

DON'T PUSH IT OFF

Living Life with Alacrity and Zeal

Source Materials
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(2:72) الكتاب ① Bilingual

And it happened after these things that God tested* Abraham and said to him, "Abraham," and he replied, "Here I am."

² And He said, "Please take your son, your only one, whom you love — Isaac — and go to the land of Moriah; bring him up there as an offering upon one of the mountains which I shall tell you."

So Abraham woke up early in the morning and he saddled his donkey; he took his two young men with him and Isaac, his son; he split the wood for the offering, and stood up and went to the place of which God had spoken to him.

וְיַהֲיֵ אַחֲרַ הַרְבָּרִים הַאֶלְהָה וְהַאֶלְהִים נֶשֶּׁה אֶת-אַבְרָהָם וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים
אַבְרָהָם וַיֹּאמֶר הָנָנִי וַיֹּאמֶר קְח־נָא אֶת-בְּנֵי אֶת-יְחִידָה אֲשֶׁר-אָלַבְתָּ
אֶת-יְצָחָק וְלֹך־לְךָ אֶל-אָרֶץ הַמְּרַיָּה וְהַעֲלֹה שָׁם לְעַלְהָה עַל אֶת-
הַקְּרִים אֲשֶׁר אָמַר אֲלֵיכָ: וַיָּשֶׂם אַבְרָהָם בַּכָּר וַיַּחֲבֹשׁ אֶת-חַמְרוֹן
וַיַּקְרֹב שְׁנִי וְעֶזְרִיו אָתוֹ וְאֶת-יְצָחָק בָּנו וַיִּבְקֹעַ עַצְיָה עַלְהָה וַיַּקְרֹב
אֶל-הַמְּקוֹם אֲשֶׁר-אָמַר לְךָ הָאֶלְהִים: בַּיּוֹם הַשְׁלִישִׁי וַיָּשָׂא אַבְרָהָם
אֶת-עַינָיו וַיַּרְא אֶת-הַמְּקוֹם מִרְחָק:

(3) P'NOA (2) PESACHIM

The Gemara suggests and rejects a possible answer:

— And if you will say that we search at night because of the principle: "The zealous are early to [perform] mitzvos," i.e. people who are punctilious about mitzvah observance perform their mitzvos as early as possible, that cannot be the reason, — נבדוק מצבhra א for that principle requires only that we should search first thing **in the morning**;

דְבָתִיב,, וּבְיוֹם it does not require that we do so the night before. – **הַשְׁמִינִי מִמּוּל בָשֶׂר עֲרָלוֹת** – For it is written: *And on the eighth day, the flesh of his foreskin shall be circumcised,*^[15] – **וְתִנְגַּן** – and it was taught in a Baraisa concerning this commandment: **כָל הַיּוֹם כָל יְמֵי הַמִּילָה** – THE ENTIRE DAY IS VALID FOR CIRCUMCISION, – **אֶלָא שׂוֹרִין מִקְדָּמִים לְמִצְוֹת** – EXCEPT THAT THE ZEALOUS ARE EARLY TO [PERFORM] MITZVOS, – **שָׂנָאמֵר,, נִשְׁכַּב** – AS IT IS STATED: *AND ABRAHAM AROSE EARLY IN THE MORNING.*^[16] Why then must we search for *chametz* at night?

(:n2) kn1' ③ YUMA

The Gemara digresses to discuss determining the proper time for bringing the afternoon *tamid* in the Temple:

אלותיה דברךם מפי משחררי – Rav Safra said: The time for the afternoon prayer^[6] of Abraham begins when the walls become darkened with shadows.^[7]

The Gemara objects:

— און מאברם ניקום וניגמר — אמר רב יוסף — Rav Yosef said: Should we go ahead and learn from Abraham?! Are you teaching us to emulate the alacrity of Abraham,^[8] when that is well-nigh impossible?^[19]

The Gemara responds:

— אמר רAVA — פנה גמר מאברחים A Tanna learned alacrity from Abraham, and we should not learn from him?! — For it was taught in a Baraita: The verse states: *ON THE EIGHTH DAY, THE FLESH OF HIS FORESKIN SHALL BE CIRCUMCISED*. This TEACHES THAT THE ENTIRE IS VALID FOR CIRCUMCISION, EXCEPT THAT THE ZEALOUS ARE EARLY TO [PERFORM] MITZVOS. — שׁאול אמר, נישבם אברחים בבלקן ישבש וגוי FOR IT IS STATED ABRAHAM AROSE EARLY IN THE MORNING.^[11] It is thus apparent that we should seek to emulate Abraham's zealous performance of mitzvos.

(S>:6.) \rightarrow 10 k>> ④ BERTELJHS

²³ The sun rose upon the earth and Lot arrived at Zoar. ²⁴ Now HASHEM* had caused sulfur and fire to rain upon Sodom and Gomorrah, from HASHEM, out of heaven. ²⁵ He overturned these cities and the entire plain, with all the inhabitants of the cities and the vegetation of the soil. ²⁶ His wife peered behind him and she became a pillar of salt.

²⁷ Abraham arose early in the morning to the place where he had stood before HASHEM. ²⁸ And he gazed down upon Sodom and Gomorrah and the entire surface of the land of the plain; and saw — and behold! the smoke of the earth rose like the smoke of a kiln. ²⁹ And so it was when God destroyed the cities of the plain that God remembered Abraham; so He sent Lot from amidst the upheaval when He overturned the cities in which Lot had lived.

וַיְהִי

המיטיר על-סְלָם ועַל-עֲמֹרָה גִּפְרִית נֶאֱשָׁ מֵאת יְהוָה מִן-הַשָּׁמִים: וַיַּהֲפֵל אֶת-הַעֲרִים קָאֵל וְאֵת כָּל-הַכְּבָר וְאֵת בָּלְיָשְׁבִּי הַעֲלִים וְצַמְחַת הָאַרְבָּה: וַיַּטְבֵּל אֲשֶׁר-הָיוּ מִאַחֲרֵיו וְתַחַי נֶצֶב מֶלֶח: וַיְשַׁבֵּם אֶבְרָדָם בְּבָקָר אֶל-חַמְלָקוּם אֲשֶׁר-עָמַד שָׁם אֶת-פְּנֵי יְהוָה: וַיַּשְׁקֵף עַל-פְּנֵי סְלָם וְעַמְרָה וְעַל-כָּל-פְּנֵי אֶרְץ הַכְּבָר וְנִירָא וְהַנֶּה עַלָּה קִיטָּר הָאָרֶץ בְּקִיטָּר הַכְּבָשָׂן: וַיַּלְּבַד בְּשַׁחַת אֶלְחִים אֶת-עָרֵי הַכְּבָר וַיַּזְבֵּר אֶלְחִים אֶת-אֶבְרָהָם וַיַּלְּחַד אֶת-לֹט מִתוֹרָה הַפְּנִימִית בַּהֲפֵל אֶת-הַעֲלִים אֲשֶׁר-יַשֵּׁב בָּהּ לֹוט:

(1:0) \rightarrow 0/0 > (S) BEREITS

⁶ So Abraham hastened to the tent to Sarah and said, "Hurry! Three se'ahs of meal, fine flour! Knead and make cakes!"⁷ Then Abraham ran to the cattle, took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the youth who hurried to prepare it. ⁸ He took cream and milk and the calf which he had prepared, and placed these before them; he stood over them beneath the tree and they ate.*

ונימקר אברהם נאהלה אל-שרה ונאמר מהרי שלש סאים
קמץ סלח לושי ועשי ענות: ואל-הבקר רץ אברהם ניקח בון-בקר
גר ונוטב ונתקן אל-הנער ונימкар לעשותו אותו: ניקח חמאה וחלב ובן-
הבקר אשר עשה וניתן לפניויהם והוא עמד עליהם מחת העץ ויאכלו:

(DnDOD) '01A \Rightarrow TOSAF03

שנאמך ויכנס חנוכת נCKER.
והס פלמר ובידי מולת

במפלון כל סוס*: מומחה קלה זורין מקרומיים למלואו
וועוון מקלמין צפוי מלכלה ובלך גברק
וניגר הנטה (חולן 5-6) יולף נ' נ' נ' נ' נ'
מומה קלה דטנמייד חכס גע גע
אַתְּקִיר בְּלִילָה וְיכָסֵלֶר דְּכָלָה מְכוֹחָה
מְמֻקָּרְבָּה דְּשָׂקוֹדָה דְּלָעָה קִישָּׁה מְמַנְנָה
מְנַגְּלָה תִּקְוָה בְּלִילָה דְּשָׂעוֹת
מְלָאָה לְקָנָן וּקְוָן וְשָׂעָד דְּסִיְינָה
שָׂעָם וְלָתָס מְלוֹחָה מְוִיסְכָּה הַכְּרָה
בְּכָבֵךְ וְלִמְבֵבָה כְּבֵבָה שָׂוֹס דְּלָעָה קִישָּׁה
מְלָאָה וְיִחוּדָה קִישָּׁה בְּלָעָה רְלָה טִירָה

(no 1cN1) '01, n (6) TosAfO S

(:15) \rightarrow 1077 ⑨ BERACTHOS

The Gemara cites the first Baraisa:

— תניא בוניה דרבנן יוסי ברבי חנינה — A Baraisa was taught in accordance with the opinion of R' Yose the son of R' Chanina:
— אברם תקון תפלה שחרירת PRAYER, — AS IT IS STATED: שנאמר בפרק ונישבע אברם בפרק — AND ABRAHAM AROSE EARLY IN THE MORNING TO THE PLACE WHERE HE HAD STOOD.^[14] **אין עמידה אלא** — AND “STANDING” in this verse REFERS TO NOTHING OTHER THAN PRAYER, — AS IT IS STATED elsewhere: **ויעמד שנאמר פינחס ויפלל**, — AND PINCHAS STOOD UP AND PRAYED.^[15]

7016-107N (8) MINHAS ASHER

ויש לעין דהרי בכמה וכמה מצוות אשכחן
דלא נהגו להזרו בקיומן כמו מצות
קידושין דלא חזין לרבען קשישאי שקידמי
את החופה מבعد יום משום דין זריזין, וכן
במצוות חיליצה ושהيتها וכדומה והרי זריזין
מקדמינו למצאות ומה בין מצוה למצוה.
ונראה לנו' דבמצאות שעירון בתוצאה לא
אמרין זריזין מקדמינו למצאות. ולכן
בקידושין דין עצם מעשה הקידושין
מצוה אלא בתוצאה בלבד אין נהוג דין
זריזות, וכן לגבי מצות חיליצה דליך מצוה
בעצם בחייבת הנעל דין זה ולא מתייד
ואם זקנה היא ולא תנשא לאחר אין צrisk
להחלוץ כמו שכותב בשווית החם סופר
אהע"ז ח"ב סי' פ"ה, (וائف דבזורה כתוב
דוחיליצה הוא תיקון לנפש המת זה ע"פ
הסוד, אבל מצד הדין אין מצות חיליצה אלא
כדי להתרIOR את היבמה לשוק משא"כ
במצוות שמחותם וענינם בעצם העשיה
עריבת להזרנו בקיומם^{א"}

12. סוף סוף נאום ר' נחמן

11. סוף נאום ר' נחמן

ראי' מרכתי"י "וישכם אברהם בברך
ויחבוש את חמורו" ומדוע לא חשבו
מבערב, אלא גם חכמת החמור אין בה
סתירה לזריזין מקדימים למצות לפי
שمعنى המצווה היא, וכי תימא דנהי שלא
בittel הסנדק דין זריזין מ"מ ראוי לאבי
הבן לכבד אדם אחר כדי שלא לאחר
מצותו, הרי איתא במדרש כשללו ישראל
במדבר משה מל ויהושע פורען, וכicao'
ע"ז נתעכט מאד קיום המצווה, אלא ע"כ
כיוון שכל אחד מבני ישראל בקש שתתיה
AMILTO ע"י משה ויהושע גדויל הדור נבייא'
ה' אין בזה ביטול דין זריזין מקדימים, ה'ה
הכא כיון דרצון האב בסנדק ובמהלך גברא
רבא לא חשיב כמתරשל בקיום המצווה [אר]
יעיש בשולי הדברים שהוכחו באחבה על
הנאהה זו.

הנה ידוע המעשה בנגד הגערעך"א הגה"ק
ר' לייבלה איגר מלובלין שהיה
גדול חסידי הרב מקוצק, וכשהיה
מתכבד בסנדקות ובמלח היה מתכוון
ומאריך הרבה בהכנה למצוה עד אחר
הצotta היום, ופרטמו גדויל לובליין דאיין
לכבדו בסנדקות ובמלח לפי שמתבטל
ענין זריזין מקדימים למצות שאמרו חז"ל
במצות מילה, ופנה הגרא"ל איגר לגאנז
הדור כדי שיקיימו מנהגו, ובס' "לבוש
צדקה" לר' צדוק הכהן כתוב לקים מנהגו,
ובשורית "מכתב סופר" להגר"ש סופר (פ'
כ"ג) כתוב לישב מנהgo זה, לפי שכשועסק
אדם בהכנה למצוה אין והסתירה לו זיזות,
זריזין מקדימים הוא זריזות בענין המצווה,
וכיוון שההכנה חלק מהמצווה היא לא
נתבטל על ידה דין זריזין מקדימים, ומיתמי

ולידי נראה דדין זריזין מקדימים דוריתיא
הוא, אלא שכן זה חיב גמור אלא
רצון התורה' וכן משמע מדברי המאירי (וילא
כ"מ) שכתב "כל היוםCSR למלילה שנא' ובאים
השמיini וכו' ומ"מ ראיי לזריזות לתקדים
בזה בשחרית שלא יראה כתרשל בה מצד
חמלתו על הבן, ולאחו בדרכי האבות
שנאמר עלייהם בכיווץ בה וישכם אברהם
בבקר" עכ"ל. ובמק"א הוסיף עוד; (אלוים זפ')
וז"ל: "יכול שכן כשתבווא דבר מצואה לידו
שייה מאכל זריזים מקדימים למצוות, ולא
יתהך בעשיות מצואה, שכן זה אלא דרך מי
שאינו עושה המצואה דורך פרוק עול ומצוות
במי שעושה אותה דרך פרוק עול ומצוות
טלאודה", עכ"ל. חזין מדבריו מצואה זו יש
בזה עניין' מדורייתא ומ"מ אין חיבור' אלא
דיסור מצואה זו רצון התורה' היא וכמש"כ
המאירי עוד (עמ' קל') לענין הידור מצואה
וז"ל: "לשלוט יהא אדם ממשתדל לקיים את
המצוות בהידור ובינוי, דרך העדרה אמרו זה

12. רashi

17. – ושמרכם אֶת נַקְשׁוֹת – [AND] YOU SHALL GUARD THE MATZOS. – So that they should not become leavened. – מכאן אמרו – From here [the Sages] said: – תלטוש בצונן – she who is kneading it should smooth it over with cold water to retard the leavening process.⁴

– רבי ישayah אומר – The Tanna R' Yoshiyah says: – אל תהי קורא,, את המצוות,, only as "matzos," but rather also as "mitzvos," commandments.⁵ In this sense, the verse says, – בדרך שאין מחייבין את המצוות – just as people do not allow the matzos to become leavened, – רק אין מחייבין את המצוות – so should they not allow the commandments to become leavened by leaving opportunities for their performance unattended. – אלא אם בא לך לירך – Rather, if [the opportunity to fulfill a commandment] comes to your hand, – עשה אותה מיד – do it immediately.⁶

13. סוף סוף (Berachot 1:1)

א (א) בראשית. בחלוקת הזמן. והוא רגע ראשון בלחץ מתחקל.
שלא היה זמן קודם לו –

העטף נאום ר' נחמן

הלבות הנוגת אדם בבורק סימן א

א דין השכמת הבוקר. ובו ט' סעיפים:

א יתגבר (ט) [ה] כדי לעמוד בבורק (א) לעבודת בוראו * ישיה הוא מעורר (ט) [ט] (כ) השחר:

- One should strengthen himself like a lion to get up in the morning (1) for the service of his Creator. He should /rise early enough to/ usher in (2) the dawn.

Chapter 6

The Virtue of Alacrity

The nature of alacrity, and why it follows the virtue of vigilance

After vigilance comes alacrity. Vigilance centers on the negative commandments while alacrity focuses on the positive ones, in accordance with what it says: "Turn from evil and do good" (*Tehillim* 34:15). The concept of alacrity involves the swiftness of one's approach to a mitzvah and its speedy consummation. Similarly, they of blessed memory said (*Pesachim* 4a):

"Those with alacrity fulfill the mitzvos promptly."

The reason for this is that just as one requires great incisiveness and foresight to escape the traps of the evil inclination and to flee evil — thereby preventing its [the evil inclination's] domination over us and its permeation of our deeds — one likewise needs great insight and foresight to grasp the mitzvos and to fulfill them without losing the opportunity. For in the same way that the evil inclination works its influence and endeavors by subterfuge to lure man into the net of transgression, it also attempts to prevent him from fulfilling the mitzvos and to take them away from him. If one becomes lax and indolent and does not act rigorously in pursuing them and in holding onto them, he will find himself empty and devoid of them.

Notice how human nature is characterized by lethargy, since the physical element of dust [from which man has been formed] is coarse. For this reason man is not at all enthusiastic about effort and work. To be able to serve the Creator, may His Name be blessed, a person must overcome his own nature, and he must do it with alacrity. If he allows his lethargy to domi-

אָגָר תְּהִירָת בָּאָה הַרְיוֹת, בַּי תְּהִירָות סֻכָּב עַל
הַלְּאָתָּה שֶׁהָהָר עַל הַשָּׁהָר, וְהַנִּינֵּה: "סֹר מִעַל
עַשְׂתָּה תֹּוב" (אלהים לך, ט). אֲנוּנוּ שֶׁל הַרְיוֹת מִבָּאָר, שֶׁ
הַדְּבָרָה לְפָנָיו וְלְשָׁמְתָה אֲבָרָה,
וְקָרְבָּם לְבָקְרָה (קָרְבָּם, ה); אֲזַ"ז יְיָם מִמְּרִימָם לְמַצְוָה".

הַיְיָה כִּי בַּמוֹ שֶׁאָרָה פְּרָחָה רָדָל וְהַשְׁקָה רָבָה לְקָלָל
מִתְּמֻקָּשִׁי הַיְיָה וְלְדָלְלָתָן בְּנָה דָּרָעָ – שֶׁאָלָה שְׁלָלָתָן
לְתַחְרֵב בְּמַעַשְׂיוֹן בְּנָה צְרוֹל וְהַשְׁקָה מִמְּפָה. בַּיְיָה
בְּמַעַשְׂיוֹן וְלְפָנָת בְּנָה – וְאָלָה הַאֲבָרָהָה מִמְּפָה. בַּיְיָה
שְׁמַקְבָּב וְמִשְׁתְּרָל הַיְיָה דָּרָעָ בְּתַחְבּוֹלָה
אֲדָם בְּמַכְמֹות הַתְּחִתָּה, בְּנָה מִשְׁתְּרָל לְבָגָעָמָה נְשִׁיחָה
הַצְּוֹוֹת וְלְאַבְרָם מִמְּפָה. אֲםַם יְתִרְחָה וְיַעֲקֹב וְאָלָה יְהִינָּה
לְרֹא אֲהָרִים וְלְרֹמֶךְ בְּנָה, שֶׁלְּאָהָרָן וְלְמַהְמָה בְּנָה.

תְּהִירָת בָּאָה, בַּי טְבָע תְּאָדָם בְּבָרָה, בַּי עַקְרָבָרָה,
הַמְּכִירָת גָּס, עַל-בָּנוֹ לְאַיְלָפָץ הַדָּם בְּטָרָח וְבְלָא אַכְּבָה. וְגַם
שְׁרָצָה לְפָנָת עַל-בָּרוֹת הַבּוֹרָה, צְרִיךְ שִׁירְגָּבָר
טְבָע עַצְמָוִי יְמִינָרָה, שֶׁאָם הָא מִינָה עַצְמָוִי בְּרָ

Alacrity runs counter to human nature, and therefore its acquisition requires reinforcement

nate him he will surely not succeed. This is what the Tanna said (*Pirkei Avos* 5:20): "Be bold as a leopard, light as an eagle, fleet as a deer, and courageous as a lion to do the will of your Father in Heaven." And among those things that need reinforcement, the Sages of blessed memory included "Torah and good deeds" (*Berachos* 32b). This is explicitly stated in Scripture (*Yehoshua* 1:7): "Be very strong and courageous to observe to do in accordance with the whole of the Torah that you have been commanded by Moshe My servant." Indeed a person needs great strength to transform his nature so completely.

Shlomo, observing the evil of indolence and the great damage that it causes, repeatedly cautioned against this, and said (*Mishlei* 6:10-11): "A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands in order to rest — and your poverty will arrive [as suddenly] as one who walks [hurriedly], and your deficiency [as fast] as the man who shields [his king when at war]. For the indolent person, even though he does no harm actively, nonetheless harms himself through his passivity. And he [Shlomo] said (*Mishlei* 18:9): "One who is lax in his work is a brother to the master of destruction." Even though he is not the destructive agent who directly committed the evil, there is not much difference between them. In reality, he is his brother, and those who are similarly harmful.

Probing further into the ills of the indolent, he [Shlomo] depicted what occurs and emerges daily before our eyes (*Mishlei* 24:30-34): "I passed by the field of an indolent person and the vineyard of an unintelligent person and it was overgrown with thorns, its surface was covered with thistles...and [when] I beheld [all of this], I considered it well: I looked upon it and received instruction — a little sleep, a little slumber...and your poverty will arrive...." But aside from the simple meaning of this, which sets out the truth about what happens to the field of a person who is idle, our Sages of blessed memory explained this

The deteriorating situation of an

ମୁହଁମଦ ଦିଲ୍ଲୀ ପ୍ରାଚୀ ରାଜେ ନେଇ କଣ କଣ କରିଥିଲୁ ଏହି
ମୁହଁମଦ-ଶ୍ଵର-ଜୀ, ଦିଲ୍ଲୀ ମହାନାମ ପାଇଥିଲୁ ନାହିଁ ପାଇଥିଲୁ ଏହି
ମୁହଁମଦ ପାଇଥିଲୁ ଏହିଖଣ୍ଡମ ନାହିଁ ପାଇଥିଲୁ ଏହିଖଣ୍ଡମ । ଏହି
ମୁହଁମଦ ପାଇଥିଲୁ ଏହିଖଣ୍ଡମ ନାହିଁ ପାଇଥିଲୁ ଏହିଖଣ୍ଡମ ।

matter with a beautiful *midrash*. This is what they said (*Yalkut Shimoni*, *Mishlei*, *Remez* 961; *Sifrei Ekev* 11:22): ‘and it was overgrown with thorns’ [refers to] one who seeks the interpretation of a [Torah] passage and does not find it. ‘Its surface was covered...’ [means that] because he has not toiled over them [words of Torah] he sits [in judgment] and declares the pure to be impure and the impure to be pure, thereby undermining the enactments of Torah scholars.

What will his punishment be? Shlomo explained this (*Koheles* 10:8): 'and one who breaches a fence will be bitten by a snake.' This means that an indolent person's ills do not occur all at once but gradually, without his knowledge and awareness. For he is drawn from one ill to the next, until he finds himself drowning in the ultimate evil. Initially he merely cuts down on his efforts and this has a negative effect on his Torah learning. And because of this deficiency, he will find that comprehension will elude him in his subsequent learning. If his ills would only end here, it would be bad enough. However, they get progressively worse. In his desire, nonetheless, to clarify a passage and a particular chapter, he will adduce views that go against the Halachah, and he will corrupt the truth and pervert it. He will violate the [Rabbinic] decrees and undermine their enactments, and this is the end, like all those who breach fences, will be destruction. Shlomo said (*Mishlei* 24:32): "And [when] I beheld [all of this], I considered it well" — I contem-

Explained this matter and I realized the magnitude of the evil within it. It is like a poison that gradually and progressively spreads, and its actions are not apparent until death takes hold. And this is [stated in] *Mishlei* 24:33-34): "A little sleep...and your poverty will arrive [as suddenly] as one who walks [hurriedly], and your deficiency as fast as the man who holds [his king when at war]"

We see with our own eyes, on numerous occasions, how a person who is already cognizant of his

ନମ ପାଇଁଥିଲେ କେତେବେଳେ ନମ ପାଇଁଥିଲେ ଏହାରେ ହାତେ କିମ୍ବା କିମ୍ବା ଯଦୁଧିଲେ
ହାତ ହାତେ ହାତେ - ଯାହାର କିମ୍ବା କିମ୍ବା କିମ୍ବା କିମ୍ବା କିମ୍ବା କିମ୍ବା କିମ୍ବା
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ପ୍ରତିକାଳୀନ ମହାନ୍ତିରାଜୁ ପାଇଁ ଏହାର ପରିଚାରକ ଦେଖିଲୁ
ପରିଚାରକ ଦେଖିଲୁ ଏହାର ପରିଚାରକ ଦେଖିଲୁ

卷之三

Indolence and who already knows what is appropriate for the salvation of his soul and what his obligation is to his Creator, can nonetheless neglect his duty, though not because of a lack of awareness of his obligation or for any other reason. Rather, his lethargic indolence dominates him. And this is what it says [to him]: "I'll eat a bit" or "I'll sleep a bit" or "It's hard for me to get out of the house," "I took off my shirt, how can I put it back on?" "It's very hot outside," "It's very chilly," or "rainy," and all such other pretexts and excuses that the mouths of the indolent are filled with. But the outcome is the same; the Torah is neglected, the Divine service is idle, and man has abandoned his Creator. This is what Shlomo said in *Koheles* 10:18: "Through indolence the ceiling will cave in, and through inferior handiwork the house will leak."

However, if you question the indolent person, he will answer you with numerous quotations from the Sages and from Scripture, and with intellectual arguments, that permit him — in accordance with his faulty reasoning — to be lenient, and allow him the comfort of his indolence. Yet, he fails to see that these arguments and explanations are not derived through balanced reasoning. Rather, they originate from his indolence, whose domination over him influences his mind and his intellect regarding them. This, in turn, prevents him from listening to the voice of the wise and to men of sound reasoning. This is what Shlomo cries out about (*Mishlei* 26:16): "The indolent person is wiser in his own eyes than the seven sages [who sit before the King]." His indolence doesn't even give him the opportunity to ponder the words of those who rebuke him. Rather, he considers them all to be misguided and foolish, he alone being wise.

You should also know that there is a very important and tested rule that relates to abstinance [from evil] — every leniency needs to be examined. Although it may appear reasonable and sound, the chances are that the machinations of the evil inclina-

לן להצלחת נפשו, וזה שארה שארובה עלי מזע בורא – אָנָּא-עַל-פִּי בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל מִתְּחִזְקָה הַקְּרָבָה הַחֲבוֹבָה הַחֲנִינָה,
לְאַל לְשֹׁם פָּנָם אָחָר, אַל אֶפְנָג שְׁכְבָדָת הַעֲצָמָה – אָנָּא-עַל-פִּי בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל קְרָבָה אֲלֵיכָה:
אָנָּא-עַל-פִּי אֲלֵיכָה אָלְכָה? – אָנָּא-עַל-פִּי אֲלֵיכָה אָלְכָה? – אָנָּא-עַל-פִּי אֲלֵיכָה אָלְכָה?
בְּתִינוּ, אֲלֵיכָה אָלְכָה עַזְבָּה עַזְבָּה, תְּחִזְקָה עַזְבָּה עַזְבָּה, תְּחִזְקָה עַזְבָּה עַזְבָּה,
רַבָּה אָוֹדָה שְׁמִים, וְלֹא שְׁאָר תְּאַמְּתָל אֶתְהָנוֹג
אֲשֶׁר פִּי הַצְּלִימִים מִלְּאָמָם. אֶבְיוֹן בְּךָ וּבְזֶה קְרָב – אָנָּא-עַל-פִּי הַתְּנוּרָה,
וְעַבְדוּה מִבְּצָלָם, וְאָדָם עוֹב אָת בְּזֶה אָנָּא-עַל-פִּי הַמִּקְדָּשׁ,

בְּכָה שְׁלִמָּה אָוֹמָר (קהלת 3:3): "בְּאַלְמָלִים יְמִינְךָ תְּקִנָּה".
אָלְמִים אָם תְּשַׁאֲל אָת פִּי הַעֲצָל – יְבֹא אָלְקָדְקָדָם
רְבִים בְּפָאָמָר, הַתְּכִבָּמִים, וְהַמְּקָרָא מִן הַכְּתֻבִים,
וְעַזְנּוֹת מִן הַשְּׁלֵל, אֲשֶׁר בְּלֹם יוֹהֵן לו – לְפִי וְעַזְנּוֹ
הַמְּשִׁיחָה – לְהַלְל אַלְיָהוּ בְּמִגְוָהָה עַזְלָרוֹן. וְהַאֲנָיָה רֹאָה, שָׁאוֹן הַטְּנוּנָה דְּהָם נְוֹדָלִים כִּי
מִפְנִי שְׁקָלָדָעָה, אָלְקָדְקָדָם, אֲשֶׁר
בְּזִיהָר אָנָּא-תְּבָרָח בּוֹ, מִפְנִי הַעֲצָנָה
הַאֲלָה, אֲשֶׁר לא יְשַׁמֵּע לְקוֹל הַתְּכִבָּמִים וְאֲשֶׁר
הַדְּעָה. הַאֲלָה מִזְמָרָה צוֹה אָוֹמָר (קהלת 3:16): "בְּאַלְמָלִים יְמִינְךָ תְּקִנָּה אָפָלְךָ תְּשִׁיבָה מִשְׁבָּעָה מִשְׁעָם." בְּיַעֲלָה אָנָּא-עַל-פִּי הַמִּזְבֵּחַ
הַבְּלָל לְהָעוּם וְשָׁוּם – וְהָא לְבָרֵךְ תְּקִנָּה.

שְׁלָל רְאָלָא אַרְכִּבָּה בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל. בְּיַעֲלָה אָנָּא-עַל-פִּי שִׁיכָּלָה לְהַזְוָת
יִשְׂרָאֵל וְבְנָוֹתָה, אָמָן, קָרְבָּה תְּקִנָּה מִעְצָות תְּנִינָה

Every leniency must be carefully examined

בְּיַעֲלָה אָלְקָדְקָדָם בְּמִלְּאָכָת הַפְּרִיאָשָׁת,
שְׁלָל רְאָלָא אַרְכִּבָּה בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל. בְּיַעֲלָה אָנָּא-עַל-פִּי שִׁיכָּלָה לְהַזְוָת
יִשְׂרָאֵל וְבְנָוֹתָה, אָמָן, קָרְבָּה תְּקִנָּה מִעְצָות תְּנִינָה

Chapter 7

The Elements of Alacrity

Alacrity consists of two elements: one that relates to the period prior to the commencement of a deed, and the other that relates to the period that follows the commencement of a deed. The former means that prior to the commencement of a mitzvah a person must not delay [its performance]. Rather, when its time arrives, or when the opportunity [for its fulfillment] presents itself, or when it enters his mind, he must react speedily, without delay, to seize the mitzvah and to do it. He must not procrastinate at this time, for no danger is graver than this. Every new moment can bring with it some new hindrance to the fulfillment of the good deed.

Proofs from the words of the Sages: the coronation of Shlomo

Our Sages of blessed memory awakened us to this truth (*Bereishis Rabbah* 76:2): In reference to Shlomo's coronation, David said to Benayahu (*Melachim I* 1:33): "And you should take him down to Gichon." And Benayahu responded (*ibid.* 1:36), "Amen. It should be with the Eternal's consent." They of blessed memory said, "Rabbi Pinchas [asked] in the name of Rabbi Chanan of Tzippori: [but] hasn't it already stated (*Dibrei HaYanim I* 22:9), 'A son will be born to you [to David], he will be a man of peace [a reference to Shlomo]'? [We therefore deduce from here that Benayahu's response implies that] many impediments may [yet] arise between here and Gichon."

The Sages instructed us not to procrastinate doing a mitzvah

תלוק הַנְּרִיּוֹת שְׁנִים: אָחָר – קְדֻם הַתְּמִלָּת הַפְּעַשֶּׂה, וְאַחֲרָה
יְמִין – תְּמִלָּת הַנְּרִיּוֹת הַפְּעַשֶּׂה שֶׁל אֵלָיו יְמִינָיו –
לְפִנֵּי – תְּמִלָּת הַנְּרִיּוֹת הַפְּעַשֶּׂה אֲלֵא בְּתִיאָרָה
לְאַחֲרָה בְּגַם אֲתָה נְצָחָה, אֲלֵא בְּתִיאָרָה לְאַחֲרָה
אֲלֵא בְּעַלְמָה תְּמִלָּת הַנְּרִיּוֹת הַפְּעַשֶּׂה לְאַחֲרָה
קְדֻם אֲתָה נְצָחָה, וְאַל יָחִיד מִן לְפִנֵּי שִׁירְבָּה בִּינְתִּים, כי
עֲשָׂות אָזְנָה, לְאַל יָחִיד מִן לְפִנֵּי שִׁירְבָּה בִּינְתִּים, כי
אַיִל סְכָנָה בְּקַדְשָׁתָךְ, אַשְׁר הָגָה כִּל רְגָע שְׁפָתָחָתֶךָ, יוֹכֵל
לְהַתְּהִישׁ אֲזִיזָה עֲפָבָה לְפִנֵּי שְׁחָה תְּטוּבָה.

לְאַל אַמְתָּה הַדְּקָרָה הַעֲרָגוֹן, זְבוֹרָם לְבָרְכָה אֶבֶּשֶׁת
רְקָה, עַ, בְּ בְּעָנָין תְּמִלָּת שְׁלָמָה, שְׁאַפֵּר דָּרָה לְבִנְיָה מְלִיכָּת
אַ, אַ, לְ: "זְהָרָה תְּמִלָּת אֲתָנוּ אֲלֵא גָּדוֹן," וְאַבָּה בְּגַנְעָה (שְׁמָלְהָ):
אָמֵן, בְּן אַבְּמָר הָלִיל: "רְבִי פִּינְהָס בְּשֵׁם רְבִי חִנּוּן
דְּצִפּוֹר: וְתַּהֲלֵל כָּבֵר נְאַבֵּר (וְבָרֵךְ תְּמִימָם, כְּבָר, כְּבָר): הָגָה בְּנָלֶד
לְה, הָא זְהָה אִישׁ מְגַדְּלָה ?! אֲלֵא הָרְבָה קְטָנוֹרִין יְעַמְּדוּ
מְכָאָן וְעַד גִּזְזוֹרָה".

עַל-בְּנֵי הַדְּרָרָה, זְכוֹרָם לְבָרְכָה אֶבֶּשֶׁת אַ, בְּ, כְּ:

– צְבָא פְּנֵי תְּמִימָם

לְבָרְכָה אֶבֶּשֶׁת אַ, בְּ, כְּ:

– צְבָא פְּנֵי תְּמִימָם

watch over the matzos' – Do not procrastinate when a mitzvah [a play on the word *matzos*] comes your way."

The merits of the
daughters of Lot

ପ୍ରଦୟନ୍ତିରେ କାହାର ମଧ୍ୟରେ ଏହାର ପରିପାଳନା କରିବାକୁ ପରିଚାରିତ କରିଲା

And they said (*Bava Kamma* 38b): "One should always deal promptly with matters pertaining to mitzvos, for in return for the one night in which the elder [daughter of Lot] was quicker than the younger, she preceded her into Israel [she was rewarded] by four generations of royalty." They also stated (*Pesachim* 4a): "Those with alacrity fulfill the mitzvos promptly." They further said (*Berachos* 6b): "One should always run to perform a mitzvah, even on Shabbos." And in the Midrash it says (*Vayikra Rabbah* 11:9): "He will guide us *רֵיחַ-הָיוּ* (*Tehillim* 48:15) – with alacrity, as befits young maidens – as it says (*Tehillim* 68:26): 'in the midst there are young maidens'

The complete
acquisition of this
virtue is withheld

[his nature] and seizes the virtue of alacrity with all of his ability will truly be granted it in the future. The Creator, may His Name be blessed, will present it to him as his reward, in return for his effort in pursuing

it during his service [to his Creator].
On the other hand, the [act of] alacrity that follows
the commencement of the deed is necessary so that
once one has seized a mitzvah he should hurry to
complete it, and not just to make things easier for
himself like one who wants to be rid of a burden he is

Carrying, Rather, he should hurry, out of the fear that otherwise he might not be able to complete it. With regard to this, they of blessed memory cautioned repeatedly and said (*Bereishis Rabbah* 85:3): "He who commences a mitzvah but does not complete it will hurry his wife and children."

And they said (ibid.): "The mitzvah is ascribed only to the one who completes it." And Shlomo Ha-Melech may peace be upon him, said (*Mishlei* 22:29):

You already know, however, that what is most desirable for the service of the Creator, may His Name be blessed, is the yearning of the heart and the pining of the soul. Perceiving this as his good portion, David HaMelech rejoices, declaring (*Tehillim* 42:2-3): "As a deer cries longingly for the brooks of water, my soul yearns for you, O Eternal. My soul thirsts for the Eternal, the living God. When will I [be judged worthy to] come and appear before the Eternal?" (*Ibid.* 84:3): "My soul longingly yearns for the courtyards of the Eternal." (*Ibid.* 63:2): "My soul thirsts for You, my flesh pines for You."

For the person in whom this desire is not sufficiently kindled, it is advisable that he actively arouse himself. This will lead to the result that the desire will become a part of his nature. For the external [physical] movement will stimulate the internal one, and this is clearly more in line with his capabilities than the [ability to influence the] internal [domain] directly. If he will utilize what is within his capacity, eventually he will also acquire what lies beyond his capacity, and he will discover inner joy, yearning, and desire, as a result of the deliberate intensity in his movement. As the prophet says (*Hoshea* 6:3): "And to know, we must pursue the knowledge of the Eternal," and it is written (*ibid.* 11:10): "They should follow the Eternal — like a roaring lion."

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