

דבר עמנו כמה פעמים מענין יסורי עולם

There Is No 'This World'

THE TEACHING

Rebbe Nachman often spoke about the suffering of this world (יסורי עולם הָעוֹלָם). Everyone is full of it, even the great rich men and rulers: “אין גם אחד שיהיה לו עולם הָעוֹלָם”, “not one of them has this world.” Their days are anger and pain, worry and sighing, and none has everything his way.

Even someone who seems to have it all, wealth, honour, palaces and jewels, is full of pain if you look closely. The only way out is to run to Hashem and to busy oneself with Torah (תורה).

MAIN POINTS

- As Shlomo HaMelech said: “גם כל ימיו פַּעַם וּמְכַאֲבוֹת” (קהלת ב:כג), “all his days are pain and anger.”
- “אָדָם לְעֵמֶל יוֹלֵד קָצֵר יָמִים וְשָׁבַע רָגָז” (איוב יד:א), “man is born to toil, short of days and full of trouble.” This is true of everyone, small and great.
- The Midrash says: “אֲשֶׁרִי מִי שֶׁעָמְלוֹ בַּתּוֹרָה”, “fortunate is the one whose toil is in Torah.” No one avoids toil (עֵמֶל), so the wise person turns it into the toil of Torah, the toil he was born for.
- Then he is saved from the toil of this world and earns the World to Come (עוֹלָם הַבָּא).
- Rebbe Nachman declared: the World to Come, we believe in. Perhaps 'this world' exists somewhere else, because here it looks more like Gehinnom: “שָׂאִין נִמְצָא שׁוּם עוֹלָם הָעוֹלָם כָּלֵל”, “there is no 'this world' at all.”

A PRACTICAL TAKEAWAY · OUR OWN REFLECTION

Toil is coming either way, so choose where it goes. Effort spent on Torah and prayer is never wasted.

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