Bitachon Weekly

———— By Rabbi Yehudah Mandel שליט"א ————

פרשת לך לך תשפ"ז

All the Nisyonos and Difficulties in Our Lives Are Tremendous Zechusim

Avraham Avinu didn't know where he was going, in order that he'd love every inch of travel, since it is a Tza'ar not knowing where you're going, and: לְפוּם צַעֲרָא אַגְרָא אבות ה כב the reward increases according to your effort. R' Yerucham Zatzal says that every step and step is a Mitzva by itself! All the Nisyonos and difficulties in our lives are tremendous Zechusim. We have very little appreciation for so many unending details of pain in our lives, and this robs us of the precious truth of the Ma'ala of Yissurim.

We suffer so much:

- from our silly mistakes
- from bad weather
- from our forgetfulness
- from all kinds of inadequacies, like:
- being messy
- being too rigid
- lacking in Kish'ron (ability)
- being inferior in Ruchaniyus and/or Gashmiyus.

For instance, look at the pain that mothers have getting their children to school on time! Or from lacking money today for tuition, or looking for the proper friends.

If a person would live with Emuna and Bitachon, he would notice thousands of subtle forms of Yissurim in his life, and he would thank Hashem for each and every drop of pain! And we'd realize that just like Hashem Davka caused pain to Avraham Avinu, so does He hurt us so we should get more Schar. Especially not knowing where you're heading, וְאֵין שִׂמְחָה כְּהַתָּרַת הַסְּפֵיקוֹת and achieving clarity is the greatest Simcha.

These days there is lots and lots of confusion in Avodas Hashem; what to do and what not to do. A person should realize that the confusion is Min HaShamayim and Le'chatchila, in order to give you more Schar, and he should be Machshiv every inch of confusion and doubt!

Self-Doubt and Guilt Feelings Are a Fake Yetzer Tov

Rashi says that Avraham Avinu needed to be reassured by Hashem that he'll get full Schar and he won't get punished etc. I would like to be: מְעוֹרֵר (point out) that: מַעֲשֵׂה אָבוֹת סִימָן לַבָּנִים the experiences of the Avos are a prophecy for their descendants, and so many of us need to reassure ourselves in Avodas Hashem. Ahron HaCohen was also worried, and he too had to be reassured. So many of us suffer needlessly, since we are loaded with self-doubt and plenty of guilt feelings.

Several times I became physically ill, and I blamed the sickness on too-much Frumkeit and worry over sins and mistakes, etc. I worked hard on being Dan myself L'kaf Zechus, and believing in: אוֹנֵס רַחֲמָנָא פַּטְרֵיהּ ב"ק כח ב "you are not responsible for things beyond your control", and examining my unique situation, where I may not always be expected to perform in Avoda like others, etc. Right afterwards, I had a Refuah Shleima.

This particular Dor is loaded with fake Yetzer Tov's which can be poison. A woman once called me crying that she had forgotten to say "B'li Ayin Hara", and now she would be in dire trouble. "I once did this-and-that wrong, and that's why I suffer" This is loads of silliness and all Ma'aseh Satan to get us nervous. Novardokers laughed at these things.

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Avraham Avinu Teaches Us How to Have Patience!

Look how everyone is going around with loads of baby carriages and strollers, including all the Reshaim of the Dor, like Anshei Sedom (and there were plenty other Reshaim those days) and Avraham the Tzadik has no children. And both his Zechus and Sara the Tzadekes, and all the unending goodness of these people and their Torah and Kedusha and Tz'niyus and breaking Middos and Bitachon to the extreme and Mesirus Nefesh helped zero. People used to make fun of Avraham and call him a barren mule!

If you like nice P'shetlach on the Parsha then it's fine. But if you want to take these Parshiyos seriously and incorporate them into your own life, and Avraham and Sara are alive in your mind, then this Parsha will calm you down a lot, and teach you patience! סוֹף הַכָּבוֹד לָבוֹא You will eventually get what you want! They had to wait 90-100 years to get their life's dream, i.e., having children. And look at Avraham Avinu's background! Terach was a Rasha, and the right-hand man of the world-famous Rasha, Nimrod. And he reported his son's "misbehavior" of crashing his "holy" idols, which caused Avraham Avinu to be thrown into the fire!

And look how Avraham Avinu is famous for the Kibud Av for his "Alter Terach"! Terach sounds like Sinwar, Y'mach Sh'mo (L'havdil) who said that he has 9 kids: 3 are for the fire, 3 are for some kind of torture of being captured, and 3 are to stick around! Avraham Avinu didn't mind being a "failure" and having no children. He didn't care about: מַה יֹּאמְרוּ הַבְּרִיּוֹת What will people say?? He served Hashem, and not people's opinions.

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Novardok

I know a very Chashuva Yungerman in Lakewood who for years has been going to an old Novardoker as his Rebbe. He told me that he is sure he has Ruach HaKodesh. This man once told him that he shouldn't worry about his financial situation; Hashem will pull him out of his problem. The Yungerman had no idea of any problem, but as soon as he came home… sure enough he had a major scary money problem.

And right afterwards, he had an unbelievable Yeshua. I once called this old Novardoker (who learns day and night B'hasmada Rabba). He doesn't come to the telephone because of Bittul Torah. He is a very decent person, but you can tell that he has no fear of humans. He has zero interest in impressing anyone.

He is always relaxed and calm, and he acts very normal. No long Shmoneh Esrei's or any kind of unusual behavior that would betray his greatness. I once complimented him on his Kriyas Sh'ma, and I could tell that he was concerned about getting Kavod for this. He said: "My Kriyas Sh'ma is very Shvach!"

He is very down-to-earth, and very self-confident and stable. He lives with Hashem, and with his blatt Gemara. A quiet Tzadik Nistar. People who know him realize that he is truly a giant in disguise. He advises people to learn ten minutes of Mussar a day. I have no doubt that he learns much more. You don't become a Tzadik like him so fast, and especially if he's a Novardoker, his Mussar and Hadracha in Avodas Hashem gets credit.

This is besides his Ligging in learning all his life. And going to Vaadim where the Rosh Vaad directs each individual how to work on himself. They say about this person that right after World War II he was part of a group who made a Kabala (resolution) Bli Neder to be M'kayem: שִׁבְתִּי בְּבֵית ה' כָּל יְמֵי חַיַּי and stay in the Bais Medrash for the rest of his life. He is not a well-to-do person, but his Bitachon level is super-high and he managed to raise a beautiful family and marry them off. He is a very quiet and passive (but confident) type of person, and I can't imagine him ever knocking on a door to ask for money. His family is very Chashuv.

I once watched the way he dealt with a family member. He was full of encouragement, and he was laughing enthusiastically at the family member's jokes. You could tell he was an unusually supportive father who makes a child feel good about everything he does. He is broad-minded, and didn't push anyone in his family to become Novardokers. On the contrary, they go different D'rachim and with his wholehearted support!

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