

Nourishment for the Neshama

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Reflections on Pesach - Bringing the Geula Shelama One Person at a Time

For the past 6 weeks I have been living as though this Pesach we would be redeemed as we were redeemed from Egypt, finally at long last zocheh to see the Geulah Shelama with the coming of Moshiach. It is Chol Hamoed and I hear no reports bearing the good news, so we will wait some more. Hashem is beyond what I or anyone can understand with our minds.

I will share with you a hope that I have, that I continue to have – for a time and space that we can experience not just our own emotions, but experience a comprehension that our emotions stem from our thoughts whilst also seeing a higher perspective, a glimpse of how Hashem's hand is involved in our circumstances. Imagine being able to feel irritation (or whatever negativity we are challenged with in order to “spit out” the hatred and sina that we are prone to and incited to by the yetzer Hara) and instead of acting on it, realize that we are being tested as to whether or not we will remember that Hashem is One and that in this very moment we can remain calm and bring light to the situation with love. Imagine further that we could see the dark road and consequences that our choosing to act on negativity would set us on and that we could see and also feel the benevolence and joy of choosing the roadway of awareness.

We all want to live in our emotions. Yet with the vehicle of just our thoughts and our emotions there is no way for us to truly prove that there is more than our limited selves – which in turn makes us cling to emotional satisfactions and limited pleasures and satisfying desires and appetites of this world. By expanding our emotions to include loving Hashem – by channeling our emotions to give to Hashem, to love Hashem, to fear only Hashem – we can build a relationship that CAN be understood with our thoughts and our emotions, with bitachon, a relationship that enables our soul to awaken and deepen its connection to the true reality of the world – a deepening that brings sensation of joy through devekus to us, a transcendental experience of being loved that cannot be matched by anything of this world, as we learn from the story of Iyov. Even if our thoughts and emotions cannot comprehend our predicament, our soul can experience a joy beyond pleasure that lets us know that there is nothing but Hashem, Whose Love for us is eternal and infinite. And that joy is recognizable and is memorable by the thoughts and the emotions that we all wish to live in and THAT is a way to bring Hashem into this world of time and space, of human limitation and emotion.

If each one of us can do this, Hashem will no longer be in hester panim and the geula will be here by definition.

For all those reading this, please, although we all want to live in our emotions, please use our learning (thoughts placing Hashem at the center, ein do milvado) to generate emotion (ahavas Hashem) to build a meaningful and primary relationship with Him through which Hashem can enter this world each time we use our free will to rise above our negativity (no matter how understandable our negativity may seem, for it is disguised sina and a temper tantrum against Hashem Who placed us in this situation in the first place.) Let us make ourselves vessels for His light, which brings joy to our soul and benevolence to the world through the kindness that will pour out of us as a result of the awareness and clarity of mind that will be within our reach.