

Nourishment for the Neshama

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Rabbi Travis, student of Rav Brevda on the four days between Yom Kipur and Succas - convert Yiras Hashem to Ahavas Hashem

Rabbi Travis on the Rambam on the four days until succos

Tenth perek, fundamental principles of Judaism. The mitzvah of ahavas Hashem:

The nature of these days is ahavas Hashem. We had 40 days of yira and now we have ahava. How do we get to a level of simchas torah and get to the ahava

I am going to keep the torah because it is great. Look at shema every day. **A person should not say that.** the Rambam says Torah is asking from us to be on the level of the prophets. It is not mallas and neviim. **We are NOT neviim but we are supposed to serve as if we could be neviim. We have to strive this way, serving with yira wanting reward ok. But halacha bais is ahava. A person should serve Hashem because it is the emes, the right thing to do. Whatever Hashem decides to give me that is fine. Such a great malla even greatest talmide chochom don't get there.**

Avraham chose to serve Hashem. Yitzchok and Yaakov were born into a religious family. Avraham chose to serve Hashem, he loved Hashem. He was on the other side, the malla was ahava.

How much do we think about what we are saying in Shema. Here is a story, about Rav Shlomo Wolbe, how many of you during shema feel like throwing your tefillin out of the window. Do you realize what you are saying to be mekabel on yourself? The Rambam is saying we are obligated, serve Hashem with no ulterior motives. We completely are giving ourselves over. We have to take it to heart, with all our heart, all our soul and all our might. We might want to throw our tefillin out the window. It is not a jingle.

The Rambam was a rationalist. Yet he says, what does it mean to love Hashem properly. It sounds like shlur hashlur. As if someone is madly in love, all they talk about is their loved one. That is what we are saying everyday. We talk about Hashem like a love. That is the beauty of shlr hashlurum the ultimate level that we reach of ahavas Hashem.

When serving Hashem it should not be another selfish act. A person has to be himself and from there, a person has to be smart to understand this, it is a secret here, from Nefesh Hachalm we serve not as a payday to serve Hashem, the ultimate zchar is to serve Him. We are to be madly, insanely in love with Hashem. To serve Hashem we have to be a little "crazy." I had to give a shlur last week in Manhattan and it started raining and everyone was raining and I was not wanting to be late. A little water was not going to stop me. I walked through the rain for ten blocks, but that is what you have to do. You don't care. If you are madly in love you do it. The level of love we have for Hashem, the Rambam is saying it is shema, with all our hearts, all our middos and property, totally giving over.

This is the summation of these four days. We don't go from YK to succos. During these days we can reach the level of love. We are clean. We are close, we can have this level the Rambam is discussing. Each avera we have is a wall to our tefillos. Without teshuva, our tefillos don't go up, we don't have the connection.

Tefilla connects us to HKB and that allows us to reach this level of ahava.

That is the way the mitzvahs are supposed to express themselves. We go running to do mitzvahs. If we can take the time as the Rambam says to think about it, it is an experience. Do it as an expression of ahava, then we are willing to do lovesick things.

The way we go through these four days affects our succos and simchas Torah and will take us through the whole year. We have a long winter, with an extra adar, a long period that we won't have holidays. The love we get at this time will help us make it through this period.

I heard Reb Moshe Shternbach's teshuva drasha. He is very focused. When his wife's second yahrtzeit came, they lost their way into an arab village and they were throwing stones on his way to the kever. The driver was bleeding, and they escaped, sped off, but he was so focused on his learning he didn't know what was going on. He said he was only afraid of the Ribono Shel Olam. Completely given over, eved Hashem. Just watch him say keriat shema. But the situation, what is happening in the world, he said it is to be afraid of. The gedolim fear we have lost our protection, when there is stirring in the outer world, it is coming to turbulent times. It is an auspicious time, there are big things happening and we have to get zechulim. We have to get hold of ourselves and do what the Rambam is saying.

A person with ahavas Hashem, then Hashem loves us. Avraham loved Hashem. These are the days when we can do this Rambam. Yom Kipur is the start, once we have the kapara, we are clean, it is a new start, we can change our life around. Before, we made kaballas, do we remember? Go over what we said and translate it from yira to ahava

We go from yira to ahava, very special days, for praise of Hashem. These days are a sign of Hashem's love and devotion to Hashem. This is the sod, the fundamental sod of avodas Hashem. This is the fundamental service.

I davened in Rav Brevda's succah and he danced during Hallel. There was such ahava. These four plants make us happy. Hashem should give us assistance with our tefillos to serve Him with ahava.

May we be zocheh to come into succos with the Shechina and all the way into Simchas Torah.

Travis days between YK and Succos.mp3

Shlur 771

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