

“But in the end, everything is about pleasure” that is what the bright, frum , boy retorted to his father when he tried to explain what Hashem will ultimately do with creation, on Sabbath Hagadol .

The father had explained to his boys that when Mashiach comes, the world will initially still be the same physically, except the all the people will acknowledge Hashem, we will be back in Eretz Israel with the Beith Hamikdash, etc... and we will be working more towards bringing the world to the next level in spirituality. After a number of years, there will also be Techiyath Hameitim.

“But aren’t the tzadikim in Gan Eden now?” sked the son. “Yes” answered the father. “But isn’t that all spiritual?” asked the son. “Yes” answered the father. “So why would they want to come back down (in spiritual level to this physical world)?” asked the son. “Because where they are, they can’t really help to bring the creation to the higher spiritual level of perfection that Hashem wants for it” explained the father.

“Ok then, so the world will go higher and higher, will everyone then live forever?” questioned the son. “No” answered the father, “in the sense that the physical world will cease to exist and we will go up to higher and higher spiritual levels.”

“Ok, so where will it end? What will happen in the end?” asked the son. “We will eventually all become one with Hashem again” answered the father as per his understanding of things.

“So, what will happen to me?” asked the son. “You and I will all be one with Hashem.” Answered the father.

“But then how will I have pleasure then?” wondered the son out loud.

“What do you mean ‘pleasure’ “? Asked the father. “It’s not all about having pleasure” retorted the father, who considered that maybe his son, who is a very good Jewish boy, was overly occupied with seeking pleasure and not focused enough on getting his life work done.

“But didn’t you tell me that Hashem created this world for it to act as a vehicle through which He can give pleasure to a seperate being?” “and that gives Hashem pleasure.” asked the son. “Yes” answered the father.

“So, the ultimate purpose of life is to be able to give pleasure to a being that can have pleasure. If so, what will be the purpose of everything if we all become one with Hashem again? What pleasure can we have then?” asked the son.

The son actually made another point to support his contention that life is about pleasure. “It gives pleasure to Hashem to be able to give us pleasure “so surely in the end everything is about pleasure.

The father considered what might be the correct answer to the son’s question and answered that “ when we are reconnected to Hashem like that, we will be unified and whole again, and that’s higher than any sense of pleasure that we understand at this point in out journey through existence. “

“But I understand that you cannot understand that, and it’s really beyond me as well” consoled the father. “we are both limited beings, as evidenced by our having a beginning and end, and cannot comprehend the concept of wholeness which equates with being limitless if you think about it. “

(Maybe that is another understanding of what the Shevatim told Yaakov Avinu “ Shemah Yisrael, Hashem E-okeinu, Hashem Echad “ He is One and we are interested and willing to move along the Creation to make us all one with Him again. Yaakov Avinu’s children proclaimed that they would finish the job that the avoeth started.)

In fact, the next day, the younger son said the following Dvar Torah: We say in Dayeinu “If Hashem had brought us to Har Sinai and hadn’t given us the Torah- Dayeinu- That would have been enough. “

Bnei Yisrael’s purpose for leaving Mitzrayim was to go and get the Torah on Har Sinai and then to settle Eretz Yisrael so as to be able to fulfill the Torah Fully. So how could it be enough to bring us to Har Sinai only?

The answer given is that at Har Sinai we were united and unified in serving Hashem- and that was such an exalted and lofty state that it, in and of itself was worthwhile enough.

We have all, hopefully, watched the Talk that R’ Yaakov Hillel gave on how this Miraculous event was a wake-up call from Hashem to stop wasting our time, effort and resources on seeking pleasure and enjoyment.

Maybe we have also all heard the “fabulous”, and “profoundly true “ talk from R Teitelbaum to his children, expanding upon the theme explaining how our kidisheim in shulles are over the top lavish, and how our weddings would have made Achashveirosh’s party goers jealous, etc...

Again – even at a high intellectual/spiritual level- a Jew can become stymied by the thought that Hashem has pleasure when he gives us pleasure – therefore everything has to do with having pleasure.

Therefore, we can conclude that life’s purpose ceases when there is no longer a way to have pleasure. It becomes unfathomable to us that the ultimate purpose of creation is realized when we become one with Hashem again and in effect lose our individuality.

Therefore, it would be a logical progression of this thinking to decide that , at least subconsciously, we no longer want to move things along in creation.

Forget about moving away from the gashmiuth, and become more and more spiritual, and move the creation along with us.

Therefore, Hashem sent us a wake-up call.

He cut us off from our pleasures. No more social events, pesach vacations where we stuff ourselves with Kosher for Pesach Chamatez to the point where we C”V get sick, shopping in stores, lavish parties, wasteful kiidushim and fully catered shivas. No more wasteful spending on new items replacing old ones simply because they are the new style.

As it seems, we won’t have the free money that we had before, to even afford so much of that.

I humbly ask of you, to consider the dire situation that we are in, and how it could C”V get worse before it gets better. Please understand that medically “flattening the curve” means that we are trying to drag out the infection rate for a longer period of time so that our hospitals can handle treating all the people that will need ICU level treatment with our limited resources and save their lives. All of this comes at the expense of our economy.

When Hashem made it known to the Malachim that He wanted to take them out of Mitzrayim, they protested with the observation that “they worship Idols, and so do the Jews, etc...”

In affect Hashem extended them a line of credit, because they had accepted to accept the Torah and Fulfil it in Eretz Yisrael. They had also accepted to do Chesed to each other etc.

I ask, with all due humility, to follow the path that R Hillel has shown us, and to influence all in the community to deemphasize the kosher Gashmiuth that we have been seeking out on higher and higher levels.

Even if we have been blessed with more material wealth than previous generations, we don't need to simply spend it all. Those that have more can be enlightened to understand that they can give more than 20% to tzedakah in many ways. We can save more of our money. I hear it costs \$1,000,000.00 or more for a moderate apartment in one of the more established neighborhoods in Eretz Yisrael. Who says that in this Galuth, it's not up to us to get up and leave on our own?

We can organize and prioritize our expenditures. Dr. Tetelbaum was correct, and we need to encourage everyone to support the yeshivot more. We have other work that needs to be done in the community.

R Chaim has taught us to work on Lashon Harah , rechiluth, being forgiving. We have a mesorah that Hashem is waiting on the Jews to keep just one more shabath, but that's almost impossible if you haven't studied the halachot systemically.

Again, with all due humility, I suggest that all are encouraged to form chaburoth to study the halakhoth of Lashon Harah and Shabath systemically. We can also study Tomer Devorah to learn to emulate Hashem's trait of being forgiving.

Again, I am simply suggesting that we follow the guidance of our Chachamim and our mesorah.

Hopefully Hashem will again extend us a line of credit when he sees that we accepted to move along creation again.