

NEW

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# LIKKUTEI SICHOS

INSIGHTS INTO THE WEEKLY PARSHA  
BY THE LUBAVITCHER REBBE



Dedicated to

# **Emmanuel (Mendel) Karp**

*1905 - 1989*

son of Bernard (Berl) and Rose (Rezele)



Manny Karp was born in the United States, in 1905. His first language was Yiddish.

Losing his mother to the Spanish Flu shaped his resilience and commitment to helping others, ultimately leading to a career as a guidance counselor in Philadelphia public schools. He also served many years as the director of Camp Akiba in the Poconos.

Karp's legacy is characterized by his optimism and unwavering dedication to learning and mentorship. Emmanuel Karp died in 1989.

# MIKEITZ I | מקץ א

Adapted from a *sichah* delivered on the festival of Redemption, *Yud-Tes Kislev*,<sup>1</sup> 5717 (1956)

## Introduction

In a dream world, anything can happen. When a person is awake, his mind functions with order and structure; there are logical limits and patterns, but when dreaming, there are no bounds to his imagination and he can fantasize the impossible – the impossible good, but also its opposite.

In the era of exile, “we are like dreamers”<sup>2</sup> – the spiritual structure of the world is topsy-turvy. G-dliness is hidden, the world appears to run on its own, and what is good and what is bad is not apparent. But this dream-state also allows for positive developments that defy our logical thought, leading to good beyond our ordinary conception.

This understanding revolutionizes how we approach Divine service in this era. No matter what our level, we can ascend incomprehensibly higher. Moreover, even if our conduct is entirely outside the realm of holiness, in one moment, we can transform ourselves, changing radically and reaching the loftiest levels.

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1. In the year the *sichah* was delivered, *Yud-Tes Kislev* fell on Friday. Thus, the *Yud-Tes Kislev farbrengen* was held *Motze’ei Shabbos*, 20 Kislev.

2. Cf. *Tehillim* 126:1; cited in *Torah Or*, p. 28c.



# Waking from a Dream World

## Where Dreams Lead

1. At the beginning of *Parshas Mikeitz*, the Torah speaks of Pharaoh's dreams.<sup>1</sup> Similarly, *Parshas Vayeishev*, the Torah portion of the previous week, speaks of dreams – Yosef's dreams<sup>2</sup> and the dreams of Pharaoh's chief butler and chief baker.<sup>3</sup>

All of these dreams were contributing factors leading to the exile in Egypt, the root of all exiles.<sup>4</sup> Since everything occurs due to Divine Providence it follows logically that the consequence – exile – shares a connection with and resembles the contributing factors: dreams.

א. אין אנְהוֹבֵ פָנִים פְּרִשְׁתַּ מִקְּזָן, אָנוּ אָזְזִי אָוִיךְ אִינְזָרְ דָּעָרְ פְּרִיעָרְדִּיקְעָרְ סְדָרָה, וַיְשַׁבְּ דָּעָרְצִיְּלָטְ דִּי תְּוָהְ וַיְעַנְּןְ חָלְמוֹתְ: דָּעָרְ חָלוֹםְ פָּנִים פְּרָעָהִזְ (אִינְ פְּרִשְׁתַּ מִקְּזָן) אָנוּ דָּעָרְ חָלוֹםְ פָּנִים יוֹסְפֵּזְ, מִיטְ דִּי חָלוֹמוֹתְ פָּנִים שָׁרְ הַמְּשִׁקְים אָנוּ שָׁוְ הַאָוֹפִים (אִינְ פְּרִשְׁתַּ וַיְשַׁבְּ).

דִּי אָלָעְ חָלוֹמוֹתְ זַיְנָעַןְ גַּעֲוָעַןְ סִיבּוֹתְ וַיְעַלְכָּעַ אַבְנָןְ גַּעֲבָרָאַכְטְ צָוְ גָּלוֹתְ מַצְרִיםְ - דָּעָרְ שְׁרָשְׁ פָּנִים אָלָעְ גַּלְיוֹתְ. אָזְזִי וַיְיַיְאַלְעַנְיִינְיםְ זַיְנָעַןְ בַּהֲשָׁגָהְ פְּרָטִיטִ, מַטְילָאְ אִינְ פְּאַרְשָׁטְעַנְדָּלָעְ, אָזְ דָּעָרְ מַסּוֹבָבְ - גָּלוֹתְ הַאֲטְ אַשְׁיִיכּוֹתְ אָנוּ אַיְזָעַלְעַדְ צָוְ דָּעָרְ סִיבּהְ - חָלוֹםְ.

## A Level Above Contradictions

2. As explained in various sources including *Torah Or*,<sup>5</sup> the connection between exile and dreams is that dreams stem from the power of imagination, which allows for two opposites to coexist simultaneously. Indeed, if a person thought about the matter beforehand,<sup>6</sup> he could dream about seeing an elephant fit through a needle-hole.

Exile allows for contradictions of a similar nature.<sup>7</sup> A person may think that he loves G-d, and yet, he also loves his own body, even

בְּ. דִי שִׁיְיכּוֹתְ פָנִים גָּלוֹתְ צָוְ חָלוֹםְ וַיְעַרְטְ דָּרְקָלְעָרְטְ אִינְ פְּאַרְשִׁיזְעָנְ עַרְטָעָרְ, אָנוּ אָוִיךְ אִינְ תּוֹרָהְ אָוּרְ, אָזְ חָלוֹםְ נַעֲמָתְ זַיְקְ פָנִים פְּחַחַמָּהְ (פְּאַרְשָׁטְעַלְגָּגְסְכָחְ), וַיְעַלְכָּעַרְ פְּאַרְאַיְנִיקְטְ צַוְיִיְ קַעֲגַנְנָאַצְןְ צַוְאָמָעְןְ, בֵּין אָפְיַיְלְ "פִּילָאְ בְּקֹפְאְ דְמַחְתָּאְ" (אָן עַלְפָאַגְטְ אִינְ אַזְיַעַרְ פָנִים אַנְאַלְ), אָוִיבְ עַדְ הַאֲטְ נַאֲרְ פְּרִיעָרְ גַּעֲטָרָאַכְטְ וַיְעַגְנָדָעְםְ.

אָזְזִי אָוִיךְ אִינְ דָּעָרְ צִיִּיטְ פָנִים גָּלוֹתְ, דָּכְטְ זַיְקְ אִיםְ אֹוִיסְ אָזְ עַדְ הַאֲטְ לִבְ קָעְםְ אָוִיבְעַרְשָׁטְןְ אָנוּ פְּוֹנְדָעְסְטוּעָגְןְ הַאֲטְ עַדְ

1. *Bereishis* 41:1-7.

2. *Ibid.* 37:5-9.

3. *Ibid.* 40:5-19.

4. *Likkutei Torah of the Arizal, Parshas Ki Seitzei*.

5. *Torah Or*, p. 28c ff.

6. See *Berachos* 55b. Although the Talmud states that a person cannot dream about such a matter, if a person thought about the matter during the day, it is possible for him to dream about it at night (the Rebbe's *Igros Kodesh*, Vol. 3, p. 234).

7. When a person is asleep, his conscious faculties are withdrawn and two opposites can exist simultaneously. By contrast when he wakes, his conscious faculties return and such contradictions are no longer tenable within his mind.

though these two loves cannot exist simultaneously.<sup>8</sup> He may live with this inner dichotomy to the extent that, despite his feelings of love for G-d – as explained elsewhere – he can be inundated by his bodily desires and, furthermore, even violate G-d's will.

Nevertheless, *Torah Or* concludes<sup>5</sup> that such internal contradictions are consistent with the state of exile; for example, after prayer, a person may act in a manner opposite to the feelings he experienced during prayer. One should not think that such conduct proves that the person's prayers, Torah study, and fulfillment of *mitzvos* are worthless. This is not true. Instead, the possibility results because exile is comparable to a dream state. Just as dreams originate from a very lofty source, one so transcendent in nature that it allows for the coexistence of opposites, so too, a source that is similarly transcendent shines forth specifically in the era of exile. (Consult that source,<sup>5</sup> where this is explained at length.)

elib zeyin aiyin ungavim gof - katash  
beyidur vaken kavunon galuyicitzitik  
nit gamalat zeyin, biv vanaanun az  
(vov us vovrat azin a zoniyin arat  
daraklurut) ur kavun ligun azin  
ta'ot azin afilu u'vz zeyin aiyin  
d'um avivurshutnos razon.

fangdustovun, pirkut ur avos  
d'aratz azin torah avod, zael mun  
nit miyinun, azo vovbaled azo nakan  
d'awnun kavun ur t'an farakurut  
vov ur ha'at guh'alton azin d'awnun  
azin a raya azo zeyin tefla mitz di  
torah v'mitzot zeyinun g'aravishet,  
azin das nit azo. D'ur shenesh pon  
cholom azin pon zeyin ur a hokon arat  
azin das li'ibet b'zman ha'golot d'ok  
(yeyun shem b'arocha).

## The Timeless and the Transient

3. To clarify the lesson that we can derive from the above regarding our own spiritual service: Every Jew's soul is always whole and the Torah he studies and the *mitzvos* he observes are eternal.<sup>9</sup> By contrast, his undesirable actions are merely of a passing nature, for every Jew will ultimately turn to G-d in *tshuvah*.<sup>10</sup> Accordingly, even at present, these undesirable acts are merely temporary. They are like the "lying rivers" which, as described by our Sages,<sup>11</sup> dry up even once in seven years. Hence, even when water is flowing in them, since they will later dry up, that water is not considered "living water," and is not valid for use in the ritual purification of a person who became ritually impure due to contact with a human corpse.<sup>12</sup>

ג. ד' d'araklurong d'urpon azin  
ubzohah b'nefesh ha'adam azin:  
b'iy u'dur azin d'ur v'fesh  
ha'alikit al'ul mal ganz. Di torah  
v'mitzot v'os a id totot zeyinun  
aiyibik - le'olom v'ed. D'akunon di  
nit r'ibtik u'vakan v'os ur totot  
zeyinun me'ur nit vov zityovilik  
(vovil u'dur id v'ut d'ak sof)  
k'lisof t'shoba (t'an). B'mila  
azin aiyik aitzetur v'yein zeyin nit  
k'ain d'bar shel kiyama (sh'tunridik  
zak), azin aoyi vov nhorot ha'mbeniyin  
(teivin vovulcu torikunun aiyin).

8. See *Chovos HaLevavos*, *Shaar 8*, ch. 3, ofen 25, cited in *Sefer HaMaamarim* 5700, p. 76.

9. *Tanya*, ch. 25.

10. *Tanya*, ch. 39; the Alter Rebbe's *Shulchan Aruch*, *Hilchos Talmud Torah* 4:3.

11. *Parah* 8:9. See *Likkutei Sichos*, Vol. 1, p. 36, footnote 22.

12. The purification rites for such a person require *mayim chayim*, "living water," water from a stream or spring that does not dry up.

For similar reasons, evil can never outweigh good, for evil is not enduring, while good always remains constant.

The above explanations highlight an advantage that the era of exile possesses over the era of the *Beis HaMikdash*. In the era of the *Beis HaMikdash*, the *kochos p'nimim*, the internal powers of the soul – i.e., the powers of thought, feeling, and the like – shone forth powerfully.<sup>13</sup> These powers have inherent limitations – what is holy is holy and what is impure is impure; the two cannot coexist. Thus, an impure person may not enter the *Beis HaMikdash*.<sup>14</sup>

In the era of exile, by contrast, the encompassing powers (the *kochos makifim*) of the soul<sup>15</sup> shine forth, and regarding them, there are no limitations. In a similar vein, the Torah relates<sup>16</sup> how G-d “dwells with you, amidst your impurity.”

אוֹן דָּעֵר פָּאָר קָעַן נִיט דָּעַר רָע  
אַיְבָּעָרְוָעָגְן חָס וְשָׁלוֹם זָעַם טָוב,  
וְוַיְלַע עָר אַיְזָנִיט קִיְּזָנִים דָּבָר שָׁלָע  
קִימָא, דָּאָקָעָגְן דָּעַר טָוב אַיְזָאָלָע  
מָאָל גָּאנָע.

אוֹן אַיְזָנִים זָעַם אַיְזָדָא אַיְזָמָעָה  
אַיְזָנִים הַבִּתְהָאָבָן גַּעַלְוִיכְטָן דִּי כְּחָוָת  
”פָּנִים מִים” (אַיְנָעָוָוִינִיְקָסְטָע כְּחָוָת)  
פָּוָן דָּעַר נִשְׁמָה. אוֹן אַוְיָפְּזָע זָעַם אַיְזָדָא  
אַיְזָמָעָה (בָּאַגְּרָעָנָעָצָנָגָגָג). דָּעֵר פָּאָר  
טָאָר אַטְמָא נִיט אַרְיִינְקָוּמָעָן אַיְזָנִים  
מִקְדָּשׁ. אַבָּעָר אַיְזָנִים זָעַם פָּוָן גְּלוּתָה  
לִיְכָטָן דִּי כְּחָוָת מִקְיָפִים פָּוָן נִשְׁמָה,  
אוֹן אַיְזָנִים זָעַם זִיְגָעָן נִיטָא קִיְּזָעָן  
בָּאַגְּרָעָנָעָצָנָגָגָג, אַזְׁוִי וּוּיְעָסְטִיטִיטָה:  
הַשּׁוֹכוֹן אַתְּמָמָה בְּתֹוךְ טָמָאָותָם.

## Abnormal Times Call for Unusual Responses

4. A practical lesson to derive from the above concepts:

There are those who err and maintain that the only path in Divine service is to follow a step-by-step progression, advancing from easier tasks to more difficult ones. Until one has completed the initial stages, he cannot even begin to think of proceeding to more advanced ones.

Such an approach would be appropriate if every dimension of the person's conduct were well-arranged and orderly. However, in the present era, “we are like dreamers.”<sup>17</sup> In other words, the nature of the

ד. דִּי הַזְּרָאָה בְּפָעָל פָּוָן זָעַם אַיְזָנִים  
נִיט וּוּיְדִי וּוּעַלְכָעָה הַאָבָן אַטְעָוָת  
אוֹן מִיְּנָעָן אַז דָּעַר אַיְנְצִיקָעָר  
מַעְגָּלָעָכָעָר וְוַעֲגָא אַיְזָנִים מִיטָּא  
מַסּוֹדָר/דִּיקָעָר עַבְדָּה פָּוָן גַּרְינְגָעָר  
צָו שְׁוּוּעָרָר, אוֹן בָּל זָמָן עָרָאָר  
נִיט פָּאָרְטִיקָעָר מִיטָּא דִּי עַרְשָׁטָע טְרָעָעָפָע  
קָעַן עָרָנִיט אַנְהָוִיבָן טְרָאָכָטָן וְוַעֲגָן  
דִּי הַעֲכָרָעָע טְרָעָעָפָע. דָּאָס וּוּאָלָט  
גְּעוּוֹן דִּיקְטִיק אַזְׁוִי אַלְעָעָנִינִים  
וּוְאַלְטָן גְּעוּוֹן בִּי אַיְם מַסּוֹדָר/דִּיקָעָר,  
וּוְיַבָּאָלְד אַבָּעָר אַז “הַיְיָנוּ כְּחֹלְמִים”,

13. See *Sefer HaMaamarim* 5709, p. 108, sec. 2.

controlled by a person's conscious thought.

14. See *Bamidbar* 5:2.

The powers mentioned above are described as internal, because they relate to specific organs of the body – the intellectual powers to the brain, the emotional powers to the heart – and also because they are

15. The term *kochos makifim*, “encompassing powers” refers to powers, such as will, pleasure, and faith, that are called encompassing because a) they do not relate to any specific organ of the body, but rather to the person as a totality, and b) they are not under the control of a

person's conscious will.

16. *Vayikra* 16:16. See *sichas Chag HaPesach*, 5718, printed in *Likkutei Sichos*, Vol. 1, p. 247 where this concept is developed further.

17. Cf. *Tehillim* 126:1; cited in *Torah Or, loc. cit.*, concerning the comparison between the era of exile and dreams.

times allows for the coexistence of opposites, as mentioned above. Accordingly, our Divine service need not conform to logical structures. One can – and should – carry out any type of Divine service that presents itself, following the spiritual parallel implied by our Sages' directive,<sup>18</sup> "Grab and eat; grab and drink," i.e., seize the opportunity to carry out a *mitzvah* whenever the opportunity presents itself.

Even a person whose spiritual level has fallen to the degree that "it is impossible [for him]... to begin serving G-d unless he first repents for [his] past,"<sup>19</sup> should not abandon hope. Regardless of his past conduct, he should seize whatever opportunity to serve G-d that presents itself. As the Alter Rebbe rules in *Tanya*<sup>20</sup> – which communicates the Torah's inner, mystical dimension (*pnimiyus haTorah*),<sup>21</sup> and in his *Shulchan Aruch*,<sup>22</sup> which communicates its revealed, legal framework (*galya d'Torah*) – such a person should also study the Torah and observe *mitzvos*. True, until he repents, he is adding energy to the forces of impurity. Nevertheless, he is assured that "no one [will remain perpetually] estranged from Him"<sup>23</sup> and when he ultimately returns to G-d in *teshuvah*, the Torah he studied and the *mitzvos* he observed will also return with him.

קען מען, און דארף מען, טאן  
יעדע עבדה אין עבדת ה'  
וואס קומט צו דער האנט,  
לויט דער אונזיזונג פון  
רוז"ל, חטוף ואכלול חטוף  
ויאשטי.

און אפילו דער וואס איז  
אין אוא מצב וואס אויף...  
אימ שטיטיט" "אי אפשר...  
להתחליל לעבוד ה' בל'  
שיעשה תשובה על העבר  
תחלה", פונדעסטוועגן  
פסק'יט דער אלטער רב'י  
אין פגיאא - פנימיות הتورה,  
און און שלחן ערוק" - גלי'א  
דתורה, או אוק ער זאל  
לערנען תורה און מקיים זיין  
מצות. קטש און דערויל  
אי ער מוסיף כה כו', מכל  
מקום איז ער דאך זיכער  
שללא ידה ממנו נדח, און  
דעםאלט ווועט דאך אוק זיין  
תורה און מצות צוריקקערן  
זיך מיט אים.

## Uncovering Wisdom That Was Hidden

5. These principles – that presently our Divine service need not conform to logical structures and that we should carry out any and all types of Divine service presented to us – apply not only to the revealed dimension of the Torah, but also to its inner, mystical dimension and the customs and practices associated with it. An allusion to this can be found in words of our Sages cited previously:<sup>18</sup> "Grab and eat" can be interpreted as referring to the Torah's revealed dimension, which is called "bread"<sup>24</sup> and

ה. דאס אלץ איז ניט נאר  
בנונג גלי'א דתורה, נאר אויך  
בנונג פנימיות הتورה און  
אייע מנהיגים און פירונגען,  
און לויט דער אונזיזונג פון  
רוז"ל: חטוף ואכלול (- גלי'א  
דתורה, וואס איז געאליך  
צו לחם), חטוף ויאשטי (-

18. *Eruvin* 54a.

refers to the teachings of Kabbalah, particularly as illuminated by the Baal Shem Tov and the Rebbeim who followed him.

20. *Ibid.*, end of ch. 39.

22. The Alter Rebbe's *Shulchan Aruch*, *Hilchos Talmud Torah* 4:3.

19. *Tanya*, ch. 17, with regard to the Divine service of the wicked.

23. *II Shmuel* 14:14, as interpreted by the Alter Rebbe in *Tanya* and in his *Shulchan Aruch*, *op. cit.*

24. *Chagigah* 14a, *et al.* See *Likkutei Torah*, *Vayikra*, pp. 40b, 48b.

21. The term *Pnimiyyus haTorah*

“Grab and drink” can be interpreted as concerning the Torah’s inner, mystic dimension, which is compared to water.<sup>25</sup>

True, in previous generations, one could not begin the study of *pnimiyus haTorah* until he underwent many preparatory stages. Nevertheless, the world’s spiritual climate has changed. In the present time, “it is a *mitzvah* to reveal this wisdom.”<sup>26</sup> This is especially true after the revelation of the teachings of *Chassidus* by the Baal Shem Tov, the Alter Rebbe, and their successors. *Pnimiyus haTorah* has now become like all the disciplines of Torah study, and every Jew is obligated to study all the Torah’s disciplines.<sup>27</sup>

פנימיות התורה, וואס איז געגליכן צו  
מען).<sup>28</sup>

הgam או מיט דורות פרייר האט  
מען ניט געקבנט אנהויבן לערנען  
פנימיות התורה בין מען איי פרייר  
דוריגענאנגען כפה וכמה הנקות, איז  
אבער אין די היינטיקע דורות “מצוה  
לגלות זאת החכמה”<sup>29</sup> (א מצוה צו  
אנטפלעקן די דזאינעך חכמה), ובפרט,  
נאך דער התגלות פון תורה החסידות  
דורך דעם בעל שם טוב און פבז קדושת  
ארדמורר הזקן און זיינער נאכפאלגער,  
אייז דאס געווואן אוזי ווי אלען חלקיים  
פון תורה וואס יעדר איז איז דאך  
מחויב לערנען אלע חלקיים פון תורה<sup>30</sup>.

### For the Light to Dawn

6. This approach – “Grab and eat; grab and drink,” i.e., continually increasing one’s observance of the Torah and its *mitzvos* without reckoning with one’s spiritual standing or questioning whether one is fit for or worthy of such study or practice – is comparable to a dream in which two opposites can coexist.

Moreover, this approach relates not only to dreams and exile, but also to the manner through which the Jews will emerge from exile. Through increasing the light of the Torah and its *mitzvos*, through that light itself, we will awaken ourselves and the world from the slumber of exile and bring the true light of redemption, as it is written,<sup>28</sup> “G-d will be an eternal light for you.” And, as we see in actual life, a person naturally wakes from sleep when light shines.

ו. און דורך דער הנהגה פון חתוך  
ואכול חטוף ואישתי, או מען ווועט זיך  
ניט רעכענען מיטן אייגענעם צוישטאנד  
צי מען האלט דערבי צי ניט, נאר מען  
וועט האלטן אין איזין מען אין תורה  
וממצוות (וואס איז ענלאעך צו דעם  
ענין פון חלום כנ"ל),

- איז דורך דעם מען דעם אוור פון  
תורה וממצוות גופא, נעט מען אוונעך  
דעם גלויות-שלאך און מען ברעננט דעם  
אמת' אוד הגאולה, הווי' יהיה לך לאוד  
עלסם, אוזי ווי מען זעט איז בשעת עס  
ווערט ליכטיק כאפט מען זיך אויף פון  
שלאך.

25. See also *Likkutei Sichos*, Vol. 2, p. 432.

Epistle 26, citing the Arizal. See the introduction to *Eitz Chayim* by Rav Chayim Vital.

26. *Tanya*, *Iggeres HaKodesh*,

27. See the Alter Rebbe’s *Shulchan Aruch*, *Hilchos Talmud* 1:4, 2:10.

28. *Yeshayahu* 60:20.

## The Ultimate Awakening

7. The above concepts point to the lesson to be taken from the fact that dreams led to the exile in Egypt and the ensuing exodus from that land. The exile in Egypt was the most difficult exile. For that reason, all subsequent exiles are also referred to as *Mitzrayim* ("Egypt").<sup>29</sup> Nevertheless, that exile specifically led to a significant advance, as alluded to G-d's promise to Abraham,<sup>30</sup> "Afterwards, they will emerge with great wealth."

Similar concepts apply regarding the present exile. True, all of our Divine service during the era of exile is comparable to a dream state. Nevertheless, the transcendent quality of dreams enables one to attain a loftier level of Divine service, to ascend to a rung higher than any expectations, and to increase the light of the Torah and its *mitzvos*. This light will rouse us and the world from the slumber of exile and lead to the fulfillment of G-d's promises,<sup>31</sup> "As in the days of your exodus from Egypt, I will show [My people] wonders." This will take place with the coming of *Mashiach* speedily, in our days.

29. *Bereishis Rabbah* 16:4.

30. *Bereishis* 15:14.

31. *Michah* 7:15.

ו. און דאס איז די אַנוּזִוָּג פון דעם  
וועס חָלוּמָות זִיְנָעַן גַּעֲוָעַן אַסְיָה צוֹ  
גָּלוּתָה מִצְרָיִם אָוֹן יֵצֵאַת מִצְרָיִם.

גָּלוּתָה מִצְרָיִם אָוֹן גַּעֲוָעַן דָּעַר  
שְׁוּעָרְסְּטָעַר גָּלוּתָה, דָּעַרְפָּאָר וּוּרְאָן אַלְעָגָן  
גָּלוּתָה אַנְגָּעָרְפָּן מִצְרָיִם", פָּוּנְדָּעָסְטָוּעָגָן  
אָוֹן מַעַן דָּוְקָא דָּוְרָךְ דָּעַם גָּלוּתָה  
צְוָעָקְוָמָעַן צָוָם "אַתָּהִי כִּן יֵצֵאַ בְּרִכּוּשׁ  
גָּדוֹלָה".

אוֹזֵי אַוְיךְ אַין אִיצְטִיקָּן גָּלוּתָה, בָּאַטְשָׁתָה  
דִּי גָּאנְגָּעַץ עַבְוֹדָה אַין דָּעַר צִיִּיטָפָן גָּלוּתָה  
אַין אָן עַנְיָן פָּוָן חָלוּמָם, פָּוּנְדָּעָסְטָוּעָגָן,  
אַין אַזְרָבָה, מַצְדָּךְ דָּעַם גַּופָּא וּוּסָעַס  
אַין אָנֵי אָן אָוְפָן פָּוָן חָלוּמָם, קָעָן מַעַן זִיךְרָה  
אַרְוִיְּפָכָאָפָן צָוָם אַהֲכָעָרָרָר מַדְרִיגָּה, אַין  
אָנֵן פָּוָן אַיְבָעָרְשָׁפְרִינְגָּעָן, אָן מַעַן  
דָּעַם אָוֹר פָּוָן תּוֹרָה וּמְצֹוֹת, וּוּסָעַס דָּאָס  
נָעָמָט אָוֹעָקָד דָּעַם שְׁלָאָרָף פָּוָן גָּלוּתָה אָנוֹן  
בְּרָעָנָגָט צָוָם "כִּיְמִי צָאָתָךְ מַאֲרָצָךְ מִצְרָיִם  
אַרְאָנוּ נַפְלָאוֹתִי", בְּבִיאָת מַשִּׁיחָה צְדָקָנוּ  
בְּמִהְרָה בִּימֵינוּ.

(משיחת חג הגאולה, י"ט בסלו, תש"י"ג)

(ד) אגרת הקדש ס"כ"ו אַין נָאָמָעַן פָּוָן  
אַרְיוֹן".  
(טו) זַעַלְלָוָת תַּלְמָדוֹת תּוֹרָה לְרַבְנָן הַזָּקָן  
פ"א ס"ד. פ"ב ס"ג.  
(טו) יְשֻׁעָיָה, ס. כ.  
(טו) מַדְרָשָׁה בָּהָרָה מִתְּבָרָה פ"ד ה"ג.  
(י"ז) מַדְרָשָׁה בָּהָרָה מִתְּבָרָה, ב. בְּחוּקוֹתִי מַתָּה,  
(ח) בְּרָאִשְׁתָּו, יְהִי.  
(יט) מִיכָּה ז, טו.

(א) לקוטי תורה מהאריז"ל פרשת תצ"א.  
(ב) אַיִן פָּרָשָׁה וַיִּשְׁבַּ, כח, ג.  
(ג) עַיִּין בְּרוּכָתָה, סּוֹפָע"ב. וְקָל לְהַבְּנִין.  
(ט) תְּנִיאָ פ"י".  
(י) סְפָלְטָה.  
(ד) תְּנִיאָ פְּכָחָה.  
(ה) פָּרָה פ"ח מ"ט. זַעַלְלָוָת תַּלְמָדוֹת תּוֹרָה פ"ד ה"ג.  
(יא) הַלְכָוֹת תַּלְמָדוֹת תּוֹרָה פ"ד ה"ג.  
(יב) לְקֹוטִי תּוֹרָה בָּהָרָה מִתְּבָרָה.  
(יב) עַמּוֹד 36 הָעֲרָה. 22  
(ו) סְפָר הַמְּאַמְּרִים תש"ט ע' 108 אות ב.  
(ז) מַעַר אַוִּיסְפִּירְלָעַךְ זַעַלְלָוָת חָג הַפְּסָחָה י"ג זַעַלְלָוָת לְקֹוטִי תּוֹרָה 432.

## MIKEITZ II | מִקְצָה בָּ

Adapted from a *sichah* delivered on Shavuos, 5713 (1953)

### Introduction

It is a well-known truism that adversity brings out hidden strengths. Facing challenges forces us to dig deeper, to discover resilience we did not know we possessed. This principle applies in spiritual life as much as in any other endeavor.

But the teaching that follows goes beyond this familiar concept in two crucial ways.

First, Yosef's greatness was not merely that he descended into the material world and then rose above it. Rather, even while thoroughly engaged in Egypt's commercial and political affairs – immersed in matters that would ordinarily distance a person from G-dliness – he remained in a state of complete unity (*d'veikus*) with the Divine. His spiritual consciousness was not set aside during his worldly activities; it permeated them. He functioned on two planes simultaneously: fully present in the material realm, yet never separate from G-d.

Second, the power Yosef accessed through his descent into “the land of my hardship”<sup>1</sup> was not simply the hidden strength within his own soul. Instead, he succeeded in confronting these challenges by going beyond himself and connecting with G-d's very Essence – a dimension of Divinity so transcendent that it defies all limitations and provides truly insurmountable strength. He prevailed not because he discovered strength that was already within his soul, but because he accessed what lies infinitely beyond.

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1. *Bereishis* 41:52.



# A Springboard for Growth

## A Tzadik in the Land of Hardship

1. The concept – that specifically through exile, one achieves a great ascent – is also reflected in this week's Torah reading. Yosef named his second son, Ephraim (אפרים),<sup>1</sup> because “G-d made me fruitful” (הפרי) in the land of my hardship.” It is specifically “the land of [his] hardship” that made Yosef “fruitful”; it brought him increased light.<sup>2</sup>

Yosef's innate spiritual level was extremely lofty. *Toras Chayim*<sup>3</sup> and other sources clarify that this is the reason Yosef was punished for asking the butler to mention him to Pharaoh.<sup>4</sup> He should not have sought natural means to resolve his difficulties.

True, Yaakov also did so.<sup>5</sup> However, Yaakov related to a level of G-dly light that could be enclothed within and adapted to the structure of *Seder Hahishtalshelus*, the chainlike progression of existence which is the source of the natural order. Therefore, he worried that perhaps his sins would influence his fate.<sup>6</sup> Accordingly, he needed to seek natural means.

Yosef, by contrast, was identified as *tzaddik elyon*, “the sublime tzadik.” On his level, he should not have feared anything and should not have used natural means.

Similar concepts are also explained in the above source concerning the verse,<sup>7</sup> “Yosef recog-

א. דער דערמאנטער ענין – אן דורך גלות דוקא וווערט א גראסעערע עליה, איז מרוּפֶז אוּיך איז ניינטיקער סדרה, איז דעם טעם פאָרוֹאַס אַפְּרִים איז אַנְגָּרָוָפָן גַּעֲוָאָרָן מיט דעם נָאָמָעָן, ווַיַּלְלַּי “כִּי הַפְּרִנִּי אַלְקִים בָּאָרֶץ עַנְיִי”. דורך אָרֶץ “עַנְיִי” (אַרְעַמְקִיט) דוקא איז גַּעֲוָאָרָן דורך הַפְּרִנִּי (מעון מיך), אַ תּוֹסְפָּת אָז אַין יוֹסֵף.

די מעלה פון יוֹסֵף פָּאָר זִיך אַלְיִין אַין זִיכְרָא הַוְיָע. אָוָן ווַיַּלְקְעַרְתָּ אַין תּוֹרַת חַיִּים אָוָן אַין פָּאָרְשִׁידְעָנָע עַרְטָעָר דָּעָר טַעַם פָּאָרוֹאַס יוֹסֵף אַיז בָּאַשְׁטָרָפֶט גַּעֲוָאָרָן פָּאָר דָעָם ווְאָס עַר הָאָט גַּעֲמָאָכְט גְּלִים אַיז טָבָע, כָּאָטָש אַז יַעֲקֹב הָאָט אַזְׁיִ גַּעֲטָאַן, ווַיַּלְלַּי יַעֲקֹב אַיז גַּעֲוָעָן אַיז סְדָר הַשְׁתְּלָשָׁוֹת, הָאָט עַר מָוָאָה גַּעֲהָאָט שָׁמָא יִגְּרוֹם הַחַטָּאָי, דָּרְפָּאָר הָאָט עַר גַּעֲזָאָרָפֶט מָאָכְן גְּלִים אַיז טָבָע, אַבְּעָר יוֹסֵף צְדִיק עַלְיוֹן, הָאָט מָצָד זַיְן מְדֻרָּגָה נִיט גַּעֲדָאָרָפֶט מָוָאָה הָאָכְן פָּאָר קַיְנָע עַנְיִינִים אָוָן נִיט גַּעֲדָאָרָפֶט אַנְקּוּמָעָן צַו טָבָע.

דאָס עַלְבָּע שְׁטִיִּיט דָּאָרֶט אַזְׁיִ – אַוְיִפְּנֵן פְּסָוק וַיַּכְרֵן יוֹסֵף אֶת אַחֲיוֹ וְהָם

1. *Bereishis* 41:52.

2. The words “made me fruitful” imply that not only did the hardship Yosef face increase his power to influence others but that he too – despite his inherent lofty level – became elevated as a result.

3. *Toras Chayim*, *Bereishis*, the

maamar entitled *Ben Poreis Yosef*, p. 248a, in the latest edition.

4. *Rashi*, *Bereishis* 40:23.

5. I.e., it was considered a sin for Yosef to have asked Pharaoh's chief butler to speak favorably about him to Pharaoh (*Rashi*, *Bereishis* 40:23). By contrast, Yaakov was not judged

in such a manner, even though he tried to appease Esav and sought his forgiveness by sending him presents and calling him “My lord.”

6. *Berachos* 4a.

7. *Bereishis* 42:8.

nized his brothers, but they did not recognize him.” Yosef’s brothers, like the Patriarchs, were shepherds, removed from the world, choosing this occupation so that the world would not disturb their connection with G-d.

Yosef, by contrast, was on such a lofty spiritual level that he could be thoroughly invested in worldly activities and yet remain at one with G-d. He served as the ruler of Egypt, the world’s commercial center at the time. Pharaoh had decreed, “without your [consent], no man shall raise his arm.”<sup>8</sup> The simple meaning of that verse<sup>9</sup> – and our Sages<sup>10</sup> emphasize that “a person never departs from a simple meaning” – is that before an Egyptian could don his weaponry, he would have to ask Yosef. Even while Yosef was engrossed in such activities, he was at the same time utterly at one (*davuk*) with G-dliness. For this reason, his brothers were unable to recognize him. They could not understand how he could be so involved with material matters and still maintain such a lofty spiritual consciousness.

Nevertheless, despite being on such an elevated spiritual rung, Yosef had to experience “the land of my hardship” before becoming fruitful, i.e., being elevated to a higher level.

### Where the Divine Intent Lies

2. The narrative of Yosef serves as a lesson for all Jews. The soul’s descent into the body – to this material world in general – and the challenges it confronts in the era of exile in particular are not intended to cause hardship. Instead, they possess a unique virtue.

לא הכירו – רעד טעם, פארונאש זייןען די שבטים, אווי אויך דיאבות, געוווען רועי צאן (פאסטוכער), אַפְגַעַזְוַנְדְעָרֶט פון ווּעַלְט, בְכִדִי אוּוּלְט זָאַל זַיְנִיט שְׁטַעַן.

אַפְעַר יוֹסֵף אִיז גַעֲוָעַן אֵין אֹזָא מַדְרִיגָה, אוּרְעַר הָאָט גַעֲקָעַנְט זַיְן אֵין ווּעַלְט, אַהֲרֹן אֵין מַצְוִים, אוּ “בְלַעַדְיק לֹא יִהְיֶה אִישׁ גּוֹ”, וּוְאָס אֵין מַקְרָא יוֹצָא מַדִּי פְשׁוֹטוֹ, יַעֲדָר מַצְרִי ווּעַן עַד הָאָט גַעֲוָאַלְט אַנְטָאָן כְלַי זַיְן הָאָט עַד גַעֲדָרְפֶט פְרָעָה בֵי יוֹסֵף, אָוֹן כָאַטְשָׁ יְוֹסֵף הָאָט זַיְק דַעֲרָמִיט פָאַרְנוּמָעַן, אִיז עַר בְשָׁעַת מַעַשָּׁה גַעֲשְׁטָאַנְגָעַן בְתְכִלָּת הַדְבִיקָה בָאַלְקָוָת.

נָאֵך דַעַם אַלְעַמְעָן, דָוָרָך וּוְאָס אִיז עַד צַוְגַעַקְוּמָעַן צָו “הַפְרָנִי” – דָוָרָך “בָאָרֶץ עַנְיִי” דָזָקָא.

ב. רעד דעַרְמָאַנְטָעָר סִיפּוֹר מִתְיַוְסֵף אִיז אֵן אַנוּזְיַוְנָג צָו אַלְע אִיז, אוּ רעד עַנְיִן פָוָן יַרְיִידָת הַנְשָׁמָה בְגַגְפָה אִיז עַוְלָם הַזָּה בְכָלְל אָוֹן אֵין דַעַם זַמְן הַגְלָוָת בְפְרָט, אִיז דָאָס נִיט חַס וְשַׁלּוֹם אוּוִיך מַאֲטָעָרָן זַיְה, נָאֵך אִיז דַעַם אִיז פָאַרְאָן אָא בָאַזְוּנְדָעָרָע מַעַלָה.

8. *Ibid.* 41:44.

10. *Rashi*, *Bereishis* 37:17, *et al.*

9. See *Onkelos* and *Rashi* on *Bereishis*, loc. cit.

The ultimate purpose of the downward, chain-like progression of different planes of existence is not for the sake of the lofty spiritual realms.<sup>11</sup> On the contrary, by coming into existence, those realms experience a descent from the radiance of His countenance. Instead, the ultimate purpose is this lowly material world, because the power of G-d's Essence is vested in this world.

In this world itself, it is necessary to permeate the lowest levels and undergo hardship and difficulty. For this reason, before the exile in Egypt, the Jews could not receive the Torah. Specifically, by experiencing the iron crucible<sup>12</sup> of the Egyptian exile, the Jews became fit receptacles for the Torah. Our Sages<sup>13</sup> emphasize this point, stating that the Jews received the Torah because of their descent into Egypt.

דער תכליות פון השתלשות העולמות איז ניט צוליב די עולמות העליונים, וויבאלד או פאר זיי איז עס א ירידת מאור פניו יתברא, נאר דער תכליות איז אין עולם הזה התחזון דזאך, ווארום אין עולם הזה הוה שטיטט דער בעה העצמות.

און אין עולם הזה גופה - האט מען פאר גלות מצרים ניט געקבענט מכבול זיין די תורה, נאר דזאך דורך כור הבזיל פון גלות מצרים איז מען געוויארן כלים אויף קבלת התורה, און ווי עס דרשען זז"ל, או פארוואס האבן אידן מכבול געווען די תורה - וויל למצרים ירדתם כו'.

### Calling Forth G-d's Essence

3. These concepts are also alluded to by the verse,<sup>14</sup> "I sent (*tirgalti*) [a leader] to Ephraim..."

Our Sages state<sup>15</sup> that had even one – whoever that one would have been – of the 600,000 men at the Giving of the Torah not been present, the Torah would not have been given, Heaven forbid, even to Moshe. This point is hinted at by the verse,<sup>16</sup> "I (*Anochi*) am in the midst of 600,000 people on foot." Because of the presence of each of those 600,000 at Sinai – including even those who are comparable to feet – the Torah was given, and G-d's declaration, *Anochi Havayah Elokecha* ("I am G-d your L-rd") was made. Indeed, the presence of the Jews comparable to feet was of primary impor-

ג. און דאס איז אויך וואס עס שטיטידי ואנבי תרגلت לאמרים:

בי מתן תורה שטיטידי, או אויב עס וואלט געווען שישים רבוא חסר אחד – זעקס הונדרט טויזנט וויניקער איינער – (ווען דער אחד וואלט ניט געווען) וואלט ניט געגבן געוויארן די תורה חס ושלום אפילו צו משה. וואס דאס איז דאך מרוומז אין פסוק, שש מאות אלף רגלי העם אשר אנבי בקרבו, או דורך דעם וואס עס זיינען געווען אלע שען מאות אלף, אויך די רגליים (פיס), און דער

11. *Tanya*, ch. 36.

See also *Likkutei Torah*, *Vayikra* 2a, *Bamidbar* 80b, the *maamar* entitled *Lecha Dodi*, 5689 (*Sefer HaMaamarim Kuntreisim*, Vol. 1, p. 21a), which associate this verse with a leader or a *mashpia* (source of influence) lowering himself to relate to others with diminished capacities, even those on the level of feet. Also,

speaking about a loftier level, these sources emphasize the connection between *Anochi*, G-d's Essence, and feet.

12. *Devarim* 4:20.

15. *Mechilta D'Rashbi*, *Shmos* 19:11 (see also the *Mechilta* to the verse); *Devarim Rabbah* 7:8.

13. *Shabbos* 88b.

16. *Bamidbar* 11:21.

14. *Hoshea* 11:3. See the commentaries to that verse that explain that the intent of the word *tirgalti* is a leader who will lead the people at a gentle pace.

tance. (As explained in another source,<sup>17</sup> the feet refer to the Divine service of *kabbalas ol*, the acceptance of G-d's yoke.) It was these 600,000 – the feet-like Jews, those whose Divine service stems from *kabbalas ol*, who enabled the Torah, which begins with *Anochi*, a reference to G-d's Essence, to be drawn down to – and to be internalized within – Moshe.

On this basis, it is possible to understand the reference to Ephraim in the verse cited above. "G-d made me fruitful in the land of my hardship" highlights Ephraim's unique spiritual quality. Through their descent into exile in Egypt – "the land of my hardship" – the Jews reached the ultimate spiritual peak: the Giving of the Torah. This motif is also hinted at by the verse, "I (*Anochi*) sent [a leader] to Ephraim." The root letters of the word *tirgalati* (תִּרְגַּלְתִּי), translated as "I sent," are the same as the word *regel* (רגל), meaning "foot." Through Divine service described with the analogy of feet, the Divine service of *kabbalas ol*, it is possible to relate to *Anochi*, He Who can truly say "I am,"<sup>18</sup> G-d's Essence, which is above all description and definition.

17. See *Likkutei Sichos*, Vol. 1, p. 104ff.

18. Regarding the phrase, "He who can truly say 'I am,'" see *Zohar*, Vol. III, pp. 11a, 257b; *Likkutei Torah*, *Bamidbar*, p. 80b, *et al.*

The descent to Egypt brought about a severe spiritual decline within the Jewish people. Nevertheless, it ultimately made possible the Giving of the Torah, at which time G-d's Essence was revealed. Similarly,

עִקָּר דִּי וְגָלִים (וְוִי עַס וְוַעֲרַט אֵין אָן אַנְדָּעֶר אָרֶט דְּעַרְקָלָעֶרֶט דִּי מַעְלָה פָּוּן רַגֵּל - קְבָלָת עֹולָם), אֵין גַּעֲגָבָן גַּעֲוָוָאָן דִּי תְּוָהָה וְוָאָס הַוִּיבָּט וִיך אֵן מִיט אַנְכִּי, אָוּס אֵי נַמְשָׁך גַּעֲוָוָאָרְן דָּעָר "אַנְכִּי" צָו מְשָׁהֶזֶן.

דְּעַרְפָּאָר אֵין בְּשָׁעַת דָּעָר פְּסָוק רַעַדְת וְוַעֲגָן אַפְּרִים זָן, וְוָאָס זָיִן עֲנֵנִין אֵין כִּי הַפְּרִנִּי אַלְקִים בָּאָרֶץ עֲנֵנִי, אֹז דָוָרֶךָ מַצְרִים קְוָמָט מַעַן צָו זָם תְּכָלִית הַעִילָּוִי פָּוּן מַתָּן תּוֹרָה, נָאָגָט עַד אַוִּיף דָּעָם - וְאַנְכִּי תְּרַגְּלָתִי לְאַפְּרִים, אֹז דָוָרֶךָ "תְּרַגְּלָתִי" לְשָׁוֹן רַגֵּל, - דָאָס הַיִּסְטָד דִּי עַבְוָהָה פָּוּן קְבָלָת עֹולָם - דָוָר דָעַם קְוָמָט מַעַן צָו זָם אַנְכִּי מִשְׁאַנְכִּי.

(מחשחת חג השבועות, תש"י"ג)

through the Divine service of *kabbalas ol* – which can be considered a descent when compared to service of the mind and the heart – a person can bond with G-d's Essence.

(ס) "מִקְוָנָטָרָסִים ח"א כ"א, א).  
 (ב) מִכְלְתָא דְרַשְׁבָ"י (וּרְאָה גָם כֵן  
 מִכְלְתָא יִתְרוּ ט', י"א. דְבָרִים וּבָה  
 פ"ז, ח.  
 (ג) בָמְדָבָר י"א, כ"א.

מוּחָל זַיִן דָוָרֶךָ שִׁיקָן מַתָּנוֹת אָוּן רַוְפָן  
 אַיִם אַדְוִנִי, מַיִן הָאָרֶךָ.  
 (א) בְּרָכוֹת ד, א.  
 (ב) תְּנִיאָ פְּלִילָה.  
 (ג) שְׁבָת פָח, ב.  
 (ד) חִוְשָׁע י"א, ג. לְקוֹשִׁי תּוֹרָה וַיְקָרָא ב, א.  
 בָמְדָבָר פ, ב. ד"ה לְכָה דָוִי תְּרִפָ"ט

(ה) פְּרָשָׁת וִיחִי ד"ה בָנְ פּוֹרָת יוֹסֵף.  
 (כ\*) יוֹסֵף הָאָט גַעֲבָעָטָן דָעַם שָׁר הַמְשָׁקִים  
 עַד וְאַל זָק בָּאַמְיָעָן בִּי פְּרָעָה ז' אַיִם  
 צו בָּאַפְּרִים אָוּן דָאָס וּוּעָרָת יוֹסֵף  
 פָאַרְעָכָנְט פָאָר אָחָתָא (וְשׁ"י)  
 בְּרָאַשְׁתִּי מ' (ג), הָמָס אוּיְקָב הָאָט  
 זָק בָּאַמְיָט בִּי עַשְׁוֹן עַד וְאַל אַיִם

# CHANUKAH I | חנוכה א

Adapted from a *sichah* delivered on 21 Kislev, 5713 (1952)

## Introduction

Years ago, there were kerosene lanterns on every street corner. The local lamplighter would trudge through the night with a torch, going from lamp to lamp, igniting each one in turn.

Even in the cold and the dark, that lone figure would make his way through the night, leaving a path of light behind him.

Using this as an analogy, the Rebbe Rashab once said, “A chassid is a lamplighter. He goes forth with a long torch.... His mission is to kindle all the lanterns.”

The Rebbe was asked, “And what if the lantern is found in a desert?”

“One must go there, too, and kindle the lantern,” he answered.

“And if the lantern is far out in the sea?”

“One has to plunge into the water and kindle the lantern.”<sup>1</sup>

In this *sichah*, the Rebbe charges us with becoming ambassadors of light – going out of our homes and comfort zones, into the darkness, and working there to spread light. Whether the conditions are inviting or difficult, there is a mission, and we have been given the privilege of being part of its fulfillment.

Seeing ourselves as people with a mission – and not just a job that must be done – redefines our identities. Good workers show up on time and contribute to a pleasant work environment; they carry out their jobs professionally, fulfilling whatever responsibilities they are charged with – and then they go home at 5 o’clock.

Then, there are those who have a mission, not a job. What concerns them is not what they were asked to do, but what has to be done. That is a continuous and ever-increasing endeavor.

1. *Sefer HaSichos* 5701, p. 136ff. The Rebbe discussed the above metaphor in a talk delivered on 13 Tammuz,

5722, which appears in *Toras Menachem – Hisvaaduyos* 5722, Vol. 34, p. 129ff.



# Learning from the Lights

## Different from the Source

1. The *mitzvah* of Chanukah is to kindle lights. How does one make lights? One takes oil, wood,<sup>1</sup> or the like and warms them until they catch fire, i.e., they are transformed from being something physical and begin to illuminate the entire surroundings.

The lights we kindle on Chanukah derive from the lights kindled daily in the *Beis HaMikdash* before evening. At the time of the Chanukah miracle, there was no pure oil with which to kindle these lights. Nevertheless, G-d wrought a miracle and a cruse of pure oil closed with the seal of the *Kohen Gadol* was discovered. The oil in the cruse was sufficient to burn for only one day, yet a miracle occurred and it burned for eight days. To commemorate this miracle, we kindle lights on all eight nights of Chanukah.

Although the Chanukah lights stem from the lights of the *Menorah* of the *Beis HaMikdash*, they differ in several aspects:

a) In the *Beis HaMikdash*, the same number of lights was always kindled. By contrast, an additional light is added every night during Chanukah.

b) In the *Beis HaMikdash*, the lights were kindled specifically during the day,

א. די מצוה פון חנוכה אויז אונצינדן ליכט. ווי איזוי שאפט מען ליכט? - מען געמט בוימל אָדער האָלֶץ און דאס גָּלִיךְ, דאס הייסט אַ גְּשָׁמִיּוֹת/דִּיקָּע זָאָה, אָוּן מען ווּאָרְעָמֶט דָּאָס אָן, בִּזְוּ עַס ווּעָרְט אָוִיס גְּשָׁמִי אָוּן עַס הָוִיבֶּט אָן צוֹ לִיכְתָּן אִין דָּעַם גָּאנְצָן אָרוּם.

די לִיכְתָּן ווּאָס מען צִינְדַּט אָן חנוכה, קומען פון די לִיכְתָּן ווּאָס מען פְּלַעַגְתָּן צִינְדַּן אַין בֵּית הַמִּקְדָּשׁ. אַין בֵּית הַמִּקְדָּשׁ פְּלַעַגְתָּן מען יְעַדָּע נְאָכֵט צִינְדַּן לִיכְתָּן. אָבָּעָר אִין דָּעַר צִיְּטָן פָּוֹן נְסָׁ חֲנֻכָּה אַיִּז נִיט גַּעֲוֹעַן קִין רַיִּנְעַן בּוּיְמָל צַו צִינְדַּן די לִיכְתָּן, הָאָט דָּעַר אָוּבְּעָרְשָׁטָר גַּעֲטָאָן אָס אָוּן מען הָאָט גַּעֲפָגְנָעָן אַפְּקָ שְׁמַן טָהָוָר חֲתָוָם בְּחַוְתָּמוֹ שֶׁל כְּהֵן גָּדוֹל - אַ קְרִיגָּלְדִּיְּן - בּוּיְמָל, פָּאָרְזָגְלָט מִיטָּן זִיגָל פָּוֹן כְּהֵן גָּדוֹל, - די בּוּיְמָל ווּאָס אִין פָּק אַיִּז גַּעֲוֹעַן גַּעֲנָגָוָק אַוְיךְ אִין טָאָג, אַיִּז גַּעֲשָׁעָן אַס אָוּן עַס הָאָט גַּעֲבָרָעָנָט אָכְט טָעָג. אַיִּז צָוָם אַנְדָּעָנָק פָּוֹן דָּעַם נְסָׁ צִינְדַּט מען לִיכְתָּן, אַלְעָא אָכְט טָעָג פָּוֹן חֲנֻכָּה.

נִיט קוּקְנְדִּיק אָוִיפְּ דָּעַם ווּאָס די לִיכְתָּן פָּוֹן חֲנֻכָּה קומען פָּוֹן די לִיכְתָּן פָּוֹן מִקְדָּשׁ, פָּוֹנְדָּעָסְטוּוּגָן זִיְּנָעָן זִיְּפָאָנָאָנְדָּרְגָּעָטְיִילָט אַיִּן עַטְלָעָכָע וְאָכוֹן.

א) אַין בֵּית הַמִּקְדָּשׁ אַיִּז אַלְעָא מַאֲלָ גַּעֲוֹעָן די זַעֲלָבָע צָאָל לִיכְתָּן. דָּקָעָגָן חֲנֻכָּה גִּיטָּעָן צַו יְעַדָּעָר נְאָכֵט נְאָךְ אַ לִיכְתָּן.

ב) אַין בֵּית הַמִּקְדָּשׁ פְּלַעַגְתָּן מען אַנְצִינְדָּן די לִיכְתָּן דָּוְקָא בִּיטָּאָג, וּוּעַן סְאָיִז נְאָךְ

1. Wood is being used only as an example of a combustible substance. It is not acceptable for a Chanukah lamp.

when there was still ample sunlight. By contrast, the Chanukah lights are kindled after sunset.

c) The lights of the *Beis HaMikdash* were kindled inside, in the Sanctuary. By contrast, the Chanukah lights are kindled “outside, at the entrance to one’s home.”<sup>2</sup>

d) The *mitzvah* of kindling the lights of the *Menorah* in the Sanctuary that accompanied the Jews on their journey through the desert and in the *Beis HaMikdash* in Jerusalem was fulfilled, by and large, in times when the Jews were not lacking material prosperity.

Especially in the era of the Sanctuary that accompanied the Jews during their 40-year journey through the desert, the Jews had everything they needed. Their food was manna that descended from heaven; their water came from Miriam’s well; and their garments grew with them and were continually cleaned by the Clouds of Glory.<sup>3</sup>

Later, the *mitzvah* of kindling lights in the *Beis HaMikdash* in the era of King Shlomoh was fulfilled in similar circumstances. It was an era of peace; no one waged war against the Jews. On the contrary, other nations paid tribute to them. The Jews dwelled in serenity, “each man under his vine and each man under his fig tree.”<sup>4</sup>

Similar concepts applied regarding the Jews’ spiritual circumstances. A cause-and-effect relationship was involved: When the Jews had no material worries, they were able to devote themselves entirely to spiritual and Jewish matters, the Torah, and its *mitzvos*.

By contrast, the Chanukah lights are associated with a miracle that occurred at a time when *Eretz Yisrael* was ruled by the Greeks and the Jewish army was small in number. Similarly, the Jews’

געווען גוט לייבטיק. אבער חנוכה  
לייכט צינדט מען נאך דעם ווֵי די זונ  
פארגיגיט.

ג) גרות המקדש זייןען געווען  
אינזיניך, און גרות חנוכה איז  
מצוה לתנין על פתח ביתו מבחן -  
אינדרויסן.

ד) מצות גרות המשכן והמקדש,  
איו געווען איז א צייט וווען איזן האט  
ניט געפֿעלט אין גשמיוט,

ספֿעצייל אין דער צייט פון משכן  
איין מדבר האבן איין געהאט אלץ  
וואס זי דארפֿן, עסן האבן זי געהאט  
מן מן השמיים, ואסבער האבן זי  
געהאט פון באראה של מרים, אויך די  
לבושים האבן מיטגעוואקסן מיט זי,  
און געווען שטעהניך ריין.

אווי איז אויך די מצוה פון גרות  
המקדש געגעבן געוואן בימי שלמה,  
וואס ס'אי געווען שלום אין זיין  
צייט. קיינער האט ניט מלחהה  
געהאט מיט איזן, אודרבה, מען האט  
נאך זי געצלט מס און ס'אי געווען  
איש תחת גפנו ואיש תחת תאנטו.

דאס זעלבע אויך אין רוחניות,  
ווארום או מען האט ניט קיין  
גשמיוט/דיקע דאגות, גיט מען זיך  
אינגעאנץ אונעך אויך תורה ומצוות,  
רוחניות/דיקע זאכן, אידישע זאכן.

דאקען אבער גרות חנוכה זייןען  
פארבזידן מיט א צייט וואס דאס  
לאנד איז געווען אונטער מומשלת  
יון און די אידישע ארמי איז געווען  
זיעדר א קליען אין צאל, אווי אויך

2. *Shabbos* 21b.

3. *Rashi, Devarim* 8:4.

4. *I Melachim* 5:5.

spiritual situation was lacking refinement, as reflected in the fact that there was no pure oil, not even enough to burn one night.

אין רוחניות, אין ניט געוווען קיין שמן  
טהור אַפְּיָלו אָוִיף אִין גָּאכְט.

## Now Is Not Then

2. All the above differences are interconnected: As mentioned, a Jew who enjoys material prosperity also prospers spiritually. When a Jew has ample wealth, he gives generously, contributing to spiritual causes with an open hand. There is no need for him to go to war with himself or others; self-sacrifice is not necessary for him to accomplish his spiritual goals.

Accordingly, in a time of material and spiritual plenty, kindling the same amount of lights every day suffices. There is no need to constantly add lights. Since there are no impediments to counter, everything can follow an ordinary pattern.

Similarly, no special efforts are needed to illuminate one's external surroundings; the "street," the world at large, is not dark. As in the era of the *Beis HaMikdash*, the *Menorah* burned inside the *Beis HaMikdash* and, as a natural consequence, the "street," the world at large, was also illuminated.

However, a different approach is necessary in difficult times, in times of war – especially when war was being waged not only against the Greeks, but also against the Jews who had adopted a "Greek" lifestyle.<sup>5</sup> In that era, there were Jews who opposed the *Beis HaMikdash* and what it stood for; they opposed Jewish independence and instead, sought to assimilate with the Greeks.

During those difficult times, G-d gave the *mitzvah* of Chanukah lights. Under such trying circumstances – now, as well as then – self-sacrifice, *mesiras nefesh*, is called for. It is not

ב. די אלע חילוקים זייןע פארבענידן  
איינע מיט די אנדערע.

בשעת עס איז גוט אין גשמיota,  
ונטילא אויך אין רוחניות פנ"ל,

- ווארום וווען אַיד הָאָט, גִּיט עַד  
מיט אָנָּפָעָנָד הָאָנָּט אָוִיך מיט אָ  
בריטער הָאָנָּט אָוִיף עֲנִינִים רוחניים -

דארף מען ניט האבן קיין מלחה מאון  
קײַן מסירת נְפָשָׁה.

דאָן אַיז גענאג או יעְדָעָר טָאג זָאָל  
זַיְיָן די זַעַלְבָּעָצָּאָל, מען מוו ניט צוֹגָעָפָן  
נאָך, ווארום עס גִּיט אלְזַ נָּאָרְמָאָל.

אוֹי אַוְיך דָּאָרָף מען ניט לְיִגְּזַן קִיְּן  
הַשְׂתָּדָלָות צו בָּאַלְיִיכְּטָן די גָּאָס. די גָּאָס,  
די וּוּלְטָל - אַיז ניט פִּיסְטָעָר. די מְנוּרָה  
הָאָט גַּעֲבָרָעָנָט אַיז בֵּית הַמִּקְדָּשׁ וּבְתוּלָא  
אַיז גַּעַוְעָן לִכְטִיק אוֹיך אַיז גָּאָס.

אַבְּעָד אַיז אַ צִּיטָּפָן אַ שְׁוּוֹעָרָן  
מַכְּבָּר, אַ צִּיטָּפָן מְלָחָמוֹת, אַיז ניט  
נָאָר מְלָחָמוֹת מיט די יְוִינִים נָאָר אוֹיך  
מיט אַיז מְתִינִינִים<sup>5</sup>, ווֹאָרָום עס  
זַיְיָן גַּעַוְעָן אַזְוִינָע אַיז ווֹאָס האָבָן  
ניט גַּעַהְאַלְטָן פָּוָן זַעַלְבָּטְשַׁעְנְדִּיקִיט אַיז  
גַּעַוְאַלְטָן אַסְמִילִירָן זַיְק מיט די יְוִינִים.

אַיז אַזְוָעָרָן צַוְּשָׁטָאָנד, הָאָט  
דָּעָר אַזְיְּבָרְשָׁטָעָר גַּעַגְעָבָן די מְצָוָה פָּוָן  
חַנוּכָּה-לִיכְטָה. אַיז אַזְוָעָרָן צִּיטָּפָן  
זַיְק מְסִירָתָ נְפָשָׁה.

5. See *Bava Kama* 82b, which gives an example of Jews who supported the Greeks.

sufficient to merely kindle lights in one's own home; it is dark outside, and the darkness from the outside can creep into one's home. To counteract that influence, we must endeavor to illuminate the street, the outside environment. Accordingly, we kindle Chanukah lights when it is dark and position them specifically by the door,<sup>6</sup> to radiate light not only for ourselves, but also for – and into – the “street.”

It is not enough to kindle lights on one's dinner table or desk and open the door so that their light will also shine outward. We must kindle the lights by the door, making special efforts to illuminate the street as well.

Moreover, it is not sufficient to kindle the same number of lights as on the previous nights, for we cannot content ourselves with spiritually treading water, feeling satisfied with being able to remain on the same spiritual level as the previous day without sinking lower. Instead, we must continually strive to advance higher and higher.

### Three Takeaways

3. To summarize: In times of excessive darkness, we must remain unaffected by the external darkness that prevails. On the contrary, we must proceed with *mesiras nefesh* to illuminate the street, each day adding more lights, until we are able to bring more pure and clear oil.

These efforts must be carried out in the following manner:

a) We must not remain content with the amount of light we generated yesterday. Each day, we must add more – today, one light,

6. Although Lubavitch custom is to kindle the Chanukah lights indoors,

the spiritual theme of the original practice is still relevant.

אין אז צייט איז וויניק או מען זאל מאכן ליכטיק בי זיך אין שטוב, ווארום אויפן גאס איז פינסטער, אונ די פינסטערניש פון גאס קען דורךשפערן איז און שטוב, דארף מען לייגן השטדות אויף באלייכטן דיגאס, מען צינדט חנוכה לייכט וווען סאייז פינסטער אונ ליעבן טיר דורך, בכדי צו באלייכטן דיגאס.

עס איז וויניק וואס ער ווועט צינדן ליכט בי זיך אויפן טיש וואו ער עסט אידער אויפן שרייב-טיש און עפערען דיטיר כדי איז דיליכט זאל ליבען איז גאס, נאר מען דארף צינדן דיליכט ליעבן טיר, מען דארף לייגן השטדות אויף באלייכטן דיגאס.

איז איז וויניק דיליכט פון די פריערדיקע נעלט. ווארים מען קען זיך ניט באונגעגען מיט דעם וואס מאיז ניט געוווארן נידעריקער אונ מען שטייט אויפן זעלבן מצב פון נעלטן, נאר מען דארף גיין אליז העכדר אונ העכדר.

ג. דער סק הכל פון דעם איז:

אין א צייט וואס די פינסטערניש איז גראיס, דארף מען ניט נתפעל וווען פון דער פינסטערניש וואס איז גאס, נאר אדרבה, מען דארף גיין מיט א מסירת נפש באלייכטן דיגאס, אונ יעדר טאג צוגען מער אונ מער ליכטיקיט, ביז מען ווועט ברענגען נאר שפונג טהור, ריין און קלארע בויל.

אונ דער אויפן איז דעם דארף זיין:

א) מען דארף זיך ניט באונגעגען מיט דער מאס ליכט וואס מהאט באלייכטן נעלטן, נאר מען דארף אלע טאג צוגען

tomorrow, two, the day afterwards, three, etc. Beginning immediately with the maximum or even a large amount of lights is not feasible because we cannot make a great leap right away. We begin with what is within reach – one light. But we must be ready to increase that light straightforwardly – to kindle two lights tomorrow, and three on the next day.

b) We cannot content ourselves with illuminating our own homes and hoping that, as a natural consequence, the outside environment will also be illuminated. Instead, our endeavors must be focused on spreading light outside.

c) We must approach this mission with self-sacrifice, going beyond our nature, as the Chanukah miracle transcended nature. If, while engaged in such efforts, others cast disparaging glances, we should not be disturbed. Instead, we must continue, acting with *mesiras nefesh*, carrying out the mission with which G-d has charged us.

## Ambassadors of Light

4. This is what is asked of every Jew: We all must know that we are G-d's ambassadors tasked with increasing warmth within this material realm, particularly in our individual portion of the world, until it blazes aflame and illuminates our entire surroundings.

Such efforts must progressively increase. We cannot remain satisfied with what we achieved on the previous day, but must continually increase our light, conscious of what we achieved the day before so that we know how much to add the following day.

When we follow this path, proceeding with *mesiras nefesh*, not remaining content with illuminating our own selves, nor with what we already achieved, we can rest assured that our efforts will bear fruit. In due course, the sur-

נה. הײַנט איז ליכט, מאָרגן צוּווּיַּי, אַיבָּערמַאָרגָן דָּרִיַּי, אָונַ אַזּוּ וּוּיְטָעָר. אַנְהָוִיּוּן בָּאַלְדַּ מִיט אַסְּקַ - קָעַן מַעַן דָּאַךְ נִיט שְׁפָרְנִיגָּעַן מִיט אַמְּאָלַ, מַעַן הוֹיְבַּט אָן מִיט אַיְיַן לִיכְטַ, אַבּוּרַ מַעַן דָּאַרְפַּ בָּאַלְדַּ צְוַיְיַן גַּרְיִיט אַוְיַף צִינְדָּן מַאָרגָן צוּווּיַּי לִיכְטַ אָונַ אַיבָּערמַאָרגָן דָּרִיַּי.

ב) מַעַן דָּאַרְפַּ זַיְקַ נִיט בָּאַנְגָּעָנָעַן דָּעָרְמִיט וּוּאָס מַעַן מַאְכַּט לִיכְטִיק בַּיַּי זַיְקַ אַיְן שְׁטוּבַּ וּבְמִילָּא וּוּעַט זַיְן לִיכְטִיק אַיְן גָּאַס, נָאָר מַעַן דָּאַרְפַּ לִיגְאַן הַשְּׁפָרְנִיקָּוֹת אַוְיַף צַו בָּאַלְיִיכְטַן דִּי גָּאַס.

ג) דָּעַר צְוָגָאָגַּ צַו דָּעַם דָּאַרְפַּ זַיְן מִיט מִסְרִית נַפְשַׁ, אַזּוּ וּוּי דָּעַר עֲנֵנִין נֵס - הַעֲכָר פָּוּן טְבָעַ. מַעַן קָוִיקַט אַוְיַיַּ אַיְם מִיט אַ קְרוּמָעַר אַוְיַגַּ, דָּאַרְפַּ עַד נִיט נַתְפְּעָלַ וּוּעָרַן אָונַ טָאַן מִיט מִסְרִית נַפְשַׁ אַוְיִצְׁוּפִין דִּי שְׁלִיחָוֹת וּוּאָס דָּעַ אַוְיִבְּרָשְׁטָעַר הָאָט אַיַּם גַּעֲשִׁיקְטַ.

ד. אָונַ דָּאָס מַאְנַט מַעַן בַּיִּיעַדְעַר אַיְן. עַד זָאַל וּוִיסְּן אָזְעַר אַיְן אַנְהָוִיּוּן אַמְּבָּאָסְאָדָאָר" פָּוּן דָּעַם אַוְיִבְּעַרְשָׁטַן אַוְיַף צַו אַנוּוֹאָרָעָמָעַן דִּי גַּשְׁמִיּוֹת פָּוּן זַיְן טַיְלַ וּוּעַלְטַ בֵּין אָזְעַר אַוְיִבְּעַרְשָׁטַן אַיְם אָונַ אַזְּקַדְעַן זַיְן סְבִּיבָה.

אָונַ דָּעַר אַזְּפַן אַיְן דָּעַם דָּאַרְפַּ זַיְן, נִיט בָּאַנְגָּעָנָעַן זַיְקַ מִיט וּוּאָס עַד הָאָט אַוְיִפְּגַּעַתָּן נַעֲכָתַן, נָאָר אַלְעַ טָאָגַ צְוָגָאָגַּ מַעַרְ לִיכְטַ, מַעַן דָּאַרְפַּ וּוִיסְּן וּאָס מִהָּאָט אַוְיִפְּגַּעַתָּן נַעֲכָתַן כַּדִּי צַו וּוִיסְּן וּוִיְּפַלְעַ צַו מַוְסִּיף זַיְן הַיְּנִטַּ.

אָונַ בְּשַׁעַת מַעַן גִּיטַּ מִיט דָּעַם וּוּעָגַ - מַעַן גִּיטַּ מִיט אַ מִסְרִית נַפְשַׁ, מַעַן בָּאַנְגָּעָנָעַן זַיְקַ נִיט דָּעָרְמִיט וּוּאָס מַעַן מַאְכַּט לִיכְטִיק בַּיַּי זַיְקַ, אָונַ מַעַן בָּאַנְגָּעָנָעַן זַיְקַ נִיט דָּעָרְמִיט וּוּאָס מִהָּאָט שְׂוֹן אַוְיִפְּגַּעַתָּן, - הָאָט מַעַן דָּעַם צְוַיָּאָג

rounding environment will become bright with light – and that light will continually increase – until, ultimately, we will find pure oil to kindle the lights in the *Beis HaMikdash* once again.

או סוף סוף וווערט טאָקע אָזוי, עס וווערט ליכטיק  
אין גאָס, אָן אלע מֶאָל מִיט מַעֲרָעָר לִיכְטָט, בֵּיז מַעַן  
געפִינֶט שְׁמָן טַהוֹר (ריינָע בּוּימָל) אָזִיף אַנְצִינְדָּן אָין  
בֵּית הַמִּקְדָּשׁ.

(משיחת כ"א כסלו, תש"ג)

כו) ר"ש"י דברים ח,ד.

כח) מלכים א,ה,ה.

כט) בבא קמא פב,ב.

# CHANUKAH II | חנוכה ב

Adapted from a *sichah* delivered on the fifth night of Chanukah, 5713 (1952)

## Introduction

The Jewish people are involved in an ongoing, interactive relationship with G-d. On one hand, the kindness and beneficence He grants us inspire us to further advance in our relationship with Him. On the other hand, our role in this relationship is not only that of recipients, gratefully accepting and building upon what G-d grants us.<sup>1</sup> Instead, we are partners in creation,<sup>2</sup> charged with the mission of bringing this world to its fulfillment. As such, we have the potential to influence the manner in which G-d governs this world as a whole and our lives in particular. In this vein, the Baal Shem Tov<sup>3</sup> interpreted the verse,<sup>4</sup> “G-d is your shadow on your right hand,” to mean that just as a shadow follows the movements of one’s limbs, so too, every action that we perform spirals upward to the spiritual realms, causing the manner in which G-d governs the world to mirror our actions.

The Chanukah story represents an archetypal illustration of this principle, teaching us that *we can make miracles*. Each of us possesses a spark of G-d,<sup>5</sup> infinite and unbounded as He is. When we tap into this infinite potential and express it through a total and unreserved commitment to His service, He responds in a manner that is not constrained by the limits of nature, bringing the cherished bond He shares with us to the surface in a miraculous manner.

1. This applies even when what He grants us does not appear good in our mortal eyes. See *Likkutei Sichos*,

Vol. 2, p. 356ff. (translated in *Likkutei Sichos, Devarim*, p. 356ff.).

2. *Shabbos* 119b.

3. *Kesser Shem Tov, Hosafos*, p. 78.

4. *Tehillim* 121:5.

5. See *Tanya*, ch. 2.



# Miracles Depend On Us

## Two Unique Positive Qualities

1. There are two elements that set apart the *mitzvah* of kindling Chanukah lights from all other *mitzvos*:

a) Regarding all other *mitzvos*, in addition to observing the *mitzvah* as required by law, there is a higher standard of observance, carrying it out *behiddur*, in a meticulous manner that beautifies the *mitzvah*. However, with the exception of the Chanukah lights, there are no *mitzvos* that can be observed in a manner of *mehadrin min hamehadrin*, a mode which beautifies the *mitzvah* through even more meticulous observance.

To cite support for this concept: The Talmud<sup>1</sup> asks, “To what extent should one go out of his way to perform a *mitzvah behiddur*?” and answers, “Until a third,” i.e., one should spend up to one-third more than the cost of fulfilling the *mitzvah* in the ordinary manner. Afterwards, the Talmud states, “Up to one-third [should come] from his own [resources]; from this point onward, [any additional sum spent to fulfill a *mitzvah behiddur* will come] from the Holy One, blessed be He.” Their intent is that G-d will reimburse the person for any additional expense he undertakes.

Thus, we see that even though there are no limits to the extent to which a person can go to fulfill a *mitzvah behiddur*, nevertheless, this all is included in one category: *hiddur mitzvah*.

By contrast, in addition to the ordinary manner of fulfilling the *mitzvah* of Chanukah lights, there are two further categories: fulfilling the *mitzvah behiddur* and also *mehadrin min hamehadrin*.

b) With regard to all other *mitzvos*, the overwhelming majority of the Jewish people content themselves

א. דִי מְצֻוָה פָונַ נֶר חֲנֻכָה אֵין  
אָפְגַעְתִּילַט פָונַ אֶלָעַ מְצֻוֹת  
אֵין צְוּיִ זָאָכָן:

א) אֵין אֶלָעַ מְצֻוֹת אֵין  
פָאָרָאָן דָעַר קִיּוֹם פָונַ דָעַר  
מְצֻוָה בְּתַקְוָנָה, אֵין דָעַר הַיְדָוָר  
פָונַ דָעַר מְצֻוָה. עַס אִיז אָבָעָד  
נִיטָא קִין הַיְדָוָר מִן הַיְדָוָר.

אָרְאיָה אָזָרְפַּעַד דָעַם אִיז פָונַ  
דָעַם וַיַּאֲסֵס דִי גַמְרָא זָאָגָט:  
הַיְדָוָר מְצֻוָה עַד כְּמָה, עַד  
שְׁלִישִׁים, אֵין דָעַרְנָאָךְ זָאָגָט דִי  
גַמְרָא אָז בֵּין אַשְׁלִישִׁים אֵין  
מְשָׁלָל, וּמְפָאָן וְאַיְלָךְ מְשָׁלָל  
הַקְדּוֹשׁ בָּרוּךְ הוּא. קַוְמַט דָאָד  
אָוִיס אָז מַעַן קָעָן מַהְדָר זִין אָז  
אָשִׁיעָר, אֵין דָאָס אַלְזְגִּיטַה  
אָרְאיָן אֵין הַיְדָוָר מְצֻוָה.

דָאָקָעָגֵן אָבָעָר בַּיְ מְצֻוֹת נֶר  
חֲנֻכָה אֵין פָאָרָאָן נִיטַ נֶאָר דִי  
מְצֻוָה אַלְיָין אֵין נִיטַ נֶאָר דָעַר  
הַיְדָוָר פָונַ דָעַר מְצֻוָה, נֶאָר אָוִיךְ  
מַהְדָרָין מִן הַמַּהְדָרִין.

ב) אֵין אֶלָעַ מְצֻוֹת, זִינְיָעַן  
רֹוב אִיזָן מַקְיִים בְּלֹויִ דִי מְצֻוָה

1. *Bava Kama* 9a-b.

with merely the standard observance of the *mitzvah*. By contrast, the universal custom among the Jewish people<sup>2</sup> is to fulfill the *mitzvah* of Chanukah not only *behiddur*, but also as *mehadrin min hamehadrin*.

אלין. אֲבָעֵר אֵין דָעֵר מְצֹוָה פּוֹן גַּר  
חֲנוֹכָה אֵין דָעֵר מִנְהָג בַּיִּ אַלְעָ אַיְזָנִי  
צַו מְקִיִּים זַיִן נִיטַּ נָאָר דִּי מְצֹוָה  
אַלְיַין נָאָר אַוְיךְ דַּעַם הַיּוֹדָר, אַוְן  
אַפְּיַילְוִי דַּעַם הַיּוֹדָר מַן הַהִידָּר.

## Miracles Beyond the Miraculous

2. *Chanukah* is celebrated in commemoration of two miracles:

a) the Jews' military victory, which is commemorated through praise (reciting *Hallel*) and thanksgiving (including the passage *Ve'al hanissim* in the *Modim* prayer), and

b) the miracle of the cruse of oil, which is commemorated by kindling lights.

The concept of fulfilling the *mitzvah* in a manner of *mehadrin min hamehadrin* does not apply regarding the *mitzvah* of prayers of praise and thanksgiving, but only regarding the *mitzvah* of kindling lights, connected with the miracle of the cruse of oil.

The fulfillment of the *mitzvah* of kindling Chanukah lights in a manner of *mehadrin min hamehadrin* by all Jews relates to the fact that the miracle of the cruse of oil possesses a superior quality beyond all other miracles, including even the military victory of Chanukah. The nature of this quality can be clarified by first defining three modes through which G-d grants the Jewish people beneficence:<sup>3</sup>

a) The beneficence which is granted according to the norms of the natural order. Such beneficence can also be elevated above the norm; man's efforts will be crowned with success that exceeds his expectations. However, that success – impressive as it may be – is still measured and falls within the bounds of nature.

b) A miraculous mode that transcends nature, as was manifest in the military victory of Chanukah.

ב. אֵין חֲנוֹכָה זַיִנְגָּעָן פָּאָרָאָן  
צְוּוּיִ נְסִים: א) דָעֵר נְצָחָן פּוֹן דָעֵר  
מְלַחְמָה, וּוֹאָס אַוְיךְ דַּעַם הָאָט מְעַן  
מְתַקְּן גַּעֲוָעָן הַלְּלָה וְהַזָּאָה. ב) דָעֵר  
נְסִ פּוֹן פְּקַדְשָׁן, וּוֹאָס אַוְיךְ דַּעַם  
הָאָט מְעַן מְתַקְּן גַּעֲוָעָן הַדְּלָקָת  
הַגְּרוֹת.

דָעֵר עַנְיָן פּוֹן מְהַדְרִין מַן הַמְּהַדְרִין  
אֵין נִטְיַ אֵין מְצֹוָה הַלְּלָה וְהַזָּאָה, נָאָר  
אֵין מְצֹוָה הַדְּלָקָת הַגְּרוֹת, וּוֹאָס  
עַס אַיְזָנִי פָּאָרְבּוֹנְדִן מִיטַּן נְסִ פְּקַדְשָׁן  
הַשְּׁמָן.

דִּי מְעַלָּה פּוֹן גַּנְזִים מִיטַּן פְּקַדְשָׁן  
אַוְיךְ אַלְעָ נְסִים, וּבְכָלְלִים אַוְיךְ דָעֵר  
נְסִ פּוֹן נְצָחָן אֵין דָעֵר מְלַחְמָה, וּוֹעַט  
מְעַן פָּאָרְשְׁטִין נַאֲךְ אַפְּרִיעָרְדִּיקָעָר  
דָעַרְקָלְעָרוֹגָג אֹז אֵין דִי הַנְּגָגוֹת  
שְׁלַמְעַלָּה זַיִנְגָּעָן פָּאָרָאָן דְּרִיעָרְלִי  
אַוְפְּגִי הַנְּגָגוֹת:

א) הַנְּגָגָה טְבָעִית, - א  
נָאָטְרָלְלָעַכְעַ אַוְפְּפִירָוָג - וּוֹאָס  
זַיְגָפָא קָעָן זַיִן אַ דָּעַרְהַוְּבָעָנָע,  
בְּהַצְלָחָה. עַס אַיְזָנִי טָאַקָּע אַן עַנְיָן  
פּוֹן הַצְלָחָה, אֲבָעֵר פָּוְנְדָעְסְּטוּוּגָן  
אֵין דָאָס אַן הַצְלָחָה וּוֹאָס עַל פִּי  
טְבָע.

ב) הַנְּגָגָה נְסִית וּוֹאָס אַיְזָנִי הַעֲכָר  
פּוֹן טְבָע. וּוֹאָס אַוְיךְ אֵין אַוְיךְ גַּעֲוָעָן  
דָעֵר נְצָחָן הַמְּלַחְמָה פּוֹן חֲנוֹכָה -

2. *Rama, Orach Chayim* 671:2.

3. Similar explanations are found in *Likkutei Sichos*, Vol. 15, p. 367ff.

This was a miracle that surpassed the bounds of nature, for the “mighty were [vanquished by] the weak, the many [by] the few.”<sup>4</sup>

The victory of mighty men over other mighty men is included in the mode previously described – success within the natural order. Since we are speaking about a war, there is no guarantee who will prevail, and triumph involves success above the norm. Nevertheless, such a victory is not miraculous. By contrast, when the mighty are overcome by the weak, the many by the few, that is a miracle that surpasses nature.

c) A wondrous mode that surpasses miracles involving material entities. Wonders of this kind are not necessities, matters vital for the body (like the victory over the Greeks), nor even for the soul (enabling the observance of *mitzvos* as required by Jewish Law). Instead, this mode is manifest in miracles like finding the cruse of pure oil, which gives expression to the soul in its purest sense. This miracle was not necessary even for the soul, for, according to law, service of a communal nature is permitted in the *Beis Ha-Mikdash* despite ritual impurity.<sup>5</sup> Thus, the *kohanim* would have been allowed to light the *Menorah* even with impure oil. The miracle was performed solely to enable the Jews to fulfill a *mitzvah behiddur* – to demonstrate that G-d cherishes the Jewish people.<sup>6</sup>

## Making Our Own Future

3. Since all the different modes of Divine conduct are dependent on the Divine service of the Jewish people,<sup>7</sup> it follows that there are three corresponding types of Divine service that lead to the three modes of beneficence described above:

4. See passage *Ve'al hanissim*.

5. *Rambam, Hilchos Bi'as HaMikdash* 4:9ff. Note the Talmudic discussion in *Pesachim* 77a, *et al.*, as to whether the restrictions against ritual impurity are released or merely overridden, with regard to sacrificial

service of a communal nature.

6. Commentary of *Pnei Yehoshua* (*Shabbos* 21b) and *Rosh Yosef* (*Shabbos* 21a); *Chacham Tzvi*, responsum 87. See *Likkutei Sichos*, Vol. 1, p. 81ff., and Vol. 3, p. 813, *et al.*

א נס וואס איז העכער פון טבע,  
ווארום עס איז דאך געוווען גבורים  
ביד חלשים ורבים ביד מעטים.  
אויב עס וואלט זיין גבורים ביד  
גבורים וואלט דאס אויך זיין  
הצלהה, ווארום עס איז דאך א  
מלחמה, אבער אלץ ניט נס. גבורים  
ביד חלשים ורבים ביד מעטים, איז  
נס וואס איז העכער פון טבע.

ג) הַנִּגְהָה וּנְאָס אִיז הַעֲכָר אָזֵיךְ  
 פָּה אַנְס. אָן עַנְנִין וּנְאָס מָוֵן נִיט  
 זַיִן מִצְדָּע עַיְנִינִים פָּה גּוֹפֵ, אַדְעָר  
 אַפְּיָלוּ פָּה נְשָׁמָה, נְאָר דָּאָס אִיז  
 אַהֲדָוָה, אָן אִין עַנְנִין הַנְּשָׁמָה,  
 אַט דָּאָס אִיז גַּעֲוֹעַן דָּעַר נֵס וּנְאָס  
 מַהָּאָט גַּעֲפָנָעַן דָּעַם שְׁמָן תָּהָרָ  
 וּנְאָס אִיז גַּעֲוֹעַן אָן עַנְנִין וּנְאָס אִיז  
 פָּאַרְבּוֹנָן נְאָר מִיט דָעַר נְשָׁמָה, אָן  
 נְאָר מַעֲרָרָע, עַס אִיז גַּעֲוֹעַן אָזֵיךְ  
 לְהַרְאָות חַבְטָמָה שֶׁל יִשְׂרָאֵל (וּאְרוּם  
 עַל פִּי דִין הָאָט מְעַן גַּעֲקָעֵנְט צִינְדָן  
 אָזֵיךְ מִיט שְׁמָן טְמָא, וּוְיִלְטּוֹמָה  
 דְּחוּיָה אַדְעָר הַוּתָרָה בָּצְבָור, אָן  
 דָעַר נֵס אִיז גַּעֲוֹעַן בְּכִדִּי לְהַרְאָות  
 חַבְטָמָה שֶׁל יִשְׂרָאֵל).

ג. היהת אז אלע ענינים שלמעלה  
וינגען אפהונגיק אין דער עבודה  
פונ מענטישן, זינגען פראאנן דריי  
אופנאים אין עבודת האדם, וויאס זיי  
ברענגן זי דוריי הנטגות האיל.

7. Note the Alter Rebbe's well-known interpretation of the teaching (*Pirkei Avos* 2:1), "Know what is above you (הַמֵּצָב)" – that "what is Above is from you" – that the dynamics in the spiritual realms depend on you (*HaYom Yom*, entry 13 [Iyar]).

a) The beneficence granted through the natural mode comes through the Jews' observance of the Torah and its *mitzvos*, as it is written,<sup>8</sup> "If you follow My statutes.... I will grant your rain in its time, and the land will yield its crop." Similarly, as a result of the Jews' observance, G-d will bestow all the other blessings mentioned in that passage.

b) The miraculous mode comes about through the Jews fulfilling *mitzvos behiddur*, not contenting themselves with observing the *mitzvos* merely as required by law, but fulfilling them in a more meticulous and beautiful manner. When a person endeavors to fulfill *mitzvos behiddur*, G-d repays him measure for measure,<sup>9</sup> unfolding a mode of beneficence that transcends nature.

c) The third mode – one above miracles involving material things – is evoked specifically through *mesiras nefesh*, which demonstrates a commitment even deeper than that expressed through carrying out *mitzvos behiddur*.

הנֶּגֶה טְבֻעַת קָוָמֶת דָּרָךְ  
מִקְיָם זִין תּוֹרָה אָוֹן מִצּוֹת, וְוִי  
עַס שְׁטִיטַת אָם בְּחַקְתִּי תְּלָכְיָה  
גּוֹ, וְנִתְתִּי גְּשִׁמְלִיכָם בְּעַתָּם וְנִתְתִּה  
הָאָרֶץ יְכֹלָה, אָוֹן דִּי אַיְבָעַרְקָע  
בָּרְכּוֹת.

הנֶּגֶה נְסִיתַת קָוָמֶת דָּרָךְ  
הַיְדָוָר מִצּוֹה דָּקָא, בְּשַׁעַת אָוֹן מַעַן  
בְּאַנְגָּעָנֶת זִיךְ בִּיטַת מִקְיָם זִין  
דִּי מִצּוֹת בְּלֹין וְוִי עַל פִּי דִין, נָאָר  
מַעַן אִיז מַהְדָר אִיז דָעַר מִצּוֹה, מַעַן  
וּכְטַ אָז דִּי מִצּוֹה זָאל זִין בְּהַיְדָוָר,  
דָאָן גִּיט דָעַר אַיְבָעַרְשָׁעַר מַדָּה  
פְּנַגְדָמְדָה, - דִי הַנֶּגֶה שְׁלָמָעָלה  
מַהְטָּבָע.

דִי דָרְיַטַע הַנֶּגֶה אַבְעָר קָוָמֶת  
דָוָרָךְ מִסִּירַת נְפָשָׁת דָקָא - וְוָאָס  
עַס אִיז נָאָר הַעֲכָר וְוִי דָעַר עַנְיָן  
פּוֹן הַיְדָוָר מִצּוֹה.

## Taking Oneself Out of the Picture

4. The advantage of *mesiras nefesh* over *hiddur mitzvah* is that *mesiras nefesh* lifts a person above his individual desires, even those of the realm of holiness. When a person fulfills a *mitzvah behiddur*, he carries it out not because he has to, but because he derives satisfaction from doing so. Therefore, he fulfills it with vitality, seeking the optimum manner of observance, a way that beautifies the *mitzvah*, even though he is not obligated to do so.

To illustrate by way of analogy: A king's subjects obey his orders with varying degrees of vitality. A subject who finds no satisfaction in what he is doing – and obeys only because he must – will do only what is required. Since he gains no satisfaction from what he does, he will do no more than the bare minimum, without seeking to enhance his actions in any way. By contrast, when one cherishes what he is doing

ד. דִי מַעַלָה פּוֹן מִסִּירַת נְפָשָׁת  
אוֹרֵף הַיְדָוָר מִצּוֹה אִיז:

הַיְדָוָר מִצּוֹה מִיְנַט אָז עַר טוֹט  
נִיט דִי זָאָק וּוַיְיל עַר מַזְוָדָאָס טָאָן,  
נָאָר עַר הָאָט אַגְעַשְׁמָאָק אִין דָעַם  
אָוֹן טוֹט דָאָס מִיטַ אַחְשָׁק אָוֹן אַ  
חַיָּות. דָעַרְפָּאָר וּכְטַ עַר אַלְץ וְוִי  
צַו פָּאַרְבָּעַסְעָרָן דָאָס אָוֹן מַאֲכָן  
עַס זָאל זִין שִׁין, הָגָם עַר אִיז נִיט  
מְחַוֵּב אִין דָעַם.

- דָעַר מִשְׁלָא אוֹרֵף דָעַם אִיז פּוֹן  
אַקְנַעַט וּוָאָס אִיז מִקְיָם דָעַם  
בְּאַפְעָל פּוֹן דָעַם מַלְך, אִיז אוֹרֵף עַר  
הָאָט נִיט קִין גַעַשְׁמָאָק אָוֹן קִין  
חַיָּות אִין דָעַם, אָוֹן טוֹט נָאָר וּוַיְיל  
עַר מַזְוָדָאָס זִין דָעַם בְּאַפְעָל, דָאָן

8. *Vayikra* 26:3.

9. *Sanhedrin* 90a.

and derives satisfaction from it, he will fulfill the king's orders energetically, in a manner that glorifies them.

To return to the expression of the concept in our Divine service: Even a person who conducts himself in such a manner possesses a sense of self. *He* derives satisfaction from the *mitzvah* and *he* desires to fulfill it. When he does so, he feels himself, i.e., his identity. By contrast, when one acts with *mesiras nefesh*, his own identity is completely subsumed in the objective that he seeks to fulfill. His being – independent of fulfilling the command – does not exist at all; he has no sense of self. His entire existence consists of carrying out G-d's will.

It does not matter to him whether he is credited as the one who thought of the matter, that he spoke about it, or was the one who actually carried it out. All he cares about is what G-d wants and that His desire be fulfilled. Accordingly, it does not matter to him whether he was the one who carried out that desire or if it was fulfilled by another person. All that is important is that the objective be carried out.<sup>10</sup>

Divine service of *mesiras nefesh* involves putting aside all thoughts of self, even of one's soul, and focusing primarily on carrying out G-d's *mitzvos*. G-d then responds in kind, "measure for measure," manifesting Divine Providence that surpasses the miraculous, revealing G-dliness in a manner entirely beyond the limits of ordinary material existence.

## How We Can Make Miracles

5. During the events leading up to the Chanukah miracle, the Jews adopted a stance of *mesiras nefesh*. In response, G-d manifested the miracle

אייזער מוקים נאר דעם באפעל אליען  
און וווקט ניט צו מתדור זיין אין דעם,  
וויליל ער האט ניט קיין געשמאק אין  
דעם. דאקעגן אויב די זאנק אייזי בי אים  
טייער און ער האט א חיות אין דעם,  
זוקט ער צו מהדר זיין אין דעם -

אָפֶעֶר פּוֹנְדָעָסְטוּוּעָגָן אַיְזָעָר אָ  
מְצִיאָות פָּאָר זִיךְרָה, עַס אַיְזָ פָּאָרָאָן  
דָּעָר גַּעַשְׁמָאָק אָוֹן דָּעָר וּוַיְלָן וּוָסָעָר  
וּוְילְמְקִיּוּם זִיין דִּי מְצֹוֹתָה, אָוֹן עַס אַיְזָ  
פָּאָרָאָן דָּעָר וּוּעַלְעָר. דָאָקָעָגָן מְסִירָתָה  
נְפָשָׁה הַיִּסְטָה, אָזֶעָר אַיְזָ אַיְגָאנָצָן קִיּוּם  
מְצִיאָות נִיטָה פָּאָר זִיךְרָה, אָוֹן זִיין גָּאנְצָעָן  
מְצִיאָות אַיְזָמְקִיּוּם זִיין דָעָם רְצֹוֹן  
הָעַלְיוֹן.

ער איז ניט אויסן או ער זאל זיין  
דער "טראכטער", דער "זאגער" און  
דער "טוער", ער איז אויסן או די זאנק  
זאל זיך אפטאן, ובכילה איז אים קיינ  
נפקא מינָה ניט, צי די זאנק קומט דורך  
אַים צִי דָוָרָךְ אָן אַנְדָעָרָן, אַבְּיָה די זאנק  
זאל זיך אפטאן.

אָוֹן דָוָרָךְ ער עַבְדָה פּוֹן מְסִירָתָה  
נְפָשָׁה, אָזֶעָר לִיְגַט זִיךְרָה אָוּוּעָק  
אַיְגָאנָצָן, ער לִיְגַט אָוּוּעָק אָפִילָוּ  
זִיין נְשָׁמָה, אָוֹן דָעָר עַיְקָר אַיְזָ בִּי אַיְם  
מְקִיּוּם זִיין דִי מְצֹוֹתָה, דָאָן צָאָלָט אָפֶ  
דָעָר אַיְבָעָרְשָׁטָעָר מְדָה בְּנֵגָד מְדָה, אָזֶ  
דִי הַנְּגָהָה שְׁלָמָעָלה אַיְיָה עַכְבָּרָ פּוֹן  
עַס אַיְזָ אָן עַנְיָן וּוָסָ אַיְזָ אַיְגָאנָצָן נִיט  
פָּאָרְבּוֹנְדָן מִיטָּמְצִיאָות.

ה. אַזְוִי וּנִי חֲנוֹנָה זִיְגָעָן אִידָן  
גַּעַשְׁטָאָנָעָן מִיטָּמְצִיאָתָה נְפָשָׁה, דָעָרְפָּאָר  
אַיְזָ דָעָמָלָט גַּעַוְעָן דָעָר נִסְ פּוֹן

10. See *Likkutei Sichos*, Vol. 23, pp. 161-162.

of the cruse of oil to demonstrate that He cherishes the Jewish people in a way that entirely surpasses the limits of ordinary existence.

By fulfilling *mitzvos behiddur*, we can evoke miracles that transcend nature. Nevertheless, these miracles still relate to the body, i.e., to material existence. Through *mesiras nefesh*, going beyond any concern for ourselves, we can elicit a Divine Providence that entirely transcends ordinary material existence.

The converse is also true. Divine Providence that entirely transcends material existence evokes a commitment of *mesiras nefesh* on the part of the Jewish people; they put all thoughts of themselves aside.

This is universally relevant because the potential for *mesiras nefesh* exists within all Jews, even the most coarse and least spiritually developed. Regardless of a Jew's level of refinement or observance, this potential will be manifest when his essential connection to G-d is awakened. (By contrast, there are Jews who will not necessarily be inspired to study Torah, give *tzedakah*, etc.)

On Chanukah, the *mesiras nefesh* of the Jewish people evoked a mode of Divine Providence that showed how G-d cherishes the Jewish people. That in turn called forth a commitment of *mehadrin min hamehadrin*. The Jews committed themselves to observing the *mitzvos* not only as required by law, or even *behiddur*, but in a manner of *mehadrin min hamehadrin*, putting themselves aside entirely, expressing utter self-nullification (*bittul*).

Since such *bittul* represents the inner core of every Jew, the *mitzvah* of kindling Chanukah lights is universally observed in a manner of *mehadrin min hamehadrin*, something not found regarding other *mitzvos*. Moreover, all Jews accepted this mode of observance because Chanukah as a whole is identified with *mehadrin min hamehadrin*, utter *bittul*, the aspect of *mesiras nefesh*.

פֶּךָ הַשְׁמָן אֹוִיף צו בָּאוֹנוֹיִזְן חַבְתָּם  
שֶׁל יִשְׂרָאֵל, וּוֹאָס עַס הָאָט נִיט קִיְּין  
שִׁיכּוֹת מִיט עֲנִינִים פָּוֹן מִצְיאֹת.  
דוֹרֶךְ דָּעַם עֲנִין פָּוֹן הַיּוֹרִים אַיְּן דִּי  
הַנְּגָה פָּוֹן גְּסִים שָׁלְמַעַלָּה מַהְתַּבְעָה,  
אָבְעָר עַס אַיְּן פָּאָרְבּוֹנְדָן מִיט גּוֹף,  
מִיט מִצְיאֹת. אָבְעָר דָּוָרְךָ מִסְרָת  
נֶפֶשׁ וּוֹאָס עַד לִיְּגַט אָוּוּקָ זִיְּין  
מִצְיאֹת אִינְגָאנְצָן, אַיְּן דִּי הַנְּגָה  
מַלְמַעַלָּה אַיְּן אָן אָפָּן וּוֹאָס אַיְּן  
אִינְגָאנְצָן נִיט נָוָגָע צו מִצְיאֹת.

אוֹזֵן אַוְּזָן פָּוֹן צְוּנִיְּטָן זִיְּיט, אַז דִּי  
הַנְּגָה שָׁלְמַעַלָּה אַיְּן נִיט פָּאָרְבּוֹנְדָן  
מִיט מִצְיאֹת, רַוְּפַט זִי אָרוֹסִים בִּיְּ  
אַיְּדָן אָן אָוּעְקָלְלִיְּגָ פָּוֹן מִסְרָת נֶפֶשׁ.  
אַיְּזָן דָּוָקָא מִסְרָת נֶפֶשׁ אַיְּזָן דָּא בִּיְּ  
אַלְעָ אַיְּדָן, אָפִילְוּ בִּיְּ אַכְל שְׁבָקְלִים  
וּוֹעֵן עַס זְעַרְנָעָמֶט אִים' (אַנְדְּעַרְשׁ וּוֹי  
אַיְּן דָּעַם עֲנִין פָּוֹן תּוֹרָה, צְדָקָה וּכְוּ).

דָּעַרְפָּאָר, אַיְּזָן חַנּוּכָה וּוֹאָס  
דָּעַמְּאַלְט אַיְּזָן גַּעֲוֹעַן דִּי הַנְּגָה  
לְמַעַלָּה אֹוִיף לְהַרְאֹות חַבְתָּם שֶׁל  
יִשְׂרָאֵל - וּוֹאָס דָּאָס הַאֲבָן אַיְּדָן  
אַרְוִיְּסְגָּעַרְוֹפָן דָּוָרְךָ מִסְרָת נֶפֶשׁ -  
הָאָט דָּאָס אַרְוִיְּסְגָּעַרְוֹפָן בִּיְּ אַיְּדָן  
דָּעַם עֲנִין פָּוֹן מַהְדָּרִין מִן הַמַּהְדָּרִין.  
נִיט נָאָר קִיּוּם הַמִּצְוֹת בַּתְּקוֹנָה, אֹוִיף  
נִיט בְּלוֹזִי קִיּוּם הַמִּצְוֹת בַּהֲדִירָה, נָאָר  
מַהְדָּרִין מִן הַמַּהְדָּרִין, אָן אָוּעְקָלְלִיְּגָ  
אַנְזָן אַבְּיַטְוָל אַיְּן גָּאנְצָן.

אַנְזָן דָּעַרְפָּאָר אַיְּזָן אַיְּן נֶר חַנּוּכָה  
פָּאָרָאָן דָּעַר עֲנִין פָּוֹן מַהְדָּרִין מִן  
הַמַּהְדָּרִין וּוֹאָס עַס אַיְּזָן נִטְאָ בִּיְּ  
אַנְדְּעַרְשׁ מִצְוֹת, אַנְזָן אַלְעָ אַיְּדָן הַאֲבָן  
דָּאָס אַגְּגָעַנְמָעָן, וּוֹיִיל דָּעַר גַּאנְצָעָר  
עֲנִין פָּוֹן חַנּוּכָה אַיְּזָן מַהְדָּרִין מִן  
הַמַּהְדָּרִין - בִּיטָּול אַיְּן גָּאנְצָן, וּוֹאָס  
דָּאָס אַיְּזָן דָּעַר עֲנִין פָּוֹן מִסְרָת נֶפֶשׁ.

משיחת נֶר ה' דְּחַנוּכָה, תש"י(ג)

ברוניא טרפ"ה, ספר המאמרים תש"ט ע' 118.

ל) בבא קמא ט, ב.  
לא) אורח חיים סימן טרע"א, ס"ב הגדת לד) ויקרא כו, ג.  
רמ"א. לה) סנהדרין ז, א.  
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