

Kinder Torah

בס"ד

Parashas Tazria

A Special Addition

"We now have a special treat, Avi."
"What is it, Abba?"

"Three more selections that have been added to the prayers after Pisukei DiZimra."
"How nice! Hashem loves us – He gives us three more ways to appreciate Him!"
"I could not have said it better myself, Avi. The first selection is from Divrei HaYomim I (29:10-13). It speaks about one of the supreme moments in the life of Dovid HaMelech. He had amassed a fortune of gold, silver, jewels, and other materials needed for the construction of the Beis HaMikdash. He then made an appeal to Klal Yisrael to contribute. The nation responded to his request, and donated large amounts of precious things. He presented all of this to his son, Shlomo, who would use it to construct the House of Hashem. Dovid HaMelech then blessed Hashem in front of the entire nation. The King of kings is the One Who truly rules over all of the nations. 'Yours Hashem is the greatness, the strength, the splendor, the triumph, and the glory, everything in heaven and earth. Yours Hashem is the kingdom and the sovereignty over every leader. Wealth and honor come from You and You rule over all. In Your hand are power and strength and it is in Your hand to bestow greatness and might. So now, our G-d, we thank You and praise Your glorious Name.'"
"That is absolutely amazing, Abba. Dovid HaMelech attributed all of the success that he experienced to the Almighty. The koach (strength) to battle the enemies of Israel, subdue them, and gather their spoils is from the All Powerful One. The riches are His, and He can give them to whomever He wishes. The government is His, and He can choose anyone he pleases to be king. We can learn a big lesson from this. When we are favored with success in an endeavor, we have to

recognize and pay tribute to the One Who grants us the accomplishment. He is the source of all blessing. He arranges the events of our lives and brings positive results to our efforts. Thank you Hashem for being so good to me!"

Kinderlach . . .

Dovid HaMelech illuminates a very important foundation of truth to us. Hashem is in control of the entire universe. Everything is in His hands. How can we internalize that? By thanking Him for every accomplishment. By praising His rule over the universe and our lives. We read Dovid's formal declaration in our morning prayers. However, we can apply the principle of recognizing Hashem's sovereignty and appreciating it all throughout our daily lives. "Hashem, thank you for the good grade that I received in the test." "Hashem, thank you for the delicious cake that I baked." "Hashem, You are the One Who gave me the wisdom to understand this difficult gemora." "Hashem, Your greatness is beyond description. Thank you for everything!"

What A Welcome

"Come forward, please. We have been expecting you."

The man steps forward nervously. He has never been here before, and does not know what to expect.

"Yes, after 120 years of doing mitzvos, you have finally arrived. Now is the time to receive your reward."

The man feels comforted. He has performed many mitzvos in his life. Perhaps it will be okay after all.

"First, let us hear about your life. The angels have recorded all of your deeds. Let them come forward and tell us about you."

A huge door swings open and reveals thou-

sands of angels ready to speak about this man.

"On the 12th of Teves, he spoke badly about his neighbor."

"On the 13th of Teves, he degraded his relative."

The man's heart begins to drop. These angels heard all of the loshon hora that he had said. Every word was a separate aveyra (sin).

"Excuse me. I am so sorry, but may I interrupt for a second?"

"Go ahead."

"How many angels are here, recounting my loshon hora?"

"That is a good question. Let us figure it out. You spoke many words every day. You learned Torah; you conducted your business and personal affairs. You probably spoke no more than four or five words of loshon hora each day."

"Probably. That is not very many."

"Let's add them up. Four or five words a day, is about thirty words a week. Multiply that by fifty-two weeks of the year and you have about 1,500 words per year. By the age of 68 (which is 55 years after your bar-mitzvah) you have accumulated 80,000 words of loshon hora."

The man begins to cry.

"Oh, what have I done. How I have misused my power of speech. If I had only known this while I was alive. Now it is too late."

Kinderlach . . .

The Chofetz Chaim zt"l makes this simple calculation in his book, "Shmiras HaLoshon". Our words are never forgotten. They are stored in Hashem's computer (so to speak). Even a few words a day add up. Every day, another few words of loshon hora until the numbers are very large. Now is the time to stop while we can. Learn the halachos of loshon hora and stop yourself from speaking badly about people. Turn off the calculator today.

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