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**Abstract**

תורה

בראמי  
יצד הדע  
ובראמי לו

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*Production*

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בראתי  
יצר הרע  
ונבראתי לו

Mazel Tov to the Davis  
(Chicago) and Hoffman  
(Monsey) families on the  
engagement of  
**Nechama & Tzvi**  
and to the Steinberg,  
Davis, Hoffman & Blonder  
Grandparents. May they  
be zoche to build a בית נאמן  
לשם that will be for  
ועתה for the family and  
the entire Klal Yisroel!  
מוקדש לע"ס וקצ'ר יצחק  
בן ר' פנחס הופמן זצוק"ל  
יאהר צייט בח' שבט  
זתא ושמונת עשרה  
בצרוז החיים

# מעשה אבות .... סימן לבנים

והיה לך לאות על ירך ולזכרון בין עיניך למען תזדה תורת ה' בפך וגו' (יג-ט)

The mitzvah of Tefillin is considered the greatest positive mitzvah in the entire Torah, as it says, "למען תהיה תורת ה' בפך" - "In order that the Torah of Hashem should be on your lips." The Baal HaTanya, R' Schneur Zalman of Liadi ז"ל writes that the entire Torah is connected to Tefillin. For this reason every person needs to be careful in this mitzvah and one who wears Tefillin merits a portion in the World to Come. The fire of Gehinnom does not overtake him and all of his sins are forgiven. R' Avigdor Miller ז"ל would quote the posuk: "דשנת בשמן ראשי כוסי ריח" - "You anointed my head with oil, my cup overflows." (Tehillim 23) He would always say, "Kosi Revaya - my cup overflows" with the kindness Hashem does for me, in this world and the next!" He was once taking his daily walk and it was drizzling. He was talking about how he was enjoying the smell of Hashem's luscious vegetation when he overheard a woman telling her friend, "It is such nasty weather today." He turned to his grandson in amazement, "I see Hashem's chessed and she sees nasty weather!"

The following story was told over by the Lakewood Mashgiach, R' Matisyahu Salomon shlit'a, who heard it directly from R' Shmuel Greineman ז"ל, brother-in-law of the Chazon Ish, R' Avraham Yeshaya Karelitz ז"ל. There was once a gathering in Radin, at the home of the Chofetz Chaim, R' Yisroel Meir Kagan ז"ל, which was attended by many of the great Rabbanim and Roshei Yeshivos of Poland and Lithuania, in order to find a way to fund the Yeshivos and provide food for the starving students. The meeting went on for an extended period of time and many ideas were bandied about, but they could not come to any conclusion. It was agreed to adjourn the meeting and reconvene the next day.

The Chofetz Chaim was very pained at the lack of progress and remained sitting in his place well after the other participants had left. R' Shmuel Greineman, who was in attendance, could not bear to see the Chofetz Chaim so pained; it appeared as if the students' deprivation was literally affecting his health and countenance. R' Shmuel wished to alleviate the Tzaddik's pain and suffering and remained in the house racking his brain to come up with a solution.

He closed his eyes for a few moments and then he suddenly opened them. He had come up with what he thought was a fantastic idea. He was going to put on Tefillin the next morning by Shachris. Since Tefillin is such a great mitzvah, and its reward is so valuable, it must surely be enough to support all of the Yeshivos on an ongoing basis! He decided right then and there that he was prepared to give his reward for the mitzvah of Hanochas Tefillin the next day to all the desperate Yeshivos so that they could sustain themselves on its merits. They would never be lacking again.

He was so convinced of the merit of his idea, but he nevertheless felt the need to run it past the Chofetz Chaim and gain his approval. He jumped up and ran over to the Chofetz Chaim, who was still sitting and thinking in the same place. He approached the Tzaddik and told him, "Rebbi, I believe I have found the solution!"

Upon hearing these words, the Chofetz Chaim's face lit up and he asked what it was. R' Shmuel explained that he was planning to give his reward for the mitzvah of Tefillin the next day to the Yeshivos, so that they could support themselves!

The Chofetz Chaim looked at R' Greineman, smiled and said, "Mein Kind, my son, the Ribono Shel Olam will not accept this." He then went on to explain. "If a small child found a check for a million rubles on the street, he would probably take it to the candy store thinking that he could obtain a bag of candy for it. What would an honest and responsible storeowner do upon looking at the check? Would he take it for a bag of candy? Of course not. He would tell the child that the check is worth much more than a bag of candy, and that the child should try to return it at once."

The Chofetz Chaim then powerfully advised, "If you would only know how much putting on Tefillin just one morning is worth, more than supporting all of the Yeshivos together! Hashem will most certainly not accept your request - it is not responsible! This is what Chazal mean when they say there is no reward that can be given for a mitzvah in this world, in other words, the whole world is not enough to satisfy the greatness achieved by the performance of one mitzvah!"

## משל למא הדבר דומה

למען תספר באזני בך וכן בך את אשר התעללתי במצרים ואת אתני אשר שמתו בם וידעתם כי אני ה' וגו' (יג-יב)

משל: A Jew from Russia who lived under extreme conditions in the former USSR for many years, finally emigrated to the United States and now, residing in America, was being honored by a local organization for upholding Judaism in Russia which entailed risking his life.

A grand dinner was held in his honor and he was the featured speaker. When it was his turn to address the gathering, he related the following. He said that indeed, living in Russia was quite difficult and the authorities persecuted him for his beliefs. "And yet," said the man in his thick Russian accent, "as hard as it was to live, I believe it is

still much harder to practice religion in America, than it was in Russia!" To the astonished audience, he went on to explain that in Russia, if you didn't remain steadfast in being a religious Jew, then it wouldn't be transmitted over to your children, to the next generation. In America, however, there are so many people that are religious. So, who needs you? If you don't make it to Shacharis, there will still be a minyan without you! If you don't come to learn, the Beis Medrash will still be full. Judaism will still be transferred over regardless of you. This is in line with one who once commented it is easier to live in Siberia than in Suburbia!

# מחשבת הלב

CONCEPTS IN AVODAS HALEV  
FROM R' CHAIM YOSEF KOFMAN

חדש הזה לכם ראש חדשים ראשון  
הוא לכם לחדשי השנה וגו' (יב-ב)

There is a deep significance in Kiddush HaChodesh and why it is the first mitzvah presented to the Jewish Nation upon becoming freed slaves. A slave has no time to call his own. His days and nights are controlled by his master. Freedom means the ability to use time as one wishes and not to be dependent or controlled by anyone else. Thus, as a prelude to their new obligation to uphold the Torah, Klal Yisroel was given this special mitzvah which is truly the key to all other mitzvos. It is the task of Beis Din to sanctify the new month but it is the task of every Jew to sanctify the gift of life by his proper utilization of time.

When a person has a sizeable amount of money to invest he will seek the advice of expert investment bankers to guide him toward the greatest financial return on his money. Yet, while most people understand this, very few people realize that even more forethought, advice and planning is required in investing time, a commodity infinitely more valuable than money.

We must realize that every one of us is given a specific amount of time to live and it is our responsibility to make the most of this priceless gift by investing our time to yield the greatest return in this world and the world to come. When we leave this world a careful reckoning of every moment of our lives will be made by the heavenly court who will ascertain if the gift of time was used properly or not. There will be severe penalties for wasting or killing time. The gift of time can also be classified as an item over which one has temporary ownership. Each one of us is given a predetermined amount of time. Some people have it for longer, others shorter, but the day will come when it will be taken back from every human being. Especially the young ones who look at the long road ahead as if it were endless and do not feel the need to utilize this priceless opportunity to the fullest extent possible. They are not only guilty of killing time, but also of first degree murder. Each person has a mission that only he can fulfill. Therefore, whatever we accomplish on this earth will be what will sustain us for all future eternity.

## DRUSH V'CHIDDUSH

ולכל בני ישראל הזה אור במישבתם ... (יג-ב)

The Netziv (Ha'amek Davar) writes that these words teach us about the greatness of Klal Yisroel. The death and destruction of the wicked Egyptians actually brought light and upliftment to the righteous ones, the Jewish people.

R' Simcha Wasserman ז"ל talks about this idea and says that the greatness of a person lies in the consistency of his understanding vis-à-vis his behavior. He was in Brazil in 1953, and there was a Jew there who was a businessman, not a big Torah scholar. But the man radiated greatness, a spiritual light and glow, not unlike that which R' Simcha had seen in some of the greatest leaders of the past generation in Europe. He had tremendous admiration for him. Someone asked him why and he replied with the example of an electric light bulb. If you take two bulbs and put them next to each other, but one has a lamp shade on it

and one does not, the one without the shade will give off a greater amount of light. The shade covers up the light. The heavier the shade, the less light will be shining forth.

In our lives, we are used to people with heavy shades. We ourselves may have great understanding in our minds, but when it comes to our behavior and our character, the shade may become so heavy that very little of what we really are comes across. The light of our knowledge and understanding motivates a little, but the shade distances very much. This man in Brazil was like a small bulb, but he had tremendous sincerity and he shone with a great light.

Today, says R' Simcha, this is all around. You find it exceedingly with those who have returned to Torah observance. Many others have a bigger bulb than they, but the baalei teshuvah, in order to return to Hashem, have broken the shades, and that's why they often shine with much more light. Thank G-d, we meet them day after day.

## EDITORIAL AND INSIGHTS ON THE MIDDAH OF .... התמצית

## דרגה יתירה

FROM THE WELLSPRINGS OF  
R' GUTTMAN - RAMAT SHLOMO

ושמרתם את המצות ... (יב-יז)

Rashi points out quite famously: "Do not read 'Guard the matzos' but rather 'Guard the mitzvos.' Just as we may not permit the matzos to become chametz, so may we not permit the mitzvos to become chametz (to wait too long before we perform them). If it (a mitzvah) comes into your hand, perform it immediately." In other words, don't let the mitzvos slip through your fingers. Grab them when you can! Do we realize the ramifications of not grabbing opportunities for mitzvos? The attitude of "Tomorrow is another day" is wrong! Tomorrow is another day for OTHER opportunities and mitzvos - what you missed will never return! It is gone forever, it is like chametz on Pesach - untouchable and forbidden. If we choose to neglect a single mitzvah, it turns against us, like a piece of chametz on Pesach that will incriminate and cause us much spiritual harm.

The main reason that we are not careful to "Guard our Mitzvos" is because we are lazy. In P.C. terms ... we find it challenging to go out of our comfort zone! Remaining in your comfort zone means not going anywhere. How did R' Nosson Tzvi Finkel ז"ל turn the Mirrer Yeshiva into the Torah empire that it is today? Not by being comfortable, but by doing the thing that was the hardest. When you hear yourself saying, "This is too hard for me, it's not possible, it's beyond my abilities ... I am not smart, talented, strong, learned, motivated .... enough to do this" - you know what? THAT is your calling! This is how they would do it in Novhardok. Whatever it is that you feel you can't do - this is exactly what you are supposed to do! This is the way a person will truly grow and take the opportunities Hashem sends him to raise the bar on his Shmiras Hamitzvos!

So often we fail to guard our mitzvos and grab the opportunities that come our way because we make up excuses. We are too hot, too cold, too tired, too busy .... to EVERYTHING! Remember that success comes in CANS, not in CANNOTS!

On behalf of thousands of Shomer Shabbos Jews - www.chickensforshabbos.com - The charity that simply feeds & clothes Shomer Shabbos Jews in Pretz Yisroel with zero overhead