Divrei Torah, Ba`er Heitev באר היטב

פרש"י בשבעים לשון. דברי תורה וחיזוק.

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בס"ד פרשת שופטים, תשע"ט

צֶדֶק צֶדֶק תִּרְדֹּף לְמַעַן תִּחְיֶה וְיָרַשְׁתָּ אֶת הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר ה' אֱלֹקֶיךָ נֹתֵן לָךְ: דברים פט"ז פ"כ

Justice, only justice shall you pursue, that you may live, and inherit the land which Hashem your G-d gives you. {16:20}

This means that one must pursue justice with justice. The means by which you seek to attain justice must be righteous also. Do not allow yourself to be guided by the G-dless principle that "the end justifies the means". – Reb Yaakov Yitzchok of Pshischoh

The Kotzker Rebbe takes a different approach and says that sometimes the Yetzer Horoh tricks us by deluding us into being too overzealous in our righteousness. The Torah warns us to take measured step and use our head. When we start chasing Tzedek Tzedek, an extreme excess, we need to run away as it is merely the ploy of our foe the Yetzer Hara dressed in a cloak of righteousness.

וְהָיְתָה עִמּוֹ וְקָרָא בּוֹ כָּל יְמֵי חַיָּיו לְמַעַן יִלְמַד לְיִרְאָה אֶת ה' אֱלֹקָיו לִשְׁמֹר אֶת כָּל דִּבְרֵי הַתּוֹרָה הַזֹּאת וְאֶת הַחֻקִּים הָאֵלֶּה לַעֲשֹׂתָם: דברים פי"ז פי"ט

And it shall be with him, and he shall read in it all the days of his life; that he may learn to fear Hashem his G-d, to keep all the words of this Torah and these statutes, to do them. {17:19}

והלא דברים ק"ו - ומה מלך שעוסק בצרכי ישראל, נאמר בו" "וקרא בו כל ימי חייו" - הדיוט לא כש"כ. – ירושלמי סנהדרין פ"ב ה"ו

It is logical to say that if to the king, who is involved with the needs of Klall Yisroel, the Torah instructs that 'he shall read in it all the days of his life', certainly any average person should be even more obligated to study the Torah every day. – Talmud Yerushalmi 2:6

The Rebbe Reb Elimelech of Lizhensk once said that every Jew could claim his share in the World to Come if only he answered the questions put to him by the Heavenly Court properly. When his disciples asked him to explain, he said: "When they ask me: "Elimelech, did you study as much as you should have?", I will reply: "No." "Elimelech, did you pray as fervently as you could have?" Again the answer will be "No." "Did you serve Hashem as well as you could have?" Once again, I shall answer "No". However, they will then be forced to admit me to Paradise, because I will have been honest enough to see my failures and to tell the truth!"

From this episode we can see the truth of the Rebbe Reb Elimelechs' service and devotion to Hashem.

Similarly, we find a saying from The Rebbe Reb Elimelech of Lizhensks' brother, Reb Zesha of Anipoli, who said when he comes to Shomayim they will not ask of him why he was not as great as earlier generations, but they will ask him whether he was Reb Zesha!

After the passing of his Rebbe the Chofetz Chaim, Reb Elchonon Wasserman HY"D, inherited the mantle of being Daas Torah for his generation. He would defend Torah against attack from the outside and mercilessly fought those seeking to destroy it from within. To this effort Reb Elchonon felt the need to keep up with the goings on in the world and would read the newspaper daily. It was placed on his Shtender and each morning he would spend three minutes going through it and digesting it with his incisive mind. When asked why he would read the newspaper on his Shtender out of all places, he said, if I must read the paper then it is because it is a mitzva and I can read in right here on my Shtender. if there is an issue with reading the paper then I cannot even do it behind closed doors.

לזכר עולם יהי' צדיק
מו"ר הגה"צ ר' שלמה זלמן ב"ר דוד אריה זצוק"ל
[ר' זלמן בריזל - מזקני אנ"ש פינסק קארלין]
נלב"ע ג' אלול תשנ"ט
תנצב"ה - זכותו יגן עלינו ועל כל ישראל אמן

לימוד אור החיים הק' בחבורה ליל ששי בביתי 8:30 pm

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