

Nourishment for the Neshama

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Elevating fallen fear to awe of Hashem - we are not grasshoppers!

In every moment, where is our intellect? Is it clinging to the reality and truth that all glory is Hashem's? Obviously we falter from that ideal. That is the nature of being in time and space, and that is Hashem's design for us, in a physical body with a limited mind that believes its natural surroundings and self-interest as the entire playing field. It is for this reason that we develop awe of Hashem, for it is only an immense omniscient omnipresent and all powerful Gd who is our Creator who could possibly be orchestrating the circumstantial and vital reality of absolutely every atom in the universe. This awe of Hashem is the cure for every fear other than fear of Hashem. Every fear we have is fear fallen from the complete understanding that all glory in the world is Hashem and that there is absolutely nothing in this world other than His Glory.

The word *hod* means praise, glory and it also can mean humility. The more we grasp how Hashem's glory fills the world and hold Hashem in awe, the more understanding we have of this concept, the more humility we have because we recognize and acknowledge more and more of our understanding not to ourselves but to Hashem. It is Hashem's amazing goodness that gives us our intelligence, our health, our money, our children, our lives and the ability to choose or not to fear Hashem.

Because our souls have been placed in a limited body that gives us life and the ability to be in this world in time and space, the natural reactions of the body trigger reactions that come through our perceptions. What is important to realize is that as the stimulation comes in, so too our soul can impact the matter in a way that heals, uplifts and unifies Hashem's Name, bringing from the world of nature to the world of holiness a strength that could only become unified through the use of free willed choice to sacrifice apparent self-interested conduct in order to instead sanctify His Name.

We are not grasshoppers! We have souls made *b'tzelem elokim* that can reach into the deserts of our nature and stabilize the radioactive emotions rattling from all the red alerts we experience and form them into warmth, light, protection and *bracha*. When we attach our intellect to the absolute truth that the Source of all vitality is Hashem, that eases the radioactive angers, fears, and galvas that attract us to say and do things that are destructive and instead we burn out a lower way of existing for a higher understanding of our role as *Nishmas Am Yisrael*.

Our thought and speech touch each other. We think and we speak. It is fairly direct. In most cases our words reflect our thoughts. But our actions are not always so much of a reflection of our thought. Our thoughts can be very mixed and not all represented in our actions. Our actions can conceal quite a bit and no one except Hashem understands to the deepest degree what our intention is. The success or failure of our effort is in Hashem's hands. Despite our intentions for either good or bad, our thoughts and the effort we put forth do not guarantee success in anything. It is only because Hashem adds His strength to what we do that anything occurs in time and space. The urgency of understanding this concept is that we must take ownership of our thoughts because whether we realize it or not, we are creating influence that Hashem knows and uses in the occurrences of world events, our life's events, and the maintenance of nature. We have an influence even if we never act on a thought or emotion. A part of us, when charged, creates an influence, an electromagnetic type influence perhaps, that Hashem can add or not to the mix of what happens in this world.

We are not grasshoppers!

It is therefore incumbent upon us to consider where is our intellect based – when we attach our intellect to absolute truth that there is nothing but Hashem's glory and that we have a soul made in His image that contains emunah established by Avraham Avelnu and Yitzchok Avelnu at the akeda, we then have an emunah of loving Hashem and awe of Hashem. We can positively affect and heal our unrectified emotions and characteristics by turning to the part of us that is eternal, our tzelem elokim, and arousing love and awe of Hashem to assuage our unrectified reactions. The barrier to doing so is our natural belief in self-interest and the manner in which our mind is created to see time and space as reality in itself. This limiting aspect of our nature must become something that after all of human history we tire of. Torah teaches us that we are not bound to these limiting aspects.

We are not grasshoppers! Torah helps us develop ourselves to see that we are rooted in tzelem elokim and here to reveal Hashem's will and characteristics. It is incumbent upon us to begin learning, praying, and introspecting in order to discover the many rooms, corridors, and chambers of our inner world, to own our free choice and to choose our identity.

May we come to choose our identity to be Nishmas Am Yisrael, the people who are chosen to reveal Hashem's glory in this world.