

Illuminating words that we merited to hear from The Spinka Rebbe Shlita

From last week - Parshas Vayeishev 5784

THE WAR OF 5784 - **Are the Greeks coming back?**

Old Greek war Strategy - Engraved on a horn...

There was no nation in the whole world that held out against the Greeks. They defeated them all, turned the whole world into Greeks.

**The only people in which they got stuck with before realizing their great aspiration was the people of Israel. Although a small people, but the last step before turning the whole world into Greek.**

The Greeks didn't understand what was happening. How is it possible that where all the nations have surrendered, the people of Israel stand and are not broken?

**There must be, they concluded, that the Jews have some power that we do not have. The Greeks are the most powerful in the world in army, weapons and war tactics, but apparently the Jews have some strength that surpasses any physical strength.**

**This power is that we are a חלק אלוהי ממעל Chelek Elokei Mima'al - real part of HaShem above.**

This is the only force that, when the Yid is connected to HaShem, no one has control over him. No event in the world excites him, no event or trauma diverts him from his goal, no physical force in the world can defeat him.

The Greeks were not stupid.

When they realized that this was the story, they decided to fight this force, until the end.

**Their strategy was clear and cut: to cut off the Yidden from their Chelek Elokei Mima'al.**

**They summed up this goal in one sentence: Write for yourself on the bull's horn that you have no part in the Elokei Yisrael. Yidden, disconnect from this part!**

But how do you do it? **How do you cut off a Yid from his Chelek Elokei Mima'al?**

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The magnet that controls our lives

When the commander orders a soldier to carry out a mission in enemy territory, the soldier's worst sin is to try to understand the commander's logic at that moment.

**Got a task? If you are part of the battalion, you must neutralize your personal need for understanding – and simply carry out what you have been assigned.**

When the soldier begins to deal with the need to understand, with the need for it to work out in his personal mind, he is already disconnected. Instead of focusing on the joint war effort, he chooses to focus on personal insights and opinions. He and the battalion are no longer on the same track.

**Before you go into battle, ask yourself what you are focusing on, whether on your personal justice and understanding – or on connecting to the mission with the confidence that the commander knows what he is saying!**

This question we need to ask ourselves all the time: What is more important to us, personal understanding? Being justified? Cultivate your own personal status? Or to be connected and live?

**When a person chooses to insist on always being right, or always understanding, he is basically saying, 'I am the main thing—and nothing else is interesting'.**

This is how you detach from the Chelek Elokei Mima'al.

Because the connection to HaShem is a connection to what is beyond our body, our understanding and our conception of justice. If I prefer to deal with understanding, I disconnect from the connection to the commander.

For example:

**A person who fulfills only mitzvos that he understands are important, does not fulfill them because HaShem commanded, but because he understands!**

A person who seeks to escape and quickly finish davening or doing a mitzvah that he feels is pointless, and is not willing to stay in the "annoying" place out of patience and knowing that this is what HaShem wants from him now, means that he lets his understanding control his life, instead of being connected to the 'Ein Sof'.

**Yes, because it is precisely in those places where I don't understand what the idea is and what the point is, and yet I remain patient, that is where my connection to the Creator is expressed. For I am willing to give up my understanding for His commandment!**

Another example:

What do you do when you're humiliated?

**There are two forces that get aroused in that terrible moment of humiliation and pain. The first thing you feel suddenly, is a great feeling of helplessness. You discover how fragile you are, and how one word can shake you so much.**

**The second force that is aroused in those moments is the need to feel right. All the bells of justice are ringing, you feel a strong need to defend your justice. Why be quiet?! After all, he started, he wronged me!**

These two forces, fragility versus justice, are like two sides of a magnet...

A magnet has one side that attracts metals to it, while the other side repels the metals and does not want to go near them. All that's left for you is to choose where to direct the side that draws nearer and which metals to throw away from you.

Within the soul we have a magnet, one side attracts and brings the emotions closer, the other side distances and rejects the opposite emotions.

**When you choose to bring the power of 'being right' closer, you automatically strip away any**

**thought of fragility and helplessness. In those moments, you are willing to do anything to protect your ego that has been damaged, and take revenge for it with all your might, while the thoughts of fragility and helplessness? You procrastinate and distance. They get in the way of your revenge.**

Because if you choose to feel your helplessness, your fragility, if you connect to your nothingness that has been revealed in full force - you understand that HaShem must strengthen you, that you cannot manage without Him, and that if HaShem does not protect you, then you will lash out and take revenge on him without account.

**When you choose fragility, you completely get out of the account of who's right. Who cares who is right when I am in danger of outburst and violent revenge? And no, I can't keep myself back, I just saw how weak I am...**

Whoever chooses fragility chooses connection to HaShem, he is willing to give up justice in order to stay connected.

But if you chose justice, if your personal account controls you - you have cut yourself off from the connection to the 'Ein Sof'. You preferred to let your ego control instead of the Creator.

**Then, the situation only gets worse and worse. You didn't let yourself feel the nothingness, the eruption did come, and the nothingness was revealed at a new low...**

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Darkening, to this day

People have always known that they don't understand everything. The knowledge that I am not "all-powerful," that I am limited and unable to understand everything, did not belong only to the Yidden.

**Because Lehavdil to separate with thousands of differences, idolatry is also seeking to connect to something beyond human understanding, in the despicable hope that**

**this is what will bring the solution to all problems.**

Even the lowest Gentile knew that he was limited, that he did not understand everything, that there were things beyond his egoism!

Then came the Greeks, and broke all conventions.

**The Greeks cultivated the body. They told you: If you don't feel it, then it doesn't exist!**

Did the Greeks have a problem with the Torah? Absolutely not. They even translated it into Greek! But that's exactly what they wanted us to do, to learn Torah – but in Greek, for our human understanding to dominate learning. What is not understood - does not exist.

**They had no problem with us keeping mitzvos, but doing it out of a desire to achieve perfection, out of pride. Until then, every mitzvah that a Yid fulfilled was based on the perception that it was the only thing that kept me going, that connected me to HaShem. There was no room for pride in fulfilling a mitzvah. After all, can anyone who takes a life-saving pill be proud? After all, that's the only thing that keeps him going!**

This was always the view of Torah and mitzvos, until the Greeks came and disrupted everything with ideas of understanding, cultivating personality and increasing ego and achievement.

**What did they want to gain by doing this? Detachment from the Chelek Elokei Mima'al. Because when I search for my ego and understanding of everything and am not willing to give in and understand that there are things beyond – I have disconnected from HaShem.**

They knew better than we did that once we disconnect from the Chelek Elokei Mima'al and prefer our understanding, we will have no power above them, and they will be able to defeat us without any difficulty...

**And that's what they did. Undermine the clarity we always had, take over our minds with questions and doubts. "From today",**

**they explained to us, "seek justice, personal greatness, and understanding".**

And once a person ceases to be connected to Torah and mitzvos out of submission, he has no power to leverage the painful moments to connect with HaShem, and what happens then, is that instead of illuminating the dark moments, a person is left with the thick darkness that only deepens around him.

**The Greeks 'darkened the eyes of Yisrael'. They cut us off from the connection to HaShem, and then, when a dark moment comes, we are left in darkness, bitterness and suffering.**

To this day we suffer from the Greeks. From the new directions of thinking that they instilled in us.

**Whenever it is difficult for us to leverage the hurt and the insult, every time the thoughts and questions distance us from faith, every time we treat the Torah and mitzvos as something that depends on human understanding, or as something that is supposed to provide us with the enlargement of the ego instead of something that gives us the strength to endure with our fragile personality - every time like this it is the Greeks who darken our eyes, They confuse us, steal from us the joy of life of being connected people.**

The war against the Greeks may have ended on the battlefield in Modi'in and Yerushalaim – but in our minds it is still raging until this moment.

**Now, on Chanukah, it is our time to defeat our enemies, to dedicate ourselves in the work of the House of Hashem.**

How do you defeat such a sophisticated enemy?

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☞ To be 'Nachshonim'!!! ☜

There are things in life that we understand that we don't understand.

**When we realize that we don't understand, everything is easier. We are ready to accept,**

**obey, and connect. Because we know there is some logic here — except that we are limited in understanding.**

The great problem is precisely in things that we don't understand that we don't understand...

In other words: the things we think we understand.

**And essentially: everything in the world that we understand how it works or what the logic is behind it.**

Because the truth is, what we understand is really not the point. There is a completely different and much deeper Heavenly logic here, but we are caught up in our superficial understanding.

**Then, everything gets more complicated. Because go explain to a sick person who is sure he knows how to take care of himself, that if he doesn't stop with the nonsense and go to a real doctor, he may find himself in a much worse place. After all, he knows everything!**

**He will continue to insist on his medical understanding – until illness completely takes over.**

That's how it is with everything that makes sense to us. The logic of the Torah and the understandable mitzvos - is also simple and rational human logic. It's really not the whole truth.

**The thinking we understand is harmful thinking, because if we again trust our understanding, then in places where we don't understand, we will refuse to continue with our eyes closed.**

The only solution is to understand that we don't understand, even though we're sure we do.

The Rebbe cited several examples, such as the moments when HaShem commands Moshe Rabbeinu on the Yam Suf, "Speak to the Bnei Yisrael, and they shall travel."

**The whole nation goes into the water, and they understand that the miracle is supposed to happen in the next few moments – but then water reaches the soul, and everyone stops.**

**Because they trusted their understanding, and now they no longer understand.**

There was only one 'Nachshon' who moved on. Because when he entered the sea, he knew he didn't understand, he didn't do it out of understanding, but out of submission. **And if it's out of submission, it doesn't matter anymore if I can breathe or if the water covers my nose. Keep walking in submission!**

This is what brought salvation!

The Rebbe said: The Chanukah candle is a mitzvah without any achievement or understanding. The Shulchan Aruch rules that in cases where you do not have oil to light, you can even bless just looking at the candle!

**Because the main thing on Chanukah is being in front of the candles, even though we don't feel that we're doing anything, even though there is no significant active action here, even though there is no achievement here, but only out of an understanding that high things are happening here, and we understand that we don't understand...**

This, this is the victory over the Greeks!

**These small moments, which seem insignificant to us, there are no huge profits and no achievement to be proud of, and yet we continue to sit for half an hour or more in front of the candles, this is what reveals the hidden light!**

And from this stay in front of the candles - we take strength for the whole year, for all the difficult moments when understanding and justice and greatness are undermined. This is what will illuminate our dark moments later in life.

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Gedanken from the Spinka Rebbe Shlita  
Written in Hebrew by R' Menachem Rubinfeld  
and translated by Yissochor Raffles

Written entirely according to the writers understanding.

For suggestions and feedback or to subscribe please email.

[sparksolightspinka@gmail.com](mailto:sparksolightspinka@gmail.com)

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