TORAH OHR · PARSHAS LECH LECHA · MAAMAR 2

פי' מגן אברהם. דהנה נודע שאברהם הוא...

"I am a shield to you": the meaning of "Shield of Avraham"

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DEDICATED IN HONOR OF

מוקדש לכבוד הגאון המקובל רבי לוי יצחק שניאורסאהן זצ"ל

Dedicated in honor of the Rebbe's father, Reb Levi Yitzchok

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THE CHASSIDISHE PARSHA
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1 (אנכי מגן לך). פי' מגן אברהם. דהנה נודע שאברהם הוא בחי' חסד גדול עד מאד בלי שום מונע וכולם טובים בעיניו והוא רק טוב

("I am a shield to you.") This means "the Shield of Avraham." For it is known that Avraham is the level of an exceedingly great Chesed (kindness), without any restraint at all; all are good in his eyes, and he is only good.

ולכן אמר לו ישמעאל יחיה לפניך שפי' שיחיה לעד לפניך שהוא בחי' א"ס בלי גבול ואעפ"י [ואף על פי]

Therefore he said, "O that Yishmael might live before You," which means that he should live forever before You, which is the level of the endless (ein sof), without limit. And even though

שהוא יודע מהו ישמעאל אעפ"כ [אף על פי כן] מחמת חסד גדול וטובו הגדול רוצה שיחיה ולא זו בלבד אלא שרצה שיחיה לחסד בלי גבול.

he knows what Yishmael is, nevertheless, because of [his] great kindness and his great goodness, he wants him to live; and not only this, but he wanted him to live by a kindness without limit.

2 וזהו דאיתא לא כאברהם שיצא ממנו ישמעאל ויצא מחמת רוב חסדו. אבל באמת אין מהראוי כן.

And this is what is taught: "Not like Avraham, from whom Yishmael came forth"; and he came forth because of the abundance of his kindness. But in truth this is not fitting.

דהנה בביאת משיח אי"ה [אם ירצה השם] כתיב בלע המות לנצח. ואת רוח הטומאה אעביר מן הארץ. וצריך לבער כל הרע מן הארץ

For of the coming of Mashiach, G-d willing, it is written, "He will swallow up death forever," and "I will remove the spirit of impurity from the land"; and all the evil must be eradicated from the land.

ואם יתנהג העולם בחסדו הגדול כנ"ל לא היה העולם יכולים לבא למדרגה הנ"ל של משיח.

And if the world were to be conducted by his great kindness, as said above, the world would not be able to come to the aforementioned level of Mashiach.

ולכן בא יצחק בחי' דין ואף יצחק יצא ממנו עשו מחמת דינו הקשה על חרבך תחיה. אך יעקב היתה מטתו שלימה:

Therefore Yitzchak came, the level of judgment; yet from Yitzchak, too, Eisav came forth, because of his harsh judgment: "By your sword shall you live." But Yaakov's bed was complete.

3 והנה נודע כי מגן נק' דבר המכסה למשל במלחמה נק' מגן מה שמכסה בו שלא ישלוט עליו הקשת.

Now, it is known that a shield (magen) is the name for something that covers; for example, in war, what one covers oneself with, so that the bow will not prevail over him, is called a shield.

והנה כתיב כי שמש ומגן ה' אלקים שכמו שהשמש אם לא היה לו נרתק לא היו יכולים לסבול אורו הגדול והנרתק הוא המגין שנוכל לסבול.

Now it is written, "For a sun and a shield is Havayah Elokim." That is: just as with the sun, if it had no sheath [people] could not bear its great light, and the sheath is what shields, so that we can bear [it].

וזהו לעתיד לבא הקב"ה מוציא חמה מנרתקה וצדיקים מתהנים בה ורשעים נדונים בה.

And this is [the meaning of the teaching that] in the Time to Come the Holy One, blessed be He, will take the sun out of its sheath, and the righteous will benefit from it and the wicked will be judged by it.

4 והנה נודע שבכל בוקר דאברהם בחי' חסד מתעורר בעולם וישכם אברהם בבוקר וכדאיתא בזוה"ק [בזוהר הקדוש] והקב"ה רוצה להנהיג את העולם בבחי' חסד.

Now, it is known that every morning [the quality] of Avraham, the level of Chesed (kindness), is aroused in the world, [as it is written,] "And Avraham rose early in the morning," and as is taught in the holy Zohar; and the Holy One, blessed be He, wishes to conduct the world with the level of kindness.

אם לא היה מגן לבחי' חסד הנ"ל לצמצם חסדו וטובו ולתת דרך צמצום כמו שצריך רק להחיות הקליפות מפני שצריכין בשביל סטרא דקדושה שיהיה אתהפכא חשוכא לנהורא כידוע.

[But] were there no shield for the aforementioned level of kindness, to contract His kindness and goodness and to give by way of tzimtzum (contraction) just as much as is needed merely to give life to the kelipos (the husks), since they are needed for the sake of the side of holiness, so that there be a transformation of darkness into light, as is known;

ואם לא היה דרך צמצום היה חיותם בלי גבול ולא היו יכולים לבער הרע מן הארץ.

and were it not by way of tzimtzum, their life-force would be without limit, and it would not be possible to eradicate the evil from the land.

ולכן בכל בוקר כשמתעורר מדת אברהם מדת חסד כנ"ל אנו צריכין לברך ברכת מגן אברהם. מגין שיעשה מגין לבחי' אברהם הנ"ל לטובתינו:

Therefore every morning, when the attribute of Avraham, the attribute of kindness, is aroused, as said above, we must recite the blessing "Shield of Avraham": a shield, meaning that He make a shield for the aforementioned level of Avraham, for our good.

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THE CHASSIDISHE PARSHA

About this edition

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The Rebbe asked that the maamarim of the week's parsha, the "Chassidishe Parsha," be learned during that week, spread over its seven days (Sichah of Shabbos Parshas Vayakhel 5725 · Toras Menachem vol. 42, pp. 306–309). Why learn it, and the Rebbe's brachos: likuteitorah.com/about/the-chassidishe-parsha/

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