

For all inquiries and תערות, please call 845-821-6200 or E-mail: TorahTavlin@aol.com

"Imagine what would happen next. In this man's effort to identify with non-Jews, he would be forced to observe the *Shabbos* and keep all the commandments! Although, that would have imposed much hardship and inconvenience upon him, he would surely have done so, lest he be recognized as actually being Jewish! What a horrendous fate for a person who subscribes to his outlook!"

The *Slutzker Rov* had his audience laughing, imagining the absurdity of this scenario. "But, *Boruch Hashem*, now that the *Torah* was given to *Bnei Yisroel*, behaving like a non-Jew is quite appealing and convenient for him. Little wonder then, that this person recited the blessing on the *Torah* with such an intense fervor, as this is what he truly believes. He is actually quite delighted that the *Torah* was given to the Jewish people and not, Heaven forbid, to the gentile nations of the world!"

TORAH GEMS

ויאמרו כל אשר דבר ה' נעשה ונשמע וגו' (משפטים כד-ז)

Chesed is an expression of התפשטות - *Spreading out*, as one does kindness and spreads out good all over the world. However, the חסרון - *negative*, is that too much kindness can lead to a lack of restraint. When one becomes unrestrained, his inhibitions take control over him and lead him down the path of indulgence, immorality and sin. *Gevurah*, on the other hand, represents צמצום - *restraint*, and strength with clarity. The drawback is that too much restraint of character can lead to a tendency of intolerance towards others, to display anger and violence. The two are polar opposites.

R' Ephraim Wachsman Shlit"a explains: *Avrohom Avinu* represents חסד and his only negative was his son *Yishmael*. As we know, when *Hashem* came to *Bnei Yishmael* about receiving the *Torah*, they turned Him down saying that were unable to fulfill the *mitzva* of "לא תנאף" - *Adultery*, which represents the negative of *chesed*. *Yitzchok Avinu* is גבורה and his negative was *Esav*. The *Bnei Esav* didn't accept the *Torah* because of "לא תרצח" - *Murder*, which is the negative of *Gevurah*. *Bnei Yisroel*, the children of *Yaakov Avinu*, fall right in between. *Yaakov* defines the middle ground, whose purpose is to properly balance the amount of kindness and restraint that is necessary to serve *Hashem* properly. Just as we find that the Christian holy day is Sunday and the Muslim holy day is Friday, while the day given by *Hashem* to the Jewish people as a day of rest and spiritual awakening is שבת - the day sandwiched between the other "holy" days - so too, the Nation of *Yisroel*, the only nation to unanimously accept the *Torah*, is referred to as *Tiferes Yisroel*, which is the perfect balance of חסד and גבורה, which is lacking by all the other nations.

בשם עי"ש. ויש להבין, דלמה הי"ל לשמואל הנביא אשר כתב מגילת רות, להסמיק את הדין הזה דוקא במגילה זאת, אשר אין שייכות להמשך הסיפור של רות ובועז? וכתב הגמ"ר עזריאל זעליג קארעלענשטיין זצ"ל, בס' עבודת עבד, שיתכן עפ"י מאמר חז"ל על ג' דברים העולם עומד: על האמת ועל הדין ועל השלום ע"כ. דהנה העמודים אלה עולין בקנה א' שהוא האחדות אשר הוא שורש קיום העולם, כי אם יתהווה מחלוקת בין אדם לחבירו, יתנווך הדין ביניהם ואז יחדלו הקולות והמריבות ועי"ז יגמור הדין את השלום. אולם אם יש אמת ביחד עם הדין, הם יובילו אל השלום האמיתי. והנה ג' העמודים באו יחדו בבוועז הצדיק, כי היה שופט בישראל אשר הסיר הרעב בארץ בזכותו לבד, נמצא שהיה בו ענין זה של דין הצדק. וגם עמוד האמת היה בסומכיו כי הביט והתבונן על אמיתת הדבר ולא בוש לקחת גיורית מואבית להקים כל זרעו ממנה ולא חשש על המלעיגים עליו. ועתה יספר הכת' שנצטרף בו ג"כ עמוד הג', עמוד השלום, אשר יקר היה בעיניו כ"כ ויגע ללמוד כי מותר להוציא שם שמים עליו. ועל כי נקבצו יחדו ג' העמודים אשר הם קיום העולם, ע"כ היה מעותד להוציא מלכות בית דוד, השורש אחדות אומה הישראלית.

מעשה אבות.... סימן לבנים

אשר בחר בנו מכל העמים ונתן לנו את תורתו בא"י נותן התורה (ברכת התורה)

One of the leaders of the Reform assimilation movement appeared one day in the main *Shul* of *Slutzk*. The *gabbai*, not recognizing him as someone who mocked all the Jewish traditions and made every effort to deny the *Torah*, called up the guest to the reading of the *Torah*.

Surprisingly, the man recited the blessing for the *Torah* with great fervor. In a loud voice full of meaning he said, "*Blessed is Hashem who chose us from all the nations and gave us His Torah*." There were a number of people who did recognize him for who he was and knew of his derisive attitude towards *Yiddishkeit* and the *Torah*, and they commented curiously on the intensity with which he had recited the blessing. They asked their *Rov* about this.

The *Slutzker Rov ZT"L* looked at them and then said with a smile, "It's pretty clear to me. This man recited the blessing with such concentration and intensity because he is truly happy that *Hashem* gave the *Torah* to the Jewish people!" He paused for a moment, as the men standing around him looked at him quizzically. He continued. "We all know that this man has discarded anything and everything that pertains to true *Torah* Judaism. In his extreme effort to deny his Jewishness, he has adopted all the customs and practices of the non-Jewish environment. Now just think, if the *Torah* had been given to the other nations of the world, as opposed to the Jews, then they would be the ones observing all the restrictions of *Shabbos*, they would be keeping *kosher* and maintaining all the holidays. Instead of us, the *goyim* would have all the prohibitions and duties of the *Torah*!" The *Rov* winked at the listeners.