

Daf Review – Berachos 7

Rabbi Shmuel Silber

Gemara:

- If someone normally greets you, try to be proactive in getting them.
- Incredible story of *Rabbi Yishmael Kohen Gadol* blessing Hashem in the *Kodesh HaKodashim*.
Message – *al tihey birkas hedyot kala b'eynecha, the blessing of a simple person should be not be disregarded or taken lightly.*
- Hashem gets angry for a “rega” each day. Yet, when Bilaam tried to curse the Jewish people, Hashem refrained from getting angry.
Message – We control our temperament and expression of emotion.
- Moshe Rabbeinu asked for 3 things:
 - For Hashem to have a relationship with the Jewish nation
 - For that relationship to be unique and singular
 - To understand how God runs the world (why bad things happen to good people)
 - Hashem granted him the first 2 – the 3rd is subject to dispute.
- *Leah Imeynu* was the first person to thank Hashem (after the birth of his 4th son, Yehuda).
Rav Schwab zt'l – Leah was the first person to see the Hand of God even in the ordinary.
- An outstanding “debt” causes anxiety, once payment has been tendered there is a sense of relief, even if the payment is difficult and painful (Dovid and Avshalom).
Message – there are things that we must do in life which may be difficult and anxiety provoking. As a result, we often procrastinate. Be proactive. Do the things that need to get done and lift the weight off your shoulders.

Inspiration:

“Rav Chelbo said: Any person who has yira’as shamayim; his words are listened to.”

We often translate *Yira’as Shamayim* as “*fear of Heaven*.” Rav Levi Yitzchak of Berditchev explains that fear is an emotion which creates distance. Our goal is to attain closeness to God and to minimize the distance between us and our father. Rather, “*yirah*” means reverence. When you revere something, you place it on a pedestal. You realize that it is above you and that you must approach it with respect and awe. *Yiras Shamayim* means a reverence for Hashem. I appreciate how great and holy my God is and how privileged I am to have a relationship with Him. This reverence transforms us into the kind of person who is beloved in the eyes of God and respected by his fellow man. It is this respect from my fellow, which allows for *divarav nishma’in, our words to be heard and heeded.*