

דע, שְׁלֵאוֹת אֶת עֲצֻמוֹ עִם הַצַּדִּיק הָאֵמֶת

The Gaze of the True Tzaddik

THE TEACHING

“דע, שְׁלֵאוֹת אֶת עֲצֻמוֹ עִם הַצַּדִּיק הָאֵמֶת” is very good, even without hearing Torah. The look of the true tzaddik (צַדִּיק), the all-embracing mind of the generation, kindles a person's mind and brings him greatness (גְּדֻלָּה), and true greatness is lowliness (שְׁפִלוּת).

The Torah such a leader draws brings shame (בושָׁה), even before a mitzvah. Shame brings teshuvah (תְּשׁוּבָה), which is life, and revives the lowliness of Moshe hidden in every limb.

MAIN POINTS

- “כָּל מְקוֹם שֶׁאֵתָּה מוֹצֵא גְדֻלָּתוֹ שֶׁל הַקָּדוֹשׁ-בְּרוּךְ-הוּא, שָׁם אֵתָּה מוֹצֵא עֲנוּתוֹתוֹ” (ישעיה כו:יט) “הַקִּיצוֹ וְרִנְנוֹ שְׁכֵנִי עֹפֵר” (שיר השירים 1:10), “מִלֵּךְ אֲסוּר בְּרִהְטִים” (מחין). There is one general mind (מִחָ כָּלִי), the true tzaddik, and many individual minds lying in smallness; when he looks at a person, his mind lights up, for eyes stand for wisdom.
- So Moshe: “וְאַתָּה תִּחְזֶה מִכָּל הָעָם” (שמות יח:כא), “and you shall see from all the people.” His look itself gave each his place, a captain of a thousand or of a hundred, and each knew how much new Torah to bring, “לֹא פָחוֹת וְלֹא יוֹתֵר”.
- Such a look needs great holiness and separation (פְּרִישׁוֹת), for desire blemishes the eyes. Moshe was separated by Hashem's word, “וְאַתָּה פֹּה עֹמֵד עֲמִדִּי” (דברים ה:כח), so he could see. Without such a leader, whoever wants a title takes it.
- The leader's Torah brings shame, even for a mitzvah: “וְאֵיךְ יַעֲזִיב פָּנָיו לְכִנֹּס בְּהִיכַל הַמֶּלֶךְ לַעֲשׂוֹת מִצְוָה”, how dare he enter the King's palace? So at Sinai: “וּבִעֲבוּר תִּהְיֶה יִרְאָתוֹ עַל פְּנֵיכֶם לְבִלְתִּי תִּחַטָּאוּ” (שמות כ:יז), and Chazal say “זֶה הַבּוֹשָׁה”, this is shame.
- Moshe's lowliness lies hidden in every limb of every Jew, as if asleep; teshuvah revives it. “בְּאֵר חֲפְרוּתָה שְׂרִים, כְּרוּת נְדִיבֵי הָעָם בְּמַחֲקָה” (במדבר כא:יח): בְּאֵר is explaining Torah, חֲפְרוּתָה is shame, the nobles are teshuvah, and מַחֲקָה, Moshe, equals 248, his lowliness in every limb.
- “וְזֶה סִימָן שֶׁהִיא אֶצֶל צַדִּיק אֵמֶת”: one leaves him with shame and lowliness. True lowliness is not being a lazy shlimazel; it is life and the delight of the World to Come, and we must ask Hashem for it.

A PRACTICAL TAKEAWAY · OUR OWN REFLECTION

Notice what a shiur leaves in you: real Torah makes us humbler and more alive. Before your next mitzvah, pause for a moment: you are entering the King's palace. And ask Hashem for true humility, which is life and joy, not gloom.

In the full shiur: 1. Just Being Seen by the Tzaddik · 2. Sparks of the Mind · 3. And You Shall See · 4. The Spirit of Elokim and the Holy Leader · 5. Shame Before the King · 6. The Lowliness of Moshe Within Us · 7. The Well That Princes Dug · 8. Yisro, and True Lowliness

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