Divrei Torah, Ba ʿer Heitev באר היטב

פרש"י בשבעים לשון. דברי תורה וחיזוק.

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בס"ד פ' עקב תשע"ט

וְהָיָה עֵקֶב תִּשְׁמְעוּן אֵת הַמִּשְׁפָּטִים הָאֵלֶּה וּשְׁמַרְתֶּם וַעֲשִׂיתֶם אֹתָם וְשָׁמַר ה' אֱלֹקֶיךָ לְךָ אֶת הַבְּרִית וְאֶת הַחֶסֶד אֲשֶׁר נִשְׁבַּע לַאֲבֹתֶיךָ: דברים פ"ז פי"ב

Therefore, it shall come to pass, if you give heed to these judgments, and keep, and do them, that Hashem your G-d shall keep with you the treaty and the mercy which He swore to your Fathers. {7:12}

תניא: שלש מתנות טובות נתן הקב"ה לישראל: רחמנים, ביישנים, וגומלי חסדים. גומלי חסדים מניין? דכתיב: "ושמר ה' אלקיך לך את הברית ואת החסד".

Hashem granted three gifts to the Jewish people: to be merciful, modest, and to do acts of kindness.

How do we know that Klall Yisroel does acts of kindness? It is written: "and Hashem your G-d will keep for you the treaty and the kindness." - Talmud Yerushalmi

Rashi famously comments on the words, "Eikev Tishmi'un; If you keep the Mitzvos that a person tramples with his heel." This refers to the seemingly trivial less important Mitzvos that we think are not really worth our time or effort. Only when we keep these Mitzvos as well, is it a sign of true dedication to the Mitzvos and to our Father above whose commandments we heed whether big or small. The Sfas Emes further illuminates this saying that the Remach or 248 Mitzvos Aseh each correspond to one of our 248 limbs, doing these Mitzvos gives life to its corresponding limb in this world and the next. In our body we have a head and heart which are surely very important above all the others. And just like the body has a heel, while although trivial, if it lacks strength, the entire body collapses, head, heart and all, similarly if we ignore the trivial Mitzvos, all our hard work and devotion on the big ones will be for naught as the entire structure will collapse.

וְעַתָּה יִשְׂרָאֵל מָה ה' אֱלֹקֶיךָ שֹׁאֵל מֵעִמָּךְ כִּי אִם לְיִרְאָה אֶת ה' אֱלֹקֶיךָ לָלֶכֶת בְּכָל דְּרָכָיו וּלְאַהֲבָה אֹתוֹ וְלַעֲבֹד אֶת ה' אֱלֹקֶיךָ בְּכָל לְבָבְךָ וּבְכָל נַפְשֶׁךָ: דברים פ"י פי"ב

And now, Yisroel, what does the Hashem your G-d require of you, only to fear the Hashem your G-d, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve Hashem your God with all your heart and with all your soul. {10:12}

א"ר חנינא: הכל בידי שמים חוץ מיראת שמים, שנאמר: מה ה' אלקיך שואל מעמך כי אם ליראה וכו'. ברכות לג:

Rebbi Chaninoh said: everything is in the hands of Heaven except the fear of Heaven, as it says: "what does the Hashem your G-d require of you, but to fear Hashem". – Brochos 33:

אֶרֶץ אֲשֶׁר לֹא בְמִסְכֵּנֻת תֹּאכַל בָּהּ לֶחֶם לֹא תֶחְסַר כֹּל בָּהּ וגו': דברים פ"ח פ"ט

A land where you can eat bread without scarceness, a land that lacks nothing in it etc... {8:9}

The Maharam Shiff says that it is not unusual for a poor man to subsist on bread and water alone. When Chazal praise someone who eats only the basic essentials and avoids eating grand meals with fine delicacies, they refer to a rich man who can eat anything he desires but chooses not to. It praises a person who chases spiritual pleasures rather than physical delights. **The** Yismach Moshe says we can see this in The Posuk, אֶרֶץ אֲשֶׁר לֹא בְמִסְכֵּנֻת , a land where food is not scarce. תֹּאכַל בָּהּ לֶחֶם, even though there is plenty of food, still you only eat bread. לֹא תֶחְסַר כֹּל, בָּהּ, it lacks nothing, yet you don't spend your days enjoying its abundance.

Rav Meir Shapiro traveled to America to raise money for his Yeshiva Chachmei Lublin. A crowd came to greet him upon his arrival. The next day the newspaper reported that 5,000 came to greet the European Rosh Yeshiva. Rav Meir Shapiro was shocked to see this blatant lie being reported. In fact there were only about 500 people in attendance. When the reporter was asked why he exaggerated ten-fold he replied, "I thought there were only 50 people there. Had I known there were 500, I would have written 50,000! - Tal Oros

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714 Park Ave Lakewood NJ 08701-2025
Fax: 1-732-730-1588 Tel: 1-732-901-6225
ברשות ובהדרכת גדולי התורה chizuk@yeshivanet.com

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Ah Guttin Shabbos - Rabbi Naftali H. Ganzweig