

Pardes Yehuda

Weekly Torah Journal By Yehuda Z. Klitnick

Parshas Vayelech 5786 Year 16, #650

שבת טובה

פרשת וילך תשפ"ו

Show your gratitude to Hashem and keep on praying to Him

וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵהֶם בֶּן מֵאָה וְעֶשְׂרִים שָׁנָה אֲנֹכִי הַיּוֹם לֹא אוֹכֵל עוֹד לִצְאָת וְלָבוֹא
וְה' אָמַר אֵלָי לֹא תַעֲבֹר אֶת הַיַּרְדֵּן הַזֶּה: (ל"א ב')

"Moshe told Klal Yisrael: *"Today I am one hundred and twenty years old. I can no longer go or come, and Hashem said to me, "You shall not cross this Jordan River."* The question is: Why does Moshe have to tell this to Klal Yisrael, and what does his age have to do with entering Eretz Yisrael?

The answer may be: A person at the age of 120 is usually frail and sick and cannot lead a nation. Now, Klal Yisrael might think that Moshe was unfit to lead them further, therefore Hashem was taking him from this world. Therefore, Moshe was clarifying: I thank Hashem for letting me reach the age of 120, and as the Torah states וּמִשָּׁנָה בֶּן מֵאָה וְעֶשְׂרִים שָׁנָה בָּמָתוֹ לֹא כָהָתָה עֵינָיו וְלֹא גָם לָחָה (לד ז') *Moshe was one hundred and twenty years old when he died. His eye had not dimmed, nor had he lost his natural freshness (34:7)*

Moshe said: I feel as if I am a young man, however the only reason I am not allowed to enter Eretz Yisrael is because Hashem has forbidden me, not because I am too frail to lead you. Based on this insight we can say that Moshe wanted to teach Klal Yisrael two very important lessons: First lesson was to come across clean and avoid suspicion, as the torah commands, when the tribes of Reuven and Gad wanted to take their part of Eretz Yisrael on the other side of the Jordanian River, since they needed vast lands as pasture for their sheep.

Moshe obliged on the condition that they join forces with the other tribes to conquer Eretz Yisrael due to וְהָיִיתֶם *"and the land has been subdued, at the instance of Hashem and then you return—you shall be clear before Hashem and before Klal Yisrael";* Never do something that can be interpreted as you are doing a sin.

The next lesson is to show gratitude to Hashem every day that one wakes up and is healthy, and to thank Hashem for the kindness. Therefore, we say upon arising Modeh Ani to thank Hashem for returning our soul. When showing gratitude and thanking Hashem, He will continue to give us health. This can be relayed into a deeper thought: Moshe said he is 120 years old הַיּוֹם "today". The word "Today" is eternal. Moshe hinted Klal Yisrael, that "today" is the ideal time to show gratitude and thank Hashem for all He has done to us, and we can rest assured

that Hashem will derive great satisfaction from this, and write a good decree for the new year.

Finally, Moshe promises Klal Yisrael that in order to win the war, they must be strongly connected to Hashem וְאִמְצוּ אֶל תִּירְאֹו וְאֶל תַּעֲרִצוֹ מִפְּנֵיהֶם כִּי ה' אֱלֹקֶיךָ הוּא הַחֲלָק עִמָּךְ לֹא וְאִמְצוּ אֶל תִּירְאֹו וְאֶל תַּעֲרִצוֹ מִפְּנֵיהֶם כִּי ה' אֱלֹקֶיךָ הוּא הַחֲלָק עִמָּךְ לֹא *Be strong and courageous! Neither fear, nor be dismayed of them, for the Lord, your God He is the One Who goes with you. He will neither fail you, nor forsake you.*" Being strong and courageous, is found in Tehilim 27:14, as Dovid Hamelech reveals his secret for success: קְוֵה אֶל ה' הַיּוֹם וְיִאֲמִין לְבָבְךָ וְקִוֵּה אֶל ה': *Hope for the Lord, be strong and He will give your heart courage, and hope for the Lord.*

The word "Hope" is explained in the heilige Seforim as Tefilah, prayer. Dovid Hamelech never gave up. If his prayers weren't answered the first time, he didn't give up, he just prayed again and again. he was sure that eventually his prayers would be answered. the same is for every Yid. If the Tefilah wasn't answer the first time, don't give up, keep on praying and Hashem would answer then.

The proof is seen by Moshe in the beginning of Parshas Vaeschanan. Moshe prayed וְאֶתְחַנֵּן אֶל ה' בָּעֵת הַהִיא לֵאמֹר: *Moshe prayed 515 prayers as the Baal Haturim states the word וְאֶתְחַנֵּן equals 515. He prayed that Hashem should nullify the decree and allow Moshe to enter the land of Israel. After the 515th Tefilah, Hashem said: רַב־לָךְ אֵל תוֹסֵף דְּבַר אֵלָי עוֹד: *"It is enough for you; speak to Me no more regarding this matter".**

The Meforshim say, that if Moshe would have said one more prayer, hashem would have listened to it. Moshe wasn't selfish and understood that Hashem said *"speak to Me no more regarding this matter"*, He put aside his wants, and listened to Hashem. Hence, we see that never give up on prayer, just keep on praying and eventually there will be that moment of Eis Ratzon— a time of favor—when Hashem would accept the Tefillah. וְאֲנִי תַפְלִיתִי לָךְ ה' *But, as for me, may my prayer to You, O Lord, be in an acceptable time. O God, with Your abundant kindness, answer me with the truth of Your salvation. Let's keep up our prayers!*

(Yehuda Z. Klitnick)

א נמר התימה טובה

We have nice Esrogim from Eretz Yisrael and closed Lulavim

The Zlotchiver Rebbetzin merited to see Eliyahu Hanavi in the Sukkah every year.

The heilige Magid Harav Yechiel Mechal of Zlotchev was the son Harav Yitzckok from Druhobich who was a talmid of the Baal Shem Tov. His son Harav Yosef the Rebbe of Yampale Ztz'l - (24 Teves 5572) was his oldest son. He once told about the greatness of his mother, who the daughter of Rabbi Meir Popirosh ztz'l. His parents lived in dire poverty, and one year as it was approaching the month of Tishrei there was barely enough money for some old hard bread and water, let alone money to buy a Lulav and an Esrog. However, my father, was strong and had Bitachon o that he would still be able to attain a nice Lulav and an Esrog but when it came to Motzei Yom Kippur and he had no Lulav and Esrog, he could bring himself to eat anything.

In the morning, my mother asked him to eat something because it was dangerous for him to fast for so long, he answered her, how can I eat when I don't have a Lulav and Esrog! My mother had pity on him and she told him that she had put away a gold coin that she kept to give as dowry for the wedding of their first child, and since you need a Lulav and Esrog, she was ready to give him the gold coin to buy Lulav and Esrog, and in merit of the mitzvah, Hashem will return the gold coin to me!

The Zlotchiver Magid became full of joy and gave a blessing to his wife. He sat down to eat something and decided to go buy a Lulav and Esrog. He asked his sons to build the Sukkah as he was not sure if he would be back in time to put up the Sukkah. The children said that they would to put up the Sukkah, and my father traveled with great joy to find a very beautiful Lulav and Esrog. My father came to the city and went to an Esrog merchant to look for a suitable Lulav and Esrog. Hashem helped him find one by a merchant who asked for a gold coin and my father didn't haggle, took out the gold coin, and handed it over to the merchant. The trip home was full of thanks to Hashem and my father came home full of joy with a beautiful Lulav and Esrog.

My father was a different person and made his preparations for Yomtov, and he looked at the Sukkah which was well-built. Afterward, he went to the Shul to prepare himself for Yomtov. After davening, my father came home and went to the Sukkah and prepared to make Kiddush. He called my mother to come to hear Kiddush in the Sukkah. He was immersed in the Kiddush and didn't notice that his wife was crying the whole Kiddush. One of

the children told my father that our mother cried at Kiddush and he did not understand why she cried, but he decided not to ask her about it. The next morning the Magid prepared the Lulav and Esrog and made the blessings and he summoned my mother to make the blessing on the Lulav and Esrog. However, as soon as she entered the Sukkah she began to cry. This time the Magid asked her what happened this year and she always cried when she entered the Sukkah.

The Rebbetzin replied, how can I not cry, when every year as I enter the Sukkah I see Eliyahu Hanavi, and this comforts me even though we live in great distress, but this year when I entered the Sukkah I did not see him! I'm sure that it was my actions that caused Eliyahu not to appear to me! This caused my father great pain and calmed her and said "I will find out the reason Eliyahu has not come this year. Give me a few minutes and will have an answer." My father went into a deep trance for a few minutes and when he woke up he told his wife: God forbid! Your deeds are very great. The reason Eliyahu didn't come to our Sukkah this year is entirely my fault, and I promise that I will correct this today and at Kiddush tonight when you enter the Sukkah, Eliyahu Hanavi will appear in our Sukkah.

The Rebbetzin became calm and waited for that night. Indeed, that night when my father called her to hear Kiddush, she entered the Sukkah, and she smiled because she saw Eliyahu Hanavi! We asked our father what happened. My father asked my mother to come and hear. He began in the distance there is a high church whose shadow shines a little on our Sukkah even at night because of the full moon, and this caused Eliyahu not to enter our Sukkah. Now every year, I build the Sukkah exactly that the shadow of the church should not shine on our Sukkah. However, since I was busy this year I asked the children to build the Sukkah, and it seems they did not know how to avoid the shadow.

Since it was Yomtov and cannot build a new Sukkah, I begged Hashem that it should be cloudy and the shadow of the church will not reach our Sukkah, and Eliyahu Hanavi will come visit us. I promise this will not happen again. The Magid gave her a blessing that there should be prosperity by them. In a short while, there was plenty of money for food and other needs, and my mother was able to put away many gold coins for future doweries.

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