

Zmanim

קבלת שבת
London 8:18
Manchester 8:34
מוצאי שבת
London 9:37 (9:49 ר"ת)
Manchester 9:53 (10:04 ר"ת)

חזון בני

פ' בהר-בחקתי כ"ה אייר תשפ"א



EMUNOH IN THE PARSHA



אם בחוקותי תלכו
(ויקרא כו:ג)

The recent tragedy in Meiron is still very much on our minds. Can we find in this week's *parsha* a message that can give us strength?

The opening words of the second *parsha* read: "*Im bechukosai teleichu* - if you walk in my *chukim*, *mitzvos* you don't understand..." There are *mitzvos* we cannot understand and there are events we cannot understand. That's the first thing to know. Hashem has plans that we don't have access to. One day, Hashem will reveal everything. But for now, *im bechukosai teleichu*, we accept Hashem's *chukim*.

The **Ohr HaChaim Hakodosh z"l** on this same *posuk* offers us some comfort. The purpose of coming down to This World, he writes, is to perform the *rotzon Hashem*. And if a person dedicates his life to *Torah* and *mitzvos*, then his eventual return to *Shomayim* is actually enjoyable and pleasant - "like going upstairs to the second floor".

This is alluded to in the *posuk*: "*im bechukosai*": if a person lives their life according to Hashem's *mitzvos* with *emunoh*, then "*teleichu*", they'll be able to "move on" to *Shomayim* without any difficulty at the end of their lives.

The *kedoshim* who were tragically lost to *Klal Yisroel* were engaged in *kedushoh* up until their last moments. They hadn't travelled to a party or some other mundane activity. All they were seeking was an even greater closeness to *Torah*. The words of the **Ohr Hachaim** therefore, especially on the very *posuk* reminding us to accept Hashem's *chukim*, are particularly comforting. He reminds us that these *heilige neshomos* will have gracefully and effortlessly ascended to *Shomayim* where they will have been greeted by the *malochim* themselves. In their memory, let us dedicate our lives to living by Hashem's *chukim*. *Im bechukosai teleichu*.

EMUNOH IN THE SIDDUR



מזמור שיר חנוכת הבית

After experiencing such a difficult time in *Klal Yisroel*, it can be hard to sing. But there is one particular *kapitel Tehillim* we say in *Shacharis* every day that begins with song and ends with talking about replacing our pain with joy.

Mizmor Shir is both a conclusion to the *korbonos* and also an introduction, setting the tone for *pesukei dezimroh*. Interestingly enough, despite its opening *posuk*, it doesn't say one other word about the *Beis Hamikdosh*, its construction or dedication.

Rather, as **Rav Shimshon Refoel Hirsch z"l** explains, it has a description of a lifetime of experiences of *refuos* and *yeshuos*. There are those who say that the "*bayis*" is therefore a reference to our own lives rather than the actual *Beis Hamikdosh*.

The first *posuk* after the initial introduction says, 'I can raise You high Hashem, for You have raised me - *dilisoni* - from the depths...' The word *dilisoni* is an unusual one and is connected to the word *dli*, a bucket. A bucket is lifted from the well by drawing it up from above rather than lifting it from below.

So too with *Klal Yisroel*, there is nothing on Earth that upholds or supports us. Rather, especially in times of tragedy like the one we find ourselves in now, we are only held 'from above,' by the *Ribbono Shel Olom* Himself. It is that sense of *bitochon* that comes with an awareness of being in Hashem's hands that, despite the challenges, gives us the ability to keep going.

Q: I KNOW WE CAN'T UNDERSTAND THE WAYS OF HASHEM BUT HOW COULD THE TERRIBLE MEIRON TRAGEDY HAPPEN?

A: THIS IS THE TOUGHEST QUESTION ANYONE CAN ASK. THE GREATEST GEDOLIM - EVEN MOSHE RABBEINU - ASKED THIS SAME QUESTION. IT IS TOO SOON TO EVEN TRY AND MAKE SENSE OF WHAT HAPPENED. AND WE WILL NEVER FULLY UNDERSTAND UNTIL MOSHIACH ARRIVES.

FOR NOW, THE ESSENTIAL THING IS TO STRENGTHEN OURSELVES IN EMUNOH. WE KNOW HASHEM GUIDES THE WORLD EVEN IF WE DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW. EVERYTHING THEREFORE HAS A POSITIVE PURPOSE. MAY HASHEM BRING AN END TO THIS GLOUM AND ALL OUR SUFFERING ב"ה



EMUNOH IN OUR CHACHOMIM



Printed on the side of almost every edition of *Mishnayos* can be found the the *peirush* of the *Bartenura* written by **Rabi Ovadia MiBartenura z"l** whose *yohrzeit* falls out this week (3 Sivan). His writings illuminate every *mishna* in *Shas* with clarity and brevity.

Born in Italy, and a *talmid* of the Maharik, Rabi Ovadia became the *Rov* of Bartenura. Motivated by a pure love for *Eretz Yisroel*, he made the difficult journey to *Yerusholayim* at the age of 43 and found the holy city in absolute desolation. The small *Yerushalmi kehilloh* was on the brink of ruin from Muslim taxation and oppression, but none of this deterred him.

His very presence revitalised *Yerusholayim*, helping to rebuild its *mosdos*, *gemachim*, hospitals and *chessed* organisations, enabling the *kehilloh* to flourish. In the aftermath of the expulsion from Spain, a number of Spanish Jews made their way to *Eretz Yisroel* and *Yerusholayim*. Rabi Ovadia became their *Rov* and in return they presented him with land to establish a *Yeshiva*, the first one in *Yerusholayim* for a thousand years!

His fame spread to the whole Orient and he was respected as a *Talmid Chochom* and *manhig* of the highest order. His legacy is eternal, both in his *perushim* and in infusing life into the refugees from Spain, and starting the process of rebuilding *Yerusholayim*.

May the *yohrzeit* of a *tzaddik* who helped revitalise *Eretz Yisroel* be a sign for the imminent revitalisation of *Eretz Yisroel* again, and the end of all our *tzoros*, speedily in our days.

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AN EXTRAORDINARY PRESENTATION

עץ חיים היא למחזיקים בה
**THE TORAH:
 FOUNDATION OF OUR FUTURE**

WEDNESDAY 12TH MAY
 9:15-10PM



EMUNOH IN OUR LIVES

There are so many harrowing accounts of the recent disaster in *Eretz Yisroel*. But even in the darkness a few rays of light have started to shine through. One such ray of light is a handwritten letter. It had been written by one of the *kedoshim*, **Reb Shimon Matlon z"l**, and given in a sealed envelope to his close *chaver*, Yossi Elituv, to be opened after Shabbos. After the heart-rending *levaya* on Sunday, Yossi decided to open the letter. Through his tears, this is what he read:

Instead of being filled with disappointment, accept everything with love; instead of being rigid, be flexible; instead of grumbling, let your mind take the lead; instead of complaining, just give more thanks; instead of blaming the whole world, remember Who is in control; instead of getting annoyed, strengthen your emunoh; instead of seeing black, choose to see the glass half full...

Mi ke'amchoh Yisroel.