

Likkutei Sichos Source Sheet

Volume 16 | Purim | Sicha 1

Introduction

1 אסתר ט׳:כ'-ל"ב - Esther 9:20-32

וַיָּכָתִּב מָרְדַּלֵי אֶת־הַדָּבָרִים הָאֱלֶה וַיִּשְׁלֶּח סְפָּרִים אֱל־כָּל־הַיָּהוּדִים אֲשֶׁר בְּכָל־מִדִינוֹת הַמֵּלֵךְ אֲחַשְׁוֵרוֹשׁ הַקְּרוֹבִים וְהָרְחוֹקִים:

Mordechai wrote of these matters, and dispatched scrolls to all the Jews in all of King Achashverosh's colonies, those nearby and those distant.

ָלִקָיֵם עֲלֵיהֵם ֹלְהָיוֹת עֹשִׁים אֶת ִיוֹם אַרְבָּעָה עָשָׁר לְחְדֵשׁ אֲלֶר וְאֵת יוֹם־חֲמְשֶׁה עָשֶׂר בָּוֹ בִּכָּל־שָׁנָה וְשָׁנָה:

Mandating that they resolve to permanently observe the fourteenth day of the month of Adar, and the fifteenth day of the month, each and every year.

ּ כַּיָּמִים אֲשֶׁר־נָּחוּ בָהֶם הַיְּהוּדִים מֵאָוֹיְבֵיהֶם וְהַחֹדֶשׁ אֲשֶׁר ֶ נֶהְפַּּךְ לָהֶם מִיָּגוֹן לְשִׁמְחָׁה וּמֵאֻבֶל לְיוֹם טֵוֹב לַעֲשָוֹת אוֹתָם יְמֵי מִשְׁתָּה וְשִׁמְחָה וּמִשְׁלָוֹחַ מָנוֹת ֹאֵישׁ לְרֵעֹהוּ וּמִתָּנִוֹת לֵאֶבִיוֹנֵים:

Corresponding with the days when the Jews realized deliverance from their antagonists, and the month which had been transformed for them, from one of anguish to rejoicing, from grief to days of celebration; to observe them as days of feasting and rejoicing, sending gifts of food to one another, and gifts to the poor.

וַקבָּל ֹהַיָּהוּדִּים אֶת אֲשֶׁר־הָחֲלוּ לַעֲשָׂוֹת וְאֱת אֲשֶׁר־כָּתַב מְרדַּכֵי אֱלֵיהַם:

The Jews accepted, as binding, the observances that they had begun, and those that Mordechai had mandated in his letter to them.

ָכִּי הָמָּן בֶּן־הַמְּלָתָא הָאֲגָגִי צֹרֵל כָּל־הַיָּהוּדִּים חָשַׁב עַל־הַיָּהוּדֵים לְאַבְּדֶם וְהִפְּיל פּוּל הְוּא הַגּוֹלֶל לְהַמָּם וְּלְאַבְּדֶם:

For Haman, the son of Hamdasa, the Agagite, oppressor of all the Jews, thought that he would annihilate the Jews. He cast a *pur*, meaning "lot," to terrorize, then annihilate them.

וּבְבֹאָהֹ לִפְנֵי הַמֵּלֵךֹ אָמֵר עִם־הַסֶּפֶר יָשׁוּב מַחֲשַׁבְתָּוֹ הָרָעָה אֲשֶׁר־חָשֵׁב עַל־הַיָּהוּדִים עַל־רֹאשׁוֹ וְתָלוּ אֹתָוֹ וְאֶת־בָּנְיו עַל־הָעֵץ:

But when she came before the king, he directed, in writing, that the evil scheme which he intended for the Jews rebound against his own head, and they hung him and his sons from a gallows.

ַעַל־כַּן קָרָאוּ לַיָּמִים הָאֵלֵה פוּרִים עַל־שֵׁם הַפּוּר עַל־כֵּן עַל־כָּל־דְּבָרֵי הָאָגֵרֵת הַזָּאת וּמָה־רָאוּ עַל־כָּכָה וּמֶה הִגִּיעַ אֲלֵיהֶם:

For this reason, these days are entitled *purim*, because of the lottery. [They are celebrated] for this reason—because of all that is narrated in this letter. [This letter records] why they saw fit to act in such a way, and what happened to them as a result.

קּיְמָוּ וקבל [וְקבְּלָוּ] הַיְּהוּדִים וֹ עֲלֵיהֶּם וּ וְעַל־זַרְעָּם וְעַׁל כָּל־הַנָּלְוֵים עֲלֵיהֶם ׁ וְלֵא יַעֲבֹוֹר לְהַיּוֹת עֹשִׁים אָת שְׁנֵי הַיָּמִים ֹ הָאֵׁלֶּה כִּכְתָבֶם וִכִזִמנֵם בִּכָל־שָׁנָה וְשָׁנָה:

The Jews resolved I accepting as binding—for themselves, their progeny, and anyone associated with them, never to be changed, that they would observe these two days, as written, and at the proper time each year.

וְהַיָּמִים הָאֵלֶּה נִזְכָּרִים וְנַעֲשִׁים בְּכָל־דּוָר וְדֹּוֹר מִשְׁפָּחָה וּמִשְׁפָּחָה מְדִינָה וּמְדִינָה וְעִיר וְעֵיר וִימֵּי הַפּוּרֵים הָאֵלֶּה לְּאֹ יֵעַבְרוּ מִתְּוֹךְ הַיָּהוּדִים וִזְכָרֵם לֹא־יָסוּף מִזַּרְעָם: (o)

These days shall be recalled and observed in every generation, by every family, in every colony and every city; and these Purim days shall never pass from among the Jews, nor their memory depart from their descendants.

וַתְּכְתֹּב אֶסְתֵּר הַמַּלְכֶּה בַת־אֲבִיחַיִל וּמָרְדָּכֵי הַיְּהוּדֶי אֶת־כָּל־תְּקֶף לְקַיֵּם אֵת אִגֶּרֶת הַפּוּרֵים הַזֻּאֹת הַשֵּׁנְית:

Queen Esther, daughter of Avichail, wrote together with Mordechai the Jew, with all the power [of their position] confirming this Purim letter a second time.

וַיִּשְׁלֶּח סְפָּרִים אַל־כָּלִ־הַיָּהוּדִּים אַל־שָּׁבַע וְעֲשָׁרֵים וּמָאֵהֹ מַדִינָה מַלְכוּת אָחַשְּׁוְרוֹשׁ דְּבַרֵי שׁלוֹם וַאֲמַת:

Scrolls were dispatched to all the Jews, to the one hundred and twenty-seven colonies of Achashveros's kingdom; words of peace and truth.

לְקַיֵּם אֵת־יִמֵּי הַפַּלִּים הָאֵּלֶה בִּזְמנֵיהֶם כּּאֲשֶׁר קַיַּם עֲלֵיהֶם מָרְדֵּכֵי הַיְּהוּדִי וְאֶסְתַּר הַמַּלְכֶּה וְכַאֲשֶׁר קּיְמִוּ עַל־נִפְשָׁם וְעל־זַרְעֶם דּבְרֵי הַצֹּמִוֹת וִזַעֲקָתָם:

To maintain these Purim days at the proper time, as was resolved and confirmed by Mordechai the Jew and Queen Esther, and as they had resolved for themselves and their descendants; [commemorating] the incidents of the fasts and their cries.

ּוּמַאֲמֵר אֶסְתֵּׁר קַיַּם דִּבְרֵי הַפַּרֵים הָאֵלֶּה וְנִכְתָּב בַּסֵּפֶר:

On the basis of Esther's request, these Purim matters were perpetuated, and inscribed in a scroll.

2. מגילה ז' א

ואמר רב שמואל בר יהודה שלחה להם אסתר לחכמים קבעוני לדורות שלחו לה קנאה את מעוררת עלינו לבין האומות שלחה להם כבר כתובה אני על דברי הימים למלכי מדי ופרס

Megillah 7a

With regard to the establishment of the holiday of Purim, the Gemara cites: Rav Shmuel bar Yehuda said: Esther sent to the Sages: Establish me for future generations. Esther requested that the observance of Purim and the reading of the Megilla be instituted as an ordinance for all generations. They sent to her: You will thereby arouse the wrath of the nations upon us, as the Megilla recounts the victory of the Jews over the gentiles, and it is best not to publicize that victory. She sent back to them: I am already written in the chronicles of the kings of Media and Persia, and so the Megilla will not publicize anything that is not already known worldwide.

3. רש"י על מגילה ז׳ א

קבעוני - ליום טוב ולקרייה להיות לי לשם:

Rashi on the above

ESTABLISH ME - as a festival on which to read {the story}, for my renown.

4. מגילה ז' א

רב ורב חנינא ורבי יוחנן ורב חביבא מתנו בכוליה סדר מועד כל כי האי זוגא חלופי רבי יוחנן ומעייל רבי יונתן שלחה להם אסתר לחכמים כתבוני לדורות שלחו לה (משלי כב, כ) הלא כתבתי לך שלישים שלישים ולא רבעים. עד שמצאו לו מקרא כתוב בתורה (שמות יז, יד) כתב זאת זכרון בספר מה שכתוב באלה.

Megillah 7a

It was related that Rav and Rabbi Ḥanina and Rabbi Yoḥanan and Rav Ḥaviva taught the statement cited below. The Gemara comments: Throughout the order of *Moed*, wherever this latter pair of Sages is mentioned, exchange Rabbi Yoḥanan and insert Rabbi Yonatan in his place. They said: Esther sent to the Sages: Write me for future generations and canonize my book as part of the Bible. They sent to her that it is written: "Have I not written for you three times" (Proverbs 22:20), indicating that Israel's battle with Amalek is to be mentioned three times in the Bible and not four times? Since it is already mentioned three times (Exodus 17:8–16; Deuteronomy 25:17–19; I Samuel 15), there is no need to add a fourth source. The Sages did not accede to Esther's request until they found a verse written in the Torah: "Write this for a memorial in the book, and rehearse it in the ears of Joshua: That I will utterly blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under the heavens" (Exodus 17:14). The Sages interpreted the verse: "Write this," that which is written in the Torah here in Exodus, and in Deuteronomy; "a memorial," that which is written in the Prophets, i.e., in I Samuel, on this matter; "in the book," that which is written in the Megilla. The Megilla is the third mention of Amalek and not the fourth, as both mentions in the Torah pertaining to Amalek

are considered one; therefore, Esther would be the third, not the fourth source.

5. רש"י על אסתר ט׳:ל״ב

וּמַאֲמַר אָסְתֵּר קִיַּם וגו .'אֶסְתֵּר בִּקְשָׁה מֵאֵת חַכְמֵי הַדּוֹר לְקָבְעָהּ וְלִכְתַּב סֵפֶר זֶה עִם שָׁאָר הַכְּתוּבִים. וְזֶהוּ "וְנְכְתָּב בַּסֵפֶר:"

Rashi on Esther 9:32

On the basis of Esther's request [these Purim matters] were perpetuated, etc. Esther requested of the Sages of the generation to commemorate her and to write this book with the rest of the Scriptures, and that is the meaning of "and inscribed in the book.".

ב.

6. תלמוד ירושלמי מגילה פ"א ה"ה

ר' ירמיה בשם רבי שמואל בר רב יצחק מה עשו מרדכי ואסתר כתבו אגרת ושלחו לרבותינו שכן אמרו להם מקבלין אתם עליכם שני ימים הללו בכל שנה אמרו להן לא דיינו הצרות הבאות עלינו אלא שאתם רוצין להוסיף עלינו עוד צרתו של המן. חזרו וכתבו להן אגרת שנייה הה"ד לקיים עליהם את אגרת הפרים הזאת השנית מה היה כתוב בה אמרו להן אם מדבר זה אתם מתייראים הרי היא כתובה ומעלה בארכיים (אסתר י׳:ב׳) הלא הם כתובים על ספר דברי הימים למלכי מדי ופרס:

Talmud Yerushalmi Tractate Megillah Chapter 1, Halacha 5

...What did Mordechai and Esther do? They wrote an Igeres (letter) and sent to our sages here. They said to them "accept on yourselves these two days every year (make a Yom Tov and read the Megilah)." [The sages] said to them "it is not enough the afflictions that come upon us, that you want to add to us the affliction of Haman?!" (This will arouse enmity. The gentiles will think that we rejoice over their downfall!). [Mordechai and Esther] returned and wrote a second letter to them (Therefore the verse states: - " confirming this Purim letter a second time"). What was written in it? They said to them, if you are afraid of this (you need not be, for they already recall their downfall)! It is written in their chronicles - " all of these are inscribed in the book of archives of the royalty of Media and Persia".

ה.

7. יומא כ״ט א

א"ר אסי למה נמשלה אסתר לשחר לומר לך מה שחר סוף כל הלילה אף אסתר סוף כל הנסים. והא איכא חנוכה ניתנה לכתוב קא אמרינו

Yoma 29a

Rabbi Asi said: Why was Esther likened to the dawn? It is to tell you: Just as the dawn is the conclusion of the entire night, so too, Esther was the conclusion of all miracles (performed for the entire Jewish people). The Gemara asks: But isn't there the miracle of Hanukkah, which was performed many years later? The Gemara answers: It is true that additional miracles were performed after the miracle of Purim; however, it is with regard to miracles for which permission was granted to write them in the Bible that we are saying that the miracle of Purim was the last one.

8. אסתר ד':י'-ט"ז – 10-16 Esther 4:10-16

וַתְּאמֶר אֶסְתֵּר לַהֲתָּךְ וַתְּצַוּהוּ אֱל־מָרְדֵּכֵי:

Esther spoke with Hasach, and instructed him to [tell] Mordechai:

ּכָּל־עַבְדֵי הַמֶּׁלֶךְ וְעַם־מְדִינֹוֹת הַמֶּּלֶךְ ְיוֹדְעִים אֲשֶׁר כָּל־אִישׁ וְאִשָּׁה אֲשֶׁר יָבְוֹא־אֶל־הַמֶּלֶךְ אֶל־הָחֶצֵּר הַפְּנִימִׁית אֲשֶׁר לְא־יִקְּרֵא אַחָת דְּתוֹ לְהָמִית לְבַד מֵאֲשֶׁר ִיוֹשִּיט־לִוֹ הַמֶּלֶךְ אֶת־שַרְבִיט הַזָּהָב וְחָיֵה וַאֲנִי לָא נִקְרֵאתי לְבַוֹא אֶל־הַמֶּלֶךְ זֶה שָׁלוּשִים ְיוֹם:

"All of his majesty's servants, as well as the peoples of his majesty's colonies, know that any man or woman who comes as close to his majesty as the innermost courtyard without an invitation, suffers a single fate; execution—save for someone toward whom his majesty extends the golden sceptre, to permit him to live. And I have not been granted an invitation to visit his majesty these thirty days."

וַיַּגָּידוּ לְמָרְדֶּלָי אָת דִּבְרֵי אֶסְתַּר:

They conveyed Esther's remarks to Mordechai.

ָויֹאמֵר מָרְדָּכַיִ לְהָשֵׁיב אֱל־אֶסְתֵּר אַל־תִּדָמֵי בְנַפְשַּׁךְ לְהִמָּלֵט בֵּית־הַמֵּלֵךְ מִכָּל־הַיָּהוּדֵים:

Mordechai declared, in reply to Esther: "You had better not fantasize that in the royal palace you will escape the fate of all the other Jews.

ּכָּי אָם־הַחֲרֶשׁ תַּחֲרִישִׁ בָּעַת הַזּאת בָּוַח וְהַצָּלֶּה יַעֲמָוֹד לִיְּהוּדִים מִמָּקוֹם אַחֵׁר וְאָתְּ וּבֵית־אָבֶיךְ תּאֹבֵדוּ וּמִי יוֹדֵע אִם־לְעַת כָּזֹאת הָגַּעַתְּ לַמַלְכָּוּת:

For, if you keep silent at this time, release and liberation will materialize for the Jews from some other source, and you and your father's lineage will perish. And who knows, perhaps you have attained to royal position for just such a crisis."

וַתָּאמֶר אֶסְתַּר לְהָשִׁיב אֱל־מָרְדֵּכֵי:

Esther declared, in reply to Mordechai:

ַלֵךֶּ כְּנֹוֹס אֶת־כָּל־הַיְּהוּדִׁים הָנָּמְצְאָים בְּשוּשָׁן וְצָוּמוּ עָׁלֵי וְאַל־תּאֹכְלוּ וְאַל־תּשְׁתּוּ שְׁלְשֶׁת יָמִיםׂ לַיְיָלָה וַיֹּוֹם גַּם־אֲנָי וְנַעֲרֹתַי אָצְוּם כֵּן וּבְכֵּן אָבָוֹא אֶל־הַמֶּלֶלְ אֲשֶׁר לְאֹ־כַּדָּת וְכַאֲשֶׁר אָבָדְתִּי אָבָדְתִּי:

"Go, assemble all the Jews who live in Shushan, and fast in my behalf; do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my maidens will observe the same fast. Then I shall go to the king, though it is contrary to the law; and if I am to perish, I shall perish!"

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9. שבת פ״ח א'

״וַיִּתְיַצְבוּ בְּתַחְתִּית הָהָר״, אֶמַר רַב אַבְדִּימִי בַּר חָמָא בַּר חַסָּא: מְלַמֵּד שֶׁכָּפָה הַקְּדוֹשׁ בָּרוּהְ הוּא עֲלֵיהֶם אֶת הָהָר כְּגִיגִית, וְאָמַר לְהֶם: אָם אַתֶּם מְקַבְּלִים הַתּוֹרָה מוּטָב, וְאָם לָאוֹ — שָׁם תְּהֵא קְבוּרַתְכֶם. אָמַר רַב אַחָא בַּר יַעֲקֹב: מִכָּאן מוֹדָעָא רַבָּה לְאוֹרְיִיתָא. אָמַר רְבָא: אַף עַל פִּי כֵן הַדוּר קַבְּלוּהָ בִּימִי אָחַשְׁוַרוֹשׁ, דְּכָתִיב: ״קּיִּמוּ וָקְבְּלוּ הַיְּהוּדִים״ — קּיִּמוּ מַה שֶׁקִיבְּלוּ כְּבָר

Tractate Shabbos 88a

The Gemara cites additional homiletic interpretations on the topic of the revelation at Sinai. The Torah says, "And Moses brought forth the people out of the camp to meet God; and they stood at the lowermost part of the mount" (Exodus 19:17). Rabbi Avdimi bar Ḥama bar Ḥasa said: the Jewish people actually stood beneath the mountain, and the verse teaches that the Holy One, Blessed be He, overturned the mountain above the Jews like a tub, and said to them: If you accept the Torah, excellent, and if not, there will be your burial. Rav Aḥa bar Ya'akov said: From here there is a substantial caveat to the obligation to fulfill the Torah. The Jewish people can claim that they were coerced into accepting the Torah, and it is therefore not binding. Rava said: Even so, they again accepted it willingly in the time of Achashverosh, as it is written: "The Jews ordained, and took upon them, and upon their seed, and upon all such as joined themselves unto them" (Esther 9:27), and he taught: The Jews ordained what they had already taken upon themselves through coercion at Sinai.

10. לבוש אורח חיים, סימן עת"ר ס"ב

בימי המן שהיתה הגזירה להרוג ולהשמיד את הגופות, שהוא ביטול משתה ושמחה, ולא את הנפשות - שאפילו המירו דתם ח"ו לא היה מקבל אותם לכך כשנצלו ממנו קבעו להללו ולשבחו יתברך גם כן על ידי משתה ושמחה.

Levush Orach Chaim, sec. 670, par. 2

In the days of Haman, the decree was to destroy and kill their bodies... not their souls, for even had they renounced their religion G-d forbid, he would not have accepted them; therefore, when they were saved, they established to praise [Hashem] also through (physical) feasting and happiness.

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12. חולין קל"ט ב

אסתר מן התורה מנין (דברים לא, יח) ואנכי הסתר אסתיר מרדכי מן התורה מנין דכתיב (שמות ל, כג) מר דרור ומתרגמינן מירא דכיא:

Chulin 139b

They also asked Rav Mattana: From where in the Torah can one find an allusion to the events involving Esther? He replied to them that the verse states: "Then My anger shall be kindled against them on that day, and I will forsake them, and I will hide My face from them, and they shall be devoured, and many evils and troubles shall come upon them; so that they will say in that day: Have not these evils come upon us because our God is not among us? And I will hide [haster astir] My face on that day for all the evil which they shall have wrought, in that they are turned to other gods" (Deuteronomy 31:17–18). They also asked him: From where in the Torah can one find an allusion to the greatness bestowed upon Mordecai? He replied: As it is written with regard to the anointing oil in the Tabernacle: "And you shall also take the chief spices, of flowing myrrh [mor deror]" (Exodus 30:23); and we translate mor deror into Aramaic as: Mira dakhya, (which resembles the name Mordecai).

12. סנהדרין כ"ד א

במחשכים הושיבני כמתי עולם אמר ר' ירמיה זה תלמודה של בבל:

Tractate Sanhedrin 24a

With regard to the verse: "He has made me dwell in dark places, as those that have been long dead" (Lamentations 3:6), Rabbi Yirmeya says: This is the Talmud of Babylonia, which is not as clear as the Talmud of Eretz Yisrael.

ט"ז.

13. טור, אורח חיים א׳:א׳

יהודה בן תימא אומר הוי עז כנמר וקל כנשר רץ כצבי וגבור כארי לעשות רצון אביך שבשמים פרט ארבעה דברים בעבודת הבורא יתברך... צריך האדם להתגבר כארי לעמוד בבקר לעבודת בוראו ואף אם ישיאנו יצרו בחורף לאמר איך תעמוד בבקר כי הקור גדול או ישיאנו בקיץ לאמר איך תעמוד ממטתך ועדיין לא שבעת משנתך התגבר עליו לקום שתהא אתה מעורר השחר ולא יהא הוא מעירך כמו שאמר דוד ע"ה עורה כבודי עורה הנבל וכנור אעירה שחר אני מעיר השחר ואין השחר מעיר אותי:

Tur, Orach Chaim 1:1

Yehudah ben Tema says: "Be as strong as a panther, as light as an eagle, running like a gazelle and mighty as a lion to perform the will of your Father in heaven." He specified four things concerning the service of the Creator, may He be blessed.... A person needs strengthen himself as a lion to stand in the morning for the service of his Creator, even if his evil impulse taunts him in winter, saying 'How can you get up in the morning when the cold is so great?' or taunts him in summer, saying 'How can you get up from your bed when you have not had enough sleep?' he should strengthen himself to rise, for you should awaken the dawn, but it should not awaken you, as David, peace be on him, stated "Awake, my soul, awake, harp and lyre; I will awaken the dawn," 'I awaken the dawn, but the dawn does not awaken me.'

14. אורח חיים א':א'

יתגבר כארי לעמוד בבוקר לעבודת בוראו שיהא הוא מעורר השחר:

Shulchan Arukh, Orach Chayim 1:1

One should strengthen himself like a lion to get up in the morning to serve his Creator, so that it is he who awakens the dawn.

15. טורי זהב על שולחן ערוך אורח חיים א':ב'

שיהא הוא מעורר כו'. לכאורה אין שייכות זה הענין אלא הוא זריזות בפ"ע אלא הענין הוא שאין דומ' העושה מצוה ע"י התעוררות של אחרים לעושה ע"י עצמו. ועפ"ז נ"ל מ"ש רבינו הטור אני מעיר את השחר ואין השחר מעיר אותי דק' סיפא ל"ל. ונרא' דמצינו אדם מקדש את עצמו מלמט' מקדשין אותו מלמעל" וכ"ה לענין התעוררות שיש ב' מיני התעוררות שתחל" מתעורר מלמט' ואח"כ בא עליו התעוררות העליון לסייע לו וע"ז שיבח דוד את עצמו שהי' במעלה כ"כ שהתעוררות שלו מלמטה גדול" כ"כ שא"צ לסיוע התעוררות של מעלה וע"כ אמר אני מעיר השחר כמו לקדושת ישראל כמ"ש על אילת השחר ומעלה זאת אינה אלא לדוד וכיוצא

בו אבל אנו וכיוצא בנו הלואי שנזכ' להתעוררות מלמט' כדי שיבא אח"כ מלמעל' ע"כ לא זכר הש"ע רק שיתגבר לזה שלכל הפחות יהא מעורר השחר אף שלא יזכה למעלה השניה שזכרנו.

Turei Zahav on Shulchan Arukh, Orach Chayim 1:2

2. That he should awaken etc. Seemingly (waking in the morning) is not related to this idea, rather it simply implies alacrity. So, the message is: you cannot compare one who is inspired by others to performs a mitzvah, with one who (sustains his internal inspiration to) perform on his own. Accordingly, it seems that we can explain what our master the Tur writes, "I awaken the morning but the morning does not awaken me." Whereas (the Shulchan Aruch) omits the ending. Apparently, as we know, when a person sanctifies himself a bit on his own, heaven helps him to be sanctified more. The same is true regarding inspiration, that there are two kinds of inspiration. First one must inspire himself 'from below' (on his own) and afterwards additional inspiration is sent to him from above to help him. And this is what Kind David praised himself for that he was on such a level, ie. that his own inspiration was so intense that he did not need the helping inspiration from above. Therefor he he said, "I awaken the morning." But this level belongs only to David and those like him. But as for us and those like us, we could only wish to merit even the inspiration 'from below" that might cause the inspiration 'from above ' to come. For this reason the Shulchan Aruch mentions only that one must strengthen himself at least that "he should awaken the morning" even if he will not merit the second level that we mentioned.

16. קידושין ל׳ ב:ז׳

ואמר ר"ש בן לוי יצרו של אדם מתגבר עליו בכל יום ומבקש המיתו שנאמר (תהלים לז, לב) צופה רשע לצדיק ומבקש להמיתו ואלמלא הקב"ה עוזרו אין יכול לו שנאמר אלהים לא יעזבנו בידו

Kiddushin 30b:7

And Rabbi Shimon ben Levi says: A person's inclination overpowers him every day, and seeks to kill him, as it is stated: "The wicked watches the righteous and seeks to slay him" (Psalms 37:32). And if not for the fact that the Holy One, Blessed be He, assists each person in battling his evil inclination, he could not overcome it, as it is stated: "The Lord will not leave him in his hand" (Psalms 37:33).

'17. ברכות כ״ט א'

ּתָנַן: אַל תַּאֲמִין בְּעַצְמְךָ עַד יוֹם מוֹתְךָ, שֶׁהֲרֵי יוֹחָנֶן כֹּהֵן גָּדוֹל שָׁמֵשׁ בִּכְהוּנָה גִּדוֹלָה שָׁמֹנִים שָׁנָה וּלְבַסוֹף נַעֵשָׂה צָדוֹקִי.

Berakhot 29a

We learned in a mishna: Do not be sure of yourself until the day you die, as Yoḥanan the High Priest served in the High Priesthood for eighty years and ultimately became a Sadducee.

י"ז.

18. שולחן ערוך אדה"ז א׳:א׳

יהודא בן תימא אומר הוי עז כנמר וקל כנשר רץ כצבי וגבור כארי לעשות רצון אביך שבשמים עז כנמר הוא שלא להתבייש מפני בני אדם המלעיגים וגבור כארי עיקר הגבורה הוא בלב להתגבר על יצרו לנצחו כגבור המתגבר על שונאו לנצחו ולהפילו לארץ וכן צריך כל אדם בבקר להתגבר על יצרו כארי לקום משינתו קודם אור הבקר לעבודת בוראו כדי שיהא הוא מעורר השחר כמ"ש אעירה שחר אני מעורר השחר ואין השחר מעיר אותי וזו מדה בינונית... :

Shulchan Aruch Alter Rebbe 1:1

Yehudah son of Teimah says: "Be Bold as a leopard and light as an eagle, swift as a deer and strong as a lion to carry out the will of your Father in heaven. Bold as a leopard' means one should not to be humiliated by people who ridicule [him]. 'Strong as a lion' [refers to] moral strength which is primarily in the heart, [to act] like a lion and overpower ones evil urge and rise from ones sleep before the morning light, to serve one's Creator. So that he awake the morning, as it states, (Psalms, 57:9)"I awake the morning", [Meaning] I awake the morning but the morning doesn't wake me. This is the intermediate level.

י"ט.

19. לקוטי אמרים פי"ד

והנה מדת הבינוני היא מדת כל אדם ואחריה כל אדם ימשוך שכל אדם יכול להיות בינוני בכל עת ובכל שעה כי הבינוני אינו מואס ברע שזהו דבר המסור ללב ולא כל העתים שוות אלא סור מרע ועשה טוב דהיינו בפועל ממש במעשה דבור ומחשבה שבהם הבחירה והיכולת והרשות נתונה לכל אדם לעשות ולדבר ולחשוב גם מה שהוא נגד תאות לבו והפכה ממש.

Tanya Chapter 14

In previous chapters, the Alter Rebbe explained that though the *beinoni* is unsullied by sin in thought, speech, or action, the internal evil of his animal soul remains strong enough to desire evil. That these desires do not find any practical expression is due only to the divine soul's restraining them with the aid given it by the Almighty. The Alter Rebbe now continues:

Now, the rank of *beinoni* is one that is attainable by every man; each person should strive after it, every person can, at any time or hour, be a *beinoni*, (because a *beinoni* does not abhor evil; unlike the tzaddik, he does not find worldly pleasures revolting and loathsome,) for this is a matter entrusted to the heart, (and as explained earlier, the beinoni has yet to conquer [the evil in] his heart; consequently, he does not loathe evil). Also, not all times are alike.

(There are times—such as during prayer—when one's heart is open and receptive; at such time, he may evoke a loathing toward evil. At other times, the heart may be "blocked" and spiritually insensitive, and one is incapable of loathing evil. Inasmuch as the *beinoni's* attitude toward evil varies while his status of *beinoni* remains constant, it is understood that loathing evil is not the measure of the *beinoni*.)

Rather, the task of the beinoni is only to "turn away from evil and do good" in actual practice—in deed, speech, and thought. In these matters, as opposed to "matters of the heart," every man is given the choice, ability, and freedom to act, speak, and think even that which is contrary to the desire of his heart and diametrically opposed to it.