
Bitachon Weekly

----- By Rabbi Yehudah Mandel שליט"א -----

פרשת בראשית תשפ"ז

Fight Your Yetzer Hara, Despite the Advice of Others

The Chet of Adam HaRishon was the first sin of the universe; notice how everyone is always listening to someone else's advice, and then blaming that person. Chava listens to the snake, and Adam listens to Chava.

Dovid HaMelech was given his 70 years of life from Adam. Notice how he never listens to advice, even from Gedolei Yisrael such as Yoav and Avishai, when he suspects the Yetzer Hara is involved in that advice. We see how Dovid spent his life making a Tikkun for the weakness of Adam. Dovid specialized in going against his desires.

His Zeide, Yehuda was the same way. Even when Yitzchok, Yaakov, and all the Shevotim wanted Yehuda to burn Tamar, he went against them and admitted: **צדקה תמנה** she is justified.

This is the essence of true Malchus: an independent person whose main goal in life is to kill his "own" Yetzer Hara, and doesn't get persuaded by others. Shaul listened to advice [of people who were Gedolim], and got into loads of trouble. This led him to wipe out Nov the city of Cohanim, to believe that Dovid hated him, and not to wipe out Amalek completely; as a result he lost his Malchus. We need to emulate Dovid, and be at war with our Yetzer and Retzonos as much as possible.

Every person needs a Rebbe or close friend, for the purpose of helping him not do certain things he wants to do, but shouldn't. Someone called me from Eretz Yisroel with a complaint against his father-in-law. Why? He sends him various books, on topics such as personal hygiene, or about controlling your Ka'as, as if to suggest that he needs to improve in these areas. This is causing him much pain, and arousing feelings of hatred towards his father-in-law.

I told him: He obviously doesn't understand R' Avigdor Miller's rule for father-in-law's [Shut your mouth, and open your purse]. But tell me his history, and maybe we can figure this out. Sure enough, his father-in-law was a Yasom orphan at the age of six, and was never taught any lessons of life. No wonder he feels like a nobody.



Why Are You Broken? Just Do Teshuvah

Kayin had just went through a most traumatic experience, namely that Hashem openly regarded his brother over him. Anyone would be burning with jealousy and hopelessness. Yet Hashem asks him: Why are you all broken? You can still be even greater than Hevel.

Hashem asks him: Why are you over-reacting? The problem of Kin'ah we all have is truly minimal. If you think someone is a bigger Tzaddik than you, then by merely doing Teshuva you automatically become bigger than him, since a Baal Teshuva is greater than even the greatest Tzaddikim. Even if your Teshuva doesn't put you exactly on the other person's Madrega, you may still be considered much bigger, since you have the difficulty and embarrassment of being a Baal Teshuva.

The true pain of jealousy most of us have is usually the Kavod the other person is getting, that people regard him as a greater Tzaddik than you. And in truth, the fact is, getting more Kavod makes him much smaller than you, since he has support for what he's doing, while you don't.

This is besides the fact that the Kavod a person gets down here can eat up his Olam Haba! Kin'ah is only good when it causes you to improve. Otherwise, it is one of the lies of the Yetzer Hara, who wants people to get depressed for no reason. Envy is ignorance!



I told him: Picture your father-in-law as a six-year-old nebach crying at his father's Levaya. Start making him feel good, and humor him; you'll grow in Anava. He called me back, to report that he feels like a totally different person!

Another person called from Eretz Yisroel to complain about his stubborn brother, who doesn't listen to a thing anyone says. Everyone in his family hates him, his kids can't stand him; he's impossible to live with. So I asked: How did he do as a child? He said: He was very low. He failed in everything, and was a social outcast. How about his siblings? No, they were all stars. I said: Can you judge such a person? Would you want to be in his shoes? Anyone else would just drown! If you want to judge him, look where he was coming from.

Here is a Mashal from everyday driving, to help us better understand people:

There was once a person who was driving, and in front of him was a white van. He was in a quite a rush, but the van in front was taking his time, driving like "Shabbos Noch'n Cholent". He started becoming very angry. So his passenger said: My dear friend, why are you so angry? The van has a big truck in front of him!

Before judging others, realize: there is "a big truck in front of him". This calms you down in all your relationships. Think to yourself: They are just a test from Shamayim.



Novardok

R' Ahron Kreiser Zatzal told me about the beloved Mashgiach of Baranovich, R' Yisroel Yaakov Lubchansky Zatzal, who was the son-in-law of the Alter. He ran the Yeshiva, and was heavily involved and completely devoted. He was known to be a tremendous Talmid Chochom. But whenever he mentioned a Gemara, he would say: "**I heard of** a Gemara" and the Olam would tease him about it, since they knew that he doesn't want to advertise his greatness in Torah.

He was considered the greatest speaker of all the Mashgichim, and when he spoke, the entire town of Baranovich came running in panic to hear him. This included even Yidden who were barely frum. He was also funny. He once spoke in Bialystok at the Alter's Yahrtzeit, and he said: "What I'm saying now is no lie. If I want to say lies, I can go lie in Baranovich. I don't have to come all the way to Bialystok to lie."

He always tried to be colorful and Geshmak. Once, on Zos Chanukah, he spoke at 11:00 at night, and he said: "Look what a miserable job it is to be a Mashgiach. Everyone is fast asleep, and I have to rack my brain to find something to say. What a miserable way to earn Parnasa!" He and R' Elchonon Zatzal would go from store to store to make sure everyone will close for Shabbos.

He threatened to curse anyone who didn't close, and the townspeople were terrified of him because his curses worked, Rachana Litzlan. He would say: Do you know why there are so few people in this world who seem to "have it all"? Because before a Neshama is born, it is shown the Neshamos of these "lucky ones" as they are dying and coming back to Shamayim. When they see how ugly these "lucky" people's Neshamos look, they beg: Please! Don't give me that person's "good" Mazal!

There was lots of laughter and humor in Novardok. In Slabodka too; R' Hutner and R' Beinisch Finkel Zatzal were very funny. Once, a friend of mine passed a repair shop in Eretz Yisroel and he noticed a picture of R' Gershon Liebman Zatzal. The owner told him that he was a young boy learning in R' Gershon's Yeshiva. R' Gershon was like a father, and he helped him cultivate his talent for singing. He was fixing a wheel, and he said that R' Gershon taught him that every tiny fix that he made was really Hashem.



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