

Fortunate is the man who places his trust in Hashem and does not turn towards the haughty.

(Tehillim 40:5)

Fortunate is the man who places his trust in Hashem – This refers to Yosef, *and does not turn towards the haughty* – for as a result of his asking of the butler, “remember me and mention me,” Hashem added two years to his imprisonment. (*Medrash*)

This *medrash* is very hard to understand for in the first part it refers to Yosef as *the example of one who places his trust in Hashem* however, it immediately continues stating that he was punished for turning towards others for his salvation.

The *Beis Halevi* explains: To enable us to climb the ladder towards true *bitachon* the Torah allows us to perform *hishtadlus* – natural efforts to obtain our needs. This is in order to make it easier for us to trust in Hashem’s ultimate salvation. Therefore, the level of *hishtadlus* one is permitted to perform is dependent upon his level of *bitachon*. The higher one’s level of trust in Hashem, the less *hishtadlus* he is expected to perform. Our *medrash* teaches us that because Yosef had reached such a high level, becoming the very example of *one who places his trust in Hashem*, even the *hishtadlus* of merely saying a few words to one who, it seemed clear, was sent by Hashem to be a conduit of his salvation, was considered, on his level, a lack of trust in Hashem.

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