



THE INCREDIBLE POWER OF *TEFILLAH*

Our *parashah* teaches us how HaKadosh Baruch Hu tells Moshe Rabbeinu that he will pass from This World; the language the Torah uses here is very specific: *בְּעֵצָם הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה* — *In the essence of this day...* (*Devarim* 32:48).

Rashi points out a fascinating thing from Chazal. This very distinct language is used two other times: once when Noach and his family entered the *Teivah*, and a second time when Klal Yisrael left Mitzrayim. Each of the times that this language is used, it is coming to tell us that these occurrences happened openly, in the middle of the day, in front of everyone.

The emphasis is that even if people who wanted to stop it were there, in broad daylight, it still took place because Hashem willed it so.

In *Mishchas Shemen*, Rav Chaim Kaufman *zt'l* brings the following important question. In the case of Noach, we can appreciate that the generation tried very much to stop him and his family from entering the *Teivah*, yet, as much as they tried, it was to no avail. Likewise, when Klal Yisrael left Mitzrayim, even if among their enemies were those who wished them to stay, Hashem took them out in front of everyone's eyes — as they were unable to prevent them from leaving.

Yet, who would have tried to prevent Moshe's passing? How can we even understand the simple explanation of this idea? Remarkably, as Rav Kaufman brings from the *Chiddushei HaRim*: Klal Yisrael knew how powerful *tefillah* can be, and they would have tried to daven their hearts out for Moshe to remain alive. Knowing of *tefillah*'s immense power, if not for the fact that Hashem Yisbarach said *in the essence of the day* that Moshe's pure *neshamah* would leave This World, perhaps their *tefillos* could have changed nature itself and allowed Moshe to remain with them longer! *For such is the overwhelming power of a Yid's heartfelt tefillos.*

In a similar vein, Rav Meilech Biederman explains a quite perplexing Gemara in *Meseches Kesubos* at the end of Chapter 12. The Gemara says that when Rebbi, Rabbeinu HaKadosh, left This World, the Rabbanan made a strong statement: Whoever reveals that Rebbi was *niftar* should be punished. But why? Says the *Shita Mekubetzes*, at that time Klal Yisrael were pouring their hearts out to Hashem Yisbarach for Rebbi's *refuah*; thus, if the *Yidden*, thinking Rebbi was still alive, would continue to rip through the heavens with their *tefillos*...*who knows* — *in the zechus of their powerful tefillos, maybe Rebbi would come back to life!*

Adds Rav Meilech, if this is the unbelievable power of *tefillah* after a person has already left This World, can we

imagine what the power of *tefillah* has to save a person from harm, when the person, *baruch Hashem*, is alive and well in This World?! Thus, during these days, when the heavens are more open to our *tefillos* than they are all year round, it truly behooves us to utilize this precious opportunity to daven and daven some more.

(*Be'ezras Hashem*, I am including an excerpt from the new *sefer*, *Eternal Treasure*):

A young man who was on his way back to *Yiddishkeit* visited the Kosel, dressed in a baseball cap and jeans. He stood there, pouring out his heart to HaKadosh Baruch Hu, as a yeshivah bachur looked on. The bachur continued to watch as the irreligious young man placed a slip of paper between the ancient stones.

Overcome with curiosity, the bachur waited until the young man was on his way out of the Kosel plaza, and he then pulled out the paper. This is what he read:

"G-d, I am dying to know the score of my team's game today. Can You please help me find out if Team X won? I have no way to reach America now."

The bachur whipped out his cellphone and called his brother to ask the score. Hearing that the boy's team had won, the bachur sought him out among his friends as he was making his way to the bus.

"Hey, are you by any chance a fan of Team X?" the bachur asked, feigning innocence.

"Yes, I am!" the boy responded, taken aback.

The bachur responded with a big smile, "Guess what! They won!"

The young man was overwhelmed with joy. He looked upward and thanked Hashem. Not only had he found out the score, but his team had even won!

That night, proud of his shtick, the bachur shared the story with his rebbi, expecting him to have a good laugh with him. Instead, his rebbi's face turned pale.

"Rebbi, what is it? Why are you so shocked? Wasn't that the best shtick ever?"

His rebbi replied in all seriousness, "You don't even begin to understand what happened here. *You were the messenger of HaKadosh Baruch Hu to answer a young man's heartfelt tefillah.* Your so-called shtick was actually the fulfillment of Hashem's will."