

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

From last week - Parshas Tetzaveh – Purim Kotton 5784

A little taste and nothing more...

Ⓢ Against us - or for us? Ⓢ

We live in a world where the main message is: If you have, you are worth something, and if you don't, you don't exist...

If you have achievements, honour, power, money, *Hasmada*, *Yiras Shamayim*, if you have things you can talk about and boast about, feel them, touch them – it means that you have succeeded in life, it means that there is something to envy about you, that you really exist.

And if not? If you haven't been able to reap tangible success in life? You're simply worth nothing.

Of course, everyone looks for tangible achievements in their own places. There are those whose aspiration is full of spirituality and a desire for good, and there are those whose desire is in shallower and more physical directions – but in any case, the aspiration is of the same kind:

To achieve, to touch, to feel the achievements.

Because otherwise, as was said, what am I worth?

The main aspiration of every human being is to grow. Getting out of the *katnus* - smallness, inability, and to progress, to achieve, and fill a rich record of action and success.

Because as far as we're concerned, if we didn't succeed, if we stayed small, if we didn't prove our abilities, we're worth nothing.

However, the Baal Shem Tov HaKadosh taught us otherwise:

As long as a person is occupied with physical or spiritual achievements, as long as he seeks to feel the achievements, to touch and feel what he has, he is detached from the infinite Creator!

Because a person who has, and feels and senses and touches success, what is he based on? What is his confidence based on? Why is he calm?

Is it because HaShem who has all the power is with him? Come on... He trusts in his own strength, in his money, his personal success is what gives him the strength and the will to act!

What man does not understand is that when he relies on human power, he actually chooses limited and weak power over infinite power...

Because even the person with the greatest achievements and power is ultimately limited. He doesn't know everything, he can't do everything, and when he draws his confidence and inner identity from tangible achievements, he clings to limited power!

We have only one unlimited power.

The power of the Creator.

HaShem is infinite and omnipotent, He knows the future and He is our Father who holds us and gives us the strength to live and act. He believes in us endlessly and gives us everything endlessly.

But man is not able to truly recognize it. **That is, he admits it from externally – but internally he prefers to rely on the transfer that has entered his bank account, and draws the inner encouragement and reinforcement from his spiritual achievements.**

And with his own hands, he misses the opportunity for the strongest and infinite connection in the world...

Because this relationship is based on the understanding that 'I can't'. Otherwise, if a person approaches the connection with the Creator thinking that he himself is worth something, and has knowledge and abilities and skills and brilliant solutions, then he actually prefers himself rather than the Creator, and this is what Chazal said, "כל המתגאה כאילו דוחק רגלי השכינה" "Anyone who is haughty it is like he pushes away the feet of the Shechina!"

And HaKadosh Boruch Hu, He has mercy on the person, He wants to connect them to Him, to let them trust and connect to the infinite power – and therefore He sends us the embarrassments and weaknesses, the things in which we get stuck and do not find ourselves.

A person who has never failed will never give up the need to feel and seek the connection with HaShem. Because the connection with the Creator is something elusive and incomprehensible, you can't be proud of it, because it stems precisely from your humiliation, and you can't touch it because, לית מחשבה תפיסה ביה כלל – no mind can comprehend it.

You can't really reach the Creator. The only thing that's possible is to 'taste' the connection with him.

As an example, the Rebbe cited those drinks in which there are 'flavour of orange'. When you drink them, you get the feeling of eating an orange, when in fact there are only a few drops of fruit in them...

But we know that according to halacha, taste is considered the main part of the food. 'טעם בעיקר'. 'Taste is like the main thing'. When cooking parev food in a meaty pot, it should not be mixed with milk, because the taste hidden in the pot passes to the parev dish, and this taste is considered just as if we were eating meat!

In Avidas HaShem, we only have the opportunity to taste the taste of the Creator, but not really get it. The Avidas HaShem is טעמו וראו כי טוב השם taste and see that HaShem is good, nothing more.

Well, if we can trust and connect to tangible feelings, to actual achievements that can be told, why should a person give up confidence in them in favour of connecting to something intangible?!

On the other hand, if a person remains stuck in the desire to feel and touch – he will never reach the purpose of creation, he will never want to connect to HaShem...

That's why we fail. That is why we sometimes have moments of pain and confusion.

To show us that we can't really rely on our limited power. Because here, we are not really capable...

Every moment of pain is just a gateway for us, an opportunity to connect to infinity.

Without this pain you're going through now, you wouldn't be able to get to HaShem. You'd stay stuck thinking about achievements and limited feelings of security...

And here we come to Purim...

On Purim, Chazal tell us, the Yidden accepted the Torah anew, out of love. Why? What is the connection?

Because in the time of Achashverosh and Haman, the Yidden were at the height of confusion and pain. We had nothing substantial to rely on then. In spirituality, we were in a low and distant place, and we could not "bribe" the Creator with spiritual achievements. Not to mention the physical aspects, where we were at the height of lack and pain, with all sides wanting only to destroy, kill and demolish... להרוג ולאבד

And then the Yidden asked themselves: Who will help us anyway? If we have no connections to rely on in order to cancel the decree, nor can we trust our Avidas HaShem and trust that perhaps thanks to this, HaShem will save us – what will happen here?!

But then comes the miracle of Purim, and everything is turned upside down. **The Yidden discover for the first time that HaShem loves them unconditionally, wants them and saves them not because of any limited achievement of theirs, but simply because He is infinite, and His mercy is infinite!**

This understanding makes them reconnect to Avidas HaShem, to suddenly realize that the goal here is completely different. No more desire for achievement, no more seeking self-perfection and self-enlargement – but just connecting to the infinite HaShem!

The Rebbe concluded by saying:

Remember! The pains and weaknesses that HaKadosh Boruch Hu introduces us to are not against us – but for us!

No one is looking to 'knock us'!

If a person lives in pursuit of achievements and the pain blocks him from achieving them, he is indeed sure that they want to harass him for no reason, and that the pain is directed against him...

But when we understand that the main thing in life is to find a little more connection with HaShem, another place where I must connect to HaShem – pain is exactly the solution to that! Because every pain opens the next gate for us, to understand that here, there is another place where we need the Creator...

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From Parshas Ki Sisa 5783

Reprinted from last year Sparks of light Parshas Vayakhel Pikudei - HaChodesh Year 1 vol. 20

To Connect your surroundings - In Place Time and People

The emotions are calling on you to connect

Everyone has places that he likes to be in, places that make him feel good, places that fill him, places where he finds himself, he has everything he needs there, both in the technical aspect - a chair, a table, cold water, and also in the mental aspect - he feels there self-worth, he is respected, he is given a place there .

On the other hand, we all also have places that we don't even like remembering... Places where we feel bad, we feel not calm there, there is something in the air that makes us want to get away from there, we wish we would never have to go back to this situation and place ever again!

But these are not just places! Even in times it is so ...

There are times when we feel connected to the time and its meaning, good times that charge us with renewed strength, times that we never want to stop, times that make us feel so good !

On the other hand, we have times when we feel unconnected, supposedly the whole world understands and is connected to the magnitude of the day and the hour, and only we stand by, and instead of being filled - we are only drained of strength. Not connected, not understanding, just wanting three stars to emerge and move on ...

And if in place and time it is so, all the more so when it comes to people - there, there is no one who does not identify with these two extremes ...

On the one hand, good and special people, who make us feel welcome and valuable, people who build us up and give us a lot, people whom it is pleasant for us to be near them, who we seek to be with more and more. These are people who instill in us energies, affect us well, and we are not able to think about the moment when we will have to part with them .

And on the other hand, it is not pleasant to say, but there are also so many people that we feel that they are draining us of strength and the joy of life, the meetings with them are always bothersome and take all the air out of us, we do not have the strength to be near them and we are looking for the first opportunity to withdraw ...

With place – 'oilom', time – 'shonoh' and people – 'nefesh', we encounter situations of both kinds .

We all of course prefer to find the places, people and times when we feel good about ourselves, but what can we do, reality proves that this is beyond our control ...

And the person sometimes asks himself, why do I need all this? Why does the Creator bring me to such situations, in which I feel lacking and unconnected ?

And maybe, maybe it is really better to escape from situations, times or people that make us feel disconnected ?

Maybe it's better to close oneself in by these places, maybe it's better to give up in advance and not try to connect again, maybe it's better to evade our responsibilities, maybe it's better to stay in bed and not get up today ?

In short: What do I do with all the moments, places and people that I feel disconnected and drained from ?

In order to get a correct view of life, and of the situations we encounter, it is worth hearing what the Maggid of Mezritch says about the trumpets - *chatzotzros*...

HaKadosh Baruch Hu commands Moshe to make silver trumpets, in which they will blow at certain times and events .

Says the Maggid of Mezritch, what are 'trumpets' *chatzotzros*? *Chatzotzros* are *chatzei tzuros* - halves of shapes ...

We are all halves here, there is no complete person in the world, there is no complete place in the world - and there is no whole time in the world .

What does this mean?

The Maggid says: When the *Borei Yisbarach* created the world, He created us all in such a way that we are missing, unable to manage on our own .

In order to feel rested, to feel valuable, to feel good - you must constantly fill two reservoirs: A technical reservoir, and a mental reservoir...

This technical reservoir is clear: if we do not get our place, the good air conditioner, the meal at the right moment, if we do not have fuel to fill the car, if the battery in the phone runs out - we are not people ...

But also in the mental reservoir: you can have everything, but you feel emptiness, no experience or success makes you fill up .

And the truth is, there is no situation in which man can be filled with both by himself. There will always be something that he lacks, something that disturbs him .

Why is this so? Because otherwise, everyone will remain to himself, and will not look for his role in the world. In order for people to start working and not be stuck in their place and in their comfort - they must be created missing ...

So, it turns out that each one is actually a 'half-shape', he cannot manage on his own, and he must have the other to fill in the blanks ...

There is no one who can manage on his own! I need you - and you need me !

There is no complete time in itself! Man needs the time to be filled, and time needs a person to be perfect !

And there is no complete place in itself either! Man needs the place - and the place needs the person ...

Each one gives the other what he lacks !

As an example, for this, you can see the employer and the employee. The employee needs an employer, because without him he will not receive a salary, and the employer needs an employee – without him everything will remain stuck !

Employee-employer relationships are a great example of mutual acceptance! One complements the other !

But by the way, even if the employee receives a salary, or even if the employer receives a worker - they need, besides the technical mutual completion, also a mental mutual completion. Everyone should feel the appreciation from the other, the employer needs to feel 'in charge', and if the employee does not respect him - he will be fired even if he is technically an excellent worker! And also, the employee, too, must receive a mental place from the employer, an appreciation for his work. Otherwise - he will dry up and stop investing in the workplace ...

The employee should know that he is here at the workplace - because this is a place that will benefit him and build it! But in order for this place to actually promote him and benefit him - he must give his employer the place! Also, the technical place - to work with full vigor, and also the mental place - respect and appreciation for the one in charge ...

This creates a good and healthy connection between employee and employer ...

This is the interaction between people. That's how you connect to places, people and times .

It is important to understand: a person who seeks only to enjoy and be filled, and not to give anything on his part - does not create a connection! He only corrupts his soul, and instead of connecting - only disconnects himself more and more from the connection ...

To be truly filled - we must look for how to fill the other, what we should give him, and so, when we give what he lacks, and he completes what we need - the perfect puzzle is created .

HaKadosh Baruch Hu set us an orderly and predetermined life path, and He determined - in which places we will be, at what times we will live and with which people we will meet !

All the times, events, places and people we meet in life - are part of the itinerary! We need to go through them to be built, to grow, to advance to the goal of life !

We don't meet anyone just like that! No event happens without a reason! And there's nowhere we go for no reason ...

How do you grow from all these meetings? How do you build from them? How do you make fuel from them for the journey of life? For this you need to interact with them, connect with them. Connect to this time, connect to this place, connect to this person ...

The connection we create, first of all, by understanding that we are missing and unable to fulfill the purpose of life without this person, this time or this place !

After we figure it out, it's time to look – how do you make the connection? What is missing from the other that I have to fill in for him - and what do I lack that I should get from him ?

When a person lives like this all his life, and searches in every situation for what his role is, what he needs to give the other in order to be filled with himself - he connects and grows !

An example of this can be seen, for example, in exercise and fitness. Everyone understands that if a person sits in one place without moving for years, this will cause him muscle atrophy and great weakness. That is, to continue being healthy - he must do exercise ! But what can you do about it, the exercises require strength and effort; they do not come easily. Therefore, only if you really understand that you need exercises to get well - you will be willing to put in the effort and invest these energies, and then, when you do it - you will indeed be filled with strength and health ...

This is also the case with place – 'oilom', time – 'shonoh' and people – 'nefesh':

To get the connection to the other, I have to look for - what does he need from me? What can I give him - that no one else can? After all, there is no other person in the world who can give him the place in my heart, no one else can bring him closer and wish him a 'Gut Shabbos' in my own unique way ...

(And when it's unpleasant, and I have a lot of scores to settle with that person - that's what Emunah is for! Emunah that '*leis asar ponui minay!*' I have to remind myself that I don't smile at him for him, but for me! I have some spark by him, that I need - in order to move forward in the journey of life !)

Look at the other, what does he need? Maybe he needs you now? Maybe he needs support, a shoulder to lean on, maybe he's broken and needs a comforting look, a phrase of encouragement, a place to contain his experience ?

You still don't know enough to start a friendly conversation? This does not mean that you are exempt from showing a little interest and a light wish !

(The Rebbe told of an important rabbi abroad who told how he grew up and reached the important place he came to. The same rabbi claimed that it was all thanks to the Rebbe of Gur the Beis Yisrael .

What happened? It turns out that this rabbi was a poor young orphan boy, who dreamed for a whole year about a new shirt in honor of Rosh HaShanah. He saved one penny at a time, worked hard at odd jobs to collect some more money for his new shirt, and indeed, towards Rosh HaShanah there was nobody happier than him, when he bought himself a shiny shirt. He waited for the moment when he would forever say goodbye to the shabby shirt and put on the glittering one, He dreamed, day and night, of the looks of admiration of the other people in shul.

But his disappointment and heartbreak had no limit. Instead of admiring the shirt, the people in shul were all preoccupied with the seriousness of the yom hadin and delving into the insights of the yamim noraim - and no one took the moment to look in admiration and give him the good feeling ...

He was so hurt. What did he ask for already? A little admiration, a little bit of a good feeling, a bit of comfort in his bitter life .

At the end of davening, he retold, when he left the shul disappointed, he saw many groups of people running towards Ralbach Street in Yerushalayim. To his question, those running replied that they were going to be blessed for a Shanah Tovah by the Rebbe - the Beis Yisrael. He decided to go too .

Among thousands of people, the boy huddled, ran quickly in the long line, but when he reached the Rebbe's eyes, the Rebbe motioned to him admiringly on the shirt, and said: PShhhhh ...

That PShhhhh, saved his future !)

And so, it is with time as well: if I want to connect with the time, I have to ask myself - what is my role in this time? What preparation do I need to do to connect to this time, what am I supposed to do during this time? What do I want to get out of this time ?

Otherwise, without looking for answers to these questions - there is no chance of connecting to the meaning that the times give me ...

And so, it is also in the places and events that we encounter in life, we have to ask - what is our role in this situation, what is our duty to do?

Like this, and only in this way – we connect and fill up from the other !

Says the Maggid of Mezritch, the trumpets would be blasted in three occasions: During travel times in the desert - when they would arrive in a new place! On yomim tovim - when they would arrive at a new time! And before public gatherings - when they would meet new people !

On all these occasions, the Creator seeks to remind us that we are only 'half-forms', that we need the other in order to connect and fill up, that in order to connect and advance in the journey of life - we must connect to the times to the new places and people, by fulfilling my role in those situations!

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Gedanken from the Spinka Rebbe Shlita

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Please note that although this pamphlet comes out Be'zras HaShem every week Le'chovod Shabbos, the contents are not specific for any particular week and are applicable all year round!