

עקר התכלית והשלמות הוא רק לעבד השם

Simplicity Is the Goal

THE TEACHING

The main goal (תכלית) is to serve Hashem with complete simplicity (תמימות), without any clever wisdoms. Philosophers (מחקרים) say the goal is to know each thing as it is; but for us the goal is reached through faith (אמונה) and practical mitzvos (מצוות מעשיות), serving Hashem by the Torah, plainly.

Each outside wisdom holds a stumbling stone, Amalek. Only a very great tzaddik (צדיק) may enter there, and he rises again through faith. Faith is prayer (תפלה), which changes nature, and prayer joined with Hashem's oneness is the true goal.

MAIN POINTS

- Fear must come before wisdom: “ראשית חכמה יראת ה'” (תהלים קיא:), “the beginning of wisdom is fear of Hashem.”
- If the goal were philosophy, only a tiny few could reach it. What of simple people, the majority of the world? So Shlomo HaMelech ends Koheles: “את האלקים ירא ואת מצוותיו שמור, כי זה כל האדם” (קהלת יב:יג), “fear Elokim and keep His mitzvos, for this is all of man”: this every person can do.
- So studying books of philosophy is a grave prohibition. Amalek was a philosopher who denied the root: “ולא ירא אלקים” (דברים כה:יח), “and he did not fear Elokim.”
- The great tzaddik stands firm through faith: “וצדיק באמונתו יחיה” (חבקוק ב:ד), and “שבע יפול צדיק וקם” (משלי כד:טז), “seven times the tzaddik falls and rises”, whose last letters spell עמלק.
- Moshe weakened Amalek because “ויהי ידיו אמונה” (שמות יז:יב), “his hands were faith”: the practical mitzvos, as “כל מצותיך אמונה” (תהלים קיט:פ), “all Your mitzvos are faith.”
- The goal is that prayer be included in His oneness: “הוא תהלתך והוא אלקיך” (דברים י:כא), “He is your praise, and He is your Elokim.”
- The deniers read even the plain mitzvos as mere ideas, as Amalek was “חותך מילות וזורק כלפי מעלה”, cutting off the milah and throwing it upward. Fortunate is one who knows nothing of them.

A PRACTICAL TAKEAWAY · OUR OWN REFLECTION

You don't need to be a genius to reach the goal. Fear of Heaven, a mitzvah done plainly, and a heartfelt prayer: these are the way, and they are open to everyone.

In the full shiur: 1. Simplicity Is the Goal · 2. Amalek, Faith and Prayer

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