

“אֲנֹכִי ה' אֵלֶיךָ אֲשֶׁר הוֹצֵאתִיךָ מֵאֶרֶץ”

(שמות כ:ב)

Anochi: All Is for Your Good

THE TEACHING

When a person knows that everything that happens to him is for his good, he tastes the World to Come (עולם הבא): “בְּהִי אֶהְיֶה לְךָ, בְּאֵלִים אֶהְיֶה לְךָ” (תהלים נז:א), praising Hashem for mercy and for judgement alike. In the future, הַטּוֹב וְהַמְּטִיב “כִּי יוֹם הַהוּא יִהְיֶה ה' אִתְּךָ” (זכריה יד:ט), we will bless everything with

This depends on raising holy kingship (מלכות) from exile, through confession in words (ודוי דברים) before a Torah scholar (תלמיד חכם). His humility, like Moshe's, gives him the power to atone.

MAIN POINTS

- Kingship is in exile among the nations. It returns only through confession: “קחו עמכם דברים” (חושע יד:ג), “take words with you”, and words are מלכות. Real knowledge (דעת) is not splitting חסד from דין אחר has the value of אהבה, for “את אשר יאהב ה' יוכיח” (משלי ג:יב).
- Sins are engraved on the bones: “ותהי עונותם חקוקה על עצמותם” (יחזקאל לב:כז). Speech comes from the bones, “כל עצמתי תאמרנה” (תהלים לה:י), so in confession the bad letters come out, the bad structure falls, and holy kingship is built from the same letters.
- Yehudah's bones rolled in the desert until Moshe prayed, “שמע ה' קול יהודה” (דברים לג:ז). Yehudah is kingship, and Moshe repaired it: every Torah scholar is an aspect of Moshe.
- Why can the scholar atone? “ואיש חכם יכפרנה” (משלי טז:ז): the wise man makes himself nothing, אין, like Moshe, “אם תשא חטאתם, ואם אין מחני נא” (שמות לב:לב): if I lack the humility to atone, erase me.
- The traveller “באישון לילה ואפל” fears thorns, pits, beasts and robbers: sadness, desires, idle talk and pride. Seeing the tzaddik brings the torch; צדקה brings the dawn, “אז יבקע כשחר אור” (ישעיהו נח:ח); and confession brings the crossroads, a road set for his soul's root.
- Before the scholar a person is included in the Infinite (אין סוף), where mercy and judgement are one. It must be “רצוא ושוב”, run and return, and the impression that stays shows him that all is good and one: “אתה הראת לדעת כי ה' הוא האלקים” (דברים ד:לה).

A PRACTICAL TAKEAWAY · OUR OWN REFLECTION

When something hard happens, try to say: this too is for my good. And find someone you trust, and say out loud what is in your heart.

In the full shiur: 1. Everything Is for Your Good · 2. Letters Engraved on the Bones · 3. Fire, Humility and Atonement · 4. Lost on the Road at Night · 5. The Will of All Wills · 6. Running and Returning · 7. Rabbah bar bar Chanah's Great Fish · 8. One Eye of Mercy

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