floor. As the wind begins to blow it away, this *איך* stops and thinks to himself, “Phenomenal! All I had was a piece of paper in my pocket and nevertheless it gave me a tremendous confidence to be *מצליח*!”

All we need is for someone to come out there and give us this confidence. If we have confidence in ourselves, this gives a *gevaldiga* opportunity to bring out our potential.

We must recognise the good we are doing because otherwise we won't be able to bring out the inner *כוחות* hidden within us.

The story is told about a group of penguins standing next to a tall tower. Somebody came along and announced, “The penguin who climbs to the top will win a big prize.”

All the penguins began to exclaim, "Ach! It impossible! You will fall off and kill yourself! It's impossible..."

One little penguin ran to the tower and climbed to the top! He got the prize!

When he came down, they all asked him, "How did you manage... weren't you put off by all of us?!"

After speaking to the penguin for a few seconds without receiving any response, they realised he was deaf: he didn't hear the others scream "impossible."

He didn't hear all that. Accordingly he was מצליח tremendously.

If we say this נוסח of "I can't" and "it's impossible" too often to ourselves, we will not succeed in bringing out our inner כוחות which we have.

All we need is to build our self-confidence, to tell ourselves and others "אשר מלאותיו רוח חכמה".

ג' ראש ישיבה in Brooklyn said over the following story: He was a ראש ישיבה in Brooklyn where there was one בחור in the ישיבה who didn't learn anything – he was never seen in the בית המדרש.

One day, ר' אברהם is standing in the בית המדרש and he sees this בחור learning there. A minute later, this בחור's father walked in. Obviously, he knew his father was coming to visit.

The father comes over to ר' אברהם and asks, "How is my son doing?"

ר' אברהם didn't lie, but rather told the father the complete truth, "... not very good..."

The father goes over to his son and says the following (ר' אברהם would say, "look how a clever father tells off his son,"): "טייער זון – the ראש ישיבה told me you're doing good; he says that if you would try a bit harder you will be doing very good. Do me a favour and learn a little bit better, to reach a level of 'very good'."

The בחור from that day on continued to learn, and today he is one of the famous ראשי הישיבות of New York.

It's the same נקודה: When you make a person feel good, your חברותא feel good or your friend feel good, you are helping them bring out their כוחות - "אשר מלאותיו רוח חכמה".

We must always speak positive to each other, telling each other: WE CAN DO IT. This confidence brings out our כוחות.

I once gave a two-minute lift to the Milwaukee Rebbe and I asked him the following question: What is the reason people don't *shteig* and do as well as they can?

He answered me: "Because people are lacking in confidence." Lacking confidence is the biggest reason why people are not being מצליח as much as they could.

We must build ourselves with confidence – understanding what we achieve. We must literally tell ourselves again and gain that we are doing well, not to ה"ו let those "impossible" thoughts creep in which come directly from the יצר הרע.

We must look at ourselves – at our own כוחות and true potentials. The more we tell ourselves "אשר מלאתינו רוח חכמה" – the more we can bring out our כוחות.

People today unfortunately rate themselves much lower than they should be rating themselves.

It's vital for our generation to bring out each other's כוחות – to speak positive with each other.

We must believe in ourselves, be happy with what we are achieving because ב"ה we are doing well. Like this we bring out our hidden כוחות, ה"ו לאו ירקב ה"ו.

Transcribed by אברהם דוב הכהן כהן - Avrohom Dov Kohn.