14th of Tammuz Balak 5777

לעילוי נשמת David ben ImaShalom

Actions Create Foundations

This week's parasha teaches us a fundamental lesson in our daily lives. That our 1st steps throughout our day will lead us to the rest of our path of not just that day but for the rest of our lives. The Torah say " בַּלְעָם בַּבּקׁר נַיְּחָרָשׁ אֶת־אָּתֹנֵוֹ נַיֵּלֶךְ עִם־שָׂרֵי מוֹאֵב - In the morning Bilaam arose, saddled his she-donkey and went with the Moabite dignitaries" Rashi says that Bilaam went out of his nature to wake up early in the morning to curse the Jewish nation. He continues and says that hatred causes one to go beyond ones nature.

Little did Bilaam know that before he did this act of waking up early in the morning to get ready to harm the Jewish Nation, our forefather Avraham Avinu woke up early in the morning the day of the Akeda as it says אַר־חֲמֹלוֹ אֶּת־חֲמֹלוֹ בַבּּקֵר וַיַּתְבֹעֹ אֵר־חֲמֹלוֹ this action that Avraham did negated the early rising of Bilaam.

The Haim Sha'al brings two beautiful lessons from this incident. First he explains that anytime someone tries to come up to harm the Jewish People the Zechut Avot protects us due to the actions that the Avot performed. Second he explains that we can apply this to our everyday life. When we wake up in the morning and establish a good foundation by praying and donning Tefillin. Once the foundation is laid it will be hard for the Yetzer Hara to come and fill that same path with negative foundation which can harm us.

The Haim Sha'al tells us that this is accomplished because Avraham instilled a gene of יראת שמים [fear of heaven] and fear of heaven keeps a person from sinning. He says how do we know that Avraham instilled יראת שמים? If we take the last letters of the phrase וַיִּשְׁכֵּם אַבְרָהָם בַּבּקר וְיַהְבֹשׁ אֶת־חֲמֹרוֹ we get 986. And when we add the first letters of the words אַבְרָהָם בַּבּקר וְיַחֲבֹשׁ we get 986. And when we add the first letters of the words וְיִשְׁכֵּם אַבְרָהָם בַּבּקר וְיַחֲבֹשׁ we get 15 and 986+15 is 1001 which is the same as יראת שמים. We should actualize this gene and Hashem should protect us all our days.

~ R' Yosef Akilov

SHABBAT SCHEDULE

Mincha 7:20 PM Candle Lighting 8:10 PM Shacharit 8:30 AM SHEMA (MA) 8:22 AM SHEMA (GRA) 9:16 AM 6:00 PM Derasha Mincha 7:30 PM SUNSET 8:28 PM **Shabbat Ends** 9:19 PM Rabbenu Tam 9:41 PM

SHORT & SWEET

מָה טובוּ אֹהָלֶיךְ יַעְקֹב מִשְׁכְּנוֹתֶיךְ יִשְׂרָאֵל

"How goodly are your tents, Yaakov, your sanctuaries, Israel." (Bamidbar 24:5)

THE SAGES TAUGHT THAT ONE WHO TOILS IN THE TORAH IS CONSIDERED TO HAVE AS IF BROUGHT ALL THE KORBANOT. THAT IS ALLUDED TO IN OUR PASUK. "HOW GOODLY ARE YOUR TENTS," OF LEARNING "YAAKOV," THEY ARE VIEWED AS "YOUR SANCTUARIES, ISRAEL."

חוֹמַת אֲנַךּ

- 1. Who were King Balak's bodyguards?
- 2. Why at the Eigel did 3,000 Jews perish, whereas with the sin at Sheetim, which was initiated by Midyan, 24,000 Jews died?
- 3. Why will Moshiach come riding on a donkey and not in a chauffeured limousine?

Jabbat Shalom U'Mevorach L

3. If we merit it, Moshiach will come riding upon the sky. We will fly on the "wings of an eagle" back to Eretz Israel. The famous donkey that Moshiach will ride is no ordinary donkey. Rather it is the same donkey that Avraham Avinu rode to the Akeda, and that Moshe Rabbenu rode down to Egypt. Miraculously, it has been grazing near Moshe's grave all these years, and Moshiach will find it and ride upon it as he comes to save us from Galut. {Pirkei D'Rebbi Eliezer, Midrash Talpiyot}.

to get rid of the Jews. {Bamidbar Rabbah 20:2}

2. At the Eigel, only 3,000 Jews died, because it was one big Averah – that of Avodah Zara. But at Sheetim, 24,000 Jews died because there were two big Averot – Znut and Avodah Zara, which together were a great disgrace to the holiness of Am Israel. {Rabbenu Bachyei}

1. Balak paid the giants Sichon and Og to protect him. When they were killed, he got scared that he might be next! So he hired Bilaam

Weekly Dose of Ethics - מוסר של שבוע

א. יִשְׁתַּדֵּל לִהְיוֹת רִאשׁוֹן בְּבֵית הַכְּנֶסֶת שַׁחַרִית וְעַרְבִית. וְכַמָּה הָאֱרִיכוּ בַּוֹּהֵר תְּרוּמָה דַּף קל"א הַהוּא קַדְמָאָה דְּאִשְׁתְּכַח בְּבִי כְּנִישְׁתָּא קִיְמָא בְּדַרְגָּא דְּצַדִּיק, עַיֵּן שָׁם בְּאֹרֶדְּ. (צִפֹּרֶן שָׁמִיר, סִימָן ט', סִעִיף קל"ה).

One should strive greatly to be the first in synagogue for Shacharit and Aravit. The Zohar praised greatly the individual that accomplishes such a feat.

ב. והנה, מלבד התועלת שתהיה מן הודוי שיהיה בכנוה המחשבה, עוד יהיה ממנן תועלת אם יהיה בו בכיה ודמעה, כי הבכיה מעברת כתמי הנפש ומנקה ורוחצת בגדים הצואין שלה (מים חיים עמ' קץ).

Besides for all the wonders reciting Vidui with concentration can have, reciting it with tears has the ability to wash away and remove all the stains and dirt caused by the sins one has committed.

ג. מִתְכַּבֵּד בִּקְלוֹן חַבֵּירוֹ מָצוּי בִּבְלִי דַעַת, וּמַלְבִּין פְּנֵי חֲבֵרוֹ בָּרַבִּים לֹא יִבָּצֵר, וְכַלָּן סְעִיפֵי וְעַנְפֵי הַגַּאָנָה, דּוֹק וְתִשְׁכַּח, כִּי עֲבוֹדָה זָרָה שֶׁל הַגַּאֲנָה ת' פִּרְקֵי, וְהִיא הָיְתָה אֵם כָּל הָאִיסוּרִין. (מוֹרֶה בְּאֶצְבַּע, סִימָן ט, סעיף שיח).

Unfortunately it is all too common for one to rejoice in their friends' embarrassment unintentionally. Also, there are those that embarrass their friends in public. All of these situations stem from a foundation of arrogance; arrogance is the source of all forbidden actions.

7. אם אָפְשָׁר יִטְבּל בְּכָל עֶרֶב שַׁבָּת. וְטוֹב לְטְבּוֹל טְבִילָה אַחַת לְהַעֲּבִיר הַזּוּהָמָא וְטֵמְאַת קֶרִי וְכַיּוֹצֵא, וד' טְבִילוֹת, וִיקְבֵּל ד' מִיתוֹת לְתַקּן מֵה שֶׁבָּגם בְּד' אוֹתִיּוֹת מִשֵׁמוֹת הָוָיָה אָהָיָה אֲדֹנִי, וּמָה שֶׁבָּגם בְּעוֹלְמוֹת אֲצִילוּת בְּרִיאָה יְצִירָה עֲשִׁיָה, וְעַל יְדֵי קַבְּלַת אַרְבַּע מִיתוֹת בְּטוֹלְמוֹת, יָאִירוּ ע"ס מ"ב (רָאשִׁי תֵּבוֹת ע"ב ס"ג מ"ה ב"ן) בּאָצִילוּת בְּרִיאָה יְצִירָה עֲשִׂיָה, וְיִתְיַחָדוּ הַשְׁמוֹת הַקְּדוֹשִׁים בְּאַצִילוּת וְיִטְבּל טְבִילָה אַחֶרֶת לְיַחֵד הַכֹּל. וְעוֹד יִטְבּל לְתַקּן מַה שֶׁבָּת בְּנִעס בְּלִם אלף הה יוד הה גִּימְטְריָא "מִקְנָה". וְעוֹד יִטְבּל לְהַקּן מַה לְהַפְּשִׁיט בִּגְדֵי חוֹל. וְעוֹד שְׁנֵי טְבִילוֹת לְקבֵּל הָאָרַת וּקְדֵשׁת שַׁבָּת. (מוֹרָה בָּאַבְת, סִימֵן ד, סְעִיף קְלוֹ)

One should try to immerse themselves into a Mikveh every Erev Shabbat. One should first dip once having in mind to remove all the impurities off one's body. Then one should dip four times corresponding the 4 different death penalties Beit Din could impose on an individual for crimes committed against Hashem. These 4 dipping's also rectify any damage done to the 4 letters of Hashem's name as well as the 4 upper worlds (Atzilut, Beriyah, Yetzirah and Asiyah). After these 4 immersions one should dip once more to wrap them all together. Finally, one should dip once in order to rectify any anger one experienced. Then one should dip 3 more times having in mind to take off the mundane spiritual aura and to don the special Shabbat aura. In total, ideally, there are 10 immersions one should strive to perform.

<u> Weekly Dose of Insights – חדושים של שבוע</u>

א. קּן עָם לְבָדָד יִשְׁכֹּן וּבַגוֹיִם לֹא יִתְחַשָּׁב - פּּרְשׁוּ רַבָּנִי אַשְׁכְּנַז: הַכּוָנָה, "הֵן עַם" בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל בִּהְיוֹתוֹ "לְבָדָד" נִפְּרָד מֵהַגוֹיִם וּמֶהָבְלֵי הָעוֹלָם הַנָּה - "יִשְׁכֹּן", אָז יִהְיָה לוֹ מְנוּחָה וְאֵין אֻמָּה וְלְשׁוֹן שׁוֹלֶטֶת בּוֹ, כְּמוֹ שֻׁאָמְרוּ: "יִשְׁכֹּן", אָז יִהְיָה לוֹ מְנוּחָה וְאֵין אֻמָּה וְלְשׁוֹן שׁוֹלֶטֶת בּוֹ, כְּמוֹ שֶׁאָמְרוּ: "אֵין לְךּ בֶּן חוֹרִין, אֶלָּא מִי שֶׁעוֹסֵק בַּתוֹרָה". אֲבָל "וּבַגוֹיִם", אִם הָעָם הַזָּה יִתְעָרֵב עִם הַגּוֹיִם לַעֲשׁוֹת כְּמִעֲשִׂיהָם יֵצֵא לָלֶכֶת בְּנִימוּסִיהֶם וְתַעֲנוּגִי הָבְלִי הָעוֹלְם הַזָּה, אָז "לֹא יִתְחַשָּׁב", הָלַךְ מִמְנֵּוּ הַחֲשִׁיבוּת וְיִהְיָה וּשְׁכַּל רוּחַ הְגוֹף. עַד כָּאן דִּבְרִיהֶם. וְאֶפְשָׁר לְהוֹסִיף "יִשְׁכֹּן" גִּימִטְרִיִּא "שְׁכִינָה" (עִם הַנּוֹלְל), כִּי בְּהְיוֹתוֹ לְבָדָד עוֹסְק בַּתוֹרָה נֹכַח פְּנֵי ה', הָנֵה הַשְּׁכִינָה עְמוֹ לְשָׁמְרוֹ מִכֶּל רַע, וְזָהוּ לְבָּדָד יִשְׁכֹּן. (כְּמַא דְּוִד דְּרוּשׁ י"ד).

הָן עָם לְבָדָד יִשְׁכּוְ וּבַגּוֹיִם לֹא יִתְחַשְּׁב

"It is a nation that will dwell alone, and will not be reckoned among the nations." (Bamidbar 23:9).

When the Jewish nation isolates themselves from the nations of the world then they will merit to dwell in peace and tranquility. However, if the Jewish people associate themselves with the nations joining them in their assimilation, then the nation will not be reckoned with and they will have no value. Additionally, the word "יִשְׁכִינָה" — dwell, has the same numerical value as the word "יִשְׁכִינָה" — Divine presence, teaching that when the nation is isolated and learning Torah, Hashem's presence rests on them.

ב. הַגָּה כָרֵךְ לֵקֶחְתִּי וּבֵרָךְ וְלָאׁ אֲשִׁיבֶנָה - יובן בס״ד לפרש, שהכוונה לומר הנה כבר ברך לקחתי בפעם ראשונה וברכתי אותם, אם כן גם כי תראה וברך פעם שנית שאברכם פעם שנית אל תצטער מזה כי אין בידי לעשות בקשתך לקללם, יעזןכי לא אוכל להשיב את ברכה הראשונה, דמאחר שזכו בה מי יכול להחזירה מהם וזהו ,ולא אשיבנה (אדרת אליהו)

הנֵה בָרָד לַקַחְתִּי וּבַרָד וְלֹא אֲשִׁיבֶנָה

"I have received [an instruction] to bless, and He has blessed, and I cannot retract it." (Bamidbar 23:20)

Bilaam was warning Balak that in his first attempt to curse the nation he actually blessed them. Therefore, should he try to curse them again it is certain that it will result in the nation receiving a second blessing. Bilaam had no power to do other, in fact, he was even unable retract his blessings.

ג. כמה טובוּ אֹהָלֶיךּ יַעֲקֹב - יִרְמֹז עַל נְשֵׁי ת"ח שֶׁמִּשְׁתַּדְּלוֹת שֶׁבַּעֲלֵיהֶן יִלְמְדוּ בַּתּוֹרָה, וְנָטְרָן לְגַּבְרִייהוּ עַד דְּאָתוּ מִבֵּי רַב, וְגַם בִּהְיוֹתָם אֶצְלָם, יִלְמְדוּ שֵּׁיִהְיָה לָהֶם יִשׁוּב לַלְמוּד. וְזֶה "מַה טוֹבוּ אֹהָלֶיךּ" - נָשֶׁיךְּ "יַעֲלְב", כִּי הֵם סְבָּה שֶׁאַתָּה "בְּמִשְׁכְּנוֹתֶיךְ" בָּתֵי מִדְרָשׁוֹת. (חוֹמַת אֲנַךְ). מַד טוֹבוּ אֹהָלִיף יַעַלְב

"How goodly are your tents, Yaakov, your dwelling places, Israel." (Bamidbar 24:5)

The tents mentioned in the Pasuk above is a reference to the wives of Torah scholars. These righteous women send their husbands to learn Torah and await their arrival every night. Even whilst the scholars are home, these women toil in their duties in order to allow their husbands to achieve a state of mind that fosters productivity in their learning. Thus the verse can be read "How goodly are your tents," i.e. your wives, "Yaakov," they allow you to learn in all "your dwelling places, Israel."