

“לכו חזו מפעלות ה', אשר שם שמות”

(תהלים מו:ט)

Go and See the Works of Hashem

THE TEACHING

The creation is truly wondrous, “מה רבו מעשי ה'”. Even this world alone is beyond measure, and all of it was created for Israel. Israel were created for Shabbos (שבת), the purpose (תכלית) of heaven and earth: the world of souls (עולם הנשמות), where Hashem will be known with no screen and no barrier, and each one will point and say: “זה ה' קוינו לו” (ישעיה כה:ט), “this is Hashem, for whom we hoped.”

Every created thing has a beginning and a purpose. By looking deeply into the details of each thing, its form and structure, we can see the greatness of the Creator and serve Him through it, up to its purpose. Great minds can do this; we, small as we are today, on the level of the feet (רגלין), need a leader, a faithful shepherd (רועה נאמן), who can light this knowledge even into us.

MAIN POINTS

- Like Moshe Rabbeinu, who could light up even the lowest: “ראתה שפחה על הים, מה שלא ראה יחזקאל הנביא” (מכילתא בשלח), “a maidservant at the sea saw what the prophet Yechezkel did not see.” The leader’s greatness draws the mind down even into the feet.
- So “לכו חזו מפעלות ה'” (תהלים מו:ט): לכו, go, is the feet, the tools of walking; they too will see the works of Hashem in this lowly land.
- “אל תקרא שמות, אלא שמות” (ברכות ז:), and תכלית מעשה שמים וארץ, the purpose of heaven and earth, as in “נפש חיה הוא שמו” (בראשית ב:יט). The world of souls is clothed in this lowly earth, and only through it is the purpose reached.
- Every soul must pass through this world: “אין משיח בן דוד בא, עד שיכלו כל הנשמות שבגוף” (יבמות סב.). So we should say this with tears and pray: when will we know Hashem from every detail of this world? Send us a faithful shepherd.
- The six days are the beginning and Shabbos the end and purpose; what was made on the sixth day is closer to Shabbos.
- “וטוב משניהם את אשר עזן לא היה” (קהלת דג), and “נוח לו לאדם שלא נברא יותר משנברא” (עירובין יג:), are said only of this world’s troubles. For the World to Come it is better to be created, and even here: “יפה שעה אחת בתישוקה ומעשים טובים בעולם הזה מכל חיי העולם הבא” (אבות ד:ז).

A PRACTICAL TAKEAWAY · OUR OWN REFLECTION

Look at a leaf, a stone, the sea, slowly, and ask what it says about its Creator. And pray for teachers who can help even the simplest of us see.

In the full shiur: 1. Every Creature Has a Purpose · 2. A Shepherd Who Lights Even the Feet

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