



LESSONS IN TORAH OR

PRECIOUS TEACHINGS THAT AWAKEN THE HEART
TO DIVINE SERVICE FROM THE HOLY MASTER
❧ **RABBI SHNEUR ZALMAN OF LIADI** ❧
TRANSLATED AND EXPLAINED

תּוֹרָה אֹר

פְּרִשְׁת וַיֵּשֶׁב

דְּבוּר הַמַּתְחִיל

שִׁיר הַמַּעֲלוֹת בְּשׁוּב

“Serving Hashem with Dreams”

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ב"ה

Torah Or

תורה אור

דבור המתחיל

שיר המעלות בשוב¹

פרשת וישב דף כח, ג - כט, א

“Serving Hashem with Dreams”

In this week's Parsha, the Torah speaks about dreams that Yosef had, which he interpreted as meaning that he would one day become ruler. In the Parshios of Vayeishev and Mikeitz, we find dream interpretation to be of great importance in the life of Yosef and his family, and therefore to the entire future of the Jewish People.

The Alter Rebbe will now explain the significance of dreams in our service of Hashem, first by quoting a verse that mentions how our service of Hashem in the time of Exile is analogous to someone who is in the middle of a dream:

"שיר המעלות בשוב כו' היינו
בְּחֻלָּמִים" (תהלים קכו, א):

It says in Tehillim (126:1): “A song to Hashem sung **on the steps** of the Beis Hamikdash: **When Hashem returns us**, from being in Exile, **then we will** look back and **consider ourselves like people who were dreaming.**”

¹ (נאמר שבת וארא, כ"ז טבת תקס"ה. הנחה אחרת - בספר המאמרים תקס"ה עמוד כפד. "תורת חיים דבור המתחיל "ויהי מקץ" (השני). פירוש הצמח צדק לתהלים קאפיטל קכו. - הערת כבוד קדושת אדמו"ר בציונים והערות. באור התורה בראשית ברוך ודף תתש, ב - המאמר עם הגהות ומתחיל: "להבין ענין החלומות שהגלות נמשל לבחינת חלום").

What is the meaning of comparing our being in Exile to dreaming? To explain this, we first need to understand the idea of dreams in general:

הנה החלום הוא מחבר שני הפכים
בנושא אחד, ומרכיב שני ענינים
הפכיים כאלו היו לאחדים.

והיינו מפני כי בשינה נסתלק מוח
השכל המבחין ולא נשאר רק כח
המדמה.

וכח המדמה יכול להרכיב ב' ענינים
הפכיים, כמו ספינה רצה באויר כו',
כמו שכתב הרמב"ם ב"שמונה
פרקים".²

רק שבהקיץ, שמתעורר כח השכל,
הוא השולט על כח המדמה ואינו
מניחו להרכיב, לפי שרואה בעין
שכלו שהם דברים נפרדים ואינן
מתאחדים כלל.

וכך הענין בגלות ניצוץ אלקות בנפש
האדם, שהוא בבחינת שינה
והסתלקות המוחין, יכול הוא
להרכיב ב' דברים הפכיים:

להיות כל היום טרוד במשא ומתן

A dream can combine two opposites in the same thing, and merge opposite things together as if they were one thing.

Because during sleep, the power of intellect, which differentiates between opposites, is not revealed in the consciousness, and all that remains in the consciousness is the power of imagination.

The power of imagination can combine two opposite things, for example, one can imagine a boat flying in the air which is not physically possible, as the Rambam writes in the introduction to his commentary on Pirkei Avos known as "Shemona Prakim"³.

It is only when a person wakes up that the power of intellect is awakened and takes control over the power of imagination, not allowing it to combine opposites since his intellect sees that opposite things cannot coexist.

So too regarding the exile of the spark of divinity in the soul of man, which is "sleeping" and its power of intellect is hidden, then the person can merge two opposites:

On the one hand, he is occupied in his business all day, as it says in Yeshaya (56:11) that "every man seeks to make a

² (פרק א).

³ Literally translated: "Eight Chapters" since his introduction to his commentary on Pirkei Avos is eight chapters long.

"אִישׁ לְבַעְעוֹ מִקְצֵהוּ", "זֶה פֹּנֶה לְזֵיתוֹ כו'."

profit," "one person involved in his olive tree business, and others involved in other businesses," etc.

הַגִּם שֶׁבְּתַפְלָה מְעוֹרֵר אֶת הָאֱהָבָה עַד שֶׁתַּחֲפֹץ⁵ לְהִתְפַּשֵּׁט מִלְּבוּשֵׁיהָ כו', לְדַבֵּקָה בּוֹ יִתְבָּרֵךְ מַחֲמַת הַתְּבוּנוֹתוֹ בִּיחֻדָּא-עִילָאָה וְיִחֻדָּא-תַתָּאָה,

On the other hand, **during prayer, he awakens love for Hashem to the point that he wants to remove himself from being invested in material concerns so that he can focus only on attaching himself spiritually to Hashem.** This love came during prayer **because of his contemplation** on Hashem's Oneness during the recital Shema, **when he thought about the Higher Level of experiencing Hashem's Oneness** as the divine soul does **and the Lower Level of experiencing Hashem's Oneness** as the animal soul does.⁶

⁴ (ישעיה נז, יא).

⁵ ("הָאֱהָבָה עַד שֶׁתַּחֲפֹץ." שִׁיר הַשִּׁירִים ב, ז).

⁶ In the second part of the Tanya entitled Shaar Hayichud Vehaemuna, the Alter Rebbe explains at length how we can recognize and experience the truth of Hashem's Oneness. Besides being the only Creator and the only one who really runs everything in the world, Hashem is the only True Existence. The Alter Rebbe begins by quoting the Zohar that the verse of Shema Yisrael Hashem Eloikeinu Hashem Echad is the "Higher Level of Unity" and the verse Baruch Sheim Kvod Malchuso Leolam Vaed is the "Lower Level of Unity." He explains the concept that Hashem is constantly re-creating all of the existence every moment, and the fact that we still exist in our source in Hashem (even though we don't feel it). He then continues to explain that these two levels of "Unity" are two levels in experiencing the reality of Hashem's Oneness. The Higher Level of Unity is how Hashem's Unity is experienced in the world of Atzilus, where the reality that we are included in our source in Hashem is fully revealed. The divine soul relates to this experience since it is from that spiritual level. The lower level of Hashem's Unity is how Hashem's Unity is experienced in the lower worlds, including the physical level, where we don't sense that we are always included in our source, but can at least appreciate that everything originally comes from Hashem. This is the level to which our animal soul relates.

אף על פי כן אחר התפלה חולפת ועוברת אהבה, ואינו שם ללבו כי הוא הפוך ההתבוננות שבתפלה, ומדמה בלב להרכיב ולחבר שני עניינים הפכים יחד כאלו היה לאחדים, ובאמת הם נפרדים ורחוקים זה מזה.

Despite this awareness of Hashem during prayer, after prayer, the love of Hashem slips away, and he doesn't take to heart that this loss of the love of Hashem and his current emotional investment in material concerns is the opposite intent of his contemplation during prayer, and he imagines in his heart that he can combine and merge two opposites together as if they were one thing when in truth they are totally separate and removed from each other.

The love of Hashem and the love of physical needs and desires are two opposite feelings, yet we don't fully recognize the contrast between them, and we imagine that it makes perfect sense to feel love for Hashem during prayer, and right after prayer to feel love for material matters.

כי הגם דכתיב בתורה (בהר כה, ג):
"שש שנים תזרע שדה,"

This is despite what is written in the Torah (Vayikra 25:3): "For six years you will plant your field," implying that material pursuit is something Hashem wants, not a contradiction to the love of Hashem.

וכן בקריאת שמע (עקב יא, יגיד):
"ולעבדו בכל לבבכם כו', ונתתי מטר
ארצכם כו', ואספת דגנה כו';

Similarly, in the Shema, it is written (Devarim 11:13-14): "And if you will serve Hashem with all of your heart...then I (Hashem) will give rain in your lands, ...and you will gather in your grain, wine, and oil." We see Hashem wants us to gather crops and pursue material needs.

הנה הכל הוא על דרך עובדה.
בידוע שבכל עניני עולם-הזה יש
בהם ענין עבודת ה':

The main intent of all those verses is the spiritual service of Hashem that can be accomplished in our physical life, as is

⁷ [נראה לי שצריך להיות: עבודה - הערת כבוד קדושת אדמו"ר. בדפוס ראשון: עובר'. באור התורה וישב דף תתש, ב' שנדפס מגוף כתב יד קדש ה"צמח-צדק": עובדא].

known that everything in this physical world contains a way to serve Hashem.

"שש שנים תזרע כו' ובשנה השביעית כו'" (בְּהָר כה, גִּד), וְהוּא עֵינֵן הַבִּירוּרִים שֶׁבְּבַחֲנִית "שש שנים" וְהַעֲלָא שֶׁבְּבַחֲנִית הַשָּׁנָה הַשְּׁבִיעִית, כְּמוֹ שֶׁנִּתְבָּאֵר בְּמָקוֹם אַחֵר. וְאַחֵר כְּוִנַּת הַלֵּב הֵן הֵן הַדְּבָרִים.⁸

The deeper meaning of what is written (Vayikra 25:3-4): **"For six years you will plant your field, and on the seventh year you will rest from working the field," is the concept of refining and elevating the sparks of holiness** that are found in the "six years" of this physical world **and the elevation of all existence in the "seventh year,"** as explained elsewhere. **Everything depends on the person's intentions** in material pursuits.

Hashem commanded us that in the Holy Land, we can only work the fields or do other agricultural work for six years at a time, followed by the seventh year of letting the land "rest" when we are forbidden to farm the land. This seventh year is called "Shemita," and this seven-year cycle is called the "Shemita" cycle.

The "six years" and "seventh year" of the Shemita cycle correspond to a mystical concept: The world, as we know, exists for seven thousand years. The first six thousand years correspond to the six years of the Shemita cycle, where working the field is permitted and encouraged. During the first six thousand years of the world, we need to work to refine and elevate the world and make it a dwelling place for Hashem through the Torah and Mitzvos. The seventh year of Shemita corresponds to the seventh thousand years when all of existence will be at such a high level that it won't need to be further refined. Hashem will be fully revealed in the world. At that time, we will fulfill Torah and Mitzvos just to connect to Hashem and not to refine the world (just as during the Shemita year, we eat the fruits that grow on their own, but we don't work the land.)

The point is that our material occupation in this world is for a higher purpose: to refine and elevate the physical world. When physical objects are used by a Jew who serves Hashem, the objects are also elevated to have a connection to Hashem. The true purpose of our work is not to earn our material needs since Hashem can give us everything we need without our involvement in any material occupation. The purpose of our material occupation is only to connect the physical world to Hashem.

⁸ (אַחֵר כְּוִנַּת הַלֵּב הֵן הֵן הַדְּבָרִים: מְגִילָה כ, א).

אָבֵל לֵב הֶהָמוֹן הַנוֹטִים אַחֵר בְּצַעַם⁹
 לְהִטְרִיף לֶחֶם חֻקִּים¹⁰ כְּפִשּׁוּטוֹ,
 לִבָּם לֹא בֵן יִדְמָה¹¹, וְלָבָם לֹא נִכּוֹן¹²
 עַל פִּי הַכּוֹנֶנֶה הָרְאוּיָה,

However, most people intend to amass material profit just to attain their daily bread. Their hearts are not thinking about and focused on this proper intention of refining the material world by connecting it to Hashem,

רַק כָּל יִשְׁעָם וְכָל חֲפָצָם לְמַלְאוֹת דֵּי
 מַחְסוּרִים אֲשֶׁר יַחְסֵר לָהֶם¹³ בְּצַרְכֵּי
 גּוֹפֵם, וְעוֹשִׂים מַצָּרְכֵי הַגּוּף עֵיקָר.

Their entire hope and desire seem to be to satisfy what their body is lacking, making their bodies the highest priority, and their spiritual needs a secondary priority.

וְזֶהוּ מִמַּשׁ הַפּוֹךְ הַהִתְעוּרוֹרוֹת
 שְׁבִתְפִלָּה לְהִיּוֹת נִקְבָּע בְּלִבּוֹ הָאֲהָבָה
 לַה' לְבָדָּה בְּלִי תַעְרוּבֹת זֶר חֵס
 וְשָׁלוֹם כּו'.

This intention is entirely the opposite of the feelings that we awaken during prayer, a love entrenched in the heart for Hashem alone and nothing else, G-d forbid.

The question is: How do we explain this situation? During prayer, he only loves Hashem, and after prayer, he loves his material needs. Does that mean that the feeling of love for Hashem during prayer was an illusion?

וְהִנֵּה, גַּם אַחֲרֵי הַדְּבָרִים וְהָאֱמֶת
 הָאֵלֶּה¹⁴ לֹא יִפּוֹל לֵב הָאָדָם עָלָיו
 לֹמֵר: כִּי הַהִתְעוּרוֹרוֹת שְׁבִתְפִלָּה
 הַתְּבוֹנְנוֹת הֵן דְּמִיוֹנוֹת שְׁוָא,

Now, even after these true words about the proper intention in material matters, one must not feel sad and think that his emotions and contemplations regarding Hashem during prayer are only empty imaginings and therefore worthless."

⁹ (סוּטָה מו, ב: "מִשְׁרְבוּ (יְחַזְקָא לֵג, לֹא): 'אַחֲרֵי בְצַעַם לִבָּם הוֹלֵךְ' רַבּוּ (יִשְׁעִיהָ ה, כ): 'הָאִמְרִים לָרַע טוֹב וְלִטּוֹב רָע").

¹⁰ (עַל פִּי מִשְׁלִי ל, ח: "הִטְרִיפִי לֶחֶם חֻקִּי").

¹¹ (עַל פִּי יִשְׁעִיהָ י, ז: "וְהוּא לֹא בֵן יִדְמָה וְלָבָבוּ לֹא בֵן יַחֲשֵׁב").

¹² (תְּהִלִּים עח, לו).

¹³ ("מִחְסְרוֹ אֲשֶׁר יַחְסֵר לוֹ." דְּבָרִים טו, ח).

¹⁴ ("אַחֲרֵי הַדְּבָרִים וְהָאֱמֶת הָאֵלֶּה." דְּבָרִי הַיָּמִים ב' לב, א).

שְׁהָרִי הוּא כְּמוֹ הַחֲלוּם, שֶׁהוּא כַּחַ
הַמְדָּמָה שֶׁמַּחְבֵּר ב' הַפְּכִים:

One might think the contradictory love for Hashem and for material things is merely **similar to a dream, in which a person's imagination can combine two opposites.**

כִּי הֵנָּה מֵאַחֵר שְׂרוּאָה בְּנַפְשׁוֹ אַחֵר
הַתַּפְּלָה, שְׁחוּלְפֶת וְעוֹבֶרֶת הָאֱהָבָה
לֵה' וּמִתְהַפֵּךְ לָאֱהוּב אֶת גּוּפוֹ וְדוֹקָא,
הָרִי מוֹבֵן שֶׁגַּם בַּתַּפְּלָה לֹא בִיטֵל
אֶהֱבֵת גּוּפוֹ מִכָּל וְכָל, וְהַתְעוּרָרוּת
שֶׁבַּתַּפְּלָה אֶת הָאֱהָבָה לֵה' לְבָדָה
אֵינָה אֲמִיתִית,

Since a person sees that after prayer his love for Hashem slips away and his heart turns to the love of his bodily needs, it's understood that even during prayer he didn't completely remove his love for his body, and the awakening of love for Hashem during prayer wasn't completely true.

רַק כְּדַמְיוֹן הַחֲלוּם שֶׁמַּחְבֵּר ב'
הַפְּכִים, וְדוּמָה לוֹ שְׂאוּהֵב אֶת ה' וְאֵף
עַל פִּי כֵן אוֹהֵב אֶת גּוּפוֹ הֵגֵם כִּי לֹא
צָדְקוֹ יִחְדְּדוּ¹⁵, לְפִי שְׁזָה נִלְקַח מִכַּחַ
הַמְדָּמָה אֲשֶׁר יָכוֹל לְדַמּוּת דְּמִיוֹנוֹת
שׁוּא;

It was merely an imagined dream that combines two opposites. He imagines that he loves Hashem yet still loves his body, even though they can't exist at the same time. It comes from the power of imagination that can imagine things that are not real.

After a sincere appraisal of how he feels during prayer and how he feels during work, a person could understandably come to the conclusion that the feelings of love for Hashem were just his imagination, and that's why they didn't last after prayer.

The Alter Rebbe explains that really this is not the case and that his love of Hashem during prayer has truth to it:

אֲךָ בְּאֵמֶת הֵנָּה בְּחִינַת חֲלוּם זֶה
שֶׁרָשׁוֹ לְמַעְלָה וְיִסּוּדוֹתוֹ בְּהִרְרֵי קֹדֶשׁ
עֲלִיּוֹן.

However, the truth is that this “dream” of contradictory love of both Hashem and material matters **has a source Above and comes from a high level of Holiness:**

¹⁵ (עַל פִּי תַהֲלִים יֵט, י: "מִשְׁפָּטֵי ה' אֵמֶת צָדְקוֹ יִחְדְּדוּ").

וְיִזְכֹּר בְּהַקְדִּים מִה שֶׁכָּתוּב (זְכוּרָה יד,
ט): "בְּיוֹם הַהוּא יִהְיֶה ה' אֶחָד וּשְׁמוֹ
אֶחָד."

This will be understood by first explaining what is written (Zecharya 14:9): "On that day Hashem will be One and His Name will be One."

וּפְרִיךְ בַּגִּמְטְרָא (פְּסָחִים נ, א): "אָטוּ
הָאִידֵּנָא לָאוּ 'שְׁמוֹ אֶחָד' הוּא?!"
וּמַשְׁנֵי: "לֹא כְּשֶׁאֲנִי נִכְתָּב אֲנִי נִקְרָא
כִּי¹⁶."

The Gemara (Pesachim 50a) asks: "Nowadays is Hashem's Name not already One?" It answers, "Hashem's Name is not read the same way it is written."

Hashem's Name is written with the four letters of י-ה-ו-ה but is pronounced א-ד-ד-נ.

This difference between how His Name is written and how it is pronounced is considered a lack of Oneness. However, after Moshiach comes, we will experience His Name read as it is written, then it will be completely One.

וְהַעֲנִין: כִּי "שְׁמוֹ" הוּא בְּבַחֲשֵׁינֵת גְּלוּת,
וְלָכֵן אֵינוּ נִקְרָא כְּמוֹ שֶׁנִּכְתָּב רַק
בְּלָבוּשׁ וְנִרְתַּק כִּי.

The idea behind this is as follows: His "Name" is a reference to the Divine Presence¹⁷ which is in Exile nowadays, and is therefore not "read" as it is "written." It's not expressed the way it really is. Rather it's as if it were a lamp covered by a garment or container that blocks out the intensity of its light.

Hashem's "Name" (i.e., Divine Presence) is not revealed the way it really is, but only through layers of concealment. This is why His Name of four letters is only read through saying a different Name. If we said His Name directly, it would give additional life to the powers of unholiness that rule (as it were) in the time of Exile. The only way to express His Name during Exile is through the Name of א-ד-ד-נ-י (which means Master) which expresses how Hashem rules even the beings that feel separate from Him.

¹⁶ ("נִכְתָּב אֲנִי בְּיוֹד ה' אֶחָד וְנִקְרָא אֲנִי בְּאֵל"ף דָּל"ת").

¹⁷ Just like a person's name is used for other people to call on him and relate to him, so too Hashem's "Name" is His revelation to us through which we are able to relate to Hashem and call on Him.

וְהָיָה בְּגִלּוֹת הוּא בְּבַחֲיִנַת שִׁנְיָה
וְהִסְתַּלְקוֹת הַמוֹחִין "תֵּלֶת בְּלִילִין
כּו"י¹⁸,

Now, in the time of Exile a person is like he is in a state of sleep: When someone sleeps the deeper parts of **his intellect withdraw** so all that remains of his intellect are (as stated in the Holy Zohar) **"the three Intellectual aspects** of Wisdom, Understanding, and Knowledge **the way they are included in the three emotional aspects** of Kindness, Severity, and Compassion."¹⁹

וְאִזּוֹ נִשְׁמָתוֹ מוֹשְׁכָת לוֹ חַיִּים
מִלְמַעְלָה כּו'.

When that happens, his soul draws down life for itself from Above, from a very high level of Holiness.

¹⁸ ("תֵּלֶת בְּלִילִין גּוֹ תֵּלֶת" - שְׁלֹשׁ בְּלוּלִים בְּתוֹךְ שְׁלֹשׁ. רְאֵה זֶהר תּוֹסַפְתָּא בְּשִׁלַּח נ, סוּף עֲמוּד א. עַץ חַיִּים שְׁעַר הַכְּלָלִים פֶּרֶק ב. וְרֵאָה דְּבוּר הַמִּתְחִיל "לְהַבִּין הָעֲנָנִין דְּתֵלֶת בְּלִילִין גּוֹ תֵּלֶת" תִּשְׁב"ג - תּוֹרַת מְנַחֵם חֵלֶק לוֹ עֲמוּד 263).

¹⁹ When a person is sleeping, higher cognitive functions withdraw to the subconscious that is not revealed in the body. All that remains revealed in the body is the lower aspects of the intellect, which are needed to guide emotions and actions. This is referred to in the Holy Zohar as "the three intellect aspects as they are included in the three emotional aspects," i.e., the level of intellect that just guides emotions and actions. This is like the level of intellect of a baby. He only knows how to eat etc. and wants to be loved etc. but has no higher comprehension. Similarly, the only aspects of intellect that remain in dreams are just enough to power imaginary situations, actions, and feelings, but nothing higher than that. Therefore, when a person sleeps, there are two things happening with his intellect: 1- the higher cognitive functions of comprehension withdraw to the subconscious, 2- the lower aspects of intellect that remain are limited to the situations, actions, and feelings that his imagination produces in dreams. See the maamar for 19 Kislev 5713 for further explanation on this concept.

וְשֵׁם הוּא בְּבַחֲנֵית עֲגוּלִים, שְׂאִין בָּהֶם
 בְּחִינַת מַעְלָה וּמַטָּה, רַק הַכֹּל
 בִּהְשׁוּוֹאָה אַחַת וּבְהִתְכַלְלֻת
 וְהִתְאַחֲדוּת כָּל הָעֲנִינִים בְּלִי שׁוּם
 פִּירוּד וְהִתְחַלְקוּת, כְּנוֹדַע מֵאִמֵּר
 רַ"ל (עֲרוּבִין יג, ב): "אֵלּוּ וְאֵלּוּ דְּבָרֵי
 אֱלֹקִים חַיִּים".

That level (that it receives life from during sleep/Exile) **is called "Circles,"** meaning **that just like a circle has no top or bottom**, rather, all points are equal. In this spiritual level of "Circles," **all aspects are equal, and everything comes together without making any differences between things, in a similar manner to what our Sages said** (Eiruvin 13b) that opposite opinions in Torah Law can both being true at the same time: **"These opinions and these opposite opinions are both the words of the Living Hashem."**

The following diagram shows ten attributes in a circle. In a circle, all ten attributes are equally connected to each other, none is on top or bottom per se, and one can draw a direct line between each attribute and every other attribute. Thus, in the arrangement of "Circles," all attributes are equal and exist together.



רק בשנמשך דרך קוים אזי יש
התחלקות קו ימין חסד נז.

It is only when Hashem's revelation is drawn down through "channels," i.e., specific and defined modes of expression, that there are differences between aspects, that the "channel" of the "right side" is kindness and the "channel" of the "left side" is severity.

The same ten attributes are presented in the following chart as three "channels." The right "channel" has kindness and then wisdom and victory. The left "channel" has severity and then understanding and loyalty. The middle "channel" has compassion and then knowledge, connection, and rulership. Each attribute has a specific place in this arrangement, and there is a chainlike hierarchy where one attribute is an extension of a previous one. Wisdom is expressed in kindness, which is then expressed in victory. Understanding is expressed in severity which is then expressed in loyalty. Knowledge is expressed in compassion which is then expressed in connection and rulership.

Left Channel	Middle Channel	Right Channel
Understanding	Knowledge	Wisdom
Severity	Compassion	Kindness
Loyalty	Connection	Victory
	Rulership	

מה שאין כן בבחינת עגולים אין שם
התחלקות כלל, ושם כל הדברים
המתפרדים למטה מחוברים
וכלולים יחד, ולא נראה שום פירוד
והתחלקות ביניהם.

Which is not the case in the level of "Circles", on that level there is no differences at all, and all the aspects that are separate below in the more revealed realm, are all connected and bound up with each other in the more hidden realm called "Circles", and on that level there is not apparent any division or difference between these attributes.

A person's soul-powers operate on two levels, on a conscious level, and on a sub-conscious level. On the conscious level, his intellect flows into his emotions, which then flow into his practical mode of conduct. In addition, the different aspects of

intellect work together so that his abstract thinking flows into his logic and data processing thinking, which then flows into his perception of reality thinking. In his emotions, kindness is the opposite of severity, and the desire for victory is the opposite of submission to authority.

However, in the subconscious, these defined rules of how the soul-powers interact do not apply. All of his soul-powers exist in potential at the same time, and there they are all together and not contradictory.

So too in Hashem's revelation, there are these two levels:

The level called "Channels" is like the conscious level, which is the more revealed level, where Hashem's ten attributes work together in an exact and defined manner, and some attributes act in an opposite manner to other attributes.

However, the level called "Circles" is like the sub-conscious level, which is more hidden, where all the attributes exist equally at the same time, like a circle where there is no top or bottom.

אך להיות בחינה זו בגילוי למטה,
אינה כי אם על ידי בחינת שינה
והסתלקות המוחין בגלות.

However, for this higher level of "Circles" to be revealed below in this physical world, it is only possible through the idea of "sleeping" and the withdrawal of the intellect back to its source in the "subconscious" level of Divine Revelation in the time of Exile.

ועל זה נאמר (ישעיה נ, ג): "אלביש
שמים קדרות" -

Regarding this process, it was said by the Navi (Yeshaya 50:3): "I will clothe the heavens with darkness."

"שמים" הם בחינת עגולים, הם
מלובשים בבחינת "קדרות" וחשך,
שהוא העלם והסתרה,

The term "heavens" is referring the level called "Circles", which are "clothed" and invested in "darkness", meaning the concealment and hiding of Divine Revelation.

שאז מאיר ומתנוצץ מלמעלה,
מעולם העליון שהוא בבחינת
עגולים, בבחינת חלום, שהוא כח
המדמה לחבר שני הפכים בנושא
אחד באלו הם אחדים ממש.

At that time of spiritual concealment is when there shines and glimmers from Above an expression of the high spiritual world called "Circles". This high level is expressed as a "dream" that has the power of imagination to combine

opposites together as if they were one thing.

לְפִי שְׂבָאֲמַת בְּשֶׁרֶשׁם בְּעוֹלָם הָעֲלִיּוֹן
הֵם מְחוּבָּרִים וּמְיוֹחָדִים, כִּי שֵׁם הוּא
בְּבַחֲיַת עֲגוּלִים כֵּן"ל,

This is because, in truth, the source of everything in this physical world is ultimately in that high spiritual world where they are combined as one. That world is called "Circles" that have no top or bottom, as explained above.

Hashem creates everything with His speech and thoughts, but before they were specific thoughts and words, they were first a higher, more abstract level of thought, analogous to the subconscious level that precedes a person's revealed thoughts and feelings. In the subconscious, all the soul powers coexist and are interrelated, as in a circle where all points are equally distant from the center, and each point has direct access to every other point without needing to go through another. This means that everything that Hashem created in this world has a source in the abstract spiritual level called "Circles," where even opposites can be together.

It is possible for opposites to coexist even as they are in this physical world because in their source in Hashem's abstract thought, they coexisted without contradiction. So when we see opposites together in this world, we really see an expression of their spiritual source where they were together.

רַק לְמַטָּה, בְּהִתְחַלְקוֹת הַקּוּיִן עַל פִּי
חֻכְמָה וְדַעַת לִהְיוֹת קוֹזָה כֶּךָ וְזֶה כֶּךָ,
אֲזִי נִרְאָה וְנִגְלָה הַחֲפוּךְ, שְׂוֶה הַחֲפוּךְ
מִזֶּה, וְאֲזִי הֵם נִפְרָדִים וְרַחוּקִים זֶה
מִזֶּה.

It is only below in this world where there are "channels" divided by Hashem's wisdom and knowledge so that each "channel" has its own specific manner, then creations that come through them will appear opposites, one opposing the other, e.g., fire and water appear as opposites that counteract each other, and then they are distinct and removed from each other.

וְלָכֵן אִי אֶפְשָׁר לִהְיוֹת גִּילּוּי בְּחִינַת
הַהִתְכַּלְלּוֹת בְּבַחֲיַת גִּילּוּי הַחֻכְמָה,
שֶׁהִיא רֹאשִׁית הִתְחַלְקוֹת הַקּוּיִן,

Therefore, it is impossible for this interconnectedness to be revealed in the level of wisdom, which is the beginning of these distinct "channels".

אֶלָּא בְּבַחֲיִנַת שְׁיִנָּה וְהִסְתַּלְקוּת
הַמוֹחִין בְּגָלוּת, אֲזִי מִתְנוּצֵץ וּמֵאִיר
הָאוֹר הָעֲלִיוֹן,

Only in the aspect of "sleep," when the "intellect," i.e., the revelation of awareness of Hashem withdraws back into its source during the time of Exile, at that time the Light from Above in the world called "Circles" shines and glimmers into this world,

וְהוּא מִסְתַּתֵּר וּמִתְעַלֵּם בְּבַחֲיִנַת
"קְדֻרוֹת" וְחֹשֶׁךְ, דְּהֵיינוּ בְּבַחֲיִנַת
הַתְלַבְּשׁוֹת הַהֶעָלִים כִּי, וְלֹא בְּבַחֲיִנַת
גִּילּוֹי.

But it comes hidden in "darkness" and concealment, meaning clothed in various types of concealment and not openly revealed.

The expression of the reality of the higher world of "Circles" into our world is mainly in the fact that opposites can exist together at the same time, whether in our physical reality or in our feelings and perceptions. The fact that opposites can co-exist is expressing the reality where everything exists together in Hashem, even opposites.

However, this is not a direct revelation of that higher level in a way that we can understand and internalize. Even though we see opposites co-existing, we don't know that this is because, in their source in Hashem, they co-exist. All we see is the way they are in this world co-existing in a way beyond our comprehension.

So, even though in the time of Exile, there is an expression of the higher reality of the world of "Circles," it is only an indirect expression of the way we see its effect in combining opposites. This is the meaning of saying it comes "clothed in darkness", meaning we see it only indirectly in a way we can't understand.

כִּי הַגִּילּוֹי הוּא בְּבַחֲיִנַת חֻכְמָה וְדַעַת
שֶׁהוּא עַל פִּי קוֹיִן.

Because revelation that we can understand directly is only through the Wisdom and Knowledge of Hashem the way it comes to us in the "channels".

The knowledge of Hashem that we can understand is the way it comes down from level to level through the system of "channels" until it comes down to a level that we are capable of understanding.

This is similar to the analogy of the conscious and the subconscious:

From our subconscious, we receive the ability to do things that we might think are impossible, like the power for self-sacrifice that every Jew naturally has. However,

this power for self-sacrifice is not something we can necessarily understand and define, even though it is very important for us to use.

Only in our conscious intellect do we have the ability to process and internalize deep ideas and integrate them into our life. However, the conscious intellect is inherently limited.

So too, in the levels of Divine Revelation, there is a difference between how we receive from the “conscious” level of “channels” and the “subconscious” level of “Circles”:

From the level of "Circles," we see opposites coming together, which is why we feel the love of Hashem during prayer and love of our body after prayer, and it gives us the power that even if someone experiences love of material things, he can also experience real love for Hashem. However, we can't understand and internalize the real source of this ability.

From the level of "channels," we receive the ability to understand that Hashem is creating and guiding the world and our life. However, our understanding is very limited due to the concealments on Divine Revelation in the time of Exile.

וְלַעֲתִיד־לָבֹא בְּתֵיב (יְשַׁעְיָה ל, כ): "וְלֹא
יִכְנֹף עוֹד מוֹרִיךְ" בְּכִנּוֹף וּלְבוּשׁ כִּי,

However, regarding the Future Time after Moshiach comes **it is written** in the Navi (Yeshaya 30:20): **“And your Master (Hashem) will no longer hide Himself in His ‘Clothing’,”** meaning that He will no longer hide his true revelation in **‘clothing’ and ‘garments’.**

Meaning, that the expression of His true Oneness and Infinity will be openly revealed, not like it is now that we only see it indirectly through the combination of opposites.

וְלָכֵן "בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא יִהְיֶה [.] שְׁמוֹ
אַחַד" - שֶׁלֹּא יִהְיֶה מְלוּבָּשׁ וּמְכּוּסָה
בְּנִרְתֵּק, וְיִהְיֶה "נִקְרָא כְּמוֹ שֶׁנִּכְתָּב
כו", "כִּי עֵין בְּעֵין יִרְאוּ כו" (וְשַׁעֲיָה
נב, ח).

Therefore, specifically, **"On that day** (when Moshiach comes) Hashem will be One and **His Name will be One."** This is because His Name, meaning his ultimate revelation, **will not be clothed and concealed in a "covering"** of the natural order and unholiness that exists in the time of Exile, **rather "His Name will be read the same way it is written,"** meaning it will be openly revealed, **and** like it says in Yeshaya (52:8): **"with our physical eyes we will see that Hashem is here watching us."**

Meaning, not just intellectually, will we understand that Hashem is here, but we will see Hashem's revelation with our physical eyes since the Infinite revelation of Hashem allows impossibilities to happen, like physical objects seeing Divinity.

וְאֵין נֶאֱמַר (תהלים קכו, א): "בְּשׁוּב ה'
אֶת שִׁיבַת צִיּוֹן הֵיינוּ כְּחֹלְמִים",

Regarding that time, it is said (Tehilim 126:1): **"When Hashem returns the Jewish People who were captives from Eretz Yisroel and Yerushalayim, called Tzion, and brings them back to Eretz Yisroel, we will look back and consider ourselves as dreamers."**

פִּירוּשׁ: שִׁיתְגַּלָּה מְדַרְגָּה וּבְחִינָה זוֹ
שֶׁל הַחֲלוֹם, עַד אֲשֶׁר כּוֹלֵם יִכִּירוּ
וְיִדְעוּ וְיִשְׁיִגּוּ הַחַיּוֹת הַנִּמְשָׁךְ לָהֶם
בְּזִמַּן הַגָּלוּת שֶׁהוּא מְבַחֶינֶת הַחֲלוֹם,
וְלָכֵן יֹאמְרוּ: "הֵיינוּ כְּחֹלְמִים".

Meaning: at that time there will be revealed the level of "dreams", until everyone will recognize, know, and understand the life from Hashem that was drawn down to the Jewish People during the time of Exile which came from the level of "dreams," and therefore they will all say "we were like dreamers," meaning we all received life from the "subconscious" level of Divine revelation called "circles" which is the source of "dreams" where opposites can co-exist.

וּבְזֶה יוֹבֵן מַעֲלַת וּמִדְרַגַּת יַעֲקֹב וְיוֹסֵף
עַל יְדֵי הַחֲלוֹמוֹת.

And with this, it will be understood the great spiritual level of Yaakov and Yosef, who served Hashem with dreams.

Yaakov had a dream of a ladder reaching to the heavens, and later, he had a dream of an angel that came to him when he was taking care of sheep and told him that Hashem wanted him to return home.

Yosef had dreams of stars and the moon bowing to him, and sheaves of wheat bowing to him, and later he interpreted dreams for Pharoh and for his officers.

We see that they served Hashem using dreams, which is why these dreams are recorded in the Torah. This shows that they were connected to the high spiritual world, which is the source of dreams, the world of "circles."

וְיֵשׁ בְּחִינֹת שְׁיוּסָף הוּא יוֹתֵר
בְּמַעֲלָה מִמִּדְרַגַּת מֹשֶׁה רַבֵּינוּ עָלֵינוּ
הַשְּׁלוֹם.

Because of the great level that is the source of dreams, **there are some aspects in which Yosef was on an even higher level than Moshe Rabeinu:**

We see this in the fact that Moshe Rabeinu said that Aharon's two oldest sons, Nadav and Avihu, were on a higher level than them. He said that during the inauguration of the Mishkan when Nadav and Avihu died after offering Ketores without being commanded to by Hashem. Moshe said that Hashem wanted the Mishkan to be sanctified by having completely righteous people pass away at the time of the inauguration, and since Nadav and Avihu were chosen instead of himself, this proves that they were on a higher spiritual level than him (at least in some aspects).

Since Nadav and Avihu had some higher levels than Moshe Rabeinu, that means that Yosef also did, since Nadav and Avihu were a gilgul-reincarnation of the soul of Yosef. Because Yosef was on such a high level, that is why Nadav and Avihu- who each possessed an aspect his soul- were also on such a high level, even higher than Moshe Rabeinu.

Now the Alter Rebbe goes into details of how Nadav and Avihu possessed aspects of Yosef's soul:

וְנָדָב וַאֲבִיהוּא הָיוּ נֶפֶשׁ רוּחַ שֵׁל
יוֹסֵף.

Nadav and Avihu had the levels of 'nefesh' and 'ruach' of the soul of Yosef.²⁰

²⁰ There are five levels of the soul: 1-nefesh 2-ruach 3-neshama 4-chaya 5-

It says in the Torah that the people who took out the dead bodies of Nadav and Avihu from the Mishkan were not able to bring the Pesach offering (since Pesach was only a few days after the inauguration of the Mishkan) because they became impure through touching a dead body.

However, if we look at the verse carefully it says:

"וְאִנְחֵנוּ טְמֵאִים לְנֶפֶשׁ אָדָם" (בהעלותך ט, ז) - זֶה אֲבִיהוּא.²¹ **"We are impure by touching the dead body of the *nefesh-soul* of a man."** (Bamidbar 9:7) **This nefesh-soul is referring to Avihu, who had the soul level of nefesh of Yosef.**

We see that the verse uses the singular term soul-nefesh and not plural 'souls'. We have a tradition that this is because the people only became impure by touching the dead body of Avihu, who had the level of nefesh. However, Nadav was on an even higher level than Avihu, and his dead body did not transmit any impurity to those that touched it.

אָבֵל נָדָב הָיָה מִבְּחִינַת "רוּחַ", וְלֹא
הָיוּ צָרִיכִים הַזֶּה בְּשִׁבּוּלֵי כָלָל,
However, Nadav had the level of ruach of Yosef's soul, and therefore the people who touched his dead body did not need to be purified by having the ashes of the Para Aduma cow mixed with water sprinkled on them.

וְעָלְיוּ נֶאֱמַר (תְּהִלִּים נא, יד): "רוּחַ
נְדִיבָה תִּסְמְכֵנִי".
Regarding him (Nadav), it is written (Tehilim 51:14): "And support me with a nadav-generous ruach-spirit", meaning that the verse connects the word "Nadav" with the level of "ruach", since Nadav had the soul level of ruach of Yosef.

yechida. The lowest is nefesh and the highest is yechida.

²¹ (סוּפָה כה, ב).

וְזֶהוּ שֶׁכְּתוּב (תהלים פ, ב): "נִוְהַג כְּצֹאן יוֹסֵף", כִּי בְּזֶמֶן הַגָּלוּת הִנְהִיגָה יִשְׂרָאֵל הוּא בְּבַחֲנֵית יוֹסֵף, שֶׁהוּא מְבַחֲנֵית חִלּוּם, מַעוֹלָם הָעֲגוּלִים כו'.

This is also the meaning of what is written in Tehilim (80:2): "He (Hashem) guides like sheep the Jewish People who are called Yosef." The reason that the entire Jewish People are called in this verse Yosef (even those who are not his descendants) is that the way that Hashem guides the Jewish People during the time of Exile is similar to how Yosef served Hashem, from the level of "dreams" from the world of "Circles."

Just like Yosef served Hashem with dreams, the entire Jewish People serve Hashem on the level of "dreams" during the time of Exile, this is why we are all called Yosef. Yaakov and Yosef had lives of hardships when Hashem was very concealed from them, yet they persevered to serve Hashem with self-sacrifice. They served Hashem like one in a dream who knows that he is dreaming; he knows that he is connecting to a higher reality. So too, the Jewish people during Exile serve Hashem in that state of concealment and level of "dreams" with self-sacrifice, and they have the power to do things to serve Hashem that doesn't seem to make sense. It is because of this they are even higher than Moshe Rabeinu in some ways like it says in the Midrash the Moshe Rabeinu was humbled when he saw the self-sacrifice and dedication of the last generations of Exile (including our current generation) who serve Hashem even though they don't have understanding and awareness, like one in a dream.

וְלָכֵן נִקְרָא (ויחי מט, כב) "בֶּן פֹּרֵ"ת" - אוֹתִיּוֹת פֹּתֵ"ר וְתוֹפֵ"ר - שֶׁמַּחֲבֵר כו'. וְלָכֵן הִיָּה פוֹתֵר חִלּוּמוֹת. :

Because Yosef was connected to the level of "dreams" he is referred to in the verse (Bereishis 49:22) as "a son that פֹּרֵ"ת-multiplies," on a literal level this means that his descendants will multiply, but the word פֹּרֵ"ת contains the **letters that spell two other words: פֹּתֵ"ר-interpret and תוֹפֵ"ר-connect, meaning the ability to connect** seemingly random and disconnected things together to come out with the correct explanation of dreams. **This is why he was able to interpret dreams** for Pharaoh and his officers since his soul was connected to the spiritual source of dreams.

Summary

Q1 What does the verse mean by comparing the Jewish People during the time of Exile to someone dreaming?

A1 During a dream, a person's intellect withdraws back into the subconscious, and all that remains is the imagination. The imagination has the ability to combine opposites, like imagining a flying boat or fire and water together. During the time of Exile, our intellectual awareness of Hashem very limited. It is like the intellect that remains with someone while he is sleeping and dreaming. We can, therefore, imagine that we can love Hashem during prayer, and right after prayer, we love our material needs, even though these two loves are the opposite.

Q2 Does that mean that our love of Hashem during prayer is only imaginary since we afterward experience love for material things?

A2 No, our love for Hashem during prayer is very real. The fact that we experience love for material things afterward is because we live in the time of Exile, which derives from the spiritual level of "dreams." Even though dreams are on an intellectually lower level than when someone is awake, they express the subconscious, which is deeper than the revealed intellect. So too, during Exile when our intellectual awareness of Hashem is limited, we are connected to a deeper level of Hashem's revelation (called the world of "Circles") which gives us the ability to go from one opposite extreme to the other, just like in a dream that opposites can come together. From this higher spiritual level, we are able to go from experiencing love of material things to a truly genuine love of Hashem during prayer.

Q3 What does the verse mean by saying that only when Moshiach comes will we consider ourselves like dreamers during the time of Exile, don't we know that now that we are on the level of "dreams"?

A3 Now, we only see the great spiritual level of dreams indirectly. All we see now is that opposites can come together, and someone can go from spiritually very low to spiritually very high in a short time. However, the source of this power for opposites to combine is on a very high level that we can't understand. Only after Moshiach comes will the source of "dreams," the spiritual world of "Circles," be fully revealed in a way that we can understand and see directly. At that time, our physical eyes will see

Divine Revelation, and our physical brain will understand Divine Revelation, something that nowadays is not yet possible.

Lessons in the Service of Hashem

- 1- A person should never be discouraged from coming close to Hashem or think that they can't feel love for Hashem during prayer. Even someone who has a love of material things and that's what he thinks about all day has the ability to swing himself to the other extreme and experience a genuine love of Hashem during prayer (if he really puts himself into and tries his best), because during Exile we are like dreamers that accomplish things that are normally impossible.
- 2- Hashem wants us to be involved in material occupations and professions, but for a higher purpose than just making money. Even if we are working to make money to support our family, which is already a noble cause, we need to remember that there is a much deeper purpose to our material occupations. The main purpose is to connect the physical world with Hashem by connecting it to a Jewish person who serves Hashem throughout the day, and who uses that money that they earn to help them serve Hashem. When we remember that our material occupation is ultimately there in order to connect the physical world to Hashem and make it into a dwelling place for Him, then our physical work doesn't contradict our love of Hashem. We are then able to look at our physical life as another means of connecting to Hashem, and as a continuation of the love of Hashem, we experience during prayer.
- 3- A person may get discouraged by the fact they don't have a highly developed understanding of Hashem's greatness, and we see setbacks in our service of Hashem from things that happen that we can't understand (like tragedies G-d forbid or just the fact that we are still in Exile). We learn that now we can't see the real picture, we are like someone in a dream. If someone has a terrible dream, that doesn't mean that reality is terrible; as soon as he wakes up, the difficulties he had in his dream will instantly vanish.

When Moshiach comes, and Hashem becomes fully revealed we will wake up from the non-reality of all the hardships and confusions of Exile that seem so real now, but we will take with us all the accomplishments of our service of Hashem. So, Exile is like a dream in the sense that the suffering and confusion and concealment will disappear forever, but it is not like a dream in the sense that everything that we accomplish in Torah and Mitzvos is 100 percent real and eternal, even more, real than we can accomplish after Moshiach comes. This is because now is the time when it requires self-sacrifice to live with the reality of Torah and Mitzvos despite perceiving the false reality of the dream of Exile. When we realize that our suffering is only like a bad dream and temporary distortion of reality, but our service of Hashem is infinitely real, this helps us stay strong in the last few moments of Exile.

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