

My God, I trusted in You; let me not be ashamed. Nor shall my enemies rejoice over me. Neither shall any of those who hope for You be ashamed; let those who betray destitution be ashamed. (Tehillim 25:2,3)

Due to recent security threats, a strict curfew was in place throughout the night and woe to the person who was found violating it. The royal guards paced back and forth, their eyes and ears fully alert, as they guarded the palace and surrounding areas. Suddenly light footsteps were heard in the distance. With their swords drawn, wondering who would dare violate the royal curfew, the watchman stealthily followed the noise to its source. It was a simple peasant who had dared violate the royal decree who would now pay for his brazenness. "How dare you?!" they yelled as they tackled the peasant to the ground and prepared to give him a beating he would not soon forget. "Don't beat me!" pleaded the peasant, "I'm a member of the king's household!" The guards looked at him skeptically, finding it very hard to believe that this simpleton was a member of the royal household, but they couldn't take the slightest chance. "Just in case you're telling us the truth we will refrain from punishing you at present, instead, you will face a punishment far more severe when we bring you before the king tomorrow. You can only imagine the punishment that awaits one who dares pretend to be a member of the king's household."

"We found a member of your household last night," the watchman told the king as they brought the peasant before him the following morning. The king, showing no recollection, gave the peasant a piercing look. "We know each other?" he asked. "No," admitted the peasant. "So then how is it that you dare claim to be a member of my household?" asked the king, his face clouded with anger. With a pleading look in his eyes the peasant responded, "I beg your royal highness to have pity on me! True, I'm not a member of your household, but I trusted in your mercy, for had I not claimed it, your guards would have beaten me."

Hearing the simple words of the poor peasant, the stern look on the king's face slowly turned into a smile. Turning to the guards he said, "Being that he placed his trust in me, leave him be!"

(Based on Medrash Socher Tov 25:4)

The Medrash follows this story with the words: Similarly, Dovid HaMelech said, **"My G-d! In You I placed my trust and because of this my enemies will not rejoice over my downfall. (Tehillim 25:4)** And not I alone, rather, all those who place their trust in You will not be shamed!"

One may ask: What does someone like the greatest king of *Klal Yisroel*, Dovid HaMelech have to do with the above *mashal*, regarding one who was a pretender, with no true merit of his own, who was saved only because he trusted in Hashem? Furthermore, what is the logic behind Dovid HaMelech's concluding statement, **And not I alone, rather, all those who place their trust in You will not be shamed!"**

Perhaps Dovid HaMelech was saying: No matter how much merit I may have, Hashem may have some calculation for causing me to fall presently and He can still reward me for any merits I may have in the future. The only way I can be sure that also in my current situation Hashem will not let me fall is through the knowledge that there is a greater power that can never fail, despite any Heavenly calculations, and that power, as was so eloquently explained in the above *mashal*, is complete trust in Hashem. Once the infinite nature of that power is understood, it logically follows that it will work despite the merits or demerits of its users! Therefore, **"Not I alone, rather, all those who place their trust in You will not be shamed!"**

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