LESSONS IN OTOTIP

A TREATISE ON AHAVAS YISRAEL BY THE REBBE RASHAB

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PUBLISHER'S FOREWORD

There are times when we hear a concept repeated over and over again until we accept it as an axiom, yet when we stop and start to contemplate what it means, we realize that it really defies understanding. For example, the Rebbe Rashab devoted the preceding chapters to explaining how *Chochmah* and *Binah* – and their ultimate sources, the revelation of G-d's infinite light and the *tzimtzum* – can be brought together and function in synergy.

However, the very nature of that phenomenon defies explanation: The potentials are fundamentally opposite in nature. How then can they come together?

In our lives, we understand compromise – when there is a disagreement between two opposing outlooks, but the proponents realize that it is necessary to proceed further, each side gives a little and an arrangement is made. That, however, is not true unity. Neither side feels satisfied; it is just that for the purpose of functionality, they agree to work together.

Here, we are talking about Divine attributes – G-d's qualities. If we are speaking about unity and synergy, the intent is true unity and synergy, where the potentials work together in genuine harmony. How is that possible?

In resolution, in previous chapters, the Rebbe Rashab explained that this results from the revelation of a higher power that transcends them both. When the essence of G-d's infinite light is revealed, the different powers become subsumed within that infinite revelation and function beyond the limits of their natural tendencies.

Although this revelation comes from Above, G-d empowered man to initiate the process through which it comes about. As the Rebbe Rashab explains in this and the following chapters, that essential light is drawn down through the Torah. When man – i.e., every Jew, including each one of us – study the Torah *lishmah*, with the proper motivation, we evoke the revelation of that light.

Consider what was just said! Each one of us has the potential to motivate the revelation of G-d's essential light and in that way, generate peace and harmony

in the spiritual realms, which in turn will radiate into this material world and generate unity and harmony on this plane.

What do we have to do? Study the Torah with this thought in mind.

Sichos In English

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ל) והנה המשכת אור העצמי דא"ס לעשות היחוד וההתכללות דב' אותיות י"ה הוא ע"י התורה, וכמשארז"ל 158 ע"פ 158 או יחזיק במעוזי יעשה שלום

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The Rebbe Rashab began ch. 27 by explaining that to understand the possibility of the synergistic relationship between the two opposite potentials of Chochmah and Binah - identified with concealment and revelation - it is necessary to first explain the possibility of unifying concealment and revelation as they exist in their very source.

He devoted that chapter and ch. 28 to that purpose, explaining the revelation of the light that existed before the *tzimtzum*, the concealment brought about by the tzimtzum, and the revelation of the light of the kav that followed the tzimtzum. In ch. 29, he explained how the synergistic relationship between revelation and concealment is made possible by G-d's infinite light that transcends them both.

Having explained these concepts, he returned to the ideas explained in chapters 21 to 26 - the interrelation of the Sefiros of Chochmah and Binah identified with the letters yud and hei of G-d's name Yud-hei-vav-hei – explaining that the same motif applies: The yud and the hei are united through drawing down G-d's essential light.

In this and the following chapters, he explains how that essential light is drawn down, highlighting how the Torah - and specifically, studying Torah with the proper motivation – serves as the medium for drawing down that light.

The means through which the essential light of G-d as He is Ein Sof is drawn down

so that it brings about unity and synergy between the two letters yud and hei, which represent the motifs of concealment and revelation and which are associated with the Sefiros of Chochmah and Binah,

הוא עַל יִדִי הַתּוֹרַה is Torah study.

דּכְמוֹ שֵׁאָמָרוּ רַזַ״ל Thus, regarding the prophecy, "If he holds on to My strength, he will bring Me peace; he will שלום bring Me peace," our Sages² note the repetition of לי שַׁלוֹם יַצַשֵּה לִי the phrase "he will bring Me peace" and comment,

^{1.} Yeshayahu 27:5.

^{2.} Sanhedrin 99b.

לי שלום יעשה לי, כל העוסק בתורה משים שלום בפמשמ"ע ושלום בפמשמ"ט, שלום בפמשמ"ע הוא בב' אותיות י"ה, ופמשמ"ט הוא אותיות ו"ה כו'159 (והטעם די"ה נק' פשמ"ע וו"ה פשמ"ט הוא כמ"ש הנסתרות להוי' אלקינו והנגלות לנו ולבנינו, דאותיות ו״ה הם נגלותי לנו ולבנינו, אבל י״ה הם נסתרות להוי׳ אלקינו,

שים בתוֹרָה מִשִּׁים "Whoever studies the Torah ('My strength') gen-פּתַלְיֵא שֵׁל מַעְלַה erates peace among the hosts Above and peace . ושלום בפמליא של מטה. among the hosts below."

שָלוֹם בְּפַמַלְיָא שֵׁל מַעְלָה "Peace among the hosts Above" refers to bringing about unity between the two letters yud and hei.

רפְמַלְיֵא שֵׁל מְטָה הוּא "Peace among the hosts below" refers to bringing about unity between the two letters vav and hei.3

hosts below," is

(הַפַשְעַם דִּי״ה נִקְרֵא (The reason that the letters yud and hei are called "the hosts Above" and the letters vav and hei, "the

alluded to in the verse, "the hidden matters belong to Havayah our G-d, and those that are revealed (וְהַנְּגְלוֹת) [belong] to us and our children."

The intent is that the word וְהַנְּגְלוֹת can be divided as ינגלות לַנוּ וּלְבֵנִינוּ, i.e., the letters vav and hei (ו"ה) refer to the matters which are "revealed" (נגלות) "to us and to our children."5

The phrase "Those that are revealed" refers to the Sefiros of Zaer Anpin⁶ and Malchus ("sovereignty"), which serve as the direct source for existence in the worlds of Beriah, Yetzirah, and Asiyah. In an anthropomorphic sense, Zaer Anpin refer to the Divine emotive attributes and Malchus is described with the analogy of

^{3.} The portion of Heichaltzu that was originally released for printing concluded with ch. 32. Later, a short portion of a manuscript from the Rebbe Rashab with additional explanations was published. In that manuscript the concept of unity between the letters vav and hei is explained.

^{4.} Devarim 29:28.

^{5.} See Zohar, Vol. III, p. 123b; Tikkunei Zohar, Tikkun 10.

^{6.} Literally, "the small face," the term Kabbalah uses to refer to the six emotive attributes in Atzilus. The term "face" is used because like the organs of the face that are interrelated and form a single whole, so too, these attributes function as a single unit. It is referred to as "the small face" to distinguish it from Arich Anpin, the emotive attributes above Atzilus.

חו״ב כו׳, ולכן י״ה נקרא פשמ״ע, שזהו הנסתרות להוי׳ אלקינו, וו״ה שהן נגלות לנו כו' נק' פשמ"ט כו'), שהתורה עושה שלום והתחברות בהאותיות די"ה וו"ה כו' (וי"ל דזהו״ע קוב״ה אסתכלי באורייתא וברא עלמא, דכברייתו של עולם ברישא חשוכא

speech.7 Both emotions and speech are means through which a person reveals his qualities to others.

אַבַל י״ה הֶם נְסְתֵּרוֹת By contrast, the yud and hei are "hidden matters that belong to Havayah our G-d."

,יבינה כוֹי, They refer to *Chochmah* and *Binah*, which are lofty levels, that do not relate directly to our framework of existence. Therefore, they are referred to as "hidden."

Just as in a personal sense, one can remain alone and conceive of intellectual ideas without sharing them with others, so too, Chochmah and Binah, G-d's intellectual attributes, are by nature hidden, above direct connection with our level of existence.

> אָלָכן י״ה נְקְרֵא Accordingly, yud and hei are called the hosts Above, פמליא של מעלה

which are "the hidden matters belonging to להוי׳ אֵלקִינוּ, Havayah our G-d,"

יו"ה שהן נגלות לנו כוי and the vav and hei, which are "revealed to us," נקרא פַמַליַא שֵׁל מַטַה כוּ׳) are "the hosts below.")

Thus, the Torah brings about peace and bonding להתחברות בהאותיות between the levels of G-dliness represented by the בי"ה נו"ה כרי. letters yud and hei, and vav and hei.

(וֹנֵשׁ לּוֹמֵר דְּזֵהוּ עְנֵיֵן (It might be said that this concept corresponds to the teaching,8 "The Holy One, blessed be He, gazed into the Torah and created the world," i.e., the Torah brought about bonding and synergy between these different levels, and that enabled the creation of the world.

^{7.} Tikkunei Zohar, Tikkun 17.

^{8.} Zohar, Vol. I, p. 134a; Zohar, Vol. II, p. 161a; see also beginning of Bereishis Rabbah.

והדר נהורא, שזהו"ע היחוד וחיבור דבחי׳ העלם וגילוי כו' כנ"ל, זהו ע"י התורה כו'. ופי' קוב"ה אסתכל באורייתא היינו בחי' שעשועי' העצמים שנתלבש בתורה כו'. כמשי"ת). והענין הוא, דהנה התורה נקראת אמת, כמו שכתוב¹⁶¹ תורת אמת הייתה בפיהו כו', וכתיב¹⁶² אמת קנה ואל תמכור, דקאי על התורה¹⁶³, שעז"א אמת קנה,

דּכְבְרָיִיתוֹ שֵׁל עוֹלַם בְּרֵישַׁא The pattern, "As in the creation of the world, in the beginning there was darkness and then light," which represents the union and interrelation שֵׁהֶהוּ עִנְיַן הַיְחוּד וְחִיבּוּר יּבְחִינַת הֵעְלֵם וְגִילּוּי כּוּ׳ between concealment and revelation, as explained above,6 פּנְזְכֵּר לְעֵיל יבי הַתּוֹרָה כוּ׳. is brought about through the Torah. וּפֵירוּשׁ קוּדְשַׁא בַּרִידְּ The meaning of the statement, "The Holy One, blessed be He, gazed into the Torah" הוא אָסְתַּכֵּל בָּאוֹרֵייִתַא is that it refers to קּחִינֵת שַׁצֵשׁוּעִים הָעַצְמִים G-d's essential delight which is enclothed in ישְנִתְלַבֵּשׁ בַּתּוֹרָה כּוּ׳ Torah. (בְּמֵל שֵׁיִּתְבָּאֵר), as will be explained in the following chapters.) To explain this concept: The Torah is called הַתּוֹרָה נִקְרֵאת אֱמֶת "truth," as it is written,10 "The Torah of truth was in his ". mouth הַיְתָה בְּפִיהוּ כוּי׳. and similarly, it is written, "Acquire truth and

ישַעל זֶה אוֹמֵר אֲמֶת קְנֵה regarding which – to refer to the above-cited verse – it is said, "Acquire truth."

וְאֵל תַּמְכּוֹר do not sell it,"

יַּקְאֵי עֵל הַתּוֹרֵה which refers to Torah,

^{9.} See chs. 27-28.

^{10.} Malachi 2:6.

^{11.} Mishlei 23:23.

שהוא ענין קנה חכ' קנה בינה כו'161. ומדת האמת היא מדה הממוצע בין חו"ג, עד שאין לו מנגד כלל, כי, למדת החסד יש מנגד, שהוא מדת הגבורה, שמנגד לחסה. וכן מדת הגבורה יש לה מנגד, מדת החסד, שמנגד לגבורה, אבל הכרעה הכלולה במזיגה נכונה מחסד ודין יחד, אין לו מנגד כו'. וזהו מדת האמת, דאמיתתו הוא דוקא כשיש נכונה מחסד ודין יחד, אין לו מנגד כו'. וזהו מדת האמת, דאמיתתו הוא דוקא כשיש

Torah study allows the possibility for one to ¹² "Acquire ...' קנה בינה כוּי. Chochmah, acquire Binah."

In the previous chapters, the Rebbe Rashab explained that *Chochmah* and *Binah* were identified with revelation (which relates to *Chessed*, "kindness") and concealment (which relates to *Gevurah*, "might")¹³ respectively.

The truth of the Torah allows for the acquisition and interrelation of these two qualities.

דּמִדַּת הָאֶמֶת הִיא מָדָּה The attribute of truth is the quality that mediates between Chessed and Gevurah

ער שָׁאִין לוֹ מְנַגֵּד כְּלָל, to the point that it has no opposing force.

To explain: The attribute of Chessed has an opposing force –

שָׁהוּא מִדַּת הַגְּבוּרָה the attribute of *Gevurah* which conflicts with הַּבְּרוּבָה לְחֶפֶּה *Chessed*.

וְכֵן מִדַּת הַגְּבוּרָה Similarly, the attribute of Gevurah has an יֵשׁ לָה מְנַגִּר opposing force –

, מַּדַּת הַּחֶסֶּד שֶׁמְנַגֵּד לְגְבוּרָה, the attribute of *Chessed* which conflicts with *Gevurah*.

אַבְל הַכְּרָעָה הַכְּלוּלָה However, a resolution is reached through reconciling the opposing views by adjusting and blending kindness and judgment together in appropriate proportions.

^{12.} Ibid. 4:5.

^{13. &}quot;Might" is the literal translation of the word *Gevurah*. In Kabbalah, the attribute of *Gevurah* is associated with the concepts of restraint and *tzimtzum*.

These two meanings are interrelated because – as reflected in our Sages' words (*Avos* 4:1): "Who is a mighty man? One who conquers his natural inclination" – it takes tremendous might to exercise the restraint and self-control necessary to limit the manifestation of a potential and focus it so that it is expressed in an appropriate manner.

^{14.} The attribute of *Gevurah* is often identified with judgment, *Din*, because acting on the basis of judgment requires control, which as explained in the previous footnote is also an expression of *Gevurah*.

בו כל ההפכים, ונושא את כולם (וכן בכל דבר, האמת שבו הוא הנקודה האמצעית שבו, והוא מה שיוכל להתחבר עם הדבר ההפכי כו׳). וע״כ הוא מתקיים, וכמ״ש שפת אמת תיכון לעד כו׳. וכאותיות של אמת, א׳ מ״ם ת׳, ראש תוך סוףס, שמתקיים בראש כמו בסוף, וכמ"ש¹⁶⁷ ראש דברך אמת, וכן חותמו של הקב"ה אמת¹⁶⁷, והיינו

אין לו מְנַגֵּד כוּ׳. Therefore, It has no opposition.

This is the attribute of truth;

its truth, i.e. "the truth of truth," is not rigid and narrow in scope, but rather is expressed specifically עוֹשֶׂא אֶת כּוּלְם when it encompasses all opposing perspectives, and yet bears them all as one.

tral point; שֵׁבּוֹ הוּא הַנְקוּדָה הָאֶמְצָעִית שֵׁבּוֹ

(וְכֵן בְּכָל דָּבֶר הָאֵמֶת (Similarly, in every matter, its "truth" is its cen-

it is the quality that enables any component to join עם הַדְּבֵר הַהַפְּכִּי כוּ׳). with its antithesis.)

אֶמֶת תִּכּוֹן לַעֲד כוּ׳.

וַעֵל כֵּן הוּא מִתְקַיִּים Therefore, truth endures, as it is written:15 "The וּכְמוֹ שֶׁבֶּתוּב שְּׁפַת language of truth shall be established forever."

אמת אי הכאוֹתִינות שׁל אֵמֶת א' The letters of the word for truth, אמת, are alef, mem, ק״ם ת׳ ראש תּוֹךְ סוֹף tav — the first, middle, and last letters of the alefbeis, the Hebrew alphabet,16

ישֶׁמְתְקַיֵּים בְּרֹאשׁ כְּמוֹ בְּסוֹף implying that truth endures from the beginning to the end without change,

> as it is written, "The beginning of Your word is ,דברד אמת, truth,"

^{15.} Ibid. 12:19.

^{16.} Talmud Terushalmi, Sanhedrin 1:1 Devarim Rabbah 1:10. See Selections from Likkutei Sichos, Shmos, p.

^{17.} Tehillim 119:160.

תורה, דכתיב168 חתום תורה בלימודי, שזהו תורה שבעל פה, שהוא סוף דבר והלכה למעשה בגילוי רצה"ע. שמתאים לפנימיות הכוונה דתושב"כ כו'. כמ"ש במ"אסא. ולכן אין העולם מתקיים אלא באמת, וכמא׳ המשנה 169 על ג׳ דברים העולם קיים על

מול הקרוש and similarly, our Sages say,15 "The seal of G-d is truth." "The seal" refers to the closing point. By quoting the verse and our Sages' comment, the Rebbe Rashab is supporting the concept that truth endures from the beginning to the end.

The implication is that the definition of truth is always the same, found in all places, at the beginning, the middle, and the end, with absolute equivalence at every level, with no change at all.

This seal of G-d refers to Torah, as it is written, 18 "Seal the Torah among My disciples."

אַבְעֵל פָּה Specifically this is an allusion to the Oral Torah,

רַצוֹן הַעֵּלִיוֹן

which is the final conclusion of Torah Law as it is to be carried out, revealing G-d's supernal will

in a manner that reflects the inner intention of ידתוֹרָה שַׁבְּכְתַב כוּי the Written Torah,

מוֹ שֶׁכַּתוּב בְּמָקוֹם אֲחֶר. as explained elsewhere.19

As Rambam explains in his introduction to the Mishneh Torah, it is the Oral Law that explains and clarifies how the *mitzvos* are to be performed. The *mitzvos* are the expression of G-d's will, His inner intent. Thus, through the Oral Law that intent is revealed.

ולכן אין העולם Accordingly, the world endures only because of מתקיים אַלַא בַּאָמֵת truth.

^{18.} Yeshayahu 8:16.

^{19.} See Iggeres HaKodesh, ch. 29, See Tanya, Iggeres HaKodesh, Epistle 29; see also Bamidbar Rabbah 14:4: "the Oral Law explains the Torah."

הדין ועל האמת כו', והיינו אמת דתורה, שעי"ז דוקא מתקיים העולם, לפי שעושה שלום והתחברות דריבוי ההפכים כו׳. וזהו קרוב הוי׳ לכל קוראיו לכל אשר יקראוהו באמת "יקראו וימשיכו למהו"ע באמת, שיקראו וימשיכו למהו"ע אוא"ס ב"ה באמת דתורה. שהוא בחי' החכ' דתורה כו'. והיינו עניז עסק התורה

הַדִּין וְעַל הַאֵמֶת כוּ׳,

רֹכְמַאֲמֵר הַמְּשְׁנַה עֵל גי As the Mishnah states:20 "The world endures by virtue of three things — justice, truth, and peace."

דתוֹרַה יְתוֹרָה Truth refers to the truth of Torah,

מָתַקַיִּים הַעוֹלַם

ישֵׁעֵל יְדֵי זֶה דַּוְקָא for only through Torah does the world endure.

לְפִי שֵׁעוֹשֵׂה שָׁלוֹם Since the Torah's truth generates peace and unity among a multiplicity of opposing potentials, it is the medium that endows the world with stability and enables it to endure.

This is the meaning of the verse,21 "G-d is close to מלל אַשֵּׁר יִקראוּהוּ בַאֵמֵת all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth."

הַיִינוּ בֶּאֱמֶת דְּתוֹרָה This refers to the truth of Torah,

. וּכְנִזְכַּר לְעֵיל. as explained above.

וּפֵירוּשׁ יִקרַאוּהוּ בֵאֵמֶת The meaning of "calling upon Him in truth"22 is

to call upon and to draw down the very nature שֵׁיִקְרְאוּ וְיַמְשִׁיכוּ לְמַהוּת קוֹעְצְמוּת אוֹר אֵין סוֹף and essence of G-d's infinite light, through the truth of Torah, בַּרוּךְ הוּא בֵּאֵמֶת דְתוֹרָה

See Tanya, ch. 37, which explains that studying (קוֹרָא, literally, "calling") the Torah is calling upon G-d like a person calls for a friend to come and visit him or a child calls for his father to be together with him.

which is the Chochmah of Torah. דתורה כו׳,

^{20.} Pirkei Avos 1:18

^{21.} Tehillim 145:18.

^{22.} See ch. 32, where the Rebbe Rashab elaborates in the explanation of this verse.

לשמה דוקא, דהיינו לשם תורה עצמה¹⁷¹, ואז הוא משים שלום בפשמ"ע כו'. **קיצור.** המשכת אור העצמי לייחד י"ה הוא ע"י התורה, אמת שנושא ההפכים ומחברם.

דְהַיְינוּ עִנְיַן עֵסֶק הַתּוֹרָה This is achieved expressly when one studies *Torah* , לְּשָׁמָה דַּרָקָא, lishmah, i.e., with pure motivation,

studying for the sake of Torah itself.

יַנְאָז הוּא מֵשִּׁים שָׁלוֹם One then makes peace among the "hosts Above בּפַמַּלְיֵא שֵׁל מַעְלָה כוּ'.

קיצור. Summary:

The essential light that brings about unity הַמְשָׁכַת אוֹר הָעַצְמִי לְיַחֵד between the letters yud and hei, i.e., the conflicting motifs of concealment and revelation, is drawn down through Torah,

אָמֶת שֶׁנּוֹשֵׂא הַהְבַּפְּכִים for it is truth that encompasses and unifies .מְחַבְּרָם opposites.

^{23.} Lishmah literally means "for its own sake." See ch. 32, where the Rebbe Rashab elaborates concerning such study.

- נח) ו״ה הם נגלות ... י״ה הם נסתרות: ראה זח״ג קכ״ג, ב׳. ת״ז תיקון י׳ [כה, ב].
- נט) קוב״ה אסתכל: זח״א קל״ד א׳. זח״ב קס״א א׳. ועייג״כ בראשית רבה בתחלתו.
 - ס) ראש תוך סוף: ירושלמי סנהדרין פ״א ה״א. דב״ר פ״א, יו״ד.
- סא) כמ״ש במ״א: ראה אגה״ק סכ״ט. ובבמדבר רבה פי״ד ד׳: שהם פורשים את התורה.
 - .ב. סנהדרין צט, ב.
 - .ה. (158) ישעי׳ כז, ה
 - (פו, ב). ראה לקו"ת מטות שבהערה ד"ה וידבר וגו' החלצו" (פו, ב).
 - .160 נצבים כט, כח.
 - 161) מלאכי ב, ו.
 - (162 משלי כג. כג.
 - 163) ראה ברכות ה, ב. ע"ז ד, ב.
 - 164) משלי ד, ה.
 - .טם יב, יט
 - 166) תהלים קיט, קס.
 - .א. שבת נה, א
 - .טז. (168) ישעי׳ ח. טז
 - (169 אבות פ"א מי"ח.
 - (170 תהלים קמה, יח.
- 171) ראה רא״ש נדרים סב, א. פרי עץ חיים שער הנהגת הלימוד. לקו״ת שלח מז, ג. שה״ש לב, סע״ד. שער האמונה לאדמו״ר האמצעי פמ״ב (סט. ב). מאמרי אדמו״ר האמצעי דברים ח״א ע׳ רמ.

POINTS TO PONDER •

♦ The Truth Teller

People that are **too** honest have trouble making friends. Is sincerity always associated with extremes and polarized viewpoints, or is there a level of "real" that transcends taking "sides"?

♦ Stabling the Yo-yo

My every waking moment is an identity crisis. I feel constantly being pulled in opposite directions. Where can I find an anchor to center me, and what possible ingredients can that anchor hold that can satiate and calm a multidimensional person?

♦ What insight can you glean from Heichaltzu chapter 30?



