Sparks of Light Torah Portion Behaalosecha

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Lesson delivered on Tuesday Torah Portion Behaalosecha

Through humiliations, one merits to prophecy and the World to Come

"The difference between the Sifri and the gemara [regarding Eldad and Meidad] is that according to the Sifri, Eldad and Meidad didn't come [to the lottery]. If so, there wasn't so much of a humiliation here since they didn't come. [However], according to the gemara, they did come. [They picked the blank slips and weren't chosen to be part of the Sanhedrin]. They received a terrible humiliation; a terrible embarassment. In the merit of the embarassment, they became prophets. A person, when he is degraded day and night becomes a prophet; an angel is created that bestows upon him prophecy... Yehoshua (יהושע) possesses 3,700,000 lights.² [Rabbi Nachman explains in Likutei Moharan], passage 6, lesson 1, part two that there is an angel that bestows prophecy. This is what the Rebbi says; that the main thing is the degradation that a person experiences. The Rebbi says in lesson 72 part 2 that the World to Come of a person is only the degradation. From every degradation, an angel is created that bestows prophecy; the entire World to Come is only the degradation that a person experiences.

¹ G-d commanded Moshe to compile a Sanhedrin of seventy people from the leaders of each tribe. Each tribe was commanded to send six of their rulers to become part of the Sanhedrin. However, from the twelve tribes, it is only possible for ten tribes to have six representatives; two tribes would have only five representatives. Moshe made a lottery in order to determine which of the tribes should have six and which of them should have five. Each leader would be told to place his hands into a box consisting of 72 slips; seventy of them written upon them "ruler" and two blank slips. Eldad and Meidad were the two leaders who were not chosen to be part of the Sanhedrin. However, the Rav explains that there is a dispute between the Sifri and the gemara as to how they were not chosen. After not being chosen, they began prophesying to the Nation of Israel.

² The last two letters of Yehoshua's name (יהושע) equal the numerical value of 370. They allude to the 3,700,000 lights.

Part of the lesson is missing and it is unclear what relevance this has to the lesson. However, the prophecy of Eldad and Meidad was that Moshe will die and Yehoshua will bring the Nation of Israel into the Land of Israel. This prophecy, eventually became the spies' ammunition against Yehoshua; "You just want to enter the Land since You want to become the leader! You don't care that Moshe will die!" Perhaps, the Rav is explaining that in the merit of the humiliations that he received, he merited to the 3,700,000 lights.

Part of a lesson delivered on the eighth of Sivan

Making it to Uman despite the obstacles

[Someone mentioned to the Rav that a hundred years ago there was an epidemic in Uman and hardly anyone came for Rosh Hashanah. The Rav says:] correct; in the Hebrew year אמש"ם there was the cholera epidemic.

[Someone told the Rav that Reb Levi Yitzchak arrived to Uman that year with his father-in-law, Reb Aharon of Kiblitch. The Rav says:] yes, Rev Levi Yitzchak arrived. Everyone was lying sick, dead; they weren't able at all to get up. And suddenly, at the night of Zechor Bris (the night preceding Rosh Hashanah) everyone awakened, got up, and began walking! When Reb Shmuel Horvitz came, he was so sick. So, he entered the shul, he lied down on the bench and said that someone should take him to the Tzion (Rabbi Nachman's grave site). I'll give you [whoever is ready to take me to the Tzion] my entire World to Come! So, Reb Hirsh Leib took him on his shoulders. This story is only known from Reb Levi Yitzchak.

[When Reb Shmuel Horvitz] passed away on the eleventh of Adar, or the thirteenth of Adar, no one knew where Reb Hirsh Leib is. He lay on the floor for two hours; three hours on the floor. Since Reb Shmuel Horvitz came to him and told him to return to him his World to Come! They don't want to allow me to enter the Garden of Eden! They tell me, you gave your World to Come to Reb Hirsh Leib; let him give it [back] to you. [Seemingly, Reb Hirsh Leib was near death when lying on the floor for hours.] And the Chevra Kadisha [Jewish burial society] was there, and his eyes were already upturned. So, he [seemingly Reb Hirsh Leib] gave him [Reb Shmuel Horvitz] his World to Come [back]. And then, he [Reb Hirsh Leib] returned to life the next day in the morning! At eight o'clock began the story; this was on the night of the passing of Reb Shmuel Horvitz.

[The Rav returns to the year of the epidemic in Uman.] And Reb Hirsh Leib himself was sick with tuberculosis. He was from the young men who put them to the test [apparently the patrol dividing Poland and Ukraine]. He [didn't] forfeit Uman; he forfeited everything [in order to make it to Uman on Rosh Hashanah]. Let them shoot him! Patrols walked by; what are patrols?! Every moment a group of soldiers pass by on the border; there was yet to have been a fence. It didn't help [seemingly the patrols] since Reb Hirsh Leib passed [the patrols] in the Hebrew year פּשׁר.

And then, he dreamt that he is being taken to the cemetery. They came to him and told him we need another one; you may enter the Garden of Eden only with someone else. So, they came to take him. The Angel of Death came with his sword; he saw him with his sword! Reb Hirsh Leib was a mighty warrior; he fought with the Angel of Death! He took his sword, and in this way, he freed himself from him. And then he woke up and realized that he's next to his bed in the hospital. I was there [seemingly in that hospital]. And he went immediately to the Tzion. He went; approximately six hours. When he left the hospital, he went for six hours by foot. And the moment he arrived at the Tzion he was cured!

Also, the way he arrived to the kibbutz (the Breslov gathering on Rosh Hashanah). At first, he was in Berditchov. So, he asked [some] woman why aren't you wearing a snude [head covering]? So, she says, I saw Rachel, our Foremother in the mall; in the theater; I saw her [not wearing a snude]! So, Reb Levi Yitzchak relayed. In Berditchov. They [Reb Hirsh Leib

³ She was so ignorant that she believed that the movies portrayal of Rachel is obviously correct.

and his friends] missed the last train. The train was supposed to arrive on Yom Tov and they did not agree; they didn't want to arrive on Yom Tov. [The Rav doesn't relate how they did in fact make it to Uman].

There was an announcement of Reb Yitzchak Breiter not to come [to Uman due to the danger of entering Ukraine from Poland]. And they [Reb Hirsh Leib and his friends] didn't listen to him. This was after his twice writing not to come. He, Reb Yitzchak Breiter wrote [not to go to Uman]; this is written in the scribe of Uman. All of the letters; they [The Breslover Chasidim in Poland] said to say the Tikkun Haklali twice. To study two pages of Likutei Halachos, and two lessons in Likutei Moharan [seemingly in place of going to Uman]. He [Reb Hirsh Leib] said, I don't know; You can take me out of Hell?! He asked Reb Yitzchak Breiter; he said I'm unable to. You're unable! So, let me go! But, they said no, since two people [who attempted to cross the border] died, And you may not go on your own!

But he went. However, he didn't have a passport; his passport was the Tikkun Haklali. He handed over a Tikkun Haklali instead of a passport and he said that this is a passport. And then a Jewish officer told him in the morning; you've had a huge miracle! Had he given a passport, they [the patrol] would say that he's a spy! Once there weren't flashlights, and they didn't know what's [written] inside. So, they couldn't know if it is a passport or nothing. In the morning, they arrested twenty Jews; they were there in some jail. They said you're all Jews! All of you are going to Uman; behold, there is a Tikkun Haklali here! [The officer who was Jewish said] fine, I will free you; next time you'll have a lifetime sentence! In the merit that he gave a Tikkun Haklali he merited [being in Uman].

There is another person from the kibbutz who would always [give a Tikkun Klali] instead of giving a passport. He was caught in Paris. They were able to arrest anyone without an identification card. So, he would give a Tikkun Haklali instead of an identification card; a small Tikkun Haklali the size of an identification card. And he didn't check it; he took it; a giant guy.

The Gestapo would constantly arrest people in the middle of the street. And a bunch of Gestapos' surrounded them. The moment that they would realize that they are Jews, immediately, they would arrest them and send them to the crematorium, to Auschwitz, to Buchenwald. There are accusation letters about this until now.