



ט"ז אלול תשפ"ז

HASHEM IS ALWAYS THERE

Perhaps the most powerful and moving part of the entire *Eichah* is the *pasuk* describing the overwhelming kindness of Hashem that never ever ends; it appears in the midst of all the trials and tribulations that Klal Yisrael, R'l, endured after the *Churban*:

חסדי ה' כי לא תמנו כי לא כלו רחמיו — *The kindness of Hashem, because it does not end, for His compassion never finishes....*

I find this to be so moving because it reveals to us the truth of truths: No matter how dark and bleak the situation a *Yid* is found in, R'l, Hashem is there, always and forever.

This past Tishah B'Av, Rav Meir Warsager *shlita*, of the Mirrer Yeshiva in Yerushalayim, shared something phenomenal in this vein: Chazal teach us in *Meseches Yoma* that the *Shemonah Esrei* had been instituted originally using three descriptions of HaKadosh Baruch Hu — הגדול הגבור והנורא; however, Yirmiyahu excised הגבור at a certain point, and Daniel removed הנורא as well — for they felt that since great persecutions from the non-Jews against Klal Yisrael had eventually brought about the *churban* of the Beis HaMikdash, R'l, they were not able to express those two descriptions at that time. Their *tefillah* was so truthful that if they could not see the *gevurah* and *norah* with their eyes during those most difficult days of *churban*, R'l, they felt they were not permitted to use those distinct expressions; thus, they omitted them, and the Anshei Knesses HaGedolah later returned them all to the *Shemonah Esrei*.

Rav Warsager pointed out that we must notice clearly how the expression of הגדול, which really refers to the kindness of HaKadosh Baruch Hu, was never taken out at any point! For even if there are *churban* and *galus*, R'l, the kindness of Hashem continues throughout; there is never ever a time when the kindness cannot be seen at all.

That is the meaning, Rav Meir explained beautifully, in that which Dovid HaMelech expresses: *Hodu LaHashem ki tov ki li'olam chasdo! Thank Hashem, for it is good, for His kindness is forever!* No matter what

is going on at any point in history, no matter how dark and how hidden Hashem's Presence is, His kindness is always there, if one just opens his eyes.

My *chavrusa*, Rav Yehuda Tzvi Kurzrock *shlita* shared an unbelievable point from the Chida on our *parashah* that fits this theme: The number of words in the *parashah* of the *Tochacha* is 676, which is the *gematria* of *רעות*, evils. At the same time, within that *parashah* itself, the Name of Hashem is found 26 times. The Name of Hashem has the *gematria* of 26, which means 26 times the *gematria* of Hashem's Name has the exact *gematria* of 676!

This comes to teach us something unbelievable: Even in the darkest of times, times when there is, Hashem *yerachaim*, *tochacha* and punishment... Hashem is always there, no matter what, and Hashem is saving every *Yid* from that darkness itself.

The Chida then added: The people of Hashem are *tzadikim*, and that which we see in the *gematrias* above is hinted to in a *pasuk* that we say every Shabbos:

רבות רעות צדיק ומכולם יצילנו ה' — *Many evils [befall] the tzaddik, and from all of them Hashem saves... (Tehillim 34:18)*. The many *רעות*, evils, in this *pasuk*, R'l, hint to all that is brought in the *Tochacha* — but when the end of the *pasuk* says that Hashem (using the Name of *Rachamim*) will save the *tzaddik*, that is alluded to in the 26 times that Hashem is clearly found in that *Tochacha* itself! For Hashem is there in the *Tochacha*; and Hashem never lets go of His children....

Rav Leibish Langer's late saintly father, who survived the horrors of the Holocaust, was visiting a Holocaust museum when he overheard a conversation. A woman, looking at all the records of the atrocities perpetrated at that time, asked aloud, "But where was G-d?!" Rav Langer's father stood up and walked over to that woman, and in his broken accent said to her, "I was there, and G-d was right next to me the whole time... saving me and allowing me to pick myself up and build a family once again!!!"

B'Siyata DiShmaya.