

# Likkutei Sichos

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## **Reaching Beyond**

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תרגום חופשי ללשון הקודש \* כל הזכויות שמורות לקה״ת

## WHAT'S NEWS?

Our Sages<sup>1</sup> pose a question on the verse:<sup>2</sup> "Yisro... priest of Midian, heard...": "What news did he hear that caused him to come?" In response, they offer several opinions: One opinion is that "he heard about the war with Amalek, and he came"; another opinion is that "he heard about the Giving of the Torah {*Matan Torah*}, and he came"; and a third opinion is that "he heard about the Splitting of the Sea, and he came."

A well-known difficulty has been raised regarding this teaching: Why do our Sages ask, "**What** news did he hear" and then seek an answer to this question, when the Torah itself continues (that he heard about) "all that Hashem had done<sup>3</sup> for Moshe and for Israel His people, that Hashem had taken Israel out of Egypt"<sup>4</sup>?

Additionally, the Sages' answer — that Yisro heard about the "war with Amalek" or about "*Matan Torah*," etc. — seems to contradict what the Torah says: Yisro heard "**all** that Hashem had done... that Hashem had taken Israel out..." {and not about individual events}. א. עַל הַפָּסוּק ״וַיִּשְׁמַע יִתְרוֹ כֹהֵן מִדְיָן גו׳״ שָׁאַלוּ חַזַ״ל: ״מָה שְׁמוּעָה שָׁמַע וּכָא״, וּמָצִינוּ בְּדִבְרֵיהֶם כַּמָּה דֵּעוֹת בְּמַעֲנֵה לִשְׁאַלָה זוֹ: לְדֵעָה אַחַת ״מִלְחֶמֶת עַמָלֵק שָׁמַע וּבָא״, לְדֵעָה שָׁנִיָ׳ ״מ״ת שָׁמַע וּבָא״ וּלְדֵעָה שָׁנִיִ׳ ״מִ״ת ״קָרִיעַת יַם סוּף שָׁמַע וּבָא״.

וִידוּעָה הַקּוּשְׁיָא בָּזָה: מָה פּּשֶׁר הַשְׁאַלָה מֵעִיקָרָא ״**מָה** שְׁמוּעָה שַׁמַע״, עַד שֶׁהוּצְרְכוּ חֲזַ״ל לְחַפּשׂ הֶסְבֵּר וּבֵיאוּר לַדָּבָר, בְּשָׁעָה שֶׁהַכָּתוּב גַצְמוֹ מַמְשִׁיךְ (שֶׁשָׁמַע) ״אָת כָּל אֲשֶׁר עַשָּׁה אֶלקִים לְמֹשֶׁה וּלְיִשְׂרָאֵל עַמוֹ כִּי הוֹצִיא ה׳ אֶת יִשְׂרָאֵל מַמִּצְרַיִם יִ״

יְתִירָה מִזּוֹ: הַמַּעֲנֶה בְּדְכְרֵי חֲזַ״ל, שָׁיִּתְרוֹ שָׁמַע ״מִלְחֶמֶת עֲמָלֵק״ או ״מ״ת״ וְכוּ׳, מוּקְשֶׁה לְכְאוֹרָה מֵהַמְּפוֹרָשׁ בַּכָּתוּב שֶׁשָׁמַע ״אֵת **כָּל** אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה גו׳ כִּי הוֹצִיא גו׳״.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Mechilta on Shemos 18:1; Zevachim 116a; Jerusalem Talmud, "Megillah," ch. 1, par. 11. <sup>2</sup> Shemos 18:1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Rashi comments: "Regarding the descent of the manna, the well, and Amalek."
<sup>4</sup> Rashi comments: "This was the greatest of them all."

An even greater difficulty is that Rashi — who primarily explains the plain meaning {*pshat*}<sup>5</sup> of the verse: a) raises the same question in his commentary on this verse; and, b) in his answer, combines **two** (of the three) opinions: "The Splitting of the Sea and the war with Amalek."

As such, we must say that the intention of the Sages and Rashi, with their question and answers, is to resolve a particular issue in understanding this verse needing clarification that is not understood from the subsequent words, "all that Hashem had done..." We must, then, clarify: What is unclear in the *pshat* of these verses?

We must also clarify: The name Yisro (one of his seven names)<sup>6</sup> was added when he converted: "When he converted and fulfilled the *mitzvos*, a letter was added to his name."<sup>7</sup> So why does the Torah refer to him by this name ("**Yisro** heard"), if at the time, prior to converting, he was still the "priest of Midian" ? וּבְיוֹתֵר קַשֶּׁה, שֶׁאַף רַשָּׁ״י – הַמְפָרָשׁ לְכֹל לְרֹאשׁ לְפִי פְּשׁוּטוֹ שֶׁל מִקְרָא – א) הֵבִיא כָּאן, בְּפֵירוּשׁוֹ עה״פ, שְׁאַלָה א) הֵבִיא כָּאן, בְפֵירוּשׁוֹ עה״פ, שְׁאַלָה זוֹ; ב) וּבְתֵירוּצוֹ חִיבֵּר ב׳ (מִתּוֹךָ ג׳) הַדֵּעוֹת: ״קְרִיעַת יֵם סוּף וּמִלְחֶמֶת עְמָלֵק״.

ועכצ״ל, שֶׁכַּוְוּנַת חְזַ״ל וְרַשִׁ״י, בִּשְׁאַלָתָם וּבִתְשׁוּבוֹתֵיהֶם, לְיַישֵׁב עִנְיָן מְסוּיָיים בְּתוֹכֶן הַכָּתוּב שֶׁדוֹרֵש בִּיאוּר, וַאֲשֶׁר אֵינוֹ מְבוֹאָר ע״י הֶמְשֵׁך הַכָּתוּב ״אֶת כָּל אֲשֶׁר עַשִׁה וגו׳״. וְצָרִיךְ לְהָבִין: מָה אֵינוֹ מוּכָן בִּפְשַׁט הַכְּתוּבִים כָּאן?

עוֹד צָרִיךְּ לְהָבִין: הַשֵׁם יִתְרוֹ (אָחָד מִשִׁבְעַת הַשֵּׁמוֹת) נוֹסַף לוֹ כְּשֶׁנְתְגַּיִיר – ״כְּשֶׁנְתְגַּיִיר וְקְיֵים הַמִּצְווֹת הוֹסִיפוּ לוֹ אוֹת אַחַת עַל שְׁמוֹ״ – וא״כ בֵּיצַד לוֹ אוֹת אַחַת עַל שְׁמוֹ״ – וא״כ בֵּיצַד מְכַנָּהוּ כָּאן הַכְּתוּב בְּשֵׁם זֶה (״וְיִשְׁמַע מְכַנָּהוּ כָּאן הַכְּתוּב בְּשֵׁם זֶה (״וְיִשְׁמַע מְכַנָּהוּ כָּאן הַכָּתוּב בְּשֵׁם זֶה מְכַנָּהוּ כָּאַן הַכָּתוּב הַיִי עֲדַיִין ״כּּהֵן מִדְיָן״ – בְּטֶרֶם נְתְגַיֵּיר יָ

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> {Rashi states in his commentary to *Bereishis* 3:8: "I have come only to explain the plain meaning of the Torah." Though there are many levels and depths of interpretation on the Torah, Rashi adopts a straightforward approach.}

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> *Mechilta* and Rashi's commentary on this verse; Rashi's commentary on *Shemos* 4:18; *Shemos Rabbah*, ch. 27, par. 8; *Midrash Tanchuma*, *"Yisro*," par. 4.

<sup>7</sup> Rashi's commentary on this verse. {His former name, "יתרו" was changed to 'יתרו".}

2.

## HALACHAH — HASHEM'S PERSONAL SPACE

To clarify these issues we need to preface by explaining remarks made by Rambam in his *Commentary on Mishnah*<sup>8</sup> that are quite perplexing at first glance.

Rambam quotes following the teaching of our Sages:9 "(Since the day the Beis Hamikdash was destroyed) Hashem has nothing in His world other than the four cubits<sup>10</sup> of halachah." Rambam then says understood superficially, that this statement "can seem to be quite distant from the truth." Is the ultimate purpose {of Creation} the "four cubits of halachah," and "discarded" everything else ("thrown behind His back")?

Rambam elucidates that the purpose of everything in the world is {for the sake of} man. In turn, man's purpose is to grow and reach a state of perfection in "wisdom and action." Meaning, a person should toil in his study of wisdom and understanding until achieving his ultimate goal: "Divine "envisioning for wisdom" \_ himself Hashem's unity." All other wisdoms only prepare for his eventual acquisition of Divine knowledge. And "action" means that he should not immerse himself in pleasure

ב. וּלְהָבִיזְ כ״ז יֵשׁ לְהַקְדִּים בֵּיאוּר בְּדְרֵנִי הָרַמְבַ״ם בְּפֵירוּשׁ הַמִּשְׁנָיוֹת, הַתְּמוּהִים מְאֹד בְּהַשְׁקָפָה רִאשׁוֹנָה.

בְּדְבָרָיו הֵבִיא הָרַמְבַּ״ם אֶת מַאֲמַר חֲזַ״ל ״(מִיּוֹם שֶׁחָרַב ביהמ״ק) אֵין (לוֹ) להקב״ה בְּעוֹלָמוֹ אֶלָא אַרְבַּע אַמּוֹת שֶׁל הַלָּכָה בִּלְבַד״, וְכָתַב, שֶׁבְּלִימוּד מַאֲמַר רז״ל כִּפְשׁוּטוֹ שֶׁבְלִימוּד מַאֲמַר רז״ל כִּפְשׁוּטוֹ ״ִדִי אַמּוֹת שֶׁל הַלָּכָה״ הֵן הַתַּכְלִית הַגָּמוּר, וְכָל דְּבָר אַחֵר ״מוּשְׁלֶכֶת אַחַר גַּוַיו?״

וּבֵיאֵר בַּאֲרִיכוּת, שֶׁתַּכְלִית כָּל עִנְיְנֵי הָעוֹלָם הִיא הָאָדָם, וְתַכְלִית הָאָדָם הִיא לְהַגִּיעַ לְמַדְרֵיגַת אִישׁ הַשָּׁלֵם, וּיִשְׁלֵימוּתוֹ תְּלוּיָ׳ בְּ״הַחָכְמָה וְהַמַּעֲשָׁה״. הַיְינוּ, שָׁיִתְעַלֶּה בְּחָכְמָה וּבְהַשָּׁנָאה״. הַיְינוּ, שָׁיִתְעַלֶּה בְּחָכְמָה וּבְהַשָּׁנָאה״. הַיְינוּ, שָׁיִתְעַלֶּה בְּחָכְמָה הְקַבּשָּׁגָה עַד הַתַּכְלִית: ״הַחָכְמָה הקב״ה״, וּשָׁאָר כָּל הַחָכְמוֹת אֵינָן אֶלְקִית; וְ״הַמַּעֲשָׁה״ – שָׁלֹא לִהְיוֹת אֶלִקִית; וְתִיקוּן אֶלֹקִית; וְתִיקוּן הַמִּדּוֹת וְכוּ׳ שָׁתִּהָיֶינָה כִּדְכָעֵי לְמֶהָנֵי הַמַּדּוֹת וְכוּ׳ שָׁתִּהָיֶינָה כִּדְכָעֵי לְמֶהָנִי – וַעֲשָׁה טוֹב.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> From his introduction to his *Commentary on Mishnah*, s.v. "Acharei Chein."
<sup>9</sup> Berachos 8a.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> {A linear measure. Opinions regarding its modern equivalent range between 18 and 22.9 inches.}

seeking — he should avoid evil and refine his character, etc., so that his conduct is proper and he does good.

Following this lengthy explanation, Rambam concludes that when we study and contemplate the teachings of our Sages regarding the above two areas — "wisdom and action" — we will ascertain the truth of the statement that "Hashem has nothing in His world other than the four cubits of *halachah.*"

We need to clarify:

a) How is this consummate idea of the "four cubits of *halachah*" actualized through these two areas of "wisdom and action"? The relationship between "*halachah*" and "action" is obvious, since the purpose of *halachah* is to know "what should be done" and "what should not be done." And, "Torah study is great because it leads to action."<sup>11</sup> But how does "wisdom" — the awareness of "Hashem's unity" — relate to *halachah*?

b) Even if we were to discover that the word "halachah" could allude to, and be interpreted as, "wisdom," we would still need clarification: The word "halachah" is mentioned many times throughout the *Talmud*, where it is defined literally as a law teaching us proper conduct according to : וְצָרִיךְ לְהָבִין

א) כַּיצַר מִתְבָּאֶרֶת הַמַּעֲלָה הַמְּיוּחֶדֶת דְ״ר׳ אַמּוֹת שֶׁל הַלָכָה״ ע״י שְׁנֵי הָעִנְיָנִים ״חָכְמָה וּמַעֲשָׂה״? הַקֶּשֶׁר בִּין ״הַלָכָה״ לְ״מַעֲשָׂה״ מוּכָן, מִפְּנֵי שָׁתּוֹכְנָה שֶׁל הַלָכָה הוּא לֵידַע ״אֶת הַמַּעֲשָׁה אֲשֶׁר יַעֲשוּון״ וְאֵלֶה ״אֲשֶׁר לֹא תֵּיעָשׁנָה״, וְ״תַּלְמוּד גָּדוֹל שָׁהַתַּלְמוּד מֵבִיא לְיֵדֵי מַעֲשָׂה״; אֲבָל אֵיזוֹ שַׁיָּיכוּת יֵשׁ בֵּין עִנְיֵן הַחָכְמָה – עַר יְדִיעַת ״אַחְדוּת הקב״ה״ – לְעִנְיַן הַהַלָּכָה?

ב) וַאַפִילוּ אָם נִמְצָא רָמֶז וְאוֹפֶן לְפָרֵשׁ שֶׁתֵּיבַת ״הֲלָכָה״ כּוֹלֶלֶת גַּם לְפָרֵשׁ שֶׁתֵּיבַת ״הֲלָכָה״ כּוֹלֶלֶת גַּם מַשְׁמָעוּת שֶׁל ״חְכְמָה״, עֲדַיִין אֵינוֹ מַשְׁמָעוּת שָׁל ״חְכְמָה״, עֲדַיִין אֵינוֹ מוּזְכָן: תֵּיבַת ״הַלָכָה״ מוּזְכֶּרֶת רִיבּוּי פּעָמים בּשַׁ״ס וּמִתְפָּרָשֶׁת כּפְשוּטָה – פּעָמים בּשַׁ״ס וּמִתְפָּרָשֶׁת כּפְשוּטָה – וּמִירוּש זֶה דְ״הְלַכָה״ נוֹגֵעַ גַּם תוֹרָה – וּפֵירוּשׁ זֶה דְ״הְלַכָה״ נוֹגֵעַ גַּם לִזְרָה – וּפֵירוּשׁ זֶה דְ״הְלַכָה״ נוֹגֵעַ גַּם לִזְרָבָיוֹן אָרוּתְנָהֵג ע״פּ לְהַתְנַהֵג ע״פּ לְדִינַא (דִיאַל יִפּטַרוּשׁ זֶה דְ״הְלַכָה״ נוֹגֵעַ גַּם לְקַינִין לְדִינָא (דִיאַל יִפּטַרוּשׁ זֶה דְ״הְלַכָה״ נוֹגֵעַ גַּם לְדִינַא (דִיאַל יִפּטַר אַדַם מַחַבִירוֹ

וּלְאַחַר אֲרִיכוּת הַבֵּיאוּר בְּכֹל זֶה, סִיֵּים הָרַמְבַּ״ם, שֶׁבְּשָׁעָה שֶׁנִּתְבּוֹנֵן וְנִלְמַד מִדְּבְרֵי חֲזַ״ל אֶת שְׁנֵי הָעִנְיָנִים הַנִּזְכָּרִים, ״חָכְמָה וּמַעֲשָׂה״, אֲזַי נֵדַע אֶת צִדְקַת מַאֲמָרָם ״אֵין לוֹ להקב״ה בְּעוֹלָמוֹ אֶלָּא אַרְבַּע אַמוֹת שֶׁל הַלַכָה״.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Kiddushin 40b.

Torah. This definition of "*halachah*" also has practical implications (for example, the ruling that<sup>12</sup> "a person should take leave of his fellow only after discussing a matter of *halachah*,"<sup>13</sup> and other similar laws). As such, on what basis does this teaching of our Sages understand the word "*halachah*" differently than it is understood everywhere else?

## 3.

#### FILLING IN FOR THE BEIS HAMIKDASH

A possible explanation: Rambam associates the concept of "four cubits of halachah" here with understanding Gdliness based on the opening of our Sages' the day the statement: "Since Beis Hamikdash<sup>14</sup> destroyed." This was statement implies that the "four cubits of place halachah" takes the of the attainments and influence of the Beis Hamikdash.

Within the outer precincts of the *Beis Hamikdash*, the Chamber of Hewn Stone was the seat of the High Court, which served as the primary source of the Oral Torah and *halachah*. At the same time, within the *innermost chamber*, the Holy of Holies, was the ark, which held the Tablets (and a Torah

אֶלָּא מִתּוֹךְ דְּבַר הֲלָכָה״, וכיו״ב). וְאָם כֵּן, מְנָא תִּימְרָא דִּבְמַאֲמָר רז״ל **זֶה** מַשְׁמָעוּת תֵּיבַת ״הֲלָכָה״ שׁוֹנָה מִבְּכָל מָקוֹם?

ג. לִכְאוֹרָה הָי׳ אֶפְּשָׁר לְבָאָר,
ג. לִכְאוֹרָה הָי׳ אֶפְשָׁר לְבָאָר,
שֶׁהֶכְרַחוֹ שֶׁל הָרַמְבַּ״ם לְקַשֵׁר ״ד׳
אַמוֹת שֶׁל הַלַכָה״ הָאֲמוּרוֹת **כָּאן** עִם
אַמוֹת שֶׁל הַלַכָה״ הָאֲמוּרוֹת **כָּאן** עִם
חָכְמַת יְדִיעַת אֶלֹקוּת הוּא מֵהַתְחָלַת
מַאֲמַר רז״ל ״מִיּוֹם שֶׁחָרַב ביהמ״ק״,
הַיִנוּ, שֶׁהַדֵ׳ אַמּוֹת שֶׁל הַלָכָה
הַיְנוּ, שֶׁהַדֵ׳ אַמּוֹת שֶׁל הַלַכָה
קמַלְאוֹת אֶת מְקוֹם פְּעוּלַת וְהַשְׁפָּעַת
ביהמ״ק –

וּמֵאַחַר שבביהמ״ק בַּחוּץ, בְּלִשְׁכַּת הַגָּזִית, שָׁכַן הַבּ״ד הַגָּדוֹל – עִיקַר תושבע״פ וַהַלָכָה; וּכָה בְּשָׁעָה הָיוּ טְמוּנִים שָׁם – אָמְנָם **לִפְנַי וְלִפְנִים**, בָּאָרוֹן שבקדה״ק – הַלּוּחוֹת (וְסֵפֶּר תּוֹרָה), שֶׁכָּל זֶה מוֹרֶה עַל בְּחִינַת פְּנִימִיּוּת הַתּוֹרָה וְרָזִין דְאוֹרָיִיתָא –

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Berachos 31a.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> {When parting ways, their final conversation should be in matters of *halachah*, so the correct

definition of *"halachah"* is required in order to properly fulfill this rule.} <sup>14</sup> {i.e., the Holy Temple.}

scroll), alluding to the innermost part of Torah and secrets of Torah.

From here we learn that the "four cubits of *halachah*," which takes the place the *Beis Hamikdash* (after its destruction), applies not only to the practical areas of *halachah*, but also to the secrets of Torah, i.e., the study and knowledge of the Creator's unity.

But this only answers the second question — how we know that **in this context**, "*halachah*" also refers to the knowledge of Hashem, etc. But we still have not clarified why our Sages use the word "*halachah*" *here*, when it is defined differently everywhere else. Also, in general {we must clarify}: How is the entire subject matter discussed above alluded to by the phrase, "four cubits of *halachah*"?

מוּכָן מָזֶּה, שֶׁהַ״ַדִ׳ אַמּוֹת שֶׁל הַלָכָה״ הַמְמַלְאוֹת אֶת מְקוֹם הביהמ״ק (לְאַחַר חוּרְבָּנוֹ) אֵין מַשְׁמָעָן רַק הַלָכוֹת בְּנוֹגֵעַ לְמַעֲשָׁה, אֶלָּא גַּם רָזִין דְאוֹרָיִיתָא, דְהַיִינוּ הַחָכְמָה וְהַדַּעַת בְּאַחְדוּת הַבּוֹרֵא.

אָלָא שעפ״ז מְתוֹרָצָת רַק הַשְּׁאַלָה הַשְׁנִיָ׳ – מִנָּ״ל שֶׁ״הַלָכָה״ כָּאן פּירוּשָׁה גַם יִדִיעַת אָלקוּת כו׳. אַף עַדַיִין אֵינוֹ מוּכָן לָמָה לָהֶם לַחֲכָמִים לְנְקוֹט כָּאן לְשׁוֹן הַלַכָה, שָׁבְּכָל מָקוֹם מַשְׁמְעָה שׁוֹנָה? וּבִכְלָל: הֵיכָן כָּל הַתּוֹכֶן הָאָמוּר מְרוּמָז בְּעִנְיָן ״ד׳ אַמּוֹת שֶׁל הַלָכָה?״

## 4.

## TO KNOW IS TO OBSERVE

The key to clarifying these issues: **Plainly**, the *mitzvos* of {knowledge of} Hashem's unity and loving Hashem, and the like, are also *halachos* (including many specific *halachic* details). As Rambam highlights in the beginning of *Mishneh Torah* — which is expressly a book of *halachah* and halachic rulings — these *mitzvos* are the **fundamentals** of Torah, and they consist of "**knowing** (by means of

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ד. נְקוּדֵת בֵּיאוּר הָעִנְיָן: בְּפַשְׁטוּת – גַם הַמִּצְוֹת דְּאַחְדוּת הַשֵׁם, אַהַבַת הַשֵׁם וְכוּ׳, הַרֵי הֵן הַלָכוֹת (וּכָהֶן כַּמָּה וְכַמָּה הַלָכוֹת פְּסוּקוֹת). וְהָרַמְבַ״ם אַף מַדְגּישׁ בִּתְחִילַת סִפְרוֹ, שֶׁהוּא סֵפֶר הַלָכוֹת וּפִסְקֵי דִינִים דַּוְקָא – שֶׁמִצְווֹת אֵלוּ הֵן יְסוֹדֵי הַתּוֹרָה, וְתוֹכְנָן ״לֵידַע וְיִדִיעָה הַבָּאָה ע״י ״חָכְמַת אֱלֹקִית״) שֶׁיֵּשׁ שָׁם מָצוּי כו׳״ וְ״אֶלוֹקָה זֶה אֶחָד״ (אַחִדוּת הַשֵׁם) וכו׳. studying "G-dly wisdom") that there is a Primary Being..." and that "this G-d is One" (Hashem's unity), etc.

Even the first *halachah* a child observes daily entails the obligation to recite, "*Modeh ani lefanecha Melech...*" {I offer thanks to You, living and eternal King...}, the {morning} blessings, **etc**.

Since "**all** of your actions should be for the sake of Heaven," "even while you sleep...," as Rambam elaborates in *Hilchos De'os*,<sup>15</sup> and a person's {personal} space is four cubits — as we will elaborate soon — "*halachah*" must also be {framed in terms of} "four cubits."

The 613 *mitzvos*, especially the *mitzvah* that "all of a person's actions must be done for the sake of Heaven," were given at *Matan Torah* and apply from that time onward. Meaning, until then, even during the "times of Shem and Ever," none of them were in force, as Rambam says there.

5.

## A PERSON'S EXTENDED PERSONAL SPACE

A (deeper) explanation: Regarding various issues {in Jewish law}, every person has his designated "four cubits," as derived from the verse,<sup>16</sup> "Let each person remain in

אַרְבַּע אַמוֹת, כִּדְיָלְפִינַן מִמְּה שֶׁכָּתוּב ״שְׁבוּ אִישׁ תַּחְתָּיו״ – וְשִׁיעוּר זֶה נִקְרָא ״מְקוֹמוֹ שֶׁל אָדָם״.

**ה.** וְהַבֵּיאוּר בָּזֵה (בִּפִנִימִיּוּת): מַצִינוּ

בְּנוֹגֵעַ לְכַמָּה עִנְיָנִים, שֶׁלְכָל אָדָם נִתִנוּ

<sup>16</sup> *Shemos* 16:29 {referring to the laws of Shabbos and traveling beyond city limits}.

עַד שֶׁאַפִילוּ בְּנוֹגֵעַ לְקָטָן הַנָּה הַהַלָכָה הָרִאשׁוֹנָה דִּידֵי׳ בִּתְחִילַת הַיוֹם הִיא לוֹמַר ״מוֹדֶה אֲנִי לְפָנֶידְּ מֶלֶדְ כו׳״, בְּרָכוֹת **וכו׳** –

וְכֵיוָן שֶׁ״**כָּל** מַעֲשָׂיךּ יִהְיוּ לְשֵׁם שָׁמַיִם״, ״וַאֲפִילּוּ בְּשָׁעָה שֶׁהוּא יָשֵׁן וְכוּ׳״ – כְּפִי שֶׁמַאֲרִיךָ בְּהָלְ׳ הֵעוֹת, וּמְקוֹמוֹ שֶׁל אָדָם הוּא ד׳ אַמוֹת – כְּדְלַקַמָן בַּאֲרוּכָּה – הֲרֵי שֶׁגַּם ״הֲלָכָה״ צ״ל ״ד׳ אַמוֹת״.

תרי״ג מִצְוֹת, וּבִפְרָט – הַצִּיוּוּי ״כָּל מַעֲשֶׁיךּ יִהְיוּ לְשֵׁם שָׁמַיִם״, הְרֵי נִתְּנוּ מִמַּתַּן תוֹרָה וְאֵילָךְ – וּמוּבָן שֶׁעֵד אָז, כּוֹלֵל גַּם ״בִּימֵי שֵׁם וְעֵבֶר״, אֵין כָּל זֶה שַׁיַּיךָ, כִּפִי שֵׁכַּתַב שֵׁם הַרַמִבַּ״ם.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Mishneh Torah, "Hilchos De'os," ch. 3.

his place." This area is known as "a person's {personal} space."

Among the reasons for this {designation of four cubits per person}, the *Gemara*<sup>17</sup> explains, is that a typical man is three cubits tall, and one cubit is added so that he can extend his arms above his head.<sup>18</sup>

This seemingly requires clarification: Since three cubits is enough space for a person's body, including his arms (in their **usual** position), why would his "space" always be considered to be four cubits because of the rare occasion that he lifts his hands above his head, an unusual scenario in which he occupies more space than normal?

## 6.

## REACHING BEYOND YOUR PERSONAL SPACE

To explain: Hashem created a perfect world; *the world was created complete*.<sup>19</sup> Nevertheless, our Sages state that the reason "Hashem created" was "to do" — i.e., to repair. The purpose of Creation is for וְאִיתָא בַּגְמָרָא שֶׁא׳ הַשְּׁצָמִים לְזֶה, לְפִי שֶׁשִּׁיעוּר גּוּפּוֹ שֶׁל אָדָם הוּא שָׁלש אַמּוֹת, וְאַמָּה נוֹסֶפֶת כְּדֵי שֶׁיוּכַל לְהָרִים יְדַיו מֵעַל לְרֹאשׁוֹ.

וְלְכְאוֹרָה צְרִיךְ בֵּיאוּר בָּזֶה: בֵּיוָן שֶׁלְגוּף – וּבִכְלַל זֶה גַּם הַיָּדַיִים (בְּמַצָּב **הָרָגִיל**) – דֵּי בְּשָׁלשׁ אַמּוֹת, קַשֶׁה, וְכִי מֵאַחַר שֶׁלְפָעָמִים, בְּמַצָּב בַּלְתִּי רְגִיל כְּלָל, אָדָם מֵרִים אֶת יָדִיו מַעַל לְרֹאשׁוֹ וְתוּפֵס אָז יוֹתֵר מָקוֹם מָן הָרָגִיל, יֵשׁ לְהַחְשִׁיב אֶת ״מְקוֹמוֹ״ לְעוֹלַם כַּשִׁיעוּר ד׳ אַמּוֹת?

ו. וְהָעִנְיָן בָּזֶה: הָעוֹלָם נִבְרָא ע״י הקב״ה בּאוֹפֶן שֶׁל שְׁלֵימוּת, עוֹלָם עַל מִילוּאוֹ נִבְרָא; ומ״מ אָמְרוּ רז״ל שֶׁמָה שֶׁ״בָּרָא אֱלֹקִים״ הוּא ״לַעֲשׂוֹת״ שֶׁמָה שֶׁ״בָּרָא אֱלֹקִים״ הוּא ״לַעֲשׂוֹת״ שֶׁמָה שֶׁ״בָּרָא וַמִיקַר שֶׁהָאָדָם יִפְעַל וִיחַדֵּשׁ בָּה יוֹתֵר מִמָּה שֶׁיֵּשׁ בָּה מִצֵּד עַצְמָה,

<sup>17</sup> Eruvin 58a.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> In *Eruvin* 58a, Rabbi Yehudah maintains that "A person's body measures three cubits, and an additional cubit is needed in order to allow him to pick up an object from under his feet and place it under his **head**," while Rabbi Meir maintains that "an additional cubit is needed in order to allow him to spread out his hands and feet."

*Tosefta* (*Eruvin* ch. 3, par. 10) says that a person's full height with his hands extended comes to four cubits. In any case, a person does not measure four cubits tall to the top of his head; his hands must necessarily be included.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> {Paraphrasing} *Bereishis Rabbah*, ch. 14, par.7.

mankind to affect the world by improving on its original state.

Even in *Gan Eden*, prior to the Sin (of the Tree of Knowledge), which represented the greatest level of perfection within Creation, Adam still had to "**work it** and guard it."<sup>20</sup>

Just as this {obligation to improve} applies to Creation in general, it also applies to people.

This is also expressed in a person's physical space, in the (deeper) definition of above-mentioned "four cubits": A person (his head, torso, and legs) naturally take up three cubits (these three cubits correspond (and allude) to the three general levels of *head, torso,* and *legs*). Naturally, the head — as indicated by its name — is a person's tallest part and {houses his} highest faculties; beneath it is the torso; and at the lowest level are the legs. This means that naturally, the hands, as they are on either side of the torso, are **lower** than the head.

The aim of a person's  $avodah^{21}$  is to elevate himself beyond his natural condition (three cubits), even beyond the highest of his natural faculties — his head, the seat of his intellect. Meaning, his understanding and comprehension should (not remain limited by his "head" and

וּכְשֵׁם שֶׁכָּךְ הוּא לְגַבֵּי כְּלָלוּת הַבְּרִיאָה, כֵּן הוּא גַּם בְּנוֹגֵעַ לְאָדָם.

וְדָבָר זֵה בָּא לִידֵי בִּיטוּי גַם בִּמְקוֹמוֹ ײַהַגַּשְׁמִי, בָּעִנְיָן (הַפְּנִימִי) דְ״דַ׳ אַמּוֹת״ הַנַּ״ל: הַאַדַם (ראשו, גוּפו וְרַגְלַיו) מִצַּד בִּרִיאַתוֹ תּוֹפָס ג׳ אַמּוֹת (שֶׁהָן כּנֵגֵד (וְרוֹמָזוֹת ל)ג׳ הַמַּדְרֵיגוֹת הַכְּלַלִיוֹת דְּרֹאשׁ, גוּף, רָגֵל); וּמִצֵּר הַבְּרִיאָה הֵנָּה הָרֹאשׁ – כִּשְׁמוֹ – הוּא הַמָּקוֹם וְהַמַּדְרֵיגָה הָעֶלְיוֹנִים בְּיוֹתֵר שֶׁבָּאָדָם; לְמַשָּה מִזֵּה הַגוּף, וְהַמָּקוֹם וִהַדַּרְגָּא הו בּיוֹתֵר הַתַּחָתּוֹנִים הַרַגְלַיִים. וְנָמָצָא שֵׁמָצַּד הַבּּרִיאָה הַיַדִים, מִשְׁנֵי צְדֵי הַגּוּף, הֵן לְמַטָּה מַהַרֹאשׁ.

וּמַהוּת עֲבוֹדַת הָאָדָם הִיא –
וּמַהוּת עֲבוֹדַת הָאָדָם הִיא –
לְהַתְרוֹמֵם לְמַעְלָה מִן הַדַּרְגָּא (שֶׁל הַג׳ אַמוֹת) שֶׁמִצַּד הַבְּרִיאָה, לְמַעְלָה גַּגֹ מַם מַהַמַּדְרֵיגָה הָעֶלְיוֹנָה בְּיוֹתֵר בָּה, שֶׁזֶהוּ הָרֹאשׁ, מְקוֹם הַשֵּׂכָל; דְהַיְינוּ, לְהַגִּיעַ לִיבִי כָּך שֶׁבַּהַכָנָתוֹ וְהַשָּׂגָתוֹ לְהַגִּיעַ לִיבִי כָּך שֶׁבַּהַכָנָתוֹ וְהַשָּׂגָתוֹ (לֹא יִשָּׁאַר בְּגֶר וְהַגְּבָּלָה שָׁל ״רֹאשׁוֹ״)

אַפּילוּ בג״ע וְעוֹד לִפְנֵי הַחֵטָא (דְּצֵי הַחֵטָא (דְּצֵי הַדַּעַת), שָׁזּוֹהִי הַשְׁלֵימוּת הַכִי נִדְּצֵין הַדַּעַת), שָׁזּוֹהִי הַשְׁלֵימוּת הַכִי נַעֲלֵית בִּבְרִיאָה, הָי׳ דָרוּשׁ שֶׁיּתְקַיֵּים ״**לְצָבְדָה** וּלְשָׁמְרָה״ – ע״י אָדָם הַרִאשׁוֹן.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> Bereishis 2:15.

intellect, but should) be immersed in areas מַרְרֵיגָה, אֵלָא) יִהְיֵ׳ שֶׁקוּעַ בְּעָנְיָנִים more sublime than those of his "head" alone.

This elevation relates specifically to "his hands," which are emblematic of action. As our Sages state,22 through giving tzedakah, a person's brain and heart become refined a thousand times over. achieving exalted levels Meaning, of comprehension, beyond even one's intellect (its created condition), also depends on "action." practical Put differently, (conversely), whatever heights a person reaches must influence and effect practical change.

To accomplish these dual objectives of "wisdom and action," a person was allotted "four cubits" of space (more than the three cubits with which he was created).

שלמעלה מ״ראשו״ מצ״ע.

קשורה והתרוממות ٦٢ דּוַקַא ב״יִדִיו״, הַרוֹמָזוֹת לְבָחִינַת הַמַּצַשָּׁה, – וע״ד מַאַמַר רז״ל שע״י צָדַקָה נַאַשִים מוחו וִלְבּו זַכִּים אָלָף פּעַמִים כָּכָה. וְהַיְינוּ שֶׁגַּם עֲלִיָיתוֹ בַּכּחוֹת הַנַּצַלִים דְּהַשָּׁגָה, וִאַף הַצַלָאָתָם מֵעַל לְשָׂכְלוֹ (כִּפִי שֵׁהוּא מִצֵּד הַבְּרִיאַה), קשורים בִ״מַעַשָּה״ בִפועל. בִסְגנוֹן אַחָר (וּלָאִידַך וּיסַא): כֹּל הַעִילוּיִים שאליהם מתרומם האדם צריכים להַשָּׁפִיעַ וְלִפְעוֹל שִׁינּוּי גַם בּמַעשה בפועל.

וַעַבוּר ב׳ עִנְיַנִים אֵלוּ, ״הַחַכִמַה וְהַמֵּצֵשֶׂה״, נִיתֵּן לוֹ מֵקוֹם ״ד׳ אַמּוֹת״ (יוֹתֶר מֵהַג׳ אַמּוֹת שֵׁמָצַר הַבָּרִיאָה).

## 7.

## **RAISING TORAH'S HANDS**

this Just as improvements} applies to the Creation of הָעוֹלָם וְהָאָדָם, כָּךְ יוּכַן גַּם בְּשֵׁיָיכוּת the world, in general, and of mankind, {in particular}, it also applies to Torah [since everything relating to the world and mankind is derived from Torah]:<sup>23</sup>

ז. וכשם שכן הוא בבריאת כללות task of making לַתּוֹרָה [שֵׁהַרֵי כַּל עִנְיְנֵי הָעוֹלָם וְהַאַדַם נְמִשֵׁכִים מֵהַתּוֹרַה]:

<sup>23</sup> See beg. of *Berishis Rabbah*.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> Torah Or, beg., elucidated in Or HaTorah, "Bamidbar," p. 962 ff.

Torah is a "triple light,"24 divided into הַמּוֹרָה הִיא אוֹרְיָין תָּלִיתָאִי, הַיִינוּ three categories: The general sections of Torah, Neviim, and Kesuvim [reflecting how the source and reason behind all of Creation is divided into three grades and divisions, as known].

Through the avodah of teshuvah, which {essentially} is beyond the limits of Creation, the Jewish people contributed a fourth level to Torah, a "double salvation" within Torah, added through the giving of the second set of tablets.<sup>25</sup>

More specifically, this {supplementation by the Jewish people} applies to all areas of Torah: There are "three cubits" (three levels) of Torah {interpretation} as Torah is found within the boundaries of creation - i.e., *peshat*,<sup>26</sup> *remez*,<sup>27</sup> and *derush*,<sup>28</sup> comprising the *body* of Torah.<sup>29</sup> But the goal of a person's Torah learning is that through his diligence, "four cubits" should be attained. The fourth "cubit" and level of Torah {interpretation}, which is higher than the stature of the *body* of Torah is the aspect of sod<sup>30</sup> within Torah, "the soul of Torah."<sup>31</sup> This is the level that

שַׁנְחֵלָקֵת לג׳ בִּחִינוֹת, וּבְכִלַלוּת זוֹהִי הַחַלוּקַה דְּתוֹרֵה נְבִיאָים וּכְתוּבִים [וִזֶהוּ הַמָּקוֹר וְהַסִּיבָּה לְכָךְ שֶׁכָּל דרגות לג׳ נחלקת הבריאה וחילוּקים. כּידוּע].

וע״י עַבוֹדַת הַתִּשוּבָה, שֵׁלְמַעְלַה מְגֵּדֵר הַבִּרִיאַה, פַּאַלוּ בנ״י שֶׁתִּתוַסֶף בּתּוֹרַה הָרִבִּיאַית, גם המדריגה ״כִּפְלַיִם לְתוּשָׁיַ״״ שֵׁבַּתּוֹרָה, שֵׁנּוֹסְפַה ע״י הלוחות השניות.

בּכֹל חֵלְקֵי הַדַּבַר כז ובפרטיות (ג' אמות״ ג׳ ישנז התורה: מַדְרֵיגוֹת) בַּתּוֹרַה כִּפִי שֶׁהִיא בְּגָדֵר הַבִּרִיאָה, וְהֵן – פִּשָׁט רֵמֵז דְּרוּשׁ, שֵׁזֵּהוּ גּוּף הַתּוֹרֵה; אַמִנַם הַתַּכִלִית הִיא שֶׁהַאַדַם יַגִּיעַ ע״י יִגִיעַתוֹ לִ״דַ׳ אַמוֹת״ – כּוֹלֵל הַ״אַמָה״ וְהַמַּדְרֵיגַה שׁלְמַעַלָה שֵׁבַּתּוֹרָה, הרביעית מֵהַצִּיּוּר קוֹמֵה **דְּגוּף** הַתּוֹרָה – וְהִיא בִּחִינַת הַסּוֹד שֵׁבַּתּוֹרַה, ינשמתא דאורייתא״. דַרְגַּא זוֹ שֶׁבַּתוֹרָה מְכוּנַה (שֶׁם) ״נִכִּבַּד הרמִבּ״ם בדברי שֵׁבַּמּוּשִׂכַּלוֹת״, שעי״ז מַגִּיעַ הָאָדָם אָל הַתַּכְלִית – ״לְצַיֵּיר לְנַפְשׁוֹ אַחְדוּת הקב״ה״.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> See *Shabbos* 88a; *Zohar*, vol. 3, p. 246a.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> Shemos Rabbah, ch. 46, par. 1 (end); ch. 47, par. 7. {The second set of tablets was given after the first set was broken due to the sin of the Golden Calf, which was followed by repentance and atonement.}

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> {The plain, straightforward meaning of the text.}

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> {*Remez* is a methodology of exegesis based on hints and allusions in the text, often based on the numerical value of letters.}

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> {*Derush* is more analytical than *pshat*. It is an exegetical method of commentary in which the words of a verse are used as a platform to express an extrinsic idea.}

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> Zohar, vol. 3, p. 152b.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>30</sup> {The deeper, esoteric level of Torah.}

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</sup> Zohar, vol. 3, p. 152b.

Rambam calls (ibid.), "the most sublime of concepts," since it enables a person to reach the objective - "to picture to his soul Hashem's {unique} Oneness."

But still {despite the fourth level being more esoteric}, all four cubits of Torah are called, "four cubits of *halachah*" [similar to the above discussion about a person's four cubits, so called for his ability to lift **his hands** above the head]. Because we are only certain that we have {truly} attained the fourth "cubit" - the esoteric part of Torah – when even the aspect of Torah that is beyond nature descends to bind itself with halachah, meaning (simply), in a practical ruling.

In fact, specifically because this fourth aspect, the soul of Torah, is beyond the confines of Creation, it is more important for it to find expression in halachah, influencing also our actions.

8.

RAISING THE HANDS OF THE BEIS HAMIKDASH

On this basis we can also understand רְּכִי זָה יוּבַן גַם הַקַשֶׁר בֵּין ד׳ אַמּוֹת. why {the idea of} the four cubits of ישׁל הַלָּכָה לְ״מִיּוֹם שֶׁחָרַב ביהמ״ק״: halachah is associated with "the day the Beis Hamikdash was destroyed":

Although no place is devoid of הקב״ה לֵית אֲתַר פָּנוּי מִינֵי׳ וּמִלֹא כַל Hashem, and the entire earth is filled with

ואעפ״כ נְקָרַאוֹת הַד׳ אַמּוֹת שֶׁבַּתּוֹרָה ד׳ אַמּוֹת **שֵׁל הַלַכָה**״ [וּבְדוּגְמַת הַמְבוֹאֵר לְעֵיל בְּנוֹגֵעַ לְד׳ אַמוֹת שֶׁל הַאַדַם, שֶׁזֵּהוּ מִצֵּר הַגְבַּהַת **הַיִּדִיִם** לְמַעְלָה מֵהַרֹאשׁ], שֵׁהַרֵי, אֵימַתַי יֵשׁ בְּיֵבִינוּ הוֹכָחָה שֵׁהָאָדָם הִגִּיעַ גַּם אֵל הַ״אַמַה״ הַרְבִיעִית, סוֹד שֶׁבַּתּוֹרָה – בִּשַׁצַה שֵׁגַּם בִּחִי׳ הַתּוֹרַה שֵׁלְמַעָלַה למטה יוֹרֵדֵת הַבִּרִיאַה מגדר וּמְתַקַשֶׁרֵת לַהַלַכַה, דְהַיִינוּ (כִּפְשׁוּטוֹ) לדין בּנוֹגע לפּוֹעל;

וְאַדְרַבָּה: כֵּיוָן שֶׁבְּחִי׳ רְבִיעִית זוֹ, נִשְׁמְתָא דְּאוֹרָיִיתָא, הִיא לְמַעְלָה מְגָדֵר הַבִּרִיאָה – הַרֵי דַּוְקָא מְשׁוּם כָּך נוֹגֵעַ הַדָּבָר עוֹד יוֹתָר שֶׁתָּבוֹא לִידֵי הַלַכַה, שֶׁתִּפְעַל גַּם עַל הַמֵּעַשָה.

הַאָרֵץ כְּבוֹדוֹ, ומ״מ הֵנַה גִּילוּי וַהַשָּׁרַאַת היוּ השׁכִינַה דּוַקַא בביהמ״ק, וּמִשֵּׁם נִמִשֵׁך לְכַל הַעוֹלַם His glory, still, the *Shechinah*<sup>32</sup> was revealed and dwelled specifically in the *Beis Hamikdash*.<sup>33</sup> From there, it was diffused throughout the entire world. The *Beis Hamikdash* was divided into three general sections:<sup>34</sup> the Courtyard; the *Ohel Moed* {the "Tent of Meeting"}, i.e., the Sanctuary; and the Holy of Holies. Although the *Shechinah* was manifest in the entire *Beis Hamikdash*, it was primarily manifest in the Holy of Holies; and within the Holy of Holies itself, it was manifest through the Ark.

For this reason, the Ark was considered to be a fourth level, although it was situated in the *Kodesh Hakodashim* (the third level), because through the Ark, the {esoteric} aspect of Torah beyond the limits of Creation was revealed. {This level that transcended the limits of Creation was expressed in} the "Ark's {physical} space was not {measurable when taking} the measurement {of the Holy of Holies}."<sup>35</sup> This served as an open manifestation of "Hashem's unity."<sup>36</sup>

כּוּלוֹ. בביהמ״ק בִּכְלָלוּת הָיוּ ג׳ דִּיוֹרִין: חֲצַר אֹהֶל מוֹעֵד, אֹהֶל מוֹעֵד וְהוּא הַהֵיכָל, וְלְדָשׁ הַקְדָשִׁים. וַהֲגַם שֶׁהַשְׁרָאַת הַשְׁכִינָה הְיְתָה בְּכֹל שֶׁהַשְׁרָאַת הַנְּה עִיקַר הַהַשְׁרָאָה הָי׳ ביהמ״ק, הַנָּה עִיקַר הַהַשְׁרָאָה הָי׳ בּלְדָשׁ הַקֵּדָשִׁים, וּבַלְדָשׁ הַקֵּדָשִׁים גוּפַא הי׳ זַה ע״י הארוֹן.

וּמִשַּעַם זֶה נִמְנֶה הָאָרוֹן פְּמַדְרֵיגָה רְבִיעִית, הַגַּם שֶׁעָמַד בקדה״ק (מַדְרֵיגָה הַג׳), פִּיע״י הָאָרוֹן נִתְגַּלְתָה בְּחִינַת הַתּוֹרָה פְפִי שֶׁהִיא לְמַעְלָה מְגֶדֶר הַבְּרִיאָה – ״מְקוֹם הָאָרוֹן״ כְּפִי שֶׁ״אֵינוֹ מִן הַמִּדָּה״ – וּבָזֶה נִרְאֲתָה ״אַחָדוּת הקב״ה״ בְּגִילוּי.

Despite this {fourth level being זְעָם כָּל זֶה, הֲרֵי גַּם מֵדְרֵיגָה זוֹ הַנַּעֵלֵית בְּיוֹתֵר הְיָתָה קְשׁוּרָה associated with Torah — "wisdom"}, even

occurred in the Temple. {The Holy of Holies was 10 cubits wide, and the Ark, which stood in the center of the Holy of Holies, had a length of 2.5 cubits. Yet, when measuring from the sides of the Ark to the wall, one would find five cubits on each side. Thus, the physical space itself sustained a supranatural existence.}

<sup>36</sup> See *Hemshech* 5666, p. 227 ff.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>32</sup> {Hashem's Presence.}

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>33</sup> See *Tanya*, ch. 51 ff.; the Alter Rebbe's *Siddur*, p. 98d.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>34</sup> {Each physical section possessed its own distinct "level" of the *Shechinah's* indwelling, as will be elucidated.}

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>35</sup> *Yoma* 21a; *Bava Basra* 99b. See *Yoma* loc. cit., which explains that this miracle was categorically different from the other ten miracles that

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this most sublime level was associated with "action": Consider that the *Beis Hamikdash* and all its utensils were the handiwork of people. Additionally, the service of the *kohanim* within the *Beis Hamikdash* itself, including the {service associated with} Ark inside the *Kodesh Hakodashim* — the blood sprinklings on *Yom Kippur* — were actions performed by people.<sup>37</sup>

## 9.

## BRINGING TORAH DOWN

In general terms, this {esoteric} addition to Torah was attained with the second tablets, given as a result of the Jews first repenting {for their sin of the Golden Calf} [and similarly, by toiling,<sup>38</sup> "diligently analyzing words of wisdom, anxious to fully understand the words," by which every Jew can reach the concealed essense of Torah].

The same can be said about all parts of Torah. For the the fourth aspect, the *sod* of Torah, was revealed mainly in recent generations, and will be fully realized in the Coming Times<sup>39</sup> with the revelation of Moshiach's insights to Torah, a product of the Jewish people's *avodah* and toil throughout the exile.

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ש. אע״פ שֶׁהַהוֹסָפָה בַּתּוֹרָה נִתְחַדְּשָׁה בִּכְלָלוּת בַּלּוּחוֹת הַשְׁנִיוֹת, ע״י הַקְדָּמַת עֲבוֹדַת הַמְּשׁוּבָה דבנ״י [וּכְמוֹ כֵן ע״י יְגִיעָה ״דְּדָחַקִין לְמִלָּה דְחָכְמְתָא וְדַיִיקִין לָה וּמְחַכָּאן לָה דְחָכְמְתָא וְדַיִיקִין לָה וּמְחַכָּאן לָה דְחָכְמְתָא וְדַיִיקִין לָה וּמְחַכָּאן לָה דְחָכְמְתָא לְהַגִּיעַ עַד לְהֶעְלֵם הָעַצְמִי דְתוֹרָה],

ועד״ז בְּנוֹגַעַ לְכֹל חֶלְקֵי הַתּוֹרָה, שֶׁהַגִּילוּי מִבְּחִי׳ הַד׳, סוֹד שֶׁבַּתוֹרָה, נִתְגַּלָה בְּעִיקַר בְּדוֹרוֹת הָאַחֲרוֹנִים, וְתַכְלִית הַשְׁלֵימוּת שֶׁבָּזֶה תִּהְיֶ׳ רַק לעת״ל בְּגִילוּי תּוֹרָתוֹ שֶׁל מָשִׁיחַ, ע״י עֵבוֹדַת וִיגִיעַת בנ״י בְּמֶשֶׁך זְמַן הַגָּלוּת –

<sup>39</sup> {*Le'asid lavo,* referring to the times of Moshiach.}

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>37</sup> {Part of the *Kohen Gadol*'s service on Yom Kippur in the Holy of Holies was to sprinkle the blood of the offerings several times toward the Ark}.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>38</sup> Zohar, vol. 1, p. 130b.

Nevertheless, we know that there will never be a second *Matan Torah*, since the Torah in entirety was already "given" at *Matan Torah*.<sup>40</sup> Only its emergence and revelation will come later through *avodah* and toil.

Although generally, all of Torah was included in the Ten Commandments heard at Matan Torah, nonetheless, the esoteric part of Torah, in particular, the soul of Torah, was drawn down by Hashem descending on Mt. Sinai.41 That is, Torah was revealed, as it was prior to Creation, not only in speech via the Ten Commandments, but in action, when Hashem, so to speak, "descended on Mt. Sinai." Even understood simply - the explanation of this descent and revelation is known as the *Workings of the Chariot*<sup>42</sup> – this is part of the sod {esoteric} part of Torah.

Using Rambam's terminology above: Both elements were present at *Matan Torah* — Torah's "wisdom," with all of its components including *sod* of Torah, a revelation of Hashem's unity;<sup>43</sup> and this wisdom connects to "action" (not only do most of the Ten Commandments enjoin concrete action, but additionally) — "Hashem descended on Mt. Sinai."

מ״מ, הַרֵי יָדוּעַ שֶׁלֹא יִהְיֶ׳ מ״ת בַּשֵּׁנִית, מִפְּנֵי שֶׁהַכּּל כְּבָר ״נִיתַן״ במ״ת, אֶלָּא שֶׁהַהַמְשָׁכָה וְהַגִּילוּי מָזֶה בָּאִים לְאַחַר וְמַן ע״י עֲבוֹדָה וִיגִיעָה.

ואע״פ שֵׁבְּכַלַלוּת נִיתִנוּ כֹּל חֵלְקֵי הַתּוֹרָה במ״ת **בַּעֵשָׂרֵת הַדְּבְּרוֹת**, מ״מ, שֵׁבַּתּוֹרַה, סוֹד בִּפַרַטִיּוּת, בחי׳ נִשְׁמְתָא דְּאוֹרַיִיתָא, נִמְשָׁכָה וִנְתִגַּלְתָה ע״י ״וַיֵּרִד ה׳ עַל הַר סִינַי״. הַיִינוּ, שֵׁהַמִשָּׁכַת וְהָתִגַּלוּת בִּחִי׳ הַתּוֹרָה כִּפִי הבריאה מגדרי למעלה שהיא קשוּרָה לא רַק עָם הַדִּיבּוּר דעשה״ד בּּלְבַד, אֵלַא עִם מַעֵּשָׂה הקב״ה כִּבַיַכוֹל, ״**וַיָּרָד** ה׳ עַל הַר סִינַי״. שַׁגַּם כִּפִשׁוּטוֹ פּירוּשׁ וּבִפַּרַט היִרִידַה וְהַגִּילוּי הָרֵי הוּא מַצַשָּׁה מֵרְכַּבָה – סוֹד שֵׁבַּתּוֹרָה.

וּבַסּגְנוֹן הָרַמְבַּ״ם הַנָּ״ל: במ״ת הָיוּ שְׁנֵי הָעִנְיָנִים – ״חָכְמָה״ דְּתוֹרָה עַל פֹּל חֲלָקֶיהָ, עַד לְבְּחִי׳ סוֹד שֶׁבַּתוֹרָה, גִּילוּי בְּחִי׳ אַחְדוּת הַבּוֹרֵא; וְזֶה קָשׁוּר בְּ״מַעֲשֶׂה״ (נוֹסַף לְזֶה שֶׁרוֹב עשה״ד הֵם צִיוּוּיִים עַל מַעֲשֶׂה בְּפוֹעַל) – הֵם צִיוּוּיִים עַל הַר סִינַי״.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>40</sup> Sefer HaMaamarim 5709, discourse entitled,

<sup>&</sup>quot;Yayomer Moshe," ch. 6.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>41</sup> Shemos 19:20.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>42</sup> {*Ma'aseh Merkavah* in the Hebrew original.}
<sup>43</sup> See *Tanya*, ch. 36.

But this had to be prefaced by וְהַהַקְרָמָה הָהֶכְרָחִית לְזֵה הְיִתָה ״וְאֵל telling to "Ascend Hashem Moshe, Hashem,"44 implying that as created beings, the Jewish people had to distance themselves from their earthly limitation. As the Sages state {regarding *Matan Torah*},45 "Let those of the lower realms ascend to the upper realms."

משה אמר עלה אל ה׳״ – שהנבראים הַתַּחָתּוֹנִים, מִגְדְרַם, גֵּדֵר יַצָּאַר ״תַּחָתּוֹנִים יַעַלוּ וּבִלְשׁוֹן חַזַ״ל: לעליונים״.

## 10.

## YISRO'S ARRIVAL ENABLES MATAN TORAH

With all the above in mind, the יו״ד. ע״פ כָּל הַנַּ״ל יֵשׁ לְיֵישֵׁ⊂ השאלות הנ״ל (ס״א): questions raised above (in section 1) are clarified:

As known, the Zohar maintains that יְדוּעַ – שְׁהַתּוֹרָה – שֵׁהַתּוֹרָה the Torah could only have been given after נִיהְנָה דַּוְקָא לְאַחַר שֶׁבָּא יִתְרו Yisro had arrived {at the encampment in the desert} and had converted.<sup>46</sup> So Yisro's arrival was a necessary preparation for Matan Torah.

וְנְתָגַיֵּיר. וּבִיאַת יִתְרוֹ הַיָתֵה הַכַנַה Jewish למ״ת.

וַלַכַן נִקָרַא בַּכַּתוּב **כַּאו** בִשָּׁם ״יִתְרוֹ״

וְכָן כּל הַפַּרַשָּׁה נִקְרָאת עַל שָׁמוֹ, וְלֹא (וְכָן כּל

— ישַׁבָּת מ״ת״, וְלוּ כִּשֵׁם נוֹסַף כְּדוּגְמַת שֵׁהֵּת שִׁירָה וכיו״ב), לְפִי

שֵׁהַשֵּׁם יִתְרוֹ ״נוֹשֵׂא״ אֶת הַתּוֹכֵן

והתכלית דמ״ת:

That is why the Torah refers to him here as "Yisro" (and why the entire parshah is also named after him and not "Shabbos Matan Torah," even as an additional name, similar to Shabbos

<sup>46</sup> Zohar, "Yisro," 67b, 68a; see Sefer HaMaamarim 5709, discourse entitled, "Yayomer Moshe," ch. 6; Likkutei Sichos, vol. 11, p. 75 ff.

<sup>44</sup> Shemos 24:1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>45</sup> Midrash Tanchuma "Va'era," ch. 15. {Describing the events at Mt. Sinai, when Hashem descended on the mountain, enabling the Jews to spiritually elevate themselves.}

*Shirah*,<sup>47</sup> and the like), because the entire content and purpose of *Matan Torah* can be "found" in this name, *Yisro*:

"Yisro" is comprised of two names: **Yeser** {connoting "addition"}, hinting that a *parshah* was added to the Torah<sup>48</sup> on his account, and **Yisro**, which was made by adding the letter "*vav*" to his name when he began observing *mitzvos*.

As discussed above, the name *Yisro* represents perfection in both "wisdom" and "action" as initiated at *Matan Torah*. As a preparation for *Matan Torah*, Yisro first achieved these two types of perfection himself.

הַשֵּׁם ״ִיְתְרוֹ״ כּּוֹלֵל אֶת שְׁנֵי הַשֵּׁמוֹת – יָּתֶר ע״ש שֶׁיִּמֵר כָּרָשָׁה אַחַת בַּתּוֹרָה, וְהַהוֹסַכָּה ד״וא״ו״ בִּשְׁמוֹ – יִ**תְרוֹ**, כְּשֵׁהִגִּיעַ לְיָדֵי קִיּוּם הַמָּצְווֹת.

וְכִמְבוֹאָר לְעֵיל, אָלוּ הֵם שְׁנֵי עִנְיְנֵי הַשְׁלֵימוּת דְ״חָכְמָה״ וּ״מַעֲשֶׂה״, שֶׁנְּתְחַדְּשׁוּ במ״ת, וְהַהֲכָנָה וְהַקְדָמָה לְזֶה הְיְתָה בְּכָךְ שֶׁלְפְנֵי כֵן פָּעַל יִתְרוֹ אֶת ב׳ הַשְׁלֵימוּיוֹת הַלָּלוּ בְּעַצְמוֹ.

## 11.

#### BEYOND PERFECTION

On this basis, we can understand the Torah's subsequent wording, "(Yisro) the *priest of Midian* (heard)." One interpretation of this epithet is a "priest for idolatry."<sup>49</sup> This seemingly contradicts the {Torah's} praise of Yisro!

## The explanation is:

יא. ועפ״ז מוּכָן מָה שֶׁהַפָּתוּב מַמְשִׁיוְ מִיָד ״(וַיִּשְׁמַע יִתְרוֹ) כֹהֵן מִדְיָן״ – שֶׁפֵּירוּשׁוֹ הוּא גַּם ״כֹהֵן לע״ז״. וְלְכָאוֹרָה הֲרֵי זֶה בִּסְתִירָה לְשָׁבְחוֹ שֶׁל יִתְרוֹ?

## : אֶלָא הַבֵּיאוּר בָּזֶה

<sup>49</sup> *Mechilta* on our verse; *Shemos Rabbah*, ch. 1, par. 32.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>47</sup> {The *Shabbos* of *parshas Beshalach* is often called this name, a reference to the "song" (*shirah*) the Jews offered after the Splitting of the Sea, chronicled in that *parshah*.}

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>48</sup> *Mechilta*; *Tanchuma*, "*Yisro*," par. 4; Rashi's commentary at the beg. of our *parshah*. {Yisro

recommends that Moshe create a hierarchical judicial system; this passage (*parshah*) is recorded in the Torah.}

The appellation "**priest** of Midian" הַתּוֹאַר ״כּהָן מִדְיָן״ כּוֹלֵל שְׁנֵי has two connotations: a) a {government} minister, or b) a priest who serves idolatry.

These two definitions of "priest" align with Yisro's two general occupations (prior to converting):

- a) "Priest," meaning, "{government} minister" - Yisro was esteemed and respected by the gentile nations. His primary function as a minister was to manage the nation's daily affairs and implement the king's orders. In this role, Yisro achieved virtue in action (in Midian).
- b) "Priest," meaning, "a priest of idolatry" - This indicates Yisro's and esteem his greatness in knowledge and comprehension, as our Sages say (as quoted by Rashi), Yisro was **familiar** with every form of idolatry in the world.

Being "familiar" with idolatry, especially in the context of our discussion, denotes (as explained in Zohar) attaining a understanding superior level of of (Midianite) wisdom. This wisdom was based on their erroneous understanding. As Rambam<sup>50</sup> elaborates: "In the days of

פֵּירוּשִׁים: א) כֹּהֵן מִלְשׁוֹן שַׂר, ב) כֹּהֵן - כּוֹמר לע״ז.

וּשַׁנֵי פֵּירוּשִׁים אָלוּ הָם בְּכַלַלוּת שָׁנֵי (קוֹדֵם) בִּיָתַרוֹ שֵׁהֵיוּ הענינים : (שְׁנְתַגַּיִיר)

א) ״פֿהֵן״ מִלְשׁוֹן שַׂר – שֶׁהָיָ׳ נִכְבָּד וְחָשוּב אָצֵל אוה״ע, וַהָרֵי עִיקַר עִנְיַן הַשַּׂר הוּא בִּהַנְהָגַת הַמָּדִינָה וּבִמִילוּי פּקוּדַת הַמֵּלֵך, מַעַלוֹת **הַמַּעַשָּׁה** (דְּמִדְיָן),

ב) ״כּהֶן״ מִלְשׁוֹן כּוֹמֶר לַעַ״זַ, הַמּוֹרֵה עַל גַּדְלוּת וַחֲשִיבוּת בִּיִדִיעָה וְהַשָּׁגָה, וּכִמַאַמַר (שֶׁהֵבִיאוֹ רַשִּׁ״י) שֶׁהַי׳ **מַכּיר** בּכֹל ע״ז שֵׁבַּעוֹלַם.

– דְּעִנְיַן ״מֵכָּיר״ בע״ז וּבְכִלַל בנדו״ד הוּא (פַמִבוֹאָר בַּזֹהַר) מַצַלוֹת הַחָכִמָה (דִּמִדְיָן). הַדָּבָר בָּא מֵחַמַת טָעוּתָם בַּהַבָנָה וְהַשָּׂגָה, ע״ד מָה שֶׁמַאֲרִיך הָרַמְבַּ״ם בָּזֶה שֶׁבִּימֵי אֱנוֹשׁ וְכוּ׳ אָמְרוּ הַכּוֹכַבִים הוֹאיל והקב״ה בַּרַא וּמַזַלוֹת וִגַּלְגַּלִים וִנָתַן בָּהֵם כֹּחַ לְהַנְהִיג אֶת הַעוֹלַם, צַרִידְ לְפַאָר

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>50</sup> Mishneh Torah, beg. of "Hilchos Avodah Zarah."

Enosh...," explaining that people believed וּלְשַׁבֵּחַ לַכּוֹכָבִים וּמַזָּלוֹת וְלַחֲלוֹק that since Hashem created the stars, constellations, and spheres, and He gave them the ability to conduct the world, these entities must therefore be glorified, praised, and honored.

Yisro's familiarity "with every form of idolatry in the world" implies that he had knowledge of, and familiarity with, all the intermediaries in all of the {supernal} worlds. His error as priest of Midian was in recognize these failing that to intermediaries independent have no existence whatsoever, and that one must not consider them to be independent existences.

The Torah emphasizes that "Yisro... the priest of Midian heard" to indicate that within the realm of impurity, Yisro had achieved perfection in both "wisdom and action." Nevertheless, he heard<sup>51</sup> and and converted. thereby, came transforming both of these perfected abilities into the realm of holiness. {His allude to this transformation:} names "Yeser" {"addition"} - a parshah was his added Torah on to account, exemplifying his perfection in wisdom to the extent that he recognized that "Hashem is greater than all deities." Yisro's perfection

להם כּבוֹד.

וְזֵהוּ הַפֵּירוּשׁ בַּמַה שֵׁיּתִרוֹ ״הַי׳ מַכִּיר בכל ע״ז שֵׁבַּעוֹלַם״ – שֵׁהַיָתָה לוֹ יְדִיעָה וְהַכָּרָה בְּכָל הַמְמוּצָּעִים שֵׁל כַּל הַעוֹלַמוֹת. אֵלַא שֵׁטַעוּתוֹ בִּעוֹדוֹ כֹהָן מִדְיָן הָיִתָה שֵׁלֹּא יָדַע וִלֹא הִכּיר בְּכָך שאינם מציאות לעצמם כּלַל, ואסור להחשיבם כמציאות לעצמם.

וְזֶהוּ שֵׁמַּדְגִּישׁ הַכָּתוּב ״וַיִּשָׁמַע יִתְרוֹ כהֵן מִדְיָן״, הַיִינוּ, שֶׁבִּשְׁנֵי הַעִנְיָנִים - דִ״חַכְמַה וּמַצַשָּׂה״ הֵי׳ יְתָרוֹ בּּלְעוּמַת-זֵה – בִּתַכִלִית הַשָּׁלֵימוּת, ומ״מ **שַׁמַע** (הֵבִיז וְהָכִּיר) וּבָא וְנְתַגַיֵּיר, וְהַפַּךְ אֵת שְׁתֵּי הַשְּׁלֵימוּיוֹת שֵׁלּוֹ לְקְדוּשֵׁה: ״יַתָר״ – שֵׁיָתֵר פַּרַשָּה אַחַת **בַּתּוֹרָה**, שָׁלֵימוּת בִּעָנְיֵן הַחַכְמַה, עד לידיעה ש״גדול הוי׳ מכל השלימות באחרות הַאֱלֹקִים״ הָאֵלֹקִים״, ⊆ל *שֵׁ*״כַּל הבּוֹרא, הַמָּמוּצָּעִים, אֵין לָהֵם שׁוּם שִׁלִיטָה וְכֹחַ, וְהֵם רַק ״פַּגַּרְזֶן בְּיַד הַחוֹצֵב בּוֹ״; ״יִתְרוֹ״ – קִיּוּם הַמָּצְווֹת: תַּכְלִית השלימות **במעשה**.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>51</sup> {"*Derhert*" in the original Yiddish, implying a sense of hearing strong enough to be internalized, and causing a person to act.}

regarding {his understanding of} Hashem's unity means that he recognized that "all deities" and intermediaries have no {autonomous} authority or power; they are merely "axes with which to chop."<sup>52</sup> And the name "Yisro" alludes to the fulfilment of *mitzvos*, the ultimate perfection in **action**.

## 12.

## PERFECT WISDOM AND ACTION

Since the purpose of Matan Torah was (as discussed at length elsewhere) rescinding the decree,53 it allowed "those of the lower realms to ascend to the upper realms." People were then enabled to advance beyond their limitations as created beings and elevate themselves higher into the spiritual realms. Clearly, then, this also applied to Yisro's personal spiritual service {at the (since his arrival Jewish encampment} served as a preparation for Matan Torah): He had to go beyond his own limitations.

Rashi highlights this change in Yisro by the nuanced wording of his question, "What news did he {Yisro} hear that caused him **to come** (rather than saying, *come to convert*)?" : The **Torah** explains what motivated Yisro to eventually convert — he heard, "all that Hashem had done for Moshe and for Israel His people...." But Rashi asks,

שַׁעָנִיַן מ״ת הוּא (כָּמוֹ כַּיוַז במק״א בַּאַרוּכָה) בִּיטוּל שנתבאר <u>יִעַ</u>לוּ ש״תַחַתּוֹנִים עד הגזירה שֵׁהַנְּבְרַאִים לעליונים״ יצאו — מֵגִדְרַם כּנְבָרַאִים וְיִתּרוּמִמוֹ לְמַעָלַה מַזֵּה, לַעֵלִיוֹנִים – <u>ה</u>ְרֵי מָזֵּה מוּבַן, שַׁגַּם אָצֵל יִתְרוֹ (שֵׁבִּיאַתוֹ הַיָתָה הַכַנַה למ״ת) הַיָתָה עַבוֹדַה זוֹ עָם עַצְמוֹ: יִצִיאַה מִמְדִידוֹתַיו וְהַגְבַּלוֹתַיו.

״מה בּלְשׁוֹז רַשִׁ״י הדיוק וזהו שַׁמַע בּא רָלא) וּבא״ שמוּעַה וְנִתְגַּיֵּיר): **הַכַּתוּב** מִדַבּר עַל מָה שֵׁהֵבִיא אֶת יִתְרוֹ לְכָךְ שֵׁאַחֲרֵי כֵן נְתַגַּיֵּיר, וְעַל זֵה מִבַאָר ״אֶת כַּל אַשֶׁר עַשָּה אָלקים למשה ולישראל עמו גר׳״; אָבל שאַלת רש״י היא ״מה שמועה שמע ובא״: את השמועות הַנַּ״ל שֵׁמַע יִתָרוֹ בָּמִדְיַז, וְיַכוֹל הַי׳

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>52</sup> {Just like a craftsman should be credited for his work, not the tools he uses for the job.}

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>53</sup> {Keeping the spiritual and the physical realms separate.}

"What news did he hear that caused him **to come**?" Yisro had heard what Hashem had done while still in Midian, so he could have remained in Midian and converted **there**. What caused him to **come** — to leave his limitations to the extent that he journeyed to a desert waste, a desolate place?<sup>54</sup>

To address this question, Rashi clarifies: {Yisro heard of} "The Splitting of the Sea and the war with Amalek." The Splitting of the Sea was brought about by Hashem's command,<sup>55</sup> "Let them travel" — "action." The war with Amalek was caused by a deficiency in {the Jewish people's} "wisdom," when they had asked, "Is Hashem among us or not?"<sup>56</sup> Even the Jewish victory in their war against Amalek was a result of Jews "raising their eyes **on High**"<sup>57</sup> — wisdom. With these two events, Yisro "heard"<sup>58</sup> that he needed to prepare himself, through *avodah*, to go beyond his innate limitations.

Splitting of the Sea: As known, the purpose of the Splitting of the Sea was to transform the sea to dry land. This is emblematic of nullifying the limitations and barriers between concealment (sea) and revelation (dry land), as elucidated elsewhere.<sup>59</sup> This transformation served as

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לְהִישָׁאָר בְּמִדְיָן וְשָׁם לְהִתְגַּיִּיר – וא״כ מָה הֵבִיאוֹ לְכָךְ שֶׁבָּא, שֶׁיָצָא מַהַהַגְבָּלוֹת שֶׁלוֹ עַד כְּדֵי לְבוֹא לְמִדְבַּר שַׁמֵם, מַקוֹם תֹהוּ?

עַל זֶה מְכָאָר רַשָּׁ״י: ״קְרִיעַת יַם סוּף וּמִלְחֶמֶת עֲמַלִק״: קְרִיעַת יַם סוּף – שֶׁבְּאָה ע״י ״וַיִּסְעוּ״ – ״מַעֲשֶׂה״; שֶׁבְּאָה ע״י ״וַיִּסְעוּ״ – ״מַעֲשָׁה״; מִלְחֶמֶת עֲמָלֵק – שֶׁבָּאָה עֵקֶב חִסָּרוֹן הְקָרַמָּה״, שְׁאַלָתָם הְוַיֵשׁ הַוּיָ בְּקַרְבֵּנוּ אָם אָיַן, וְאַף הַנִּצְחוֹן בָּה הָי׳ ע״י ״נוּשְׂאִים עֵינֵיהָם **לְמַעְלָה**״ – תְכְמָה. וּבְּבֵ׳ עִנְיָנִים אֵלוּ רָאָה יִתְרוֹ שֶׁדְרוּשָׁה הַהַכָנָה, הַעֲבוֹדָה לָצֵאת מַהַהַגִּבָּלוֹת.

קְרִיעַת יַם סוּף: יָדוּעַ שֶׁעִנְיָנוֹ שֶׁל קְרִיעַת יַם סוּף, הָפַף יָם לְיַבָּשָׁה, הוּא בִּיטוּל הַהַגְּבָּלוֹת וְהַמְחִיצּוֹת בֵּין הַהֶעְלֵם (יָם) לְגִילוּי (יַבָּשָׁה), כַּמְבוּאָר הַהֶעְלֵם (יָם) לְגִילוּי (יַבָּשָׁה), כַּמְבוּאָר הַהֶכְנָה למ״ת שֶׁעִנְיָנוֹ ״תַּחְתּוֹנִים יַעֲלוּ לַעֶלְיוֹנִים כו׳״.

<sup>59</sup> See Torah Or and Likkutei Torah (index entry for "Kerias Yam Suf"); Sha'ar HaEmunah, ch.

<sup>54</sup> See Mechilta and Rashi's commentary on

Shemos 18:5.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>55</sup> *Shemos* 14:15 {Telling Moshe that the Jews should enter the sea}.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>56</sup> Shemos 17:7.

<sup>57</sup> See Rosh Hashanah 29a (in the Mishnah).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>58</sup> {"*Derhert*" in the original Yiddish, implying a sense of hearing strong enough to be internalized, and causing a person to act.}

a preparation for *Matan Torah*, the substance of which was, "Let those of the lower realms ascend to the upper realms...."

The war with Amalek: The *kelipah*<sup>60</sup> of Amalek represents coolness {*kerirus*}, "they happened upon you {*korcha*}<sup>61</sup> on the way."<sup>62</sup> *Coolness* primarily opposes *avodah* that is not limited by reason and understanding. A subtle level of the *kelipah* of Amalek agrees that Hashem must be served; however, it cannot consent for a person to leave his limitations, to go beyond reason and understanding. This is what the war with Amalek entailed {on a spiritual level} — breaking this *kelipah* that cools off a person's ardor for serving Hashem unrestrained by {the inherent limits of} reason and understanding.

What Yisro "heard" about these two events — the Splitting of the Sea and the war with Amalek — motivated him to **come**. "He came" connotes Yisro going beyond his limitations, forgoing his honored position as "priest of Midian," and arriving in a desolate desert, etc., in order to convert. His arrival helped to lay the groundwork for *Matan Torah*, when the decree was

מִלְּחֶמֶת עֲמָלֵק: קְלִיפַּת עֲמָלֵק הִיא עִּנְיֵן הַקְרִירוּת, אֲשֶׁר קָרְדְּ בַּדֶּרְדְ; עִנְיֵן הַקְרִירוּת מְנַגִּד בְּעִיקֵר לַעֲבוֹדָה הַקְרִירוּת מְנַגִּד בְּעִיקֵר לַעֲבוֹדָה הַלְמַעְלָה מִטַּעַם וְדַעַת – כִּי, בְּדַקוּת, מַסְכִּימָה קְלִיפַּת עֲמָלֵק שֶׁצָּרִידְ לַעֲבוֹד אֶת השי״ת, אֲבָל הִיא אֵינָה יְכוּלָה אֶת השי״ת, לְמַעְלָה מִטַּעַם וְדַעַת. וְהַהַגְּבָּלוֹת, לְמַעְלָה מִטַּעַם וְדַעַת. וְזָהוּ עִנְיֵן מִלְחֶמֶת עַמְלֵק – שְׁבִירַת וְזֶהוּ עִנְיֵן מִלְחֶמֶת עַמְלֵק – שְׁבִירַת קְלִיפַת הַקְרִירוּת לָעֲבוֹדָה שֶׁלְמַעְלָה מַטַּעַם וִדַעַת.

וְהַ״שְׁמוּעָה״ שֶׁל שְׁנֵי עִנְיָנִים אֵלוּ –
הְרִעַת יַם סוּף וּמִלְחֶמֶת עַמַלֵק –
עוֹרְרָה אֶת יִתְרוֹ שָׁיָבוֹא – ״וּבָא״ –
שִׁיָצָא מֵהַגְּבָּלוֹתָיו, עָזַב אֶת מְקוֹם בְּבוֹדוֹ כְּ״כֹּהֵן מִדְיָזִ״, וּבָא לְמִדְבַּר שְׁמַם כו׳ לְהַתְגַּיֵּיר; וְזוֹ הָיְתָה הַהַכָנָה לְמֵ״ת, שֶׁבָּה בִּימֵל הַגְּזֵירָה כו׳ –
וְתַחְתּוֹנִים יַעֲלוּ לָעֶלְיוֹנִים.

<sup>54;</sup> Sefer HaMa'amarim 5631, "Hemshech VeHecherim," p. 5.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>60</sup> {*Kelipah* translates literally as "a shell" or "a peel." The term refers to anything that conceals, and thus opposes G-dliness, just as a shell or a peel conceals the fruit within.}

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>61</sup>{The Hebrew is "*karcha*" literally meaning "happened upon you," but it is etymologically similar to "cooled you down." Chassidus talks about Amalek attempting to cool down the Jewish people's enthusiasm, replacing it with indifference and apathy.} <sup>62</sup> Devarim 25:18.

nullified, etc., so that those in the lower realms could ascend to the upper realms.

-Based on talks delivered on *Yud Shevat* and *Shabbos parshas Yisro*, 5724 (1964)