

# Pursuit of Purpose

INSPIRING A LIFE OF MEANING AND CONNECTION

פרשת  
וישלה

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## Love Melts the Heart

*Based on the weekly Shmuess given by HaRav Shaya Cohen, Rosh HaYeshiva, Yeshiva Zichron Aryeh*

לעילוי נשמת גיטל בת הרב אליעזר מנח | הרב יוסף חיים בן מאיר | רפאל חיים דוב בן בן-ציון שלום | ר' ברוך בן ר' יהודה | שרה בת ר' יחזקאל | ראובן יוסף בן יהושע | לרפואה שלמה יוסף בן מלכה מטל

Fights, resentment and negative emotions are all too often par for the course in our daily interactions. These experiences and feelings can create distance, even in the most loving relationships. More often than not, relationships are destroyed by petty issues that could have been resolved through proper techniques and strategies. It is therefore integral that we learn the secret to conflict resolution.

In this week's Parsha, when Yaakov was returning home after many years, he prepared for his encounter with Eisav. Yaakov was well aware that Eisav had a deep seeded hatred towards him for taking the brachos, to such an extent that he wanted to murder him. Yaakov devised a plan to dissipate Eisav's hatred. He sent messengers to tell Eisav what had been going on in his life up until now. He told him the following: "I lived with Lavan until now, and I have oxen, donkeys, sheep, servants, and maidservants." The Ralbag explains that Yaakov's intention in sharing this information with Eisav, was to express friendship and love. People only share the details of their lives with friends and loved ones. Yaakov felt that through this expression of love, Eisav's hatred would dissipate. From here the Ralbag derives that through a show of friendship we can melt the heart of an enemy.

If we analyze and put into context the lesson mentioned above, we can glean a powerful insight into understanding human relationships and conflict resolution. Our Sages tell us that Eisav's hatred towards Yaakov was so intense, that it became embedded within his DNA, and passed down to all of his descendants. In addition, Eisav made no indication

that he desired a relationship with Yaakov. Yet we find that Yaakov could have been able to remove this hatred and evoke love and friendship from Eisav. We see from here that even the greatest hatred can be transformed through love. Moreover, it is evident that hatred does not necessarily require an extreme show of love or a need to dwell on the problem. Even a slight show of friendship, merely sharing the non-personal events of one's life, can warm a cold and callous heart.

Yaakov's actions still require further clarification. Although love melts the heart of even a mortal enemy, in this situation there was an additional problem. Eisav said about Yaakov that, "He tricked me twice." Eisav found himself duped by Yaakov in the past and knew Yaakov was clever and cunning. Thus, at best, Eisav could not have been sure that this expression of love from Yaakov was fully sincere. Yet, Yaakov felt that this expression of love could potentially have the power to break through Eisav's heart. We see from here that even an expression of love that the other person is skeptical of it's sincerity can work to melt the heart.

In every relationship, whether it is a marriage, parent-child, teacher-student, or our other friendships, it is normal and quite common to experience conflict. However, we learn from the Ralbag that there is no hatred that can't be broken. People have an extreme craving for friendship and love even when they may appear to seem angry or uninterested in you. This desire is so strong that upon seeing your interest in them, you can melt their heart, despite their doubts about your sincerity.



## Shir HaShirim Insights

*In loving memory of Mr. Marvin Halpern*

*The pain and longing in her eyes could not be witnessed through dry eyes. People would avoid passing their house just to avoid the dreadful seen of the wife sitting by the window with tears in her eyes hoping longingly for her lost husband's return. Many years had already passed but her tearful face never left the window. Maybe, just maybe, today he would come and the constant torturous loneliness would come to an end.*

*She pictures the scene in her mind each day where she thinks she sees a familiar face from afar. She holds her breath scared to believe it's finally happened. She runs outside and it's true! It's him! Life can begin!*

*But that day never arrived and the only thing that kept her alive was the thought that one day, one day it would!*

Who can hold back a tear at the thought?! Yet Eliyahu HaNavi swears to us: "The heavens and earth are my witnesses that Hashem sits and awaits longingly for Klal Yisroel, more than a father waits for his son and a wife for her husband, for them to do Teshuva in order that they He may redeem them and rebuild for them the Beis Hamikdash which will never be destroyed." (Tana D'Bei Eliyahu Rabah 31)

**Turn back, turn back, O maid of Shulem! Turn back, turn back, that we may gaze upon you.** (Shir HaShirim 7:1) The Metzudos explains that this is Hashem crying out to Klal Yisroel. Let's imagine His pain! By doing so before we Daven each day it will help us realize the monumental meeting that's about to take place! He's waiting for you!



## ELIEZER INSTITUTE **Emunah Highlights**

*A Westwood Realty Initiative*

As we journey in pursuit of true Bitachon it is essential that we address a question that arises whenever we dwell upon Hashem's love for us as a reason to assume He will help us in the future.

One may ask: All the overwhelming expressions of Hashem's love that we find in Chazal are true, however, they were true until now as well and my situation has remained dismal?

In truth, this question dissipates when we focus on the words of the Chovos HaLevavos in his introduction to Shar HaBitachon. He says that when we place our trust in anything other than Hashem, He removes his special Heavenly guidance from upon us and places us under whatever power we choose to rely upon. This means that although in the past Hashem's great love for us may have compelled Him to help us, we may have, in a sense, asked Him to leave us under the natural powers of whatever it is we were relying upon.

However, if we now focus on His infinite love and rely solely upon it, performing all hishtadlus as a mere technical obligation, we have every reason to assume that this time His decision will be in our favor.

For, in truth, He desires for us to succeed no less than we ourselves desire our success.