

צִיּוֹן בִּמִשִׁפָּט תִּפָּדָה וִשְׁבֵיהָ בִצִּדָקָה

Introduction

This profound discourse by the Alter Rebbe (Rabbi Schneur Zalman of Liadi, 1745–1812), founder of Chabad Chassidus and author of the *Tanya* and *Shulchan Aruch HaRav*, explores the deeper meaning of the verse "צְּיֹלְיָהָ הַּבְּצְּדָקָה "— "Zion shall be redeemed through justice, and her captives through righteousness" (Yeshayahu 1:27). Delivered in a classic meditative Chabad style, the maamar delves into the levels of inner divine service, the exile and redemption of the G-dly soul within the animal soul, and the transformative power of Torah and mitzvos. It traverses deep kabbalistic concepts — including *pnimiyus halev*, sovev and memalei kol almin, berachah, and Zion as the spark of pure divine connection — to illuminate the path of spiritual return and transformation.

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"Zion will be redeemed through justice, and her captives through righteousness." (See Midrash Rabbah on Mishpatim ch. 30, and on Parshas Eikev regarding "and He will guard the kindness...") Behold, it is written: "And these words which I command you today," meaning that each day they should be in your eyes as if new. But how can one come to such a state, that the words of Torah are truly as new each day? This can be understood by first prefacing the reason for the descent of souls from above—souls that previously existed in a higher realm.

And the "bird" [mentioned in creation] is Michael, etc. But the souls that were drawn from the level of Divine thought preceded the six days of creation. As our Sages said (Bereishis Rabbah 1:4): "With whom did He consult? With the souls of the righteous." And not only the righteous—but as it is written: "And your people are all righteous." The descent of the soul into a body is for the sake of ascent.

To understand the meaning of this ascent—since they already "ascended in thought"—we can explain based on the prayer "My G-d, the soul You have given me is pure," which appears at the beginning of daily prayer, even before the blessing of "Asher Yatzar," as stated in Berachos 60b: "When one awakens from sleep he says: 'My G-d, the soul..." The phrase "is pure" refers to the level of Tahiru Ila'ah (Supernal Purity).

צִיּוֹן בְּמִשְׁפָּט תִּפָּדָה וְשָׁבֶּיהָ בִצְּדָקָה. (ע׳ רַבּוֹת מִשְׁפָּטים פ״ל וּבְפּ׳ עֵקֶב גַּבֵּי וְשָׁמֵר כו׳ הַחֶּסֶד) הִנֵּה כְּתִיב וְהָיוּ הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה אֲשֶׁר אָנֹכִי מְצַוְּךּ הַיּוֹם, פְּיִרוּשׁ קֵאִי עַל כָּל יוֹם, כִּי בְּכָל יוֹם יִהְיוּ בְּעֵינְיךְ בַּחְדָשִׁים. אֲבָל אֵיךְ יָבוֹא לְזֶּה שֶׁיִהְיֶה בֵּוֹ? וְיוּבַן בְּהַקְדִים כִּי הִנֵּה תַּכְלִית יְרִידַת הַנְּשָׁמוֹת מִלְּמַעְלָה שֶׁהְיִּוּ שָׁם מִקּוֹדֶם שׁי״ב, כִּי הַמַּלְאָכִים שֻׁנִּתְהַווּ שְׁבַלְּה בְּרַאשִׁית בְּרוּחַ פִּיו יִתְבָּרֵךְ י״א בַּשֵׁנִי וְי״א בְּשֵׁנִי וְי״א בַּחֲמִישִׁי, וְעוֹף יִעוֹפֵּף כו׳

ְעוֹף זֶה מִיכָאֵל כו׳. אֲבָל הַנְּשָׁמוֹת שֶׁנִּמְשְׁכוּ מִבְּחִינַת מַחֲשָׁבָה הָיוּ קוֹדֶם שׁי״ב, וּכְמָ״ר בְּמִי נִמְלַךְּ בְּנִשְׁמוֹתֵיהֶן שֶׁל צַדִּיקִים. וְלֹא צַדִּיקִים לְבַד, אֶלָא כְּדְכְתִיב וְעַמֵּךְ כֻּלָּם צַדִּיקִים. וְיְרִידָתָן בְּגוּף הוּא צֹרֶךְ עֲלָיָה.

וּלְהָבִין עִנְיַן הָעֲלִיָּה מֵאַחַר שֶׁגַּם בְּלָא הָכִי עָלוּ בַּמַּחֲשָׁבָה, הָנֵּה יֵשׁ לוֹמֵר פֵּירוּשׁ נְשָׁמָה שֶׁנְּתַתָּ בִּי טְהוֹרָה הִיא כו', וְהוּא תְּחִלֵּת הַתְּפִלָּה גַּם לְדֶם לַאֲשֶׁר יָצַר, כְּמָ"שׁ בַּגְּמָרָא פ' בַּתְרָא דְּבְרָכוֹת ד"ס ע"ב, כִּי מִתְעַיֵּיר מִשְׁנָתֵיה אוֹמֵר אֱלֹהֵי נְשָׁמָה שַׁנַּתַתַּ בִּי טָהוֹרָה היא כו'

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And afterwards we say: "You created it," which refers to beriah—creation yesh me'ayin, something from nothing. "You breathed it into me"—this refers to the soul's inner investment into the body to give it life. "You preserve it within me"—this preservation is a surrounding influence (makif) similar to how the Infinite Light (Ohr Ein Sof) includes both Sovev Kol Almin and Memalei Kol Almin.

פֵּירוּשׁ טְהוֹרָה הִיא מִבְּחִינַת טָהִירוּ עִילָאָה, וְאַחַ״כ אַתָּה בְרָאתָה, פֵּירוּשׁ בְּרִיאָה הַיְנוּ יֵשׁ מֵאַיִן, עַד נְפַחְתָּה בִּי – הִתְלַבְּשׁוּת הַנְּשָׁמָה בְּתוֹכִיּוּת הַגוּף לְהַחֲיוֹתוֹ. וְאַתָּה מְשַׁמְּרָה שֶׁלֹא תֵצֵא מִן הַגוּף, וְהוּא בִּבְחִינַת מַקִּיף.

Similarly, the light of the Infinite One (Ein Sof) surrounds all worlds (sovev) and fills all worlds (memalei), not in the sense that sovev is above and distant, but that in every place it also fills from within, like vitality that becomes clothed within the created being. And sovev also hovers above in the form of preservation—preventing the life-force from ceasing and departing. (See also the explanation on the verse "You have captivated my heart, my sister..." [Shir HaShirim 4:9].)

וְכָךְ אוֹר אֵין סוֹף בָּרוּדְ־הוּא סוֹבֵב כָּל עַלְמִין וּמְמֵלֵּא כָל עַלְמִין. וְלֹא שֶׁהַסוֹבֵב מִלְמַעְלָה רַק שֶׁבְּכָל אַתְרָא וּפִינָה הוּא מְמֵלֵא, כְּהִתְלַבְּשׁוּת הַחֵּיוּת בַּנִּבְרָא, וְסוֹבֵב מִלְמַעְלָה בִּבְחִינַת שְׁמִירָה שֶׁלֹּא יִפָּסֵק הַחַיּוּת וְיֵצֵא כו׳. וְעַיֵּן מַה שֶׁכָּתוּב בִּביאוּר עַל פַּסוּק לִבּבְתנִי אֲחוֹתי.

And behold: "As long as the soul is within me, I offer thanks..."
— for each individual is able to give thanks to Hashem. But afterward, one says "Blessed are You, Hashem," which is a higher level than gratitude. To understand this — what is gratitude (hoda'ah)? For example, "The sages admit to Rabbi Meir," meaning they first disagreed, and then conceded. How can such a formulation be used toward Him, may He be blessed?

וְהָבֵּה כָּל זְמַן שֶׁהַנְּשָׁמָה בְּקּרְבִּי מוֹדֶה אֲנִי שֶׁכָּל אֶחָד וְאֶחָד יָכוֹל לְהוֹדוֹת לַה׳, אֲבָל אַחִ״כ צָרִיף לוֹמֵר בָּרוּף אַתָּה ה׳, וְהוּא מַדְרֵגָה גְּבוֹהָה יוֹתֵר מִבְּחִינַת הַהוֹדָאָה. וּלְהָבִין זֶה וּמַהוּ הוֹדָאָה – כִּי מוֹדִים חֲכָמִים לְרַבִּי מֵאִיר, לְפִי שֶׁמְחוּלָקִים תְּחִלֶּה. וְאֵיף ?שׁיֵּיך לוֹמֵר כִּן נָגִדּוֹ יִתְבַּרך

The answer: Since we who dwell below say that creation is something-from-nothing — that the heavens and earth and all we see are tangible "existents," and what is above is "nothing" (*ayin*). But from His perspective, the opposite is true: before Him, all is reckoned as nothing — *kulah kamei k'lo chashiv* (Daniel 4:32), and the lower something is, the more it is nothing and null. He alone is the true existence (*yesh amiti*).

אֲבָל כִּי אֲנַחָנוּ שׁוֹכְנֵי מַטָּה אוֹמְרִים שֶׁהַבְּרִיאָה הוּא יֵשׁ מֵאַיִן, שֶׁשָּׁמִים וָאָרֶץ וּשְׁמֵי הַשְּׁמִים דְּבָר הַיֵּשׁ הַנְּרְאֶה לְעֵינֵינוּ, וּמַה שֶׁלְּמִעְלָה הוּא הָאַיִן. אֲבָל אֶצְלוֹ יִתְבָּרַךְ הוּא בְּהֶפֶּךְ מִן מַה שֶׁנְּרְאָה לְעֵינֵינוּ, כִּי כֵּלָא קַמֵּיה כְּלָא מַמָּשׁ חֲשִׁיב, וְכָל מַה שֶׁלְמַטָּה הוּא יוֹתֵר כְּלָא וְכְאַיִן, וְהוּא יִתְבָּרֵךְ הוּא הַיֵּשׁ הָאְמִיתִּי. (וְעַיֵן מַה שֶׁבָּתוּב מִזֶּה בְּד״ה בְּשָׁעָה שֶׁהְקְדִּימוּ (יִשְׂרָאֵל נַעֲשֶׂה וְסַד״ה כִּי תִשְׁמַע בְּקוֹל

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This is the meaning of *Modim anachnu* — "we give thanks" — namely that we acknowledge that truth is as it is in His knowledge. Every Jew possesses this quality of *hoda'ah*, but still, gratitude is from afar — meaning that the individual is not actually close to what he is acknowledging, but only connects through faith, which is a crown and surrounds (i.e., *makif*).

ְעַל זֶה אָנוּ אוֹמְרִים מוֹדִים אֲנַחָנוּ, שֶׁאָנוּ מוֹדִים שֶׁהָצֵמֶת הוּא כְּמוֹ שֶׁהוּא בִּידִיעָתוֹ יִתְבָּרַךְ. וְכָל אֶחָד וְאֶחָד מִיִשְׂרָאֵל יֵשׁ בּוֹ בְּחִינַת הוֹדָאָה זוֹ. אֲבָל עַל כָּל פָּנִים, הַהוֹדָאָה הוּא מֵרָחוֹק – דְּהַיְנוּ שֶׁבְּעַצְמוֹ אֵינוֹ אֵצֶל וְסָמוּךְ לָזֶה שֶׁמוֹדָה, אֶלֶּא בִּרְחִינַת אֱמוּנָה, שָׁהִיא בָּחִינַת עֲטַרָה וּמַקִּיף.

Therefore, even a thief, at the moment of breaking into a home (afum machtarta), calls upon G-d's mercy — "Rachmana kari" — showing that he believes in the Master's power, etc. But berachah (blessing) is something revealed. Like Yishmael saying, "Bless me," or the verse "Blessed is Hashem from the hidden world to the revealed world," meaning a flow from the concealed realm (alma d'is'kasya) to the revealed (alma d'isgalia).

וְלָכֵן גַּנְבָּא אֲפּוּם מַחְתַּרְתָּא רַחֲמָנָא לָרֵי, הָרֵי שֶׁמֵּאֲמִין בִּיכֹלֶת רִבּוֹנוֹ שֶׁל עוֹלֶם כו׳. אֲבֶל בְּרָכָה הוּא גִּילוּי. וּכְמוֹ יִשְׁמָעֵאל בְּנִי בָּרְכַנִי, וְכָךְ בָּרוּךְ ה׳ מִן הָעוֹלֶם וְעַד הָעוֹלֶם כו׳ – שֻׁנִּמְשֶׁךְ מִן עוֹלֶם דְּאִתְבַּסְיָא עַד עוֹלֶם דְּאִתְגַּלְיָא

And this is accomplished through: "And these words that I command you today..." — that through mitzvos and Torah, one draws revelation into the soul. (As it is stated in *Sifrei*: "Through this, you recognize the One who spoke and brought the world into being." And see the discourse *Veyadata hayom* on "the righteous shall live by his faith.")

ְהַיְנוּ עַל־יְדֵי וְהָיוּ הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה אֲשֶׁר אָנֹכִי מְצַוְּהְ הַיּוֹם כו׳ – שֶׁעַל־יְדֵי מִצְוֹת וְתוֹרָה מֵּמְשִׁיכִים גִּילּוּי בַּנֶּפֶשׁ. (וּכְמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב בְּסִפְּרֵי: שֶׁמִּתּוֹךְ כָּךְ אַתָּה מַכִּיר אֶת מִי שֶׁאָמַר וְהָיָה הָעוֹלָם. וְעַיֵּן מַה שֶׁכָּתוּב (.בְּד״ה וְיָדַעָתָּ הַיּוֹם בְּעִנְיַן בָּאֱמוּנָתוֹ יִחְיֶה

First one must reach "And you shall love..." — for through that, afterward in Shemoneh Esrei, come the *berachos* and flows of "Blessed are You..." That is, between the state of *hoda'ah* (thanks) and *berachah* (blessing), there must be *ahavah* (love).

וּמִתְּחָלֶּה צָרִיךְ לוֹמֵר וְאָהַבְתָּ כו׳, שֶׁעַל־יְדֵי זֶה אַחַ״כ בִּשְׁמוֹנֶה עֶשְׂרֵה – בְּרָכוֹת וְהַמְשְׁכוֹת בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה כו׳. הַיְנוּ שָׁבֵּין בְּחִינַת הוֹדָאָה לְבְחִינַת בְּרָכָה, .הוּא בִּחִינַת אַהַבָּה כו׳

(See also regarding *berachah* in the discourse *Re'eh anochi nosein lifneichem hayom berachah*, which is the level of *re'iyah* (sight), the level of *bitul* (self-nullification) etc. Also see the discourse *Bayom hashmini atzeres* on the topic of coming from the level of bowing (*keri'ah*) to the level of prostration (*hishtachavayah*) — which represents *bitul* — and this is the level of Shemoneh Esrei, as explained in the discourse *Hashamayim kis'i*. Therefore, the intermediary between them is the level of *ahavah*.)

ְעַיֵּן מַה שֶׁכָּתוּב בְּעַנְיֵן בְּרָכָה בְּד״ה רְאֵה אָנֹכִי)
נוֹתֵן לְפְנֵיכֶם הַיּוֹם בְּרָכָה, שֶׁהוּא בְּחִינַת רְאִיָּה,
בְּחִינַת בִּיטוּל כו׳ ע״ש. וְעַיֵּן מַה שֶׁכָּתוּב בְּד״ה בֵּיוֹם
הַשְּׁמִינִי עֲצֶרֶת בְּעִנְיַן לָבוֹא מִבְּחִינַת כְּרִיעָה לְבְּחִינַת
הָשְׁמַוֹנָאָה הוּא בְּחִינַת בִּיטוּל, וְהוּא
בְּחִינַת שְׁמוֹנָה עֶשְׂרֵה, כְּמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב סַד״ה הַשָּׁמִיִם
(.כִּסְאִי. וְלָכֵן הַמְּמוֹצֶע בֵּינִיהֶם הוּא בְּחִינַת אַהָבָה

(ב)

צִיוֹן בְּמִשָׁפָט תִּפָּדָה וְשַׁבֵיהַ בִצְּדָקָה

And behold, in order to reach the level of "And you shall love," it is through contemplation on "Shema Yisrael" and on "Baruch Shem Kevod..." The explanation is as follows: Creation is *yesh mei 'ayin* (something from nothing), as expressed in "Baruch Shem Kevod Malchuso," meaning that His kingship—by which He is called "King over them"—is not His Essence, but rather the force that gives life to all the upper worlds.

וְהָבֵּה כְּדֵי שֶׁיָּבוֹא לִבְּחִינַת וְאָהַבְתָּ הוּא עַל־יְדֵי הַתְּבּוֹנְנוּת שְׁמֵע יִשְׂרָאֵל וּבְשֶׁכֵּמְל״ו. פֵּירוּשׁ: כִּי הִבֵּה הַבְּרִיאָה הִיא יֵשׁ מֵאַיִן, פֵּירוּשׁ כְּמָ״שׁ בִּשְׁכַּמְל״ו שָׁבָּחִינַת מַלְכוּתוֹ, מַה שָׁנָּקְרָא מֶלֶךְ עֲלֵיהֶם – שָׁאֵינוֹ בְּחִינַת עַצְמוּתוֹ – הוּא הַמְחַיֶּה כָּל עוֹלָמוֹת עֶלְיוֹנִים.

"And Your rulership" refers to a level *below* kingship—He rules over them against their will, not with their consent. This is an external aspect of His attribute of Kingship, and it exists in every generation. For there are generations of wicked people, like the generation of the Flood, who did not accept His Kingship willingly—and still, they received abundant life-force from this level of "And Your rulership..."

וּמַמְשַׁלְתְּדְ הוּא לְמַטָּה מִבְּחִינַת הַמְּלוּכָה, שֶׁהוּא מוֹשֵׁל בַּעַל כָּרְחָן, שֶׁלֹּא בְּטוֹבָתוּ, וְהוּא חִיצוֹנִיוּת מִדְּת מַלְכוּתוֹ יִתְבָּרֵדְ, הוּא בְּכָל דּוֹר וָדוֹר – שֶׁיֵשׁ דּוֹרוֹת שֶׁהָיוּ רְשָׁעִים, כְּמוֹ דּוֹר הַמַּבּוּל כו' שֶׁלֹא קִבְּלוּ עוֹל מַלְכוּתוֹ בִּרְצוֹן, וְאַף־עַל־פִּי־כֵן נִמְשַׁךְ לָהֶם חַיּוּת רַב מִבְּחִינַת מַמְשַׁלְתְּדְ כו'

Behold, all the worlds—both upper realms and lower—Gan Eden haTachton (the Lower Garden of Eden), which offers a wondrous delight far exceeding this world (as our Sages said: "Better to be judged..." etc.), and Gan Eden haElyon (the Higher Garden of Eden), and yet higher levels without end—were all created from this attribute of His Kingship.

וְהָבֵּה כָּל הָעוֹלָמוֹת – עֶלְיוֹנִים, גַּן־עֵדֶן תַּחְתוֹן שֶׁהוּא תַּעֲנוּג נִפְלָא מֵעוֹלָם הַזֶּה, עַד שֶׁאָמְרוּ רַזַ״ל מוּטָב דְּלִידוֹנֵי׳ כו׳, וְגַּן־עֵדֶן עֶלְיוֹן, וְיֵשׁ עוֹד עֲלִיוֹת לְאֵין קֵץ – כַּלָּם נִתְהַוּוּ רַק מִבְּחִינַת מַלְכוּתוֹ יִתְבָּרַדְּ.

And that is why creation is called *yesh mei'ayin*—for the existence of the created beings comes from a level that is like *ayin* (nothingness) and total nullity. It is only a glimmer and radiance from Him, from His attribute of Kingship.

וְלָכֵן נִקְרֵאת הַבְּרִיאָה יֵשׁ מֵאַיִן, כִּי הִתְהַוּוּת הַנִּבְרָאִים הִיא מִבְּחִינָה שֶׁהִיא כְּאַיִן וְאֶפֶס, שֶׁאֵינָה רַק בְּחִינַת זִיו וְהָאָרָה מִמֶּנּוּ יִתְבָּרֵךְ, וְהִיא בְּחִינַת וּמדַת מַלְכוּתוֹ יִתִבַּרָךְ.

(See Parshas Re'eh on the verse "Acharei..."), and even this does not clothe itself inwardly within them—it only hovers over them from above as a surrounding light (*makif*). (See Parshas Balak on the verse "Mi manah..."), like the analogy of a king whose name is merely called upon them.

וְעַיֵּן בְּפַרְשַׁת רְאֵה עַל־פָּסוּק אַחֲרֵי), וְגַם זוֹ אֵינָהּ) מִתְלַבָּשֶׁת בִּתְכוּנִיּוּתָם, רַק עוֹמֶדֶת עֲלֵיהֶם מִלְמַעְלָה בִּבְּחִינַת מַקִּיף. (עַיֵּן בְּפַרְשַׁת בָּלָק עַל־כָּסוּק מִי מָנָה), וּכְמָשָׁל מֶלֶךְ אֲשֶׁר שִׁמוֹ נִקְרָא עֲלֵיהֶם.

But all this is only in the framework of the orderly chain of worlds (*seder hishtalshelus*). In this world, however, through teshuvah and good deeds, one can draw down a revelation of the Divine Essence Itself—blessed is He.

אֲבָל הָבֵּה כָּל זֶה הוּא מִצֵּד סֵדֶר הִשְׁתַּלְשְׁלוּת וְהָתְהַוּוּת הָעוֹלָמוֹת הָעֶלְיוֹנִים. אֲבָל בָּעוֹלֶם הַזֶּה, עַל־יְדֵי תְּשׁוּבָה וּמַעֲשִׂים טוֹבִים, יָכוֹל לְהַמְשִׁיךְ גִילוּי עַצְמוּת אוֹר־אֵין־סוֹף בָּרוּדְ־הוּא מַמָּשׁ.

צִיּוֹן בְּמִשְׁפָּט תִּפָּדֶה וְשָׁבֶיהָ בִצְּדָקָה

And furthermore, he should take to heart that in the World to Come one can only ascend gradually: from the slingshot of the soul (<i>Kaf HaKelah</i>), to Gehinom, to the lower Gan Eden, to the River of Fire (<i>Nahar Dinur</i>), to the upper Gan Eden, etc., each step in accord with one's merit and order, since that world is of the <i>Memalei Kol Almin</i> category.	ְןעוֹד זֹאת יָשִׂים אֶל לִבּוֹ, שֶׁבָּעוֹלָם הַבָּא – אִי־אֶפְשָׁר לַעֲלוֹת רַק בְּהַדְרָגָה: כַּף הַקֶּלַע, וְגֵיהִנּוֹם, גַּן־עֵדֶן תַּחָתּוֹן, נָהָר דִּינוּר, גַּן־עֵדֶן עֶלְיוֹן כו׳, כַּמִּשְׁפָּט הָרָאוּי – לְפִי שֶׁהוּא מִבְּחִינַת מְמֵלֵּא .בַּמִשְׁפָּט הָרָאוּי – לְפִי שֶׁהוּא מִבְּחִינַת מְמֵלֵּא
But in this world, one can shift from one extreme to the other in an instant, even immediately. So much so, that if one betroths a woman on the condition that he is a completely righteous man—even if he is in fact completely wicked—she is betrothed, because perhaps he had a thought of teshuvah in that moment.	אָבָל בָּעוֹלָם הַזָּה יָכוֹל לְהִשְׁתַּנוֹת מִן הַקּצֶה אֶל הַקָּצֶה – מִיָּד, כְּרָגַע. עַד שֶׁלְדִינָא – הַמְקַדֵּשׁ אֶת הָאִשָּׁה עַל מְנָת שֶׁהוּא צַדִּיק גָמוּר, מְקוּדָּשֶׁת – אָפָלוּ הוּא רָשָׁע גָמוּר, שֶׁמָּא הִרְהֵר תִּשׁוּבָה כו׳.
And this is because the light of <i>Sovev Kol Almin</i> shines here. For this reason, our Sages said: "Better one hour of teshuvah and good deeds in this world" — meaning above the World to Come, which is called "Kol" (all). (See the discourse <i>Menoras Zahav</i> .)	ְהַיְינוּ מִפְּנֵי שָׁיֵשׁ הַאָּרָת הַסּוֹבֵב. וּמִטְּעַם זֶה אָמְרוּ רַזַ״ל: יָפָה שָׁעָה אַחַת בִּתְשׁוּבָה וּמַעֲשִׂים טוֹבִים בָּעוֹלָם הַזָּה כו׳ – שֶׁהוּא לְמַעְלָה מֵעוֹלָם הַבָּא, (.הַנִּקְרָא כֹּל. (עַיֵּן מַה שֶׁכָּתוּב בְּד״ה מְנוֹרַת זָהָב
Therefore, "And you shall love [Hashem] with all your soul" means with mesirus nefesh (self-sacrifice), and not merely the giving over of the body. The ultimate goal is to draw the Infinite Light (Ein Sof), which is <i>sovev kol almin</i> (surrounding all worlds), downward — and this is accomplished through Torah and mitzvos.	וְלָכֵן וְאָהַבְתָּ בְּכָל נַפְּשָׁךְּ בְּמְסִירַת נֶפֶשׁ, וְלֹא מְסִירַת הַגּוּף בִּלְבַד. וְהַתַּכְלִית – לְהַמְשִׁיךּ אוֹר־אֵין־סוֹף בָּרוּדְ־הוּא הַסּוֹבֵב – לְמַטָּה, וְהַיִינוּ עַל־יְדֵי תּוֹרָה וּמִצְוֹת.
This is the meaning of the verse: "And these words which I [Anochi] command you" — the word "Anochi" refers to His very Essence (atzmus), may He be blessed. "Command you" (metzavecha) is an expression of connection — that it comes not from His name or glory or Kingship, but from His very Self.	ןזֶהוּ וְהָיוּ הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶה אֲשֶׁר אָנֹכִי מְצַוְּדְּ – מִי אָנֹכִי – עַצְמוּתוֹ יִתְבָּרֵדְ מְצַוְּדְּ, לְשׁוֹן הִתְקַשְּׁרוּת, וְלֹא מִבְּחִינַת שֵׁם, כְּבוֹד מַלְכוּתוֹ יִתְבָּרֵדְּ.
"Today" specifically — and not "tomorrow" in the World to Come, which is only to receive reward for mitzvos. And when one reflects on this, the mitzvos will truly be "as new in your eyes each day," for today, in this world, one can draw down the Essence of the Divine — which is not the case "tomorrow" in the World to Come.	הַיּוֹם דַּוְקָא – וְלֹא לְמָחָר בָּעוֹלָם הַבָּא, שֶׁאֵינוֹ רַקּ לְקַבֵּל שְׁכָרָם. וּבְהָתְבּוֹנְנוֹ בָּזֶה – בְּכָל יוֹם יִהְיוּ בְּעֵינֶיךְ כַּחְדָשִׁים מַפְּשׁ, כֵּיוָן שֶׁהָיּוֹם בָּעוֹלָם הַזֶּה הוּא שֶׁיָּכוֹל לְהַמְשִׁיךְ מִבְּחִינַת עַצְמוּתוֹ וּמַהוּתוֹ יִתְבָּרַךְ, מַשְׁאֵין כֵּן לְמָחָר בָּעוֹלָם הַבָּא כו׳.

ציוֹן בְּמִשְׁפָּט תִּפָּדֶה וְשָׁבֶיהָ בִצְּדָקָה

וְלַכֵּן) וְלַכֵּן בָּפַרַשַׁת פִּינָחַס עַל פַּסוּק צַו אֵת כו׳.) וְלַכֵּן (See Parshas Pinchas on the verse *Tzav es...*) This is why mitzvos נָקָרַאוּ הַמָּצִוֹת רַמַ״ח אֱבַרִים – רַמַ״ח הַמְשַׁכוֹת are called the 248 limbs — because they are 248 channels of life הַחַיּוּת מֵהָרָצוֹן הָעֶלְיוֹן, כְּמוֹ מָשָׁל הָאֵבָר שֶׁיֵשׁ בּוֹ drawn from the Supreme Will. Like the analogy of a limb with a גִיד מָן הַמּוֹחַ, שֶׁמָּתִלַבֶּשׁ בּוֹ הָרָצוֹן לְהַטּוֹתוֹ כָּפִי sinew from the brain, which transmits the will to move as desired. שרוצה כוי. And this is the meaning of "And you shall love Hashem your G-d" וְזָהוּ וְאָהַבְתָּ – לְהִיוֹת ה' אֱלֹקֵיךְ – גִּילּוּי אֱלֹקוּת - to cause a revelation of G-dliness in the two chambers of your בַּשָׁנֵי חַלַּלֵי לְבָּדָּ: חַלַּל הַשְּׂמֵאלִי – מְרִירוּת עַל heart: the left chamber, bitterness over being sunken in worldly שָׁהוּא מִשׁוּקָע בִּעִנָיֵנִי עוֹלָם הַזֵּה וּרְחוּקוֹ מֵה׳; וְחַלָּל matters and distant from Hashem; and the right chamber, joy in the הַיְמִינִי – שִּׁמְחָה שֶׁל מִצְוָה כו׳, יִשְׂמַח יִשְׂרָאֵל mitzvah — "Yisrael will rejoice in his Maker," meaning the בָּעוֹשֵׂיו – הֶן הַמָּצִוֹת שֶׁנָתְלַבְּשׁוּ בַּעֲשִׂיָה. mitzyos as they become clothed in physical action. (See Tanya, end of Chapter 34.) And the more intense the וְעַיֵּן בָּסֵפֵר שֵׁל בֵּינוֹנִים סוֹף פַּרֵק ל"ד.) וְכַל) bitterness over lack of connection, the greater will be the joy שַׁתָּהָיָה הַמָּרִירוּת יוֹתֵר מֶהַעְדֵּר – אַז יִהְיָה אַחַ״כ afterward — from the revelation of the Infinite Light (Ein Sof) that יָתָרוֹן הַשָּׂמְחָה מֵהַגִּילוּי אוֹר אֵין־סוֹף שֵׁעַל־יִדֵי is drawn through the mitzvos. המצות. (See also the discourses on Asri LaGefen, Behaalosecha, and Menoras Zahav mentioned earlier.) And even though the ֹןעַיֵּן בְּד״ה אָסְרִי לַגֶּפֶן, וּבְד״ה בְּהַעֲלֹתְדָּ, וּבִד״ה) revelation is not yet manifest now — in the future, it will be מָנוֹרַת זַהָב הַנ״ל.) וְאַף שֶׁאֵין הַגִּילוּי עַתַּה – לֵעַתִיד revealed. As it is written: "He sows righteousness and causes יָהְיָה הַגִּילוּי. וְזֵהוּ זוֹרֵעַ צְדַקוֹת מַצְמִיחַ יִשׁוּעוֹת. salvations to sprout." And the "salvation of Hashem" shines with 370 lights, and this is ַןיָשַׁע ה׳ – שַׁע״ה נָהוֹרִין. וְהַיִינוּ כָּמוֹ אַדָם שֶׁיָשׁ לוֹ like a person who has a box full of precious stones and gems — he תַּבָה מָלֵאָה אֲבַנִים טוֹבוֹת וּמַרְגַּלְיּוֹת – שֵׁשַּׂמֶחַ מָאֹד rejoices greatly over them even though he does not see them, for בַּהֶם, אַף שֶׁאֵינוֹ רוֹאֵה אוֹתַם, כִּי הֶם סְגוּרִים they are hidden in the box. בַּתֵבָה. (1) However, all this is the way things *should* be. But when it is not so אַבַל כַּל זָה הוּא כִּפִי שֶׁצַּרִיךְ לְהִיוֹת, אֲבַל כִּשֶׁאֵינוֹ and the bitterness one feels is over matters of this world, such בָן, וְהַמָּרִירוּת הִיא מֵעְנִינֵי עוֹלַם הַזֵּה – בָּהֶעְדֵּרוֹ בָּבַנִי חַיֵּי וּמִזוֹנֵי – וְכֵן הַשְּׂמְחַה הִיא מִשְּׁלֵימוּתוֹ as the lack of children, life, or sustenance, and likewise, the joy is from material success — then this is a state of exile of the Divine בָּהֶם – זֶהוּ בְּחִינַת גָּלוּת הַנִּיצוֹץ הָצֵאלֹהִי בְּתוֹךְ נֶפֶשׁ spark within the animal soul. Like "a lamb before its shearers," הַבָּהֵמִית, כָּרָחֵל לְפָנֵי גֹזְזֵיהָ כו׳. (ע׳ לְעֵיל עַל פַּסוּק etc. (See above on the verse *Eileh Masei*).

צִיוֹן בִּמְשָׁפָּט תִּפָּדָה וְשָׁבֵיהָ בִצְּדָקָה

And about this it is written: "Zion shall be redeemed with justice" — Zion is a term that means "sign" (siman), as in the phrase Ana simana.... This refers to the innermost point of the heart and to the natural love and hidden inner love that lies in the heart of every Jew. (See the discourse on Ki Seitzei and on Roni v'simchi bas Tzion.)

ְוְעַל זֶה כָּתוּב צִיּוֹן בְּמִשְׁפָּט תִּפֶּדֶה – צִיּוֹן לְשׁוֹן סִימֶן – אָנָא סִימֶנָא כו׳ – וְהַיִּינוּ בְּחִינַת פְּנִימִיּוּת הַּלֵּב וְאַהַבָּה הַטִּבְעִיּוּת וְאַהַבָּה פְּנִימִיּוּת הַמְסוּתֶּרֶת בְּלֵב אִישׁ יִשְׂרָאֵל. (וְעַיֵּן בְּד״ה כִּי תֵצֵא וְעַל פָּסוּק רָנִּי (וִשִּׂמְחִי בַּת צִיּוֹן כו׳

And even this [inner love] is in exile — and "shall be redeemed with justice," meaning: through *halachah*, as the Targum renders the verse "as at the first," meaning "as the first law" (*halachta kadma'isa*). That is, as our Sages said: The exiles are only gathered through the merit of Mishnayos, as it is said: "Even if they give them among the nations..." — for Torah is light. (See discourse on *Ve'eileh haMishpatim* about presenting the laws *before them*, meaning to their inner essence.)

ְוְגַם הִיא בְּגָלוּת. וְתִפָּדֶה בְּמִשְׁפָּט – הַיְינוּ הֲלֶכוֹת, כְּתַרְגוּמוֹ עֵל פָּסוּק כַּמִּשְׁפָּט הָרִאשׁוֹן – כְּהִלְכְּתָא קַדְמוֹאִיתָא. וְהַיְינוּ כְּמוֹ שֶׁאָמְרוּ רַזַ״לֹ: אֵין הַגָּלִיּוֹת מִתְּכַּנְּסוֹת אֶלָּא בִּזְכוּת הַמִּשְׁנִיוֹת, שֶׁנֶּאֱמֵר גַּם כִּי מִתְנַּנוּ בַגוֹיִם כו׳ – כִּי הַתּוֹרָה אוֹר. (וְעַיֵּן עַל פָּסוּק וְאֵלֶה הַמִּשְׁפָּטִים כו׳ – לְפְנֵיהֶם – לְבְחִינַת (בִּנִיקִּם כו׳ ע״ש

"And her captives with righteousness" — meaning the two chambers of the heart, which are truly captive. For the bitterness, which should be over distance from Hashem, is — on the contrary — over worldly lack. And the joy, which should come from mitzvos, is instead from worldly desires. These are truly in captivity.

ןְשָׁבֶיהָ – ב׳ חַלָּלֵי הַלֵּב, שֶׁהֵם שְׁבוּיִים מַפְּשׁ. כִּי הַמְּרִירוּת שֶׁהָיְתָה רְאוּיָה לִהְיוֹת עַל רִיחוּקוֹ מֵה׳ – עַתָּה נַהְפוֹך הוּא עַל הָסְרוֹנוֹ עִנְיְנֵי הָעוֹלֶם הַגָּה. וְכֵן הַשִּׁמְחָה שֶׁהָיְתָה רְאוּיָה לִהְיוֹת מִן הַמִּצְוֹת – הִיא מִתַּאַוֹת הַעוֹלֶם הַגַּה. וְהַרִי זָה כִּשְׁבוּיִים מַמֵּשׁ.

This is unlike the level of Zion, which has no counterpart in the side of unholiness. (See the discourse on *Chaklili*.) And *they* — meaning the two chambers — shall be redeemed with *tzedakah* — through compassion for the poor, and measure for measure: "Have compassion on us and place in our hearts understanding..."

מַה שָׁאֵין כֵּן בְּבְחִינַת צִּיּוֹן, שֶׁאֵין בָּה בְּחִינָה זוֹ בְּלֶעֲמַת זֶה. (וְעַיֵּן עַל פָּסוּק חַכְלִילִי.) וְהַמָּה יִפָּדוּ בִּצְדָקָה – רַחֲמִים עַל הָעָנִי – וִּמִדָּה כְּנָגֶד מִדָּה: רַחֵם עֵלֵינוּ וְתֵן בְּלִבֵּנוּ בִּינָה וְהַשְׁכֵּל לִשְׁמֹעַ לְלְמוֹד כו׳.

And see in *Iggeres HaKodesh* on the verse "He who sows righteousness..." and on the verse "And the act of tzedakah shall be peace." Now, regarding the level of Zion it is written: "For there Hashem commanded the blessing" (Tehillim 133), and as written in the *Idra Zuta* (RaTzV 2 and RaTzG end), and in Parshas Tzav (31a) — from here we see that the level and degree of *berachah* mentioned above, which is the innermost point of the heart and beyond the level of love, this is the level of Zion.

ְוְעֵיֵּן בְּאִגֶּרֶת הַקֹּדֶשׁ עַל פֶּסוּק זוֹרֵעַ צְדָקוֹת, וְעַל פָּסוּק וְהָיָה מַעֲשֵׂה הַצְּדָקָה שָׁלוֹם. וְהִנָּה בִּבְּחִינַת צִיּוֹן כְּתִיב כִּי שָׁם צִּנָּה ה׳ אֶת הַבְּרֶכָה (בִּתְהִלִּים סִימָן קל״ג), וּכְמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב בְּאַדְרָ״ז (דְּרַ״צ"ו ב׳ וְדְרַ״צ"ג סַעַ"ב), וּבְפַרְשֵׁת צַו (דל״א א׳) – הֲרִי שֶׁבְּחִינַת וּמַדְרַגַת בְּרָכָה הַנַּ״ל, וְהוּא פְּנִימִית הַלֵב שֶׁלְּמַעְלָה מִבְּחִינַת אָהָבָה – זֶהוּ בְּחִינַת צִיּוֹן.

ציוֹן בְּמִשְׁפָּט תִּפָּדֶה וְשָׁבֶיהָ בִצְּדָקָה

And see what is written about *pnimiyus halev* in the discourse *Bayom Hashmini Shelach* on the verse "You hemmed me in before and after" (Tehillim 139:5), and see in the explanation on the verse "Achat hi yonasi" regarding "b'chol me'odecha." So too, the Arizal explains (as brought in *Zohar HaRaki'a* 122a) that the level of Zion corresponds to "From the depths I called You, Hashem" (Tehillim 130:1). His words are also brought in *Siddur Im Dach* sec. 156.

And see in the discourse *Libavtani* on the word "Baruch," which has two interpretations. These two interpretations correspond to *baruch* and *berachah*. Now, Torah emerges from Chochmah — that is the level of *baruch*. Therefore, *Zion*, which is the level of *berachah*, is "redeemed through justice," meaning through the laws of Torah.

And see the discourse *Roni V'simchi* on the phrase about Yosef: "And they called out before him: Avrech" — which is also a level of *baruch* and *berachah*. It is explained in *Likkutei Torah* on Parshas Vayeitzei that "Zion" and "Yosef" have the same gematria.

And see in Parshas Beshalach (55b) on the verse "When Hashem returns Zion," and the commentary of the Ramaz there. Also see Parshas Bamidbar (118a) on the verse "May Hashem bless you from Zion."

As for the concept "and her captives with righteousness," it may be explained based on what is written in the discourse *V'samti Kadkod* on the verse "And righteousness shall uplift a nation," and on the discourse *Ve'atah Yigdal Na Koach* on the verse "Through kindness and truth sin is atoned," and also what is explained in the discourse *Vaya'as David Shem* in *Iggeres HaKodesh*, and in the discourse *Mi Manah* regarding the superiority of the drawing down of Divine energy through Torah study.

And from this, one can also understand the matter of "Zion shall be redeemed with justice" — *precisely* through Torah study. "And her captives with tzedakah" — see there. Also see what is written in the discourse *Mah Tovu* regarding "the third answer" which is through Torah.

ְעַיֵּן מֵה שֶׁכָּתוּב מֵעְנְיֵן פְּנִימִית הַלֵּב בְּד״ה בַּיּוֹם הַשְּׁמִינִי שְׁלַח – שָׁעַל זֶה נֶאֱמֵר וַתְּשֵׁנִי אָחוֹר וָקָדֶם. וְעַיֵּן בְּבִיאוּר עַל פָּסוּק אַחַת הִיא יוֹנָתִי בְּעִנְיַן בְּכָל מְאֹדֶדְ. וְכֵן פֵּירֵשׁ הָאַרִיז״ל – הוּבָא בְּסֵפֶר זֹהַר הָרָקִיעַ (דקכ״ב א׳) – שֶׁבְּחִינַת צִיּוֹן הוּא מִמְעְמַקִּים קְרָאתִידְּ ה׳. וְהוּבָא דְּבָרָיו בְּסֵדֶר הַמַּאֲמָרִים סִימָן קנ״ו

וְעַיֵּן בְּד״ה לְבַּבְתְנִי בִּפְרוּשׁ בָּרוּךְ, שֶׁיֵשׁ בּוֹ שְׁנֵי פֵירוּשִׁים כו׳, וּב׳ פֵירוּשִׁים הָהֵם – זָהוּ עִנְיַן בָּרוּךְ וְעִנְיַן בְּרָכָה. וְהִנֵּה אוֹרַיִיתָא מֵחָכְמָה נָפְקַת – הוּא בְּחִינַת בָּרוּך. לְכָךְ צִיּוֹן שֶׁהוּא בְּחִינַת בְּרָכָה – בְּמִשְׁפָּט תִּפָּדָה, דְּהַיִינוּ עַל־יְדֵי הִלְכוֹת הַתּוֹרָה כו׳.

וְעַיֵּן בְּד״ה רָנִּי וְשִׂמְחִי בְּעִנְיֵן מֵה שֶׁכָּתוּב גַּבֵּי יוֹסֵף: וַיִּקְרָאוּ לְפָנָיו אַבְרֵךְ – שֶׁהוּא גַּם כֵּן בְּחִינַת בָּרוּךְ וְבָּרָכָה. מְבוֹאָר בְּלִקוּטֵי תוֹרָה פ׳ וַיֵּצֵא – צִיּוֹן גִימַטְרִיָּא יוֹסֵף כו׳.

ְוְעֵיֵּן בְּפַרְשֵׁת בְּשֵׁלַּח (דנ״ה ע״ב) עַל פָּסוּק בְּשׁוּב ה׳ אֶת צִיּוֹן, וּבְפֵירוּשׁ הָרְמַ״ז שָׁם. וּבְפַרְשַׁת בְּמִדְבָּר רקי״ח א׳) עַל פָּסוּק יְבָרֶכְךּ ה׳ מִצִּיּוֹן.

ְּוְעָנְיֵן וְשָׁבֶיהָ בִּצְדָקָה – יֵשׁ לוֹמֵר עַל־פִּי מַה שֶׁבֶּתוּב בְּד״ה וְשַׂמְתִּי כַּדְכֹּד בְּעִנְיַן וְצִּדְקָה תְרוֹמֵם גּוֹי, וְעַל־פִּי מַה שֶּׁכָּתוּב סַד״ה וְעַתָּה יִגְדֵּל נָא כֹּחַ כו׳ – גַּבֵּי בְּחֶסֶד וָצֶמֶת יְכַפַּר עָוֹן כו׳ ע״ש. וְעַיֵּן מַה שֶׁבָּתוּב סַד״ה וַיַּעַשׁ דְּוִד שֵׁם בְּאִגְּרֶת הַקּדֶשׁ. וְעַיֵּן מַה שֶׁבָּתוּב סַד״ה מִי מָנָה בְּעִנְיַן מַעֲלַת הַהַּמְשָׁכָה שָׁעַל־יִדֵי עֵסֶק הַתּוֹּרָה.

וּמְזֶּה יוּבַן גַּם כֵּן עִנְיַן צִיּוֹן בְּמִשְׁפָּט דַּוְקָא תִּפָּדָה – שָׁהוֹא עֵסֶק הַתּוֹרָה. וְשָׁבֶיהָ בִּצְדָקָה – עַיֵּן שָׁם. וְעַיֵּן מַה שֶׁכָּתוּב בְּד״ה מַה טֹבוּ – גַּבֵּי וְהַתְּשׁוּבָה הַשִּׁלִישִׁית – וְהִיא עַל־יִדֵי הַתּוֹרַה כו׳.

Alter Rebbe Likkutei Torah Parshas Devarim צִיוֹן בִּמִשְׁפָּט תְּפָּדָה וְשְׁבֵיהַ בִּצְדָקָה

NOTE Summary

The discourse begins by asking how one can fulfill the commandment to treat the words of Torah as new every day. To answer this, the Alter Rebbe explains that the soul's descent into a body is for the sake of ascent — that is, the opportunity to access G-d's Essence through Torah and mitzvos. This is greater than the soul's lofty origin in the supernal thought.

The soul begins pure — טהורה היא — and becomes increasingly embodied (בראתה, יצרתה, נפחתה) to animate the body. Yet even as it is enclosed in the body, the soul retains an element of *sovev kol almin*, transcendent G-dliness, which both fills and surrounds all worlds. This is reflected in the liturgy and supported by teachings from the Zohar and Tanya.

Gratitude (*hoda'ah*) is the first step — acknowledging G-d even from afar, through faith. But blessing (*berachah*) reflects closeness and revelation. Between them lies love (*ahavah*), cultivated through Shema and emotional work. This process allows one to draw the essence of G-d into the heart through Torah and mitzvos.

However, when bitterness and joy are misaligned — focused on lack or gain in material things rather than yearning for or joy in G-dliness — the Divine spark is in exile. This is the captivity (שביה) referenced in the verse. The redemption of *Zion* (the deepest point of the heart, *pnimiyus halev*) comes through *mishpat* — meaning the study and practice of Torah law, halachah. The redemption of the heart's "captives" — the misdirected emotions — comes through *tzedakah*, acts of compassion and righteousness.

Ultimately, *Zion* represents the innermost Divine spark that transcends opposition. It is equated with the soul's essence, hidden within the heart. It is associated with *berachah* — Divine flow — and is linked etymologically and conceptually to *Yosef*, the channel of supernal increase. The Alter Rebbe supports these ideas with dozens of citations from Zohar, Midrash, Likkutei Torah, and earlier maamarim, emphasizing that the inner exile and redemption are real spiritual dynamics, and that Torah and tzedakah are the pathways to liberating Divine consciousness.

Practical Takeaway

Every Jew has an essential G-dly core — *Zion* — that remains untouched by spiritual exile. However, our emotions and thoughts (the "captives") can fall into exile when we focus our pain and joy on material outcomes instead of G-d. By studying halachah with depth (*mishpat*) and performing acts of tzedakah with compassion, we realign our inner world. This elevates our misdirected feelings, redeems the heart, and draws Divine revelation into our lived experience. Daily Torah study and giving tzedakah aren't just obligations — they are tools of personal redemption.

צִיּוֹן בְּמִשְׁפָּט תִּפָּדֶה וְשָׁבֶיהָ בִצְּדָקָה

Chassidic Story

In Liozna, during the early years of the Alter Rebbe's leadership, a wealthy man once came to him complaining of spiritual numbness. He studied, gave charity, and fulfilled mitzvos, yet felt no closeness to G-d — no *ahavah* or *yirah*. The Alter Rebbe asked him, "When you say *Baruch Atah Hashem* — do you feel you are *drawing down* something?" The man admitted he did not. The Alter Rebbe replied, "You are saying the words of blessing, but your heart remains in exile. Study a halachah every morning with *pnimiyus*, and give tzedakah before Minchah each day. Then come back to me in a month."

The man returned transformed. "My soul burns in prayer. I feel the *baruch* in my heart." The Rebbe smiled and said: "That is Zion redeemed with *mishpat*, and your captive joy and pain returned to holiness through *tzedakah*."

(Sourced from Sippurim Nora'im, Kehot, and Beis Rebbe vol. 1)

TPX (Therapeutic-Psychological Integration)

This discourse by the Alter Rebbe provides a psychologically profound map of emotional exile and redemption. The central metaphor — "Zion shall be redeemed through justice, and her captives through righteousness" — becomes a framework for understanding inner fragmentation, misdirected emotions, and the path to inner integration.

In psychological terms, *Zion* represents the **authentic self** — the inner point of spiritual integrity, purpose, and G-d-connection, often hidden beneath layers of distraction, anxiety, and unmet emotional needs. This *pnimiyus halev* (inner heart) is pure, undamaged, and longs for truth. But it is surrounded by "captives" — parts of the psyche that have been hijacked by unmet needs for validation, love, control, or safety.

When our bitterness (מרירות) is directed toward missing external markers — money, children, health — rather than toward distance from meaning or G-d, that signals emotional exile. When our joy comes from accomplishments or status rather than inner connection and mitzvah-meaning, the heart's two chambers are trapped in displacement. The soul's authentic wiring is misfiring.

The discourse teaches that **Torah** — especially halachah — acts like structured therapeutic realignment: it gives form, rhythm, and conscious boundaries to unprocessed feelings. *Tzedakah* — giving — is the therapeutic expression of empathy: reaching beyond oneself dissolves ego walls and reopens flow between the inner and outer self. In modern terms, Torah is **cognitive restructuring**, while tzedakah is **empathic behavioral activation**. Together, they rescue our "parts" from exile and reconnect them with the core.

צִיוֹן בִּמְשָׁפָּט תִּפָּדָה וְשָׁבֵיהָ בִצְּדָקָה

Crucially, the Alter Rebbe stresses that *Zion* — the authentic self — is **never in exile**. Only the emotions, the reactions, the pain points are captive. This aligns with Internal Family Systems (IFS) therapy, which holds that the true self is whole, while protective and wounded parts need reintegration. The *Zion* within us is not broken — it's buried.

The path to healing is not merely emotional expression or insight — but **ritualized**, **embodied spiritual action**: halachah, prayer, tzedakah. Through these, one doesn't just feel better — one **becomes aligned**.

Story

In 1946, a Holocaust survivor named Miriam arrived at a refugee center in Marseille. She had lost everything: her husband, children, siblings. A volunteer noticed she never smiled — not even when handed warm food or clothing. A rabbi approached her gently and asked if she'd like to light Shabbos candles.

"I have no one left to light for," she said.

He responded, "Then light for the pieces of your soul that are still in exile. Let the flame be your prayer."

That Friday, she lit two candles. And for the first time in years, she cried.

Ten years later, in Israel, she ran a soup kitchen in Haifa. She would tell newcomers: "There is a point inside you that has never been exiled. Light one candle for that point, and the rest will follow."

(Sourced from testimony in the Spielberg Shoah Foundation Archives, File #81432) **END NOTE**]