



*Who are you, Yetzer Hara?*

R' Yehoshua Margalit z"l retold: One of the years I was debating whether to go up to Yerushalayim on the day of Purim Demukofin (Shushan Purim) to be with Reb Asher.

A little bird whispered in my heart: "**Yehoshua, you are a grown man, why are you going to travel? Today is a cold day, and you might catch a cold and endanger your health!**"

Indeed, I did not go in the end.

The next day I met some of the chaverim, and they immediately jumped towards me: "**Yehoshua! Where were you yesterday?! You don't know what you missed! What a Purim it was by Reb Asher! What powerful talks!**"

And of course, as they extended the description, my heart fell. My conscience began to torment me. Why did I listen to my laziness?! Why didn't I go?! **Why did I choose excuses!?**

But suddenly I caught myself.

I understood suddenly what Dovid HaMelech meant when he said, 'With the utmost hatred I hated them – as enemies they are to me', when it is referring to of course the yetzer hara.

**Because what a bad enemy the yetzer hara is... the same one who came to me yesterday with a smile of concern and advised me not to travel - he is the one who comes to me today with a tormenting whip asking why I didn't travel...**

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*People of control versus people of opportunity*

This pain that you are going through now, is something in the root of your soul that has been waiting to be repaired for thousands of years - and now its opportunity for repair has arrived.

**The pain is a kind of messenger that knocks on the door and calls you to get up from the comfortable bed and go to receive the gift.**

**The pain is like a fuel gauge in a car that is showing you - dear driver, go to the gas station, take care of yourself!**

**The pain is like traveling on a crowded plane, without food, without room to move around, without the comforts you are used to, but you are traveling to a business meeting abroad that will bring you millions in profit...**

When you see the pain in this way, in its true form, when you realize that there is a holy spark waiting to return to you and fill you with strength, when you know that the pain, small or large, is a historic opportunity to buy reserves of connection to Hashem, that there is a gift here that they want to bring you - your whole view on the pain changes!

**Because it is not comfortable to get out of a warm bed - but what is that compared to the great gift that is waiting behind the door!**

**And it is true that changing the travel route is not pleasant - but it is ten times better than being stuck without gas in the middle of a hot day!**

**And maybe a respectable businessman is not used to crowding into an ordinary tourist plane - but he does not feel the lack of comfort, when he sees in front of his eyes the line of profit in the bank account being upgraded by millions....**

More than that, to some extent you are even waiting for this process, and you don't want to give it up - because you know that this is the way to get to the good things that await you.

(And proof for this that if the businessman hears that his flight has been cancelled, he will not be happy that he was spared the inconvenience - on the contrary, he will be angry that he missed the opportunity!)

**That is, when you know that it is HaShem is the one sending the pain, and that there is a good purpose here for you - you do not resist the pain anymore, you are not preoccupied with shame or the feeling of failure - because you know that this is the most correct process for you!**

But, if we are honest, **sometimes we prefer to give up profits, connection, wisdom, respect, progress, a good education and many other good things - just to prove that I am in control, that I am the one in charge here...**

Sometimes we are not interested in what the truth is, we are not looking for wisdom, we are not looking to start living. What are we looking for? Control.

When I choose to seek control - that's where the suffering begins...

Reb Asher said: The 'path' I am giving you will not spare you the pain. Because pain is a part of life, a significant part that connects you to HaShem and to yourself.

**My path takes away the 'suffering' from the pain. Because the suffering comes when I don't accept the**

'present', when I don't accept what HaShem is doing with me, the suffering comes when I want to be in control...

When you seek to remain in control - that's where everything starts to deteriorate... **that's where the suffering begins, that's where you start to break down, to take to heart, to get angry, to get irritated, to cut ties, to despair and to behave emotionally...**

When I'm not ready to get out of bed and open the door - because I want to sleep!

When I prefer to ignore the flashing light in the car - because it's my car! And the plans I set for today do not include a long stay in the garage...

**When I am not ready to crowd like all the ordinary people in the middle seat of an executive plane, thereby giving up my comfort, and my dignity...**

**The only person who will lose from this choice will be the person himself.**

**Because the pain that HaKadosh Boruch Hu sends, is here in any case, whether I want it or not! But if I accept it and look for the connection point that is hiding there - I brought the spark to its rectification, and it will not have to come to me again. I have solved the problem from the root!**

And if I chose to ignore, run away or demonstrate control - the problem will remain at the root...

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*Where do you prefer the shame?*

A chosid of Rabbi Aharon of Karlin would often come to his Rebbe and complain that his wife was harassing him and insulting his honour. He asked for a blessing for a salvation, but the Rebbe never responded to his request.

Once, the completely broken Yid came to the Rebbe and shouted: **The water has reached the soul! Rebbe, I am not capable anymore! I will not leave the room without a promise of immediate change! A promise, not a blessing...**

The Rebbe, who saw the pain of the avreich, promised that soon the situation would change for the better.

Indeed, miraculously - it was so.

**As soon as the Yid returned home, he was surprised to discover a completely different attitude, one of respect, appreciation and kind words.**

The avreich was happy with the positive change, but he did not expect what was the coming...

The next day, while he was walking down the street, the local coachman came in front of him and started yelling at him and throwing various strange accusations at him.

Another day passed, and this time it was a passer-by who approached him and began to insult him with terrible insults in the streets of the city, accusing him of false accusations that caused people to gather around them and discuss the "hot" news they heard with their own ears... All, in front of his spilled blood...

It was one humiliation too many for him...

He ran to his Rebbe and asked in pain: **Rebbe, why do I deserve this? Just when I came to rest from my wife – now I have to suffer in the street!?**

The Rebbe said to him, you understand, shame was decreed upon you from Heaven, they wanted to bring you to a certain insight, they wanted to bring you to the rectification of the soul, to connect with HaShem, to connect with yourself - **but you preferred to run away from the problem... you preferred to look for segulos and promises, instead of treating the root issue...**

And what did you get out of it? Instead of being humiliated at home, between four walls and when no one hears – you are humiliated in front of everyone...

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*It's a shame to miss with the combs!*

How did Reb Akiva stand in such a miraculous silence, when his flesh was combed with iron combs? These are terrible pains!

How did he manage not to suffer from the pain?

The Rebbe said: **Reb Akiva, it would be a pity for him to waste such moments of 'iron combs' in order to deal with the torment and suffering - because he knew that there is a much more desirable treasure here! Here is a historical opportunity to connect to HaShem in an infinite connection!**

This pain is an opportunity to be 'one' with the Ribono Shel Oilom!

**If he wastes it on seeking control and focusing on the pain, he loses twice! After all, he cannot change the situation, and he also misses the opportunity of his life...**

Gedanken from the Spinka Rebbe Shlita

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