LESSONS IN OTOTIC

A TREATISE ON AHAVAS YISRAEL BY THE REBBE RASHAB לזכות הרוצה בעילום שמו



PUBLISHER'S FOREWORD

This chapter represents the conclusion of the first part of the extant portion of *Kuntreis Heichaltzu*. In the initial two chapters of the *kuntreis*, the Rebbe Rashab raised several questions regarding G-d's command to wage war against Midian. He proceeded to explain that Midian is identified with *yeshus*, a self-centered approach that leads to baseless hatred and friction between people. He elaborated on the negative dimensions of these qualities in the subsequent chapters.

In the present chapter, he summarizes these concepts, explaining the encompassing nature of these negative qualities and the difficulties in correcting them this causes. When a flaw is specific, it can be identified and changed. When it is amorphous and all-pervasive, correcting it becomes a severe challenge. This is the inner reason why the present exile has been extended for so long. The Second *Beis HaMikdash* was destroyed because of the sin of baseless hatred¹ and it is the correction of that sin that will lead to it being rebuilt and our redemption.

It is our hope that the study – and more important, the application – of the concepts explained in this *maamar* play a constructive role in that endeavor.

Sichos In English

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יז) רְזְרֶךְ ענין קליפת מדין, ל' מדון ומריבה, שהו"ע הפירוד וההתחלקות, כענין שנאת חנם הנ"ל, שהוא ההיפך ומנגד לכללות שם הוי', שהוא בחי' היחוד וההתכללות דוקא, כמשי"ת, וקלי' מדין הוא המנגד לזה לגמרי. וגרוע יותר מהז' עממין, שהן הז"מ רעות, וכמו התאוה והכעס ורציחה והגאוה כו', שכאו"א פוגם רק

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In this chapter, the Rebbe Rashab summarizes the concepts explained until this point of the *maamar*, offering resolutions to several of the questions he posed at the outset.

ווהוּ עִניַן קּלְפַּת מִדִין On the basis of the above,¹ it is possible to understand לשון מָדון וּמְרִיבַה the nature of the kelipah of Midian which shares the root letters of the word madon, meaning strife or quarreling. שהוא עניין הפרוד Midian represents divisiveness and fragmentation, וָהַהָתְחַלְּקוּת thus relating to the concept of baseless hatred dis-כussed above. הַנְּזַכַּר לְעֵיל עדוא הַהַפַּךְ וּמְנַגֵּר It epitomizes the antithesis and opponent of G-d's ישם הויי name Havayah as a whole. That name of G-d is specifically identified with unity מחל synthesis, והַהְתַּכֵּלְלוּת דַּוְקָא as will be explained in future chapters. דּקּלְפַּת מָדְיֵן הוּא The kelipah of Midian opposes this unity entirely, המנגד לזה לגמרי. יוֹמֶר מֵהַז׳ צֵמָמִין and is therefore more harmful than the kelipah of the seven Canaanite nations. which represent the seven negative character traits, like selfish desire, anger, a tendency to violence even

to the point of murder, haughtiness, etc.

^{1. &}quot;The above" refers to all the preceding chapters.

באות פרטי מש' הוי' כו', וכן גם באיסור תורה בשס"ה ל"ת ר"ל, שפוגם רק במדרי' א' פרטית (ומ"מ כתיב⁸⁷ ונוקב^{כן} שם הוי' כו', ל' נקב, שע"י שפוגם בפרט א' משס"ה

Man's conduct and character on the physical plane has a corresponding and reciprocal effect in the spiritual realms above.

שבל אחד ואחד פוגם Each one of these traits causes a blemish

In a physical sense, a blemish mars the appearance of a limb or organ and impairs its function. Similarly, in a spiritual sense, man's undesirable character traits and actions cause a blemish, i.e., weaken the Divine attributes above and adversely affect the manner in which they channel the flow of Divine vitality to the lower realms.

> יַרְקבּאוֹת פּּרָטִי in only one particular letter of G-d's name ,משם הוי׳ כוּ׳, Havayah.

Although as a whole, G-d's name Havayah is associated with oneness, it also is the source for the particular dimensions of existence within our world. Accordingly, each of its letters is associated with different Divine attributes. An undesirable quality expressed by man can affect the influence derived from a given attribute associated with one of the letters of that name.

וָכֶן גַּם בָּאָסוּר תּוֹרָה Just as the above-mentioned character faults בּשְׁסָ״ה לֹא חַצֵּשֵׂה cause only a particular blemish, so too, trans-קרָא לְצְּלָן gressing any one of the Torah's 365 prohibitions, Heaven forbid.

א׳ פַּרַטִית

בקרגה בק במדרגה causes a blemish only in one particular level.2

In contrast, the division and strife associated with the kelipah of Midian affects the name Havayah as a whole.

> וּמְכֵּל מֵקוֹם (Nevertheless, one should not lightly dismiss the possibility of general damage through a specific sin,

^{2.} See Tanya, Iggeres HaTeshuvah, ch. 7, which refers to the blemishes specific sins cause in the letters of G-d's name Havayah.

ל"ת, פוגם ג"כ בכללות שם הוי', וכמו עד"מ בשס"ה גידים, כשנוקב גיד אחד ויוצא ממנו הדם, הרי גורם חלישות בכל הגוף כו'. ומ"מ, לא פגם בבחי' פגם ממש ע"י מעשה הרע שלו, רק בפרט אחד כו'), משא"כ בקליפת מדין, שהו"ע הפירוד וההתחלקות, פוגם בכללות שם הוי' כו'. ולכן קשה מאד לתקן קלי' מדין יותר

as indicated by the phrase, "venokeiv sheim Hava-yah, that literally means, "One who blasphemes G-d's name." 4

לְשׁוֹן נָקֶבּ The verb *nokeiv* shares the same letters as **the word** *nekev* that means "hole." The implication is that

שַׁעַל יְדֵי שֶׁפּוֹגֵם בָּפְּדָט when one **causes a particular blemish** by transgressing one of **the 365 prohibitions**,

his act produces **a general** effect, bringing about a קבּלְלְּוֹת ישׁם הוֹי, "hole," i.e., **a blemish in G-d's name** *Havayah*.

וּלְמוֹ עַל דֶּרֶךְ מְשָׁל בִּשְׁסְ״ה For example, to use an analogy, if one damages יִּלְהַר נְּיִד אָחָד one of the 365 giddin, 5

ניוֹצֵא מִמֶּנוּ הַדְם to the point of drawing blood,

one weakens the entire body, as a whole. בכל הגוּף כוּ׳.

וּמְכָּל מָקוֹם לֹא פָגַם However, although an individual evil act has a general effect on G-d's name *Havayah* and weakens its influence, it causes an actual blemish

בק בּפְרָט אֶחָד כּוּ') in only a particular aspect of that name.)

מַה שָּׁאֵין כֵּן בִּקְלְפַּת מִדְיָן In contrast, the kelipah of Midian,

שָּהוּא עִּנְיַן הַפֵּרוּד which is characterized by separation and וְהַהְתְחֵלְקוּת division,

בּוֹגֵם בִּכְלָלוּת שֵׁם הוי׳ כוּ׳. causes a blemish in the name *Havayah* as a whole.

^{3.} Vayikra 24:16.

^{4.} Also note Imrei Binah, Shaar Kerias Shema, ch. 101.

^{5.} In his Commentary to the Mishnah (*Zevachim* 3:4), *Rambam* explains that this is a general term referring to blood vessels, nerves, and sinews.

מהקלי' דז"מ רעות, גם באיסורי התורה כו'. והראי' לזה, ממה שג'88 ראשון שהי' על עוונות חמורים דע"ז וג"ע ושפ"ד'8, מ"מ הי' רק שבעים שנה'9, דבזמן ע' שנה תיקנו הפגמים שנעשו ע"י החטאים ועוונות הנ"ל. וג'91 האחרון הזה שהוא על שנאת חנם,

וְלָכֵן קַשֶּׁה מְאֹד לְתַקֵּן קְלְפַּת מִדְיָן	It is therefore very difficult to correct the <i>kelipah</i> of Midian;
. "	indeed, this is harder than correcting the <i>kelipos</i> of the seven negative character traits,
גַם בְּאָסּוּרֵי הַתּוֹרָה כוּ׳.	even those that involve actual transgressions of the Torah's commandments.
וְהָרְאָיָה לָזֶה	A proof for this
,	is that the exile that followed the destruction of the First <i>Beis HaMikdash</i> came about because of the violation of the severe prohibitions: ⁶
דַּעֲבוֹדָה זְנָה וְגִלוּי עֲרָיוֹת וּשְׁפִּיכוּת דָּמִים	idolatry, adultery, and murder,
מָכָּל מָקוֹם הָיָה רַק	Nevertheless, it lasted only seventy years.

דְּבִוְמֵן ע׳ שֶׁנָה During those seventy years,

שָׁבָעִים שַׁנַה,

the Jewish people were able to correct the blemishes בא יְבִי הַהְּטָאִים נַעֲנוֹנוֹת caused by the sins and transgressions mentioned above.

Since the transgressions were specific in nature, the blemishes they caused also were restricted in scope and could be corrected through *teshuvah* of a specific nature.

וְגָלוּת הָאַחֲרוֹן הַזֶּה This present and final exile, on the other hand, was caused by the sin of baseless hatred.

^{6.} Yoma 9b.

^{7.} Also note ch. 6 of the *maamar* beginning, "It is stated in *Zohar*, Vol. III...." (The Rebbe Rayatz asked that this *maamar* be printed together with *Heichaltzu*.) See also *Toras Chayim*, *Parshas Noach*, the *maamar* entitled *Vayehi Kol HaAretz*, ch. 3; *Tanya, Iggeres HaKodesh*, the end of ch. 31.

וכידוע® דבעון מחלם מותר מב"ש כו', ונמשך הגלות המר יותר מי"ח מאות שנים לי, והיינו מפני שהפגם הוא בכללות כו', כמשי"ת. ולכן אמר לתת נקמת הוי' במדין, להיות שהן הפכים ומנגדים לכללות שם הוי', לכן המלחמה במדין היא נקמת הוי' ממש כו'. ולכן הי'כט צ"ל המלחמה ע"י משה דוקא, לפינט שמשה הי' באמיתת בחי' הוי' ממש כו'. ולכן הי'כט צ"ל המלחמה ע"י משה דוקא, לפינט שמשה הי' באמיתת בחי'

As is well known, the Second Beis HaMikdash was נְחֵרֶב הַבּיֵת שֶׁנִי כּוּ׳, destroyed because of the sin of baseless hatred.

Because that sin is of a general and encompassing nature, the *teshuvah* for it must also be more encompassing.

ריותר הַמַּר יוֹתֵר Consequently, this bitter exile has lasted over 1800 קנְמְשֶׁךְ הַגְּּלוּת הַמֵּר יוֹתֵר years,

לְבִינוּ מִפְּגֵי שֶׁהַפְּגַם because **the blemish** which caused it **was all-perva-**sive and therefore more difficult to correct,*

as will be explained.

וְלָכֵן אָמַר לָתֵת Hence, in the command to wage war against Midian, the verse uses the expression, "to exact the retribution of G-d (*Havayah*) from Midian,"9

לְהְיוֹת שֶׁהֵן הָפְּכִּים וּמְנַגְּדִים since Midian is the antithesis and opponent to ,לְּבֶּלְּלוּת שֵׁם הוי׳, the name Havayah as a whole.

לָכֵן הַמְּלְחָמָה בְּמִדְיָן הִיא Therefore, the war against Midian constitutes ... נְקְבַת הוי׳ מַפָּשׁ כוּי. "the retribution of G-d (Havayah)."

וְלָבֵן הָיָה צָּרִיךְ For this very reason, this war had to be conducted לְהִיוֹת הַמְּלְחָמָה עַל specifically by Moshe, ייַני מֹשֶׁה דַוּקַא, ייַני מֹשֶׁה דַוּקַא,

קפי שֶׁמֹשֶׁה הָיָה בַּאֲמְתַּת since Moshe was the ultimate personification of absolute bittul and unity,

^{8.} See the *maamar* entitled *Heichaltzu*, 5740, where the Rebbe adds further explanation to the reason the present exile has been prolonged due to the sin of baseless hatred. Baseless hatred is very hard to detect. A person may never realize that he possesses this fault, and consequently, it is very difficult to correct.

^{9.} This resolves one of the questions asked in ch. 2.

^{10.} This resolves one of the questions asked in ch. 1.

הביטול והאחדות בבחי׳ ביטול עצמי, כמשי״ת, לזאת נתן הוא דוקא כח בנשמות ישראל ללחום עם מדין ולבערם, ולזאת הי׳ צריך משה לפקוד אנשים לצבא כו׳. וזהו ג״כ שאמר החלצו מאתכם, דהחלצו משמע כולכם, היינו שיהי׳ בחי׳ התאחדות והתכללות כולם, היפך בחי׳ הפירוד וההתחלקות, ועי״ז ילחמו במדין לתת נקמת הוי׳ במדין כו׳.

manifesting **essential** bittul,

קבּאַר, פְמוֹ שֶׁיִּתְבָּאַר, as will be explained below. 11

לְזֹאת נָתַן הוּא דַּוְקָא Accordingly, it was Moshe specifically who empowered the souls of the Jewish people

,לְחוֹם עִם מְדְיָן וּלְבַעֲרָם, to fight against Midian and obliterate them

וְלָזֹאת הָיָה צָרִיךְ מֹשֶׁה and, therefore, he had to appoint the soldiers to יְפָקוֹר אֲנָשִׁים לַצָּבָא כּוּי. wage war.

This is also the reason why the term Heichaltzu was used. The verse continues mei'itchem which means "from among you," indicating that only a limited number of Jews would actually participate in the war against Midian. Nevertheless,

,דְהַחְלְצוּ מַשְׁמְע כַּלְּכֶם, the word heichaltzu is used because it connotes the involvement of the entire Jewish people. 12

הַיְנוּ שֶׁיִּהְיֶה בְּחִינַת Moshe's involvement enabled the Jews to be charac-הָתְאַחְדּוּת וְהַתְּכֵּלְלוּת כַּלְם, terized by unity and all-encompassing synthesis,

הַפֶּף בְּחִינַת הַפֵּרוּד the very opposite of divisiveness and יְהַהְתְּחַלְּקוּת, fragmentation.

וְעֵל יְבִי זֶה יִלְחֲמוּ בְּמִדְיָן Hence, they could fight against Midian

4. יבּמְדִין בוּ׳ and "exact the retribution of G-d from Midian."

^{11.} The explanation is not extant because the conclusion of this maamar was never published. Note the end of the maamar entitled *Heichaltzu in Likkutei Torah*, and the end of the explanation appended to it.

Those sources – see also the Rebbe's maamar entitled Heichaltzu, 5747 – explain that Moshe is identified with the Sefirah of Chochmah which in turn is identified with bittul and serves as the source of the Torah. As such, it is he who provides the spiritual impetus to combat and ultimately eradicate the influence of Midian.

^{12.} See ch. 2, where the use of this form of the verb was questioned.

קיצור. קליפת מדין גרוע מז' עממין ומנגד לכללות שם הוי'. וכמו גלות אחרון דנתארך. יתרץ הקושיות.

קצור. Summary:

קלְפַּת מִדְיָן גָּרוּעַ מִז׳ עֲמָמִין The *kelipah* of Midian is more harmful than that of the seven nations;

וֹמְנַגֵּד לְכְלָלוּת שֵׁם הוי׳. it is opposed to the name Havayah as a whole.

רּכְמוֹ בָּלוּת אַחֲרוֹן דְּנְתְאָרֵך. For this reason the present exile has been prolonged.

יְתְבֵץ הַקְשְׁיוֹת. **The questions** asked at the beginning of the maamar are resolved.

כז) כתיב ונוקב: עייג"כ אמרי בינה שער הק"ש פק"א.

כח) וכידוע דבעון כו': ראה לקמן בד"ה איתא בזח"ג פ"ו [ע' מג]. ועייג"כ תורת חיים פ' נח ד"ה ויהי כל הארץ פ"ג סד, ב'] ואגה"ק סו"ס ל"א.

כט) ולכן הי׳ ... כמשי״ת: לא נמצא כאן כי המאמר לא נגמר. וראה בלקו״ת ד״ה החלצו בסופו ובסוף ביאורו [פז, א. פח, א].

^{.87} אמור כד, טז.

^{88) =} שגלות.

[.]ב. ראה יומא ט, ב

[.]ב, יי, מגילה א, ב. (90

^{. (91 –} וגלות

[.]ב. מאמרי אדמו״ר הזקן תקס״ה ח״א ע׳ קו. הקצרים ע׳ קיז. תורת חיים וארא סה, ב. (92

^{.93} ראה גם המשך תרס"ו ע' תפז.

POINTS TO PONDER •

♦ Cardinal Sin

Murder is bad; that's a given. Yet, can something be worse than murder?

♦ Exiled For So Long

1950 years of Golus is an awful amount of time. Why was the first Churban only for 70 years, and our golus is for so long?

♦ What insight can you glean from Heichaltzu chapter 17?



