

BITACHON WEEKLY

Stories of Novardok

ראש השנה תשפ"ג

The More You Say “Aderaba” To All Your Issues, The More *Yeshuos* and *Nissim* You’ll Get

The very existence of *Klal Yisroel* was a comical twist, when *Yitzchok* [whose name means *Tz’chok laughter*] was born to parents who were 100 - 90 years old. Now comes the most terrifying day of the year, and those Jews are dressing up, dipping the sweet apple in honey, and walking around with *Simcha*. *Nachum Ish Gam Zu* was called: גַּם *Gam*, since in his life “even this” [something that appeared bad] was good **and to the extreme**.

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The *Maharal* explains that it says: זָוֵג גַּם *Gam* *Zu* instead of: זָוֵג גַּם *Gam Ze*, since the letter *Vav* is a פֶּה פֶּה reverser. “*Zu*” can symbolize extreme good and extreme evil. **It’s up to you: If you say *Gam Zu L'tovah* on a difficult situation, it will become good since you said *Gam Zu L'tovah*.**

Positive Words Actually Cause Positive Things to Happen

R’ Shlomo Kluger says that when we dip the apple in the honey [and eat various sweet things] and say positive things about the coming year [it should be a sweet year, we should have lots of *Zechusim*, our enemies should be destroyed, etc.] this is not a *Tefila*, rather we are expressing our *Bitachon* in Hashem that **this will happen**. The power of our words will actually cause good things to happen.

R’ Shlomo Kluger adds, that on *Rosh Hashanah* after *Shachris*, a person should express with *Simcha*: Everything Hashem does is for the good. And if something bad happens, he should say: *Gam Zu L'tovah*. This way, even if he had a bad decree coming to him, these words have the power to change his situation from bad to good.

So being happy and confident and full of *Bitachon* on the *Yom HaDin* actually causes you to have a great year. That’s why we bring *Simanim* on *Leil Rosh Hashanah*; they **cause** a good year! Similarly, when a person does *Teshuva*, his worst *Aveira* turns into the best *Mitzva*.

R’ Yosef Leib Bloch *Zatzal* said that you should **view yourself as a winner, and you actually write yourself into having a great new year.** אַפִּילוֹ רָשָׁע הַבּוֹטֵחַ בְּה' תִּסְבָּבֶנּוּ יִלְקוּט תְּהִלִּים סוּף פֶּרֶק לֵב *Even a Rasha who has Bitachon in Hashem will be surrounded with Chesed.* And *Bitachon* pulls you out of *Gehinom*. *Rosh Hashanah* is a day of *Bitachon*, and a *Chet* shouldn’t even be mentioned. **The more *Simcha* and positive thoughts about a great new year, the better.**

Have *Bitachon* That You Will Be *Zoche B'din*

If the *Gr”a* says that the main reason for the giving of the *Torah* was that we should learn *Bitachon*, no wonder we exercise

Now Is the Time Hashem Remembers Us, and We Can Be “Freed” from Our Own “Jails”

Yosef HaTzaddik was released from jail on *Rosh Hashanah*, and “*Tishrei*” means being “released” [מִוֶּתֶר קִפְתָּר גְּמִינָן שָׁרִי]. If we daven hard enough, we can all be *Zoche* to be “freed” from our own “jails”, whether in *Ruchaniyus* or in *Gashmiyus*. Years of being trapped by the *Yetzer Hara* with all kinds of “closed doors”. *Sara*, *Rochel*, and *Chana* were all were remembered on *Rosh Hashanah*, the day they were *Zoche* to have children.

Story

I knew a big *Tzadekes* from *Bnei Brak* who didn’t have children for many years. Every *Rosh Hashanah*, they heard her crying from the *Ezras Nashim*. The whole *Ponivez Yeshiva* knew who was crying, and why. Sure enough, she was finally answered, and she raised a beautiful family. This noble woman wasn’t ashamed, and she took full advantage of these holy days. Surely, her *Zechus* of not being afraid of people stood her well.

so much *Bitachon* and positivism on *Rosh Hashanah*. Indeed, we are being judged about our *Bitachon* level; if we believe that we will be *Zoche b'Din* or not. R' Avigdor Miller *Zatzal* says that the main *Teshuva* is by having more gratitude to Hashem. This is the *Shita* of the *Chovos Halvavos*, and is actually the #1 most obvious *Avodas Hashem*. And the more you are involved in *Hoda'ah*, the easier it is to have *Bitachon*.

So many people have trouble working on *Bitachon*. Instead of being calm, they are full of “stress” trying to have more *Bitachon*. If they would have pure *Hoda'ah* [especially without strings attached, i.e. using *Hoda'ah* to “get” what they want] then true *Bitachon* would come much easier.

Hashem Likes Happy Customers

The humble realization that “Hashem owes us zero” can be helpful. Also, the realization of: זָה הַיּוֹם תְּחִלַּת מַעֲשֵׂיךָ TODAY IS THE DAY YOU CREATED THE WORLD; WE REMEMBER THAT FIRST DAY [when You judged Adam *Harishon*, and his verdict came out favorably] compels every human to be happy with Hashem’s world. Hashem likes “satisfied customers”, and showing your *Simcha* on *Rosh Hashanah* can be very helpful for a true *K'siva v'Chasima Tova*. This includes the thrill of being *Zoche* to “be” in Hashem’s beautiful world, and recognizing His goodness. These are examples for *Rosh Hashanah* positive thinking. **The more positivism, the better the year.**

NOVARDOK

The *Mashgiach* of Lakewood, R' Nosson Wachtfogel *Zatzal* once told me a story in the name of R' Ahron Kotler *Zatzal*. He had met the *Chofetz Chaim* after the First World War. The *Chofetz Chaim* described the war as “child’s play” [this had been the worst war in human history, with entire communities being uprooted forever, and untold destruction of all kinds which the world never saw]. The *Chofetz Chaim* continued: “Wait, there will be a little pause, and then a war will take place on a much grander scale [WWII].” Hitler, *Y'mach Sh'mo* killed 50 million people, and Stalin, *Y'mach Sh'mo* over 20 million, with all kinds of new and dangerous weapons, from tanks to grenades and machine guns. For the first time, fighter bomber planes were dropping bombs from the air! And then the atomic bomb, *Rachmana Litzlan*, unbelievable! The *Chofetz Chaim* concluded: “After the Second World War, there will again be a break, and the Third World War will be the final war. Then will come *Moshiach*” may he come speedily in our times, *Amen*.

R' Chatzkel *Zatzal* told the same details [more or less] to R' Shalom Schwadron *Zatzal*. R' Shalom asked him why he was telling over such depressing news. R' Chatzkel replied: You don’t *Chap* what this all means; all these wars are just reflections of the world’s decline in *Emuna*. All these horrors are *Simanim* of a low level of belief in Hashem. The less people believe, the more *Tzaros*, *Rachmana Litzlan*.

The Power of a *Baal Bitachon*

Now we have a picture of what **not** having *Emuna* and *Bitachon* looks like. Imagine the power of those who **do** believe! And how any *Simcha* and enjoyment, any peace and goodness going on in the world, is to their credit!

And the power of *Bitachon* is much greater than *Emuna*! Even greater are those who have difficulty with *Bitachon*, who are even more *Chashuv* than a natural *Baal Bitachon*, since *L'fum Tza'ara Agra* – 100 times!

All those *Yidden* who open a *Sefer* on *Bitachon*, or talk and listen to words of *Bitachon* in order to be *M'chazek* themselves, are bringing peace and harmony to the entire world! Who knows how many *Yeshuos* and *Refuos* which people are having everywhere, are to their credit? How many potential wars never happen because of their involvement in believing in the Creator of the world? How many *Shiduchim*, *Shalom Bayis*, and happy times they give the world because of their private *Bitachon*!

So many people wonder why they have certain difficult issues in their lives. Now they know how Hashem is giving them the greatest *Zechusim* of their very existence. He is causing them to have heartfelt *Tefilos* and to be *M'chazek* in *Emuna* and *Bitachon*, which is the greatest *Zechus* a person can have; he is the benefactor of all mankind! He has no idea how many lives he is saving, and how many human beings he is causing to have happy lives!