

Fascinating INSIGHTS

יז' אב תשפ"ג
August 4, 2023

פרשת עקב
11th year, edition 493

To purchase any of the other author's books (hardcopy or e-book) and get it delivered to your door, please send an email to yalt3285@gmail.com or visit <https://amzn.to/3eyh5xP> (where you can also see the reviews).

Exciting News! The newly released book "Dazzling Money Insights: Illuminating Torah Essays about Money" is now available (as a paperback and Hardcover) for purchase and delivery on Amazon at <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0C6P6H5B1> or by sending an email to yalt3285@gmail.com. Alternatively, you can call 054 849 5217 or 917 732 2371. This comprehensive book tackles many questions, with life-altering insights. The more than 60 essays found within present the Torah approach to earning and managing money. It makes a great gift for friends, relatives, business associates and learning partners. Purchase it at <https://amzn.to/3eyh5xP>. Please spread the word about it.

Some of the questions discussed in this book are the following.

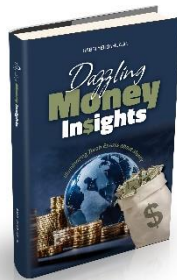
What is a tried and tested method for a person to increase his revenue?

Which mitzvos can a person fulfill through his profession?

What is the correct way for a person to react when he undergoes a loss of money?

Is saving money for the future a Torah ideal?

How can a person transform transient money into an everlasting asset?



SPREADING FASCINATING TORAH INSIGHTS ACROSS THE GLOBE

Argentina • Austria • Australia • Belgium • Brazil • Canada • Chile • China • Czech Republic • England • France • Germany • Gibraltar • Holland • Hungary • India • Israel • Italy • Mexico • Panama • Poland • Russia • South Africa • Switzerland • Ukraine • United Arab Emirates • United States • Venezuela

To join the thousands of recipients and receive these insights free on a weekly email, obtain previous articles, feedback, comments, suggestions (on how to spread the insights of this publication further, make it more appealing or anything else), to sponsor this publication which has been in six continents and more than forty countries, or if you know anyone who is interested in receiving these insights weekly, please contact the author, Rabbi Yehoshua Alt, at yalt3285@gmail.com. Thank you.

לעילוי נשמת שמואל אביגדור בן יצחק מאיר

The weekly Fascinating Insights sheet is also available in FRENCH, HEBREW and YIDDISH. To view or download them in these languages, send an email to yalt3285@gmail.com or visit <https://bit.ly/3FJ8uEc>.

This newsletter can also be viewed in English at <https://bit.ly/3z9qF5E>.

דעם נחלעטער קען מען אויך זען אויף אידיש ביי <https://bit.ly/38RvdTI>

Pour voir ou télécharger la version Française: <https://parshasheets.com/?s=Fascinating+Insights>.

אפשר לקרוא את עלון זה בעברית באתר דרשו: <https://bit.ly/3mGmEOZ>

Archives: <https://parshasheets.com/?s=Rabbi+Yehoshua+Alt>

Please feel free to print some copies of this publication and distribute them in your local shul for the public, thereby having a hand in spreading Torah.

Fidelity of a Melody

It is told that the students of the Baal Shem Tov took some of the melodies of the non-Jews¹ and elevated

them to the side of kedusha. Many of these tunes spread among the Jewish people.

One example of this is the melody called "Galus." R' Yitzchak Isaac of Kaliv² (1751-1821) related he heard this

¹ See the Beer Hataiv, 53:25, Machatzis Hashekel 53:31 and the Maaseh Rokeach on the Rambam, Hilchos Tefilla 8:11.

² When the Baal Shem Tov visited Serentch, Hungary, he blessed a childless couple that they would have a child. In 1751, a son was born to them, who later became R' Yitzchak Isaac of Kaliv. R' Yitzchak Isaac was discovered by R' Leib Sarah's, a student of the Baal Shem Tov, who first met him when he was a young child, a small shepherd boy. R' Leib told

the boy's widowed mother that her son had a high lofty soul from the supernal world of song and that he was destined to become a great tzadik. He took the small child to Nikolsburg where he learned with R' Shmelke of Nikolsburg. He also studied under the Noam Elimelech. R' Yitzchak Isaac was known as "the Sweet Singer of Israel," as he composed many popular chassidish melodies. Often, he adapted Hungarian folk songs, adding Jewish words. He related that the tunes he

melody from a non-Jewish shepherd in the field and he put his own words to the tune. Many chassidish rebbes sang this song with *dveikus*, attachment to Hashem.³

It is known that many tunes sung in Vizhnitz are of non-Jewish origin.⁴ The Minchas Elazar of Munkatch⁵ would sing on Yomim Noraim tunes originating from the marches of non-Jewish soldiers.

R' Dov Ber Schwartz⁶ (1943-2020), who was born in Hungary, said that the known tune for *וּבְאוּ כֵלֵם בְּרִית יְהוָה נְעִשָׂה* is of non-Jewish Hungarian origin. Likewise, the famous tune to Eishes Chayil that is sung at a mitzva tantz stems from non-Jews. R' Schwartz testified that he heard in Hungary how the non-Jews sang the tunes with Hungarian words.

A hint to this idea is found in the words of Yaakov, קָחוּ מִזְמֶרֶת הָאָרֶץ וְהוֹרִידוּ לַאֲשֵׁר מִנְחָה. ⁷ The sefer Kedosh Yisrael⁸ cites from the Ahavas Yisrael of Vizhnitz an alternate explanation: Take the *zemiros* (קָחוּ מִזְמֶרֶת) from the non-Jews (הָאָרֶץ refers to the nations of the earth) and transfer those melodies towards *kedusha* (בְּכִלְיָהֶם). And bring it as a present (מִנְחָה) to Hashem (לַאֲשֵׁר) who is called *מְלַחְמָה*.⁹ That is to say, when you go to daven for the *amud* (which is referred to by the word *וְהוֹרִידוּ*, since davening for the *amud* is called *וְיִרְדּוּ* לפני התיבה¹⁰) to Hashem (לַאֲשֵׁר), utilize these tunes.¹¹



The Kindness of Reincarnation

The Megale Amukos¹² writes that reincarnation is a chessed of Hashem, that any Jew can fix what he messed up.¹³

heard were actually from the Beis Hamikdash, and were lost among the nations over the years. He found them and returned them to the Jewish people. He said that the proof this it was true was that the non-Jew who would teach him the song would forget it as soon as he would learn it.

³ See Zemiros Divrei Yoel, 104.

⁴ Kedosh Yisrael, chapter 14, p. 145.

⁵ Shortly before his death, the Munkatcher Rebbe, known as the Minchas Elazar, made a special trip to meet from Hungary to meet the Sabba Kadisha, R' Shlomo Eliezer Alfandari (c. 1820-1930). This was considered a historic confluence between two worlds, the Sefardi genius of the Middle East and the Chassidic tradition of Eastern Europe. He died from pneumonia, while the Munkatcher Rebbe was at his bedside. (R' Shlomo Eliezer's father died when he was a child. His mother, who lived into her eighties taught him Torah on her own. His mother's mother was said to have known *Shas* and *Poskim*. When his centenarian grandmother decided to move to Eretz Yisrael, she brought ten Torah scholars and one *Sefer Torah* along with her at her expense because she didn't want to daven without a *minyana*! At 17, R' Alfandari married and had a son who died shortly after birth. They never had more children. In his youth, he corresponded with R' Akiva Eiger and the Chassam Sofer. For decades, he served his community as a Rav and *Rosh Yeshiva*, holding the titles of Chief Rabbi of Kusta [Istanbul] and Damascus, among others. At around age 90, he emigrated to Eretz Yisrael and became the Chief Rabbi of Tzfas and the Gallil.)

⁶ He arrived in the United States in 1955 and became a close student of the Divrei Yoel of Satmar. In 2020, he passed away from the Covid Pandemic. He authored *Artzos Hachaim*, *Imrei Devash* and *Shu"t Meishiv Devarim*.

⁷ Breishis 43:11. Simply this means, "Take of the land's glory in your baggage and bring it down to the man as a tribute."

⁸ Chapter 14, p. 145.

⁹ Shemos 15:3.

¹⁰ See Shulchan Aruch, Orach Chaim 53.

¹¹ Otzar Plaos Hatorah Devarim, pp. 455-7.

¹² Vaeschanan, 11.

¹³ Reincarnation is based on *גְּדוּחַ יְהוָה מִמֶּנּוּ נִדְחָה*, no one is banished from Him (Shmuel 2, 14:14).

¹⁴ The Ben Ish Chai gave a talk after the sudden death of the young man, Aharon Agassi, just before he was to be wed. As a result of this incident,

This is alluded to by the fact that the word *גִּלְגוּל* has the same gematria as *חֶסֶד* (72).¹⁴



Due to this, one is reincarnated up to three times as is hinted in *הֵן כָּל אֱלֹהֵי יִפְעֵל אֶל-פַּעֲמִים שְׁלֹשׁ עִם גֹּבֵר*, Hashem does all these things with man two or three times,¹⁵ so that one can't mess up too much. This only applies if one doesn't rectify with his Torah, mitzvos and Maasim Tovim when he returns in a *gilgul*. However, if one that is reincarnated does the will of Hashem, then Hashem gives him an additional chessed and he is able to be reincarnated up to 1,000 times as the Zohar¹⁶ writes on the words *וְעֵשָׂה חֶסֶד לְאַלְפִים*, who shows kindness for thousands to those who love Him and observe His commandments.¹⁷

In the year 1936, R' Dovid Shechter, the father of R' Yaakov Meir Shechter, was davening at the Kosel when he suddenly heard someone crying bitterly. This man was to be making a wedding in the near future for his daughter¹⁸ but had no money for it. R' Dovid invited him to his house where he gave the man the funds — which was originally intended for the wedding of his own son that was to be held in a half year — needed for the wedding. Later in the day when R' Dovid was davening *Mincha* by R' Shlomke Zvhiller, the Tzadik asked R' Dovid you are shining today, what did you do to merit this? After R' Dovid reluctantly related what happened, R' Shlomke said because of what you did, you rectified your Neshama in this *gilgul* as well as previous *gilgulim*.

Rabbi Alt merited to learn under the tutelage of R' Mordechai Friedlander ztz"l for close to five years. He received semicha from R' Zalman Nechemia Goldberg ztz"l. Rabbi Alt has written on numerous topics for various websites and publications and is the author of six books including the recently released *Dazzling Money Insights*. His writings, some of which have been translated into Yiddish, Hebrew, German and French, inspire people across the spectrum of Jewish observance to live with the vibrancy and beauty of Torah. He lives with his wife and family in Kiryat Yearim (where the Aron was for 20 years [Shmuel 1, 7:1,2]) where he studies, writes and teaches. The author is passionate about teaching Jews of all levels of observance.

his father R' Shimon Agassi wrote the commentary, *Bnei Aharon* on the work *Shaar Hagilgulim*. These are the words of R' Shimon Agassi in the introduction to his commentary: "The month that was designated for rejoicing and happiness, how it turned into one of grief and sighing, the week that was designated for a banquet, how it turned into one of mourning and lamentation. And the terrible tidings cut through and turned the heart of every companion and friend. The entire city was in a state of confusion. Their hearts went out and they trembled, one before the other saying, 'What has Hashem done to us, to this beautiful soul, clean of sin and innocent, to pluck a rose before its time and to cut down the thread of its life during its marriage celebration?' Until the Gaon of our strength arose, our master, teacher, and crown of our glory, R' Yosef Chaim (Ben Ish Chai), and calmed down the stormy masses through his precious discourse, and he appropriately explained this matter to them through the tenets of *gilgul*, and with that, their stormy hearts were quieted..."



¹⁵ Iyov 33:29.

¹⁶ Yisro 91b. The Rema Mipano (Asarah Ma'amaros, Eim Kol Chai, 3. Yalkut Reuveni, Parshas Bamidbar.) writes Moshe knew how many times each Jew was reincarnated, as is revealed to us in *לְגִלְגָּתָם* [כל זכר] (Bamidbar 1:2. The simple meaning is every male according to their head count.) which refers to *gilgul*.

¹⁷ Shemos 20:6. Another interpretation of *וְעֵשָׂה חֶסֶד לְאַלְפִים* concerning reincarnation is that Hashem can give someone another chance even thousands of years later.

¹⁸ Interestingly, in a letter to his son the Rambam writes (cited in the Kesav Sofer, Chayei Sara, s.v. *al derech tzachus*) that his daughter caused his hair to become white because he was worried about her shidduch, that it should be befitting with his honor.