

בְּעֵינֵי הַנְּהִגָּת הַפְּשִׁיטוּת שֶׁל הַצַּדִּיק הָאֱמֶת

The Tzaddik's Times of Simplicity

THE TEACHING

Sometimes the true tzaddik (הַצַּדִּיק הָאֱמֶת) is a completely simple man (אִישׁ פְּשׁוּט מְמֹשׁ): he reveals no Torah and talks of everyday things. Torah is life, “כִּי הוּא חַיֵּיהּ וְאָרְךְ יָמֶיהּ” (דברים ל"ב), “it is your life and the length of your days”, yet no one can cling to it every moment. So what gives life in those hours?

In his simple hours the tzaddik draws life from the hidden Torah clothed in the world, the kindness that held the world up before the Torah was given, and through him all simple people receive life. So no one may ever despair (יָאוֹשׁ).

MAIN POINTS

- Even the greatest scholar or man of perception (בַּעַל הַשְׂגָּה) must stop each day, for business or the body's needs, and then he is a simple man. The Zohar says “כְּפֹרֵשׁ מִן הַחַיִּים”, leaving Torah is like leaving life, and Chazal say “בְּטוּלָה שֶׁל תּוֹרָה זֶהוּ קִיּוּמָה”. Who would leave life even for a moment?
- All the simple people, the scholar on his break, the plain upright Jew, even the nations, need a great simple man over them, through whom they receive life from the Torah.
- For twenty-six generations before Sinai the world stood on kindness alone: “כִּי לְעוֹלָם חֲסֵדוֹ” (תהלים קל"ו), and “גְּדוּלָה דְּרַדְּאָרְץ, שְׁקִדְמָה לְתוֹרָה”. This is the treasury of free gifts (אוֹצָר מְתֵנֶת חֲנֻם), not for the wicked, but for the tzaddik in his simple hour.
- Even then the Torah was there, hidden: the Ten Commandments (עֲשֶׂרֶת הַדְּבָרוֹת) lay hidden in the Ten Utterances (עֲשֶׂרֶת מֵאֵמוֹת) of creation, in all the world's speech and work, even chopping wood.
- That is the power of the Land of Israel: “כֹּחַ מַעֲשֵׂיו הַגִּיד לְעַמּוֹ לָתֵת לָהֶם נַחֲלַת גּוֹיִם” (תהלים קיא:ו). So דְּרַדְּאָרְץ is the road to the Land (אֶרֶץ־יִשְׂרָאֵל).
- So Moshe pleaded for a free gift: “וְאַתְחִנּוּן אֶל ה' בְּעֵת הַהִיא לֵאמֹר” (דברים ג:כג), with the power of that time before the Torah, when it was hidden; הַהִיא speaks of what is hidden.
- Never despair, even from the lowest place: “אֵין שׁוֹם יָאוֹשׁ בְּעוֹלָם כָּלָל” (יונה ב:ג). “מִבֶּטֶן שְׂאוֹל שׁוֹעֵתִי”. there is no despair in the world at all. No cleverness is needed: “לִכְדּוֹ חֲכָמִים בְּעֶרְמָם” (איוב ה:יג); “אֲשִׁירִי הַהוֹלֵךְ בְּתַמִּימוֹת”. And pray very much to draw close to the true tzaddik.

A PRACTICAL TAKEAWAY · OUR OWN REFLECTION

The ordinary hours of life, at work, at home, in plain conversation, are not empty. Hold on to simple faith and a little fear of Heaven, and never despair.

In the full shiur: 1. Torah Is Life, Yet Everyone Must Pause · 2. The Great Simple Man and the Treasury of Free Gifts · 3. The Hidden Torah and the Way to the Land · 4. Moshe's Plea, and No Despair at All · 5. Simple Faith and the True Tzaddik

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