

**EMUNAH - FAITH
BULLETIN # 25**

**WHO IS WEALTHY? THE ONE WHO
IS HAPPY WITH HIS PORTION (PIRKE AVOT)**

***THE RAMCHAL EXPLAINS THE FOUNDATIONS OF EMUNAH
IN HIS SEFER DAAT TEVUNOT***

AN ADDITIONAL FACTOR IS THE TEST OF THE RIGHTEOUS PROVIDED BY THE EVIL — NOT IN THE SENSE OF TEMPTATION TO SIN, WHICH WE HAVE ALREADY SPOKEN OF, BUT THE TEST ITSELF WHICH ARISES FROM THE CREATOR'S CONCEALING HIS COUNTENANCE. FOR DID NOT G-D DECLARE THROUGH ALL OF HIS PROPHETS THAT IT IS HE WHO SUPERINTENDS ALL OF HIS CREATURES AND THAT HIS EYES ARE ON ALL THE WAYS OF MAN, TO REQUITE EACH MAN ACCORDING TO HIS WAYS AND. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FRUITS OF HIS ACTIONS, A G-D OF FAITH, WITHOUT WRONG? AND, AFTER HAVING TOLD US ALL THIS, HE CONDUCTS HIS WORLD THROUGH DEEP MANIPULATION AND "COUNSEL FROM AFAR," WHICH BETOKEN, OSTENSIBLY, THE OPPOSITE OF ALL THIS, G-D FORBID.

For at certain times it seems as if all is in the hands of a completely gratuitous chance, and at others, as if the workers of evil have been upraised, and the men of valor, the servants of G-d, have not received the rewards of their efforts and labors. How many cry out and are not heard! And consider all of the other situations created by G-d with which to try the hearts of men. This is what is alluded to by King David in (Psalms 73:2-Th "And, as for me, my feet almost slipped. - for I envied the revelers..." And this is precisely the test — to see if men will remain strong in their faith and not deviate from the firm conviction in their heart, which will enable them to say: "He is certainly a G-d of faith, without wrong, even though we do not understand His ways." And it is in this respect that it is written (Habakkuk2:4): "And the righteous one will live in his faith," as we have already explained above.

There is great gain to be derived, then, from the concealment of the Supreme perfection, and G-d has left room for evil to darken the face of the world for a test as great as this. Consider, in light of this, how beloved by the Blessed One will be those righteous men who withstand such a trial, and how great will be the reward for their Divine service in time to come. And it is in the realm of the Blessed One's honor that even the great darkness of the concealment of the countenance of His goodness redounds to His glory and results in many-fold reward to the righteous.

BS'D

This evil, however, is destined to result in good only through these mechanisms that we mentioned, the wheel of cause and effect that turn everything towards the good. We have already mentioned that this evil, in isolation from these mechanisms, is, indeed, evil and bitter, destruction and loss. However, within the framework of these mechanisms, it, too, may be regarded as one of man's needs and as one of the essential complements of his being. For though in terms of its essential nature it is, indeed, exclusively a force for the working of evil, yet, in combination with all of the mechanisms established by the Creator for the attainment of perfection, it exists only to be vanquished, as we explained. Man must be invested with the evil inclination and with all of the evil lusts, not to be swayed by them, but to subdue them and rid himself of them. With all this, it does not lose its evil nature, but this, too, is a good — that evil form part of a man's being, as we explained. And this evil does not, in itself, effect loss and defectiveness in a man — this by virtue of the positive components of man's nature, as we explained. Ultimately, however, when the true fruit of these mechanisms, for which they were originally established, will eventually emerge, it will reveal itself as the eradication of evil itself from existence and the perfection of all imperfection.

We find, then, that when the Creator established His world, as we explained, He invested in it all that was necessary for this first stage of man, the time of Divine service. He then originated evil in the fullness of its nature and its powers, in isolation, possessing as many powers and parts as those of Divine service and perfection relating to man. Afterwards, He completed His work by creating all of the mechanisms that we mentioned, designed to do all that is necessary for the removal of this evil, to lift man through his ascents, and to fill all of the other needs of his perfection and good. Within this framework, evil is not given free vent to exercise all its powers, but, on the contrary, is vulnerable to all the forces that the Blessed One created for the eradication of evil. And it is within this context that this lowly world and humanity were subsequently created. The result is that the entire quality of good (the generality of all of these heavenly mechanisms that we mentioned) as well as the quality of evil itself, both are instruments for good in the construct of man. The end result of the whole is the emergence of the fruit of the entire process the universal perfection. But as long as this process has not been completed, although evil, too, is intended for man's good — to be vanquished by him it can also be to his detriment, G-d forbid, if he does not vanquish it. For then, evil and not perfection will gain the ascendancy. But at the end of the process, when evil will have been eradicated, the tranquility of the creation will be eternal, never ceasing. When their intellect was stimulated by an abundance of illumination, they found pleasure in wisdom alone and in what was truly good; but when their intellect is not so stimulated, they recognize nothing as good but these earthly vanities. And this is the evil that resulted from Adam's sin — the removal of providence and radiance from the human species, so that they remained steeped in gross, material elements alone. The Holy One, Blessed be He, indeed, corrected this state at the giving of the Law, but they reverted to it through the sin of the golden calf and through others, so that the world remained in the darkness of illusory natural processes.

“Everything Hashem does, He does for good.” (Berachot 60b)

Our sages said (Chulin 7b), "A person does not bruise his finger unless it was decreed in Heaven,"