

Insights Into Hashem's Hashgacha

פרשת בהר-בחוקתי

In this week's Parsha the Pasuk says (26:3-4), "If you walk in My statutes, and keep My Mitzvos, and do them, I will give rain in its time, the land will give its produce and the trees will give their fruit." Later in the Parsha, the Torah tells us that the exact opposite will occur if one does not walk in Hashem's statutes. The Toras Kohanim comments that walking in 'My statutes' refers to laboring in Torah study. The Ralbag in his first lesson comments on these Pesukim as follows: "These Pesukim are to inform us that Hashem's Hashgacha even clings to good people in regards to their physicality. This Hashgacha also extends to their children as follows: If their children drift from the ways of Torah, which will cause them to completely lose all their Shleimus, Hashem will continuously chastise them in a manner that they will not remain entrenched in their crooked perspective, and they will return to acquire the Shleimus that was removed from them."

We can learn a few powerful insights from this Ralbag. Firstly, the Ralbag indicates that without these Pesukim we would not know that Hashem's Hashgacha extends to our physicality. This seems perplexing. Why would we think that Hashem's Hashgacha wouldn't include our physicality? The Pshat is that the entire purpose of the world is for spiritual achievements. In addition, the person in this Pasuk is receiving this Hashgacha due to his complete immersion in Torah study, and lack of involvement in worldly affairs. Therefore, we would think that Hashem would not give us unnecessary physical things as they are irrelevant to his purpose. We see from here the extent to which Hashem wants to give to us, even beyond what is necessary for the fulfillment of our purpose in creation.

"Ameilus in Torah leads to a person inculcating within himself the ways of the Torah, which then leads to Shleimus."

Secondly, the Ralbag says that "drifting from the ways of the Torah causes one to lose all the perfection that he achieved." The Ralbag seems to be saying that achieving Shleimus is a two step process. Ameilus in Torah leads to a person inculcating within himself the ways of the Torah, which then leads to Shleimus. Through intense Torah study, the Middos and value system of the Torah become part of our essence. However, even after a person achieves this Shleimus, without continued Ameilus in his Torah studies, he will lose everything that he achieved. It is clear from the Ralbag that merely performing Mitzvos is insufficient to retain our morality and value system that we achieved in our younger years. Without continued Ameilus in our Torah studies we are in danger of losing it all.

Thirdly, we can derive an insight from this Ralbag that can help us view our suffering as emanating from Hashem's love for us. Often the realization that our suffering is a result of our own sins causes us to feel unworthy of Hashem's love. This in effect makes it difficult to see the suffering as a message of love from Hashem. However if we can view our suffering as an extension of the love that Hashem had for my ancestors who were righteous, it can help us view the suffering as emanating from Hashem's love and kindness.

Have a good Shabbos!

BASED ON THE WEEKLY SHMUSS GIVEN BY HARAV SHAYA COHEN, ROSH HAYESHIVA ZICHRON ARYEH

לעילוי נשמת גיטל בת הרב אליעזר מנוח
לעילוי נשמת הרב יוסף חיים בן מאיר
לעילוי נשמת רפאל חיים דוב בן ריסא שושנה
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