

Torah Aleph

Snapshot:

Finding the Presence of Hashem in every aspect of life, both generally (“sechel shel kol davar”) as well as particularly (“sechel sheyeish b’chol davar”) enables one’s tefillos to be accepted.

Overview:

There are two possible approaches to life, that of Yaakov Avinu, and that of Eisav. Yaakov Avinu sees the world as bursting with meaning [light, warmth and vitality] and finds Hashem’s Presence in every facet of the lived experience, with all of life (Malchus/Moon) including the darkest moments seen through the eyes of prayer and faith as reflecting the Masterplan of Hashem’s Will (Chochmah/Sun). Eisav lives a contrasting lifestyle, denying the assertion that this world reflects a deeper reality. These viewpoints are the root of the yetzer tov and yetzer hara within. The more a person finds the Torah in everything, the more his inner “Yaakov Avinu” is strengthened. This kind of engagement with Torah strengthens his Tefillah experience, and his prayers are more likely to be accepted.

Data points:

- Paradigm of “Yaakov Avinu consciousness” which sees Chochmah/Sun/Ches reflected within Malchus/Moon/Nun, versus “Eisav consciousness” which severs that link, seeing the moon (our experience of this-worldliness) as cold and dark, completely devoid of light.
- Contrast between “Chein Ha’Amiti” – Yaakov Avinu’s concern for that which is lasting and eternal, and “Sheker haChein”, Eisav’s concern for that which is transient and temporal.
- When one lives with Yaakov Avinu consciousness, one is removed from his personal exile.
- The relationship between Torah study (finding Torah in every experience) and Tefillah.
- The Relationship between Yaakov and Yosef.
- The yetzer hara can appear in the guise of mitzvos.

Geulah Value:

Personal redemption is achieved when one lives with “Yaakov Avinu consciousness”, seeing every facet of life in this world as illuminated with the Presence of Hashem.

Practical Takeaway:

To do our best to look for and discover Hashem’s Wisdom working within every facet of our human experience.

Cumulative Drip:

This Moshiach-consciousness is encapsulated in the lifestyle of Yaakov Avinu, the quintessential Jew, who finds Hashem's Presence (light, warmth, vitality) in every aspect of life. This approach contrasts that of Eisav, who, instead of seeing this world as a "Malchus D'Kedusha", a realm of holiness and meaning that reflects and reveals the spiritual dimension, instead sees this world as a "Malchus d'Sitra achara", a realm of meaninglessness and absurdity.