

“כִּי תֵצֵא לַמִּלְחָמָה וְכוּ”

(דברים כא:י)

When Life Goes Out of Order

THE TEACHING

A Torah about life going in order and out of order (כְּסֹדֶר וְשֵׁלָא כְּסֹדֶר), and how to bring it back.

“אַחֲרֶיךָ וְקִדְמָתְךָ” (תהלים קלט:ה), “behind and before You formed me”: קִדְמָתְךָ is the alef-beis in order, אַחֲרֶיךָ is the alef-beis backwards.

This is Adam and Chava. Hashem's four-letter Name spelled out with alefs adds up to מָה (45), the same as אָדָם. Chava is מַלְכוּת, which works through speech (דְּבוּר), “וְלִי לִי לִי לִי לִי לִי” (תהלים יט:ג): a king's people know his will only when he speaks it. Bound to Adam, to מָה, Malchus is whole and things go in order.

MAIN POINTS

- Anything is whole only when bound to Hashem. Wholeness is life, and the life is wisdom, “וְהָאֶרֶץ מְלֵאָה” (תהלים כד:א): bound to Hashem, the land is full.
- One who takes kingship for himself, “אֲנִי אֶמְלֹךְ”, cuts it off from Hashem; it has no life, and things go out of order for him. Order is the letter יוֹד, wisdom drawn into the ד that has nothing of its own; drawn to oneself, יוֹד turns into דְּיוֹד, “וְכָל לֵבָב דְּיוֹד” (ישעיה א:ה).
- So when things go out of order, know there is pride (גְּדֻלּוֹת) in you. Do teshuvah, lower yourself and be מָה: “וְנִחַנְנוּ מָה” (שמות טז:ז). Then it goes in order again.
- The main time for teshuvah is Elul (אֱלוּל), days of favor, when Moshe paved a road for us. He bound himself to every Jew, even the lowest, “וְאִם אִין מַחְנִי נָא” (שמות לב:לב); “כָּלֹּ סָג יִחַדְדוּ” (תהלים נג:ד): even one who turned away completely, I must be together with him. For there is אֱלֹקוֹת even at the bottom, “וּמַלְכוּתוֹ בְּכָל מְשָׁלָה” (תהלים קנ:ט).
- And the higher Moshe climbed, the more he found Hashem: “וּמִשָּׁה עָלָה אֶל הָאֱלֹקִים” (שמות יג:ג); “אִם אֶסֶק שָׁמַיִם שָׁמַיִם אֶתָּה” (תהלים קלט:ח). Most forget Him when they rise, like staring at the sun; one needs a shield, “וְשָׁכַנְתִּי כַּפִּי עָלֶיךָ” (שמות לג:כב).
- When things go against you, that is a war (מִלְחָמָה), a clash of wills. “וְנִתְּנָנוּ הִי אֱלֹקֶיךָ בִּידְךָ וְשִׁבִּיתָ שְׂבִי” (דברים כא:י): when you draw מָה, אֱלֹקוֹת, into your thoughts. מַחְשַׁבָּה is “חֲשַׁב מָה”, and then every will against yours falls away.

A PRACTICAL TAKEAWAY · OUR OWN REFLECTION

When your day goes out of order, don't fight the world first. Check where you have claimed the crown for yourself, think of Hashem, and let the order return.

In the full shiur: 1. In Order and Out of Order · 2. Moshe's Road and the War of Wills

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