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Parshas Shlach

Introduction

This discourse, delivered by **Rabbi Sholom Dovber Schneersohn**, the **Rebbe Rashab** (fifth Rebbe of Chabad-Lubavitch, 1860–1920), explores the **power of Torah and mitzvos to transform the soul and repel impurity**, with a focus on the mitzvah of **tzitzis** and the deeper roles of **positive and negative commandments**. Known as the "Rambam of Chassidus" for his systematic depth, the Rebbe Rashab founded the Tomchei Temimim yeshiva and devoted his life to developing a sophisticated body of Chassidic philosophy.

This maamar reveals the **metaphysical mechanics of Torah as Divine protection**: how Torah study and mitzvah observance channel the **innermost essence of G-d**, providing the soul with armor against spiritual vulnerability. The discourse compares mitzvos to building a spiritual **house**—a protected, covered place—while Torah itself acts as the **roof** shielding us from external forces. This ISPC unpacks the core messages, practical implications, and a striking story that reflects the Rebbe Rashab's teachings in real life.

התייד ייוית ייולה החייר

אָבָּחיד, שיפּ שְיֵדַח, רְסֹיוּך With the help of Heaven, Shabbos Parshas Shelach, 1906	
"And you shall see it, and you shall remember all the commandments of Hashem and do them, and you shall not stray after your heart"	וּרְאִיתֶם אֹתוֹ וּזְכַרְתָּם אֶת כָּל מִצְ <i>וֹת הי</i> וַצְּשִׂיתֶם אוֹתָם וְלֹאׁ תָתוּרוּ אַחֲרֵי לְבַבְּכֶם כוי
One must understand: what is the significance of remembering the commandments—after all, the primary thing is doing the commandments in actuality, as it says afterwards, "and you shall do them"?	וְצָרִיךְ לְהָבִין מַה־הִיא עֲנָיֶנָא דְּזְכִירַת הַמִּצְ <i>וֹת</i> — הַלֹּא הָעִיקָר הוּא עֲשִׂיַת הַמִּצְ <i>וֹת</i> בְּפֹעַל, וּכְמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב ?"אַחַר־כָּךָ "וַעֲשִׂיתֶם אוֹתֶם?
And one must understand: how is this related to the mitzvah of tzitzis—that through the tzitzis, therefore, "you shall remember," etc.?	— גַּם צָרִידְ לְהָבִין מַה שַׁיָּידְ זֶה לְמִצְוַת צִיצִית שָׁעַל־יְדֵי הַצִּיצִית עַל־יְדֵי זֶה "וּזְכַרְתָּם" כוי?
And Rashi explains: because in tzitzis there is the number 613—this includes all the commandments.	וּפֵירֵשׁ רַשִּׁ"י: לְפִי שֶׁבַּצִיצִית יֵשׁ מִסְפֵּר תַּרְיָ"ג — הֲרֵי זָה כּוֹלֵל כָּל הַמִּצְ <i>וֹת</i> .
This also needs to be understood: what is the meaning of saying that tzitzis includes all the mitzvos—and thereby comes the remembrance, etc.?	וְגַם זֹאת צָרִיךּ לְהָבִין: מַה־הִיא הַעֲנִיֶּינָא שֶׁצִיצִית ?כּוֹלְלִים כָּל הַמִּצְ <i>וֹת</i> — וְעַל־יְדֵי זֶה תִּהְיֶה הַזְּכִירָה כו׳?
And the main intention of the verse "and you shall see it" is regarding the techeiles (blue thread), which refers to what was said before: "and they shall place on the tzitzis"	יְהָעִיקֶר הַכַּנָנָה "וּרְאִיתָם אֹתוֹ" עַל־הַתְּכֵלֶת — שֶׁהוּא קאֵי עַל מַה שֶׁנָּאֱמַר לְפָנִים: "וְנָתְנוּ עַל צִיצִית כוי".

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To understand all this, it is necessary to preface what was explained earlier regarding positive commandments and negative commandments: that their root Above is in two aspects of makif (surrounding light).	וּלְהָבִין כָּל זֶה צָרִיךְּ לְהַקְּדִּים מֵה שֶׁנִּתְבָּאֵר לְעֵיל בְּעִנְיַן מִצְ <i>וֹת</i> עֲשֵׂה וּמִצְ <i>וֹת</i> לֹא תַעֲשֶׂה — שֶׁשֶּׁרְשָׁם לְמַעְלָה בִּשְׁנֵי בְּחִינוֹת מַקִּיף.
The closer makif refers to the surrounding lights of the order of Hishtalshelus (chain-like descent of worlds), and in its first root—meaning the level of Chessed (Kindness) of the concealed world (Tehiru Ela'ah) within the Infinite Light prior to the Tzimtzum. This is the aspect of drawing and revelation of light, etc.	מַקּיף הַקָּרוֹב — הֵן הַמַּקּיפִים דְּסֵדֶר הִשְׁתַּלְשְׁלוּת, וּבְשָׁרְשָׁם הָרָאשׁוֹן — הָנֵהוּ בְּבְחִינַת הַחֶּסֶד דְּתְהִירוּ עִילָאָה שֶׁבְּאוֹר אֵין־סוֹף שֶׁלְּפְנֵי הַצִּמְצוּם, שֶׁהוּא עִנְיָן הַהַמְשֶׁכָה וְהִתְגַּלוּת הָאוֹר כו׳.
The farther makif is the surrounding light above Hishtalshelus, and in its root it refers to the level of the Infinite Light beyond drawing and revelation—a level of essential concealment of the Infinite Light, etc.	וּמַקּיף הָרָחוֹק — הוּא הַמַּקּיף שֶׁלְּמַעְלָה מֵהשְׁתַּלְשְׁלוּת, וּבְשָׁרְשׁוֹ הוּא בְּבָחִינַת אוֹר־אֵין־סוֹף שֶׁלְמַעְלָה מִבְּחִינַת הַהַמְשָׁכָה וְהִתְּגַלוּת, וּבְבָחִינַת הֶעְלֵם הָעַצְמִי דָּאוֹר־אֵין־סוֹף כו׳
And from this we must understand what is said—that the 365 negative commandments serve as a protection for the lights of the positive commandments.	וּמֵעַתָּה צָרִידְּ לְהָבִין מַה שֶׁנָּאֱמֵר שֶׁהַשֶּׁס"ה לֹא תַעֲשֶׂה הֵן שָׁמִירָה לָאָוֹרוֹת דְּמִצְ <i>וֹת</i> עֲשֵׂה.
The idea is as follows: the lights and revelations of the 248 positive commandments—because they are in the aspect of the <i>closer makif</i> —still allow for the possibility of grasping by the external forces (the <i>chitzonim</i>),	וְהָעִנְיָן הוּא: דְּהִנֵּה הָאוֹרוֹת וְהַגִּלוּיִים דְּרַמַ"ח מִצְ <i>וֹת</i> עֲשֵׂה לִהְיוֹת שֶׁהֵן בְּבְחִינַת מַקִּיף הַקָּרוֹב — לָכֵן יָכוֹל לִהְיוֹת בָּזֶה עֲדַיִן אֲחִיזַת הַחִיצוֹנִים,
as explained earlier (in the discourse "The Heavens Declare") regarding the garments of the sages, etc.	וּכְנִזְכָּר לְעֵיל (בָּדִּ"ה "הַשֶּׁמַיִם מְסַפְּּרִים") בְּעִנְיַן הָנֵי מָאנֵי דְרַבָּנַן כו׳.
The matter is this: our sages said, "Not like Avraham, from whom Yishmael came forth."	וְהָעִנְיָן הוּא, דְּהִנֵּה אָמְרוּ רַזָ"ל: "לֹא כְּאַבְרָהָם שֶׁיָּצָא מְמֶנּוּ יִשְׁמָעֵאל,
That is, "came forth" means he came from him as dross and refuse,	פֵּירוּשׁ: "יָצָא" — שֶׁיָּצָא מִמֶּנוּ בִּרְחִינַת סִיגִים וּפְסֹלֶת שֶׁלוֹ כו׳,
meaning the leftover chassadim (kindnesses) of holiness which issued from Avraham, the man of kindness.	דְהַיִינוּ בְּחִינַת מוֹתָרֵי הַחֲסָדִים דְּקְדוּשָׁה שֶׁיָצָא מֵאַבְרָהָם אִישׁ הַחֶּסֶד כו׳.
At first, the kindness of Yishmael was included in the kindness of Avraham,	וּבִתְחִלָּה הָיָה חֶסֶד דְיִשְׁמָעֵאל כָּלוּל בְּחֶסֶד דְאַבְרָהָם,
and afterwards it emerged from him as separated dross from the inner essence—like in smelting silver,	וְאַחַר כָּךְ יָצָא מִמֶּנוּ בִּבְחִינַת סִיג נִפְרָד מִן הַפְּנִימִיוּת, וּכְמוֹ מִצְרֵף לַכֶּטֶף כו׳,
where at first the dross is mixed with the silver, and through the refining it exits, and the silver remains pure.	שֶׁבְּתְחָלֶּה הַסִּיגִים מְעֹרָבִים בְּתוֹךְ הַכֶּסֶף, וְעַל־יְדֵי הַצִּירוּף יוֹצְאִים הַפְּסֹלֶת וְנִשְׁאָר הַכֶּסֶף נָקִי.

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So too in the beginning, the dross of chessed was mixed within the kindness of Avraham and was later expelled and separated.	כָּךְ בִּתְחַלֶּה סִיגֵי הַחֲסָדִים מְעֹרָבִים בְּתוֹךְ הַחֲסָדִים דְּאַבְרָהָם וְיָצְאוּ וְנִפְּרְדוּ מִמֶּנוּ כו׳.
This is why the wording is "came forth" and not "gave birth."	וָזָהוּ שֶׁאָמַר לָשׁוֹן "יָצָא" וְלֹא "הוֹלִיד" כוי.
For example, Avraham <i>gave birth</i> to Yitzchak—the concept of <i>birth</i> means a revelation from concealment, i.e., a ray from the concealed essence that is still related to its source.	וּכְמוֹ: "אַבְרָהָם הוֹלִיד אֶת יִצְחָק" — שֶׁעִנְיַן הַהוֹלָדָה הוּא מֵהֶעְלֵם אֶל הַגִּלּוּי, דְּהַיִינוּ הַאֲרָה מִן הָעְלֵם וְהִיא מֵעֵין הָעְלֵם כו׳.
But here it says "came forth," meaning it exited as dross and refuse, in a state of separation.	אֲבָל כָּאן אָמַר "יָצָא" — דְהַיִינוּ שֶׁיָצָא בִּבְחִינַת סִיג וּפְסֹלֶת, בִּבְחִינַת פֵּירוּד כו׳.
For this reason, Yishmael was born before Yitzchak—for the departure of the dross comes first, and only afterward emerges the pure essence,	וּלְזֶה הַפַּעַם הָיָה יִשְׁמֶעֵאל בְּכוֹר לְיִצְחָק — כִּי יְצִיאַת הַסָּיג הִיא תְּחָלָה, וְאַחַר־כָּךִּ יוֹצֵא הַנָּקִי,
just as "the peel precedes the fruit"—before the inner fruit sprouts, the refuse appears first.	וּכְמוֹ שֶׁאָמְרוּ: "קָלִפָּה קוֹדֶמֶת לַפְּרִי" כו׳ — שֶׁקֹדֶם שֶׁיִצְמַח פְּנִימִיּוּת הַפְּרִי תִּצְמַח הַפְּסֹלֶת תְּחִלֶּה וְתַצֵא רָאשׁוֹנָה כו׳.
Similarly, Esav in relation to Yitzchak: from Yitzchak came forth Esav.	ָןכַן בְּעֵשָׂו לְגַבֵּי יִצְחָק — שֶׁיָּצָא מִמֶּנוּ עֵשָׂו.
This too was a coming forth in separation, for himself, and is called the <i>sofisita de-dahava</i> —the dross of gold that emerges after melting and refinement.	גַּם זֶה הוּא יְצִיאָה בִּפֵירוּד לְעַצְמוֹ, וְנַקְרָא "סוֹסְפִּיתָא דְדַהָבָא" — פְּסֹלֶת הַזָּהָב שֶׁיוֹצֵא אַחַר הַהִּתּוּךְ וְהַבִּרוּר .כו׳
And this is what is said of Esav: "And the first emerged ruddy"—he was firstborn to Yaakov for the above reason,	ְוֶזֶהוּ שֶׁנָּאֱמֵר בְּעֵשָּׁו: "וַיֵּצֵא הָרִאשׁוֹן אַדְמוֹנִי" — שֶׁהָיָה בְּכוֹר לְיַעֲקֹב מִטַעַם הַנַּ"ל,
that the dross and refuse come out before the inner essence.	שֶׁהַסִּיגִים וְהַפְּסֹלֶת יוֹצְאִים תְּחָלֶּה לַפְּנִימִי כוי'.
However, all of this certainly has a limit and measure, for the Divine light and vitality of Supernal Kindness that becomes contracted into this "dross," called the refuse of Supernal Chessed,	אֲבָל הָנֵּה לְכָל זָה וַדַּאי יֵשׁ שָׁעוּר וּמָדָּה — לָאוֹר וְחַיּוּת הָאֱלֹהִי דְּחֶסֶד עֶלְיוֹן הַמְּצוּמְצָם בִּבְחִינַת סִיג זָה הַנִּקְרָא בָּסֹלֶת חֶסֶד עֶלְיוֹן.
consequently, their vital force and flow is completely spent, for it is not comparable to the levels of holiness—even though those too are only rays,	וְאָם־כֵּן — כְּבָר כִּלָּה כֹּחַ חֵיּוּתָם וְשֶׁפַעָם לְגַמְרֵי, דְּאֵינוֹ דוֹמֶה לִמְדָרְגוֹת הַקְּדוּשָׁה — אַף־עַל־פִּי שָׁהַן גַּם־כֵּן רַק הַאָּרָאוֹת לְבַד,
nonetheless, they are cleaving to their source, and therefore they possess a form of essential endurance from within themselves,	מָכֶּל־מָקוֹם — הֵן דְבוּקִים בְּמְקוֹרָן, וּמִשׁוּם זֶה — הֵן בָּבְחִינַת קִיּוּם עַצְמִי מִצַד עַצְמָן כו׳,
as explained elsewhere.	וּכְמוֹ שֶׁבָּתוּב בְּמֶקוֹם אַחֵר.
And see also in the discourse "On Your Festivals and Appointed Times" ("U'v'yom Simchaschem U'v'moadeichem").	ןעַיֵּן בְּדִ"ה "וּבִיוֹם שִׂמְחַתְכֶם וּבְמוֹעֲדֵיכֶם".

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This applies both to the lights and to the vessels, that since they	וְהַיְנוּ — בֵּין בָּאוֹרוֹת וּבֵין בַּכֵּלִים שֶׁהֵן דְּבוּקִים,
are bound [to their source], therefore they possess permanence.	ַוְעַל־יְדֵי זֶה — הֵן בִּבְחִינַת קִיּוּם.
And similarly with the souls of Israel, as it is written: "And you who cleave to Hashem your G-d, you are all alive today." (Devarim 4:4)	ְרָכֵן הוּא בְּנִשְׁמוֹת יִשְׂרָאֵל, וּכְמוֹ שֶׁכֶּתוּב: "וְאַתֶּם הַדְּבֵקִים בַּה׳ אֱלֹקִיכֶם — חַיִּים כֻּלְּכֶם" כו׳ (דברים .(ד׳:ד׳
Because they are cleaving to Hashem your G-d, therefore they are alive and enduring, etc. And so it is with the Divine light and vitality that is invested in created beings to sustain them—that too is in a state of cleaving, as it is said, "He renews in His goodness each day continually." For the renewal from its Source is the cleaving to its Source, as explained elsewhere. Only, the cleaving is specifically in the form of renewal, etc., as explained on this in the discourse "Tiku."	דְלִהְיוֹתָם דְּבוּקִים בַּה׳ אֱלֹקֵיכֶם הָרֵי הֵם חַיִּים וְקַיָּימִים כו׳. וְכֵן הוּא בָּאוֹר וְחַיּוּת הָאֱלֹקִי הַמִּתְלַבֵּשׁ בַּנִּבְרָאִים לְהַחֲיוֹתָם — שָׁהוּא גַּם־כֵּן בִּבְחִינַת דְּבֵקוּת, וּכְמוֹ שֶׁאָמֵר: "הַמְחַדֵּשׁ בְּטוּבוֹ בְּכָל יוֹם תָּמִיד", דְּהַהִתְחַדְּשׁוּת מִמְּקוֹרוֹ זֶהוּ הַדְּבֵקוּת בְּמְקוֹרוֹ, כְּמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב בְּמָקוֹם אַחֵר. אֶלָּא שֶׁהַדְּבֵקוּת הִיא בִּבְחִינַת הִתְחַדְּשׁוּת דַּוְקָא כו׳, "וּּכְמוֹ שֶׁנִּרְתַּב מִזֶּה בְּדִ"ה "תִּקְעוּ
But in the realm of kelipah and sitra achra, since they are separated—meaning, their separation is from His blessed Unity—then, by right, the power of their vitality and flow should be completely spent. However, what we observe is that the influence of vitality in the flesh of Yishmael endures for a long time, even more than the proper measure and proportion of its essential nature—which is only a contracted residue—therefore, one must say that even now he is receiving an aspect of light and vitality from the Supernal Chessed of holiness.	אֲבָל בַּקְלִיפָּה וְסִטְרָא אָחֲרָא — מֵאַחַר שֶׁהֵן נִפְּרָדִים, שֶׁהַפְּרָדָן מֵאַחְדוּתוֹ יִתְבָּרֵךְ — הָיָה צָרִיךְ לוֹמֵּר כִּי כִּלָּה כֹּחַ חַיּוּתָם וְשֶׁפַעָם לְגַמְרֵי כוֹ׳. וּמֵה שֶׁאֲנַחְנוּ רוֹאִים שֶׁיֵשׁ קִיּוּם זְמֵן רַב לְהַשְּׁפָּעַת הַחַיּוּת בְּשֵׂר יִשְׁמָעֵאל — יוֹתֵר מִכְּפִי הַמִּדָּה וְהַשִּׁיעוּר שֶׁלוֹ בְּעֶצֶם מֵהוּתוֹ, שֶׁהוּא רַק בְּחִינַת צִמְצוּם הַמּוֹתָרוֹת כו׳ — בָּהָכְרַחַ לוֹמֵר שֶׁמְּקַבֵּל גַּם עַתָּה בְּחִינַת אוֹר וְחַיּוּת דְּחָסֶד עֶלְיוֹן דִּקְדוּשָׁה
For even after Yishmael emerged from Avraham as a separate being, in the form of dross, nonetheless he is not completely a separate essence from Avraham—for after all, he is still his son, as it says: "And it was grievous in Avraham's eyes concerning his son," and "O that Yishmael might live before You." The matter is that even afterward, light and flow extended from Avraham to Yishmael, in the manner of a distant makif, not in an internal nearness (as it was with Yitzchak, where the light was drawn in inwardly, in an aspect of true unity).	פִּי הָנֵּה גַּם לְאַחַר שֶׁיָצָא יִשְׁמָעֵאל מֵאַבְרָהָם בִּבְּחִינַת נְפָרָד לְעַצְמוֹ — בִּבְחִינַת סִיג — עַל כָּל כָּנִים אֵינוֹ מַהוּת נִפְרָד לְגַמְרִי מֵאַבְרָהָם, שֶׁהָרִי מִכָּל מָקוֹם בְּנוֹ הוּא. וּכְמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב: "וַיַּרֵע לְאַבְרָם עַל אוֹדוֹת בְּנוֹ", וְאָמַר לוֹ: "יִשְׁמָעֵאל יִחָיֶה לְפָנִיךְ" כו׳. וְהָעִּנְיָן הוּא, שֶׁגַּם אַחַר־כָּךְ נִמְשַׁךְ אוֹר וְשָׁפַע מֵאַבְרָהָם לְיִשְׁמָעֵאל בִּבְחִינַת מַקִּיף מֵרָחוֹק, לֹא בִּבְחִינַת בְּנִימִי מִקֶּרוֹב (וּכְמוֹ בִּיִצְחָק שׁנְּמְשַׁךְ הָאוֹר בִּפְנִימִיּוּת, בִּבְחִינַת הִתְאַחֲדוּת מַמְּשׁ (כו׳)

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But with Yishmael, it is from a distance, in the aspect of makif—and even that, in the aspect of the *farther* makif, which means in a state of separation, etc. And since it is only in the aspect of makif and is not absorbed within them, and he still retains some connection to holiness, therefore he remains in a state of vitality. (For a spark of holiness that becomes absorbed in them and is truly separated has no state of vitality at all.) And being only in the aspect of makif, therefore it prolongs the duration of the light and flow and is not nullified in such a short time.

וּבְיִשְׁמָעֵאל — הוּא מֵרָחוֹק, בְּבְחִינַת מַקּיף. וְגַם זוֹ — בְּבְחִינַת מַקּיף הָרָחוֹק, דְּהַיְינוּ בִּבְחִינַת הַבְּדָּלָה כו׳. וּלְהִיוֹתוֹ בִּבְחִינַת מַקִּיף לְבַד, וְאֵינוֹ נִבְלֶע בָּהֶם, וְיֵשׁ לוֹ שַׁיִּיכוּת עֲדַיִן אֶל הַקְּדוּשָׁה — לְזֹאת הוּא בִּבְחִינַת חֵיּוּת כו׳. (שָׁנִיצוֹץ הַקְדוּשָׁה שֶׁנִּבְלֵע בָּהֶם וְהוּא בִּבְחִינַת פֵּירוּד בָּאֱמֶת — אֵינוֹ בִּבְחִינַת חֵיּוּת כְּלָל כו׳). וְגַם לְהִיוֹתוֹ בִּבְחִינַת מַקִּיף לְבַד — עַל־בֵּן מַאֲרִיךּ יוֹתֵר קִיּוּם אוֹר שָׁפַע, וְאֵינוֹ כָּלֶה בִּזְמַן קַצָּר כָּל־כָּךְ כו׳

And an example of this is what we find regarding the nourishment of the external forces (*chitzonim*) who receive from the level of makif, like the matter of the frankincense (*levonah*) among the eleven ingredients of the incense. It is known that the eleven ingredients correspond to the eleven accursed ones in the Torah, and they are the eleven crowns of impurity, etc. However, the frankincense is distinct from the other ten ingredients, which are the aspect of the ten sefirot of *nogah*, as explained elsewhere. The frankincense is the aspect of the makif that shines upon them—it is still from holiness and is called "pure frankincense," except that it is in the form of vitality to the kelipah that sustains them via a makif, etc.

וּדְמֵיוֹן לָזֶה הוּא מַה שֶׁמָּצִינוּ שֻׁיֵּשׁ בִּינִיקַת הַחִיצוֹנִים שֶׁמְּקַבְּלִים מִבְּחִינַת מַקִּיף, כְּמוֹ עִנְיַן הַלְבוֹנָה שֶׁבִּי"א סַמְמַנֵּי הַקְּטֹרֶת — אֲשֶׁר יָדוּעַ שֶׁהַי"א סַמְמָנִים הֵן לְנֶגֶד אַדְּ בָּזֶה מֻבְדָּל עִנְיַן הַלְבוֹנָה מִשְּאָר הַי' סַמְמָנִים, שֶׁהֵן בִּבְחִינַת עֻשֶּׁר סְפִירוֹת דְּנוֹגַה, כְּמוֹ שֻׁכָּתוֹּב בְּמָקוֹם אַחֵר. וְהַלְבוֹנָה הִיא בִּבְחִינַת הַמַּקִיף הַמֵּאִיר עֲלֵיהֶם, שֶׁהוּא שָׁהוּא בִּבְחִינַת חַיּוּת אָל הַקְּלִיפָּה הַמְחַיֶּה אוֹתָם בִּבְחִינַת שָׁהוּא בִּבְחִינַת מִיּוּת אָל הַקְּלִיפָּה הַמְחַיֶּה אוֹתָם בִּבְחִינַת

And likewise, the guardian angel of Yishmael receives in the manner of a makif from the radiance of Supernal Chessed, etc., and likewise the guardian angel of Esav receives from the makif-level of the radiance of the attribute of Gevurot of holiness, etc., as explained elsewhere regarding "and on your new moons..."—that the two "heads" refer to extracting and taking from them the level of makif, similar to the concept of "their shadow has departed," etc. And since the *sitra achra* has vitality that is in the aspect of makif, therefore it is possible for them to have a grasp upon the makif of holiness.

וּכְמוֹ כֵן הוּא מַה שֶּׁמְּקַבֵּל שַׂר שֶׁל יִשְׁמָעֵאל בְּבְחִינַת מַקִּיף מֵהַאֲרַת חָסֶד עֶּלְיוֹן כו׳, וְכֵן שֵׂר שֶׁל עֵשָׂו מְקַבֵּל מַקִּיף מֵהַאֲרַת חָסֶד עֶּלְיוֹן כו׳, וְכֵן שֵׂר שֶׁל עֵשָׂו מְקַבֵּל מִבְּחִינַת מַקִּיף מֵהַאֲרַת בְּחִינַת גְּבוּרוֹת דְּקְדוּשָׁה כו׳, וּכְמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוֹּב בְּמָקוֹם אַחֵר בְּעִנְין "וּבְרָאשֵׁי חָדְשֵׁיכֶם" — שְׁנֵי רָאשִׁים הַם, הַיְנוּ לְבָרֵר וְלָקַחַת מֵהֶם בְּחִינַת הַמַּקִיף, וְלְעִנְיַן "סָר צִלְּם" כו׳. וּלְהִיוֹת שֶׁיֵשׁ לְסִטְרָא הַמַּקִיף, וְלְעִנְיַן "סָר צִלְּם" כו׳. וּלְהִיוֹת שֶׁיֵשׁ לְסִטְרָא אָחֲרָא חַיִּיּת שַׁקִּיף דְּקְדוּשְׁה לְכָךְ יָכוֹל לְהִיוֹת לָּכֵבְר וְלַהָּיוֹת לַמְיִינַת מַקִּיף דְּקְדוּשְׁה

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And this is [the reason why] in the drawing down of the surrounding light (*or makif*) that comes through positive commandments, there can be a grasp, G-d forbid. And through negative commandments, a guarding is effected for the lights of the positive commandments. The explanation is that G-d made this opposite that—as there is in holiness the aspects of *or pnimi* (inner light) and *or makif* (surrounding light), so too there exists in the realm of impurity both *or pnimi* and *or makif*, as it says: "Remove the filthy garments" which are the *makifim* of the *sitra achra*, etc.

The idea is as our sages said (Yoma 39a): "If a person sanctifies himself a little, they sanctify him a lot; from below they sanctify him from above." And likewise: "If a person defiles himself a little, they defile him a lot"—Rashi explains: "they permit him," like one who comes to defile himself, etc. From below they defile him from above. For it is known that every elevation causes a drawing down in accordance with the nature of that elevation, because "spirit brings spirit and draws spirit." That is, the spirit that rises from below to above draws the aspect of spirit from above to below. However, the drawing is in accordance with the nature of the rising spirit from below.

ְּוָהָעְנְיָן הוּא, כְּמַה שֶׁאָמְרוּ רַזָּ"ל (יוֹמָא ל״ט ע״א): "אָדָם מְקַדְּשׁי עַצְמוֹ מְעַט — מְקַדְּשִׁין אוֹתוֹ הַרְבֵּה; מִלְמַשָּה מְקַדְּשִׁין אוֹתוֹ מִלְמַעְלָה" כו׳. וְבַן: "מְטַמֵּא עַצְמוֹ מְעַט — מְטַמְּאִין אוֹתוֹ מִלְמַעְלָה" כו׳. וְבַן: "מְטַמֵּא עַצְמוֹ מְעַט — מְטַמְּאִין אוֹתוֹ הַרְבֵּה", (פֵירֵשׁ רַשִּׁ"י: "מַנִּיחִין אוֹתוֹ "הַבָּא לְטַמֵּא" כו׳), "מִלְמַשָּׁה מְטַמְּאִין אוֹתוֹ מִלְמַעָּלָה" כו׳. דְהַנָּה יָדוּעַ: דְּכָל הַעַלָאָה גוֹרֶמֶת הַמְשָׁכָה כְּפִי אֹפֶן אוֹתָה הַהַעֲלָאָה דַּוְקָא, מִשׁיִם "דְּרוּחַ אַיְתֵי רוּחַ וְאַמְשִׁיךְ רוּחַ " דְּרוּחַ הָעוֹלָה מִלְמַשָּה בּיִא הָבָל הַהַמְשָׁכָה הִיא כְּפִי בְּחִינַת הָרוּחַ מִלְמַעְלָה לְמַשָּה. אֲבָל הַהַמְשָׁכָה הִיא כְּפִי אַפָּן רוּחַ הַעוֹלָה מִלְמַשָּה כו׳.

And this is the aspect of an awakening from above (*isarusa d'le'eila*) that follows an awakening from below (*isarusa d'lisata*)—which is in the level of *or pnimi*, etc. However, there is a drawing of *or makif*, in which the drawing does not depend on the degree of elevation below. And this is what is meant by: "A person sanctifies himself a little—with an extra holiness, with some good preparation, etc.—they sanctify him a lot from above," in great abundance, manifold more than the elevation and preparation from below, etc.

ן זֶהוּ בְּחִינַת אִתְעָרוּתָא דִּלְעֵילָּא — שֶׁלְפִי עֵרוּתָא
דִּלְתַתָּא, שֶׁהוּא בְּאוֹר בְּנִימִי כו׳. אֲבָל יֵשׁ הַמְשֶׁכָה דְּאוֹר
מַקִּיף — שֶׁהַהַמְשֶׁכָה אֵינָה לְפִי עֵרוּתָא דִּלְתַתָּא
שֶׁלְמַטָּה. וְזֶהוּ: "אָדָם מְקַדֵּשׁ עַצְמוֹ מְעֵט — בִּקְדֵשִׁה
יְתֵרָה, בְּאֵיזוֹ הָכָנָה טוֹכָה כו׳ — מְקַדְשִׁין אוֹתוֹ הַרְבֵּה
מִלְמַעְלָה", בְּרִיבּוּי גָּדוֹל, בְּכִפְלֵי כִפְלַיִם מִכְּפִי הַהַעֲלָאָה
וִהַהַכָּנָה מִלְמַשָּה כו׳

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And likewise, one who comes to purify—they assist him to purify his heart in ways that he could not accomplish on his own at all. This is the aspect of *makif* of holiness and purity—to purify and sanctify all who sincerely desire and prepare even a little, to purify and sanctify his heart and mind even more, in great abundance, etc. And this is also why a person is suddenly struck with thoughts of teshuvah, and he does not know from where it came to him. Similarly, every morning, his heart awakens to serve Hashem and to walk in His ways, etc., as explained earlier in the discourse "Vayigash Eilav."

ְּוְכֵן: "הַבָּא לְטָהֵר — מְסַיְּעִין לוֹ" לְטַהֵר לְבָבוֹ בְּאֹפֶן
שֶׁלֹּא הָיָה בִּיכֹלְתוֹ מִצֵּד עַצְמוֹ כְּלָל. וְהוּא בְּחִינֵת מֵקִיף
דְּקְדוּשָׁה וְטָהָרָה — לְטַהֵּר וּלְקַדֵּשׁ לְכָל אֲשֶׁר חָפֵץ
וְהַכִין לְבּוֹ מְעַט, לְטַהֵּר וּלְקַדֵּשׁ לְבָבוֹ וְדַעְתוֹ יוֹתֵר מִזֶּה
בְּרִיבּוּי הַרְבֵּה כו׳. וְזֶהוּ גַּם־כֵּן מַה שֶׁנוֹפֵל לְאָדָם פִּתְאֹם
הָרְהוּרֵי תְּשׁוּבָה, וְלֹא נוֹדַע לוֹ מֵאֵיִן בָּא לוֹ זֹאת. וְכֵן מַה
שֶּׁבְּכָל בֹּקֶר אוֹר — מִתְעוֹרֵר לְבָבוֹ לַעֲבוֹד אֶת ה׳ וְלָלֶכֶת
בִּינִ כו׳, וּכְמוֹ שֶׁנִּכְתַּב לְעֵיל בְּדִּ"ה "וַיְּגַשׁ אֵלָיו
ב."בִּדְרָכִיו כו׳, וּכְמוֹ שֶׁנִּכְתַּב לְעֵיל בְּדִּ"ה "וַיִּגַשׁ אֵלָיו

And these awakenings occur even when there is no preparation in his heart for purity and holiness—not even a little. Nonetheless, since this happens when he desires, in general, closeness to Hashem—he wants generally to be close, and conversely, he has no desire at all for distance—then this comes to him from Above to arouse him to be in a state of closeness and repentance, etc. And one can say that this awakening that occurs every morning, as well as the awakening to repentance, is drawn to each and every Jew, whoever he may be. However, one who desires in general at least to be close to G-dliness—this awakening is felt by him, and he truly awakens to return or to serve Hashem, etc. But one who does not desire at all, Heaven forbid, does not sense this awakening in a way that it would affect him with any spiritual stirring, etc.

ְוְהָתְעוֹרְרוּת אֵלּוּ הֵן גַּם כַּאֲשֶׁר אֵין הַכָנָה בְּלְבּוֹ לִטְהָרָה
וּקְדֵשָׁה אֲפְלּוּ בִּמְעַט כו׳ — מִכָּל־מְקוֹם לְהִיוֹת זָהוּ
בַּאֲשֶׁר חָפֵץ בִּכְלָלוּת בְּקַרְבַת ה׳, שֶׁרוֹצֶה בִּכְלֶלוּת לְהִיוֹת לְהִיוֹת הָבְּקְרָבִת ה׳, שֶׁרוֹצֶה בִּכְלֶלוּת לִהְיוֹת לְקַרָּב מְשֻׁרְבָּר מְעוֹרְרוֹ לִהִיוֹת בִּבְחִינַת קְרְבָה שִׁבְּתְשׁוּבָה כו׳. וְיֵשׁ לוֹמֵר — דְּבְחִינַת הַהִּתְעוֹרְרוּת שַל הְשׁוּבָה כו׳. וְיֵשׁ לוֹמֵר — דְּבְחִינַת הַהִּתְעוֹרְרוּת שֵל שָׁבְי בַּלְעִיּרְרוּת שֵל אָשִׁרְ עַל אֶחוֹפֵץ בְּלָלוּת עַל כָּל פָּנִים לְהִיוֹת מְקַרָּב לֶאֱלֹקוּת — שָׁחוֹפֵץ בְּלָלוּת עַל כָּל פָּנִים לְהִיוֹת מְקַרָּב לֶאֱלֹקוּת — נְבְנָשׁ בּוֹ הַהִּתְעוֹרְרוּת בָּאֲמֶת לְשׁוּב אוֹ לַעְבָּדָהוּ יִתְבָּבְר בְּלֶעִל עָלִיו אֵיזֶה וְשָׁלוֹם — אֵינוֹ נִרְצָשׁ בּוֹ הַהִתְעוֹרְרוּת לִפְלֵל עָלָיו אֵיזֶה הַתִּעוֹרְרוּת בְּרוּת לָפְעֹל עָלָיו אֵיזֶה הַתִּעוֹרְרוּת בְּרוּת בָּרוּת כִּיִי עָלִיו אֵיזֶה

For behold, it is known that generally material and physical matters conceal and obscure the light of holiness. For example, when one tries to have Divine light shine in his mind and heart, physicality obstructs and prevents it, such that the light does not shine—this is within the aspect of *or pnimi*, etc. However, when the physicality and coarseness is extremely thick, Heaven forbid, then it obscures, blocks, and prevents even the sensation of *or makif* as well, etc.

דְהָנֵּה יָדוּעַ — דְּבִדְרַךְּ כְּלֶל, עִנְיָנִים הַחוֹמְרִיִּים
וְהַגַּשְׁמִיִּים מַעֲלִימִים וּמַסְתִּירִים בִּפְנֵי אוֹר הַקְּדוּשָׁה.
וּכְמוֹ: לְהִיוֹת מֵאִיר אוֹר אֱלֹקִי בְּמוֹחוֹ וּלְבָבוֹ — הָרֵי
הַחוֹמְרִיּוּת מוֹנֵעַ וּמְעַכֵּב, שֶׁאֵינוֹ מֵאִיר הָאוֹר כו׳ —
וְהַיְנוּ בְּאוֹר פְּנִימִי כו׳. אֲבָל כַּאֲשֶׁר הַחוֹמְרִיּוּת וְהַעֲבִיּוּת
הִיא בְּיוֹתֵר — ר"ל — הָרֵי זֶה מַעֲלִים וּמַסְתִּיר וּמוֹנֵעַ
הִיא בְּיוֹתֵר הַקּוֹר מַקִּיף גַּם־כָּן כו׳

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Nevertheless, the general drawing down of the life-awakening mentioned above—this all comes from the level of the *makifim* of holiness, etc. And likewise, in the side of impurity, there also exists that which follows his deeds. For example, even if one committed a forbidden act, Heaven forbid—still, if he is not steeped in it, such as if it was due to duress or error or similar cases, and as a result he is not deeply immersed in it—he can still come to repentance easily, etc.

אָבָל הָנֵּה כְּלָלוּת הַהַּמְשֶׁבָה בְּחֵיֵי הִתְעוֹרְרוּת הַנַּ"ל — כָּל זָה הוּא מִבְּחִינַת מֵקִיפִים דְּקְדוּשֶׁה כו׳. וּכְמוֹ כֵּן בְּלְעוּמָז — יֵשׁ גַּם־כֵּן מַה שֶׁהוּא לְפִי מֵעֲשֶׂיו. כְּגוֹן: אַף שְׁעָשֶׂה דָּבָר אָסוּר ר"ל — מִכָּל־מָקוֹם, אִם אֵינוֹ נִשְׁקַע בָּזָה חַס וְשָׁלוֹם — כְּמוֹ בְּאוֹנֵס אוֹ בִשְׁגוּגָה וְכַהֲנֵי גַּוְונֵי, וּמְמִילָא אֵינוֹ נִשְׁקַע בָּזֶה — הֲרֵי הוּא יָכוֹל לָבוֹא וּמְמֵילָא מֵינוֹ נִשְׁקַע בָּזֶה — הֲרֵי הוּא יָכוֹל לָבוֹא

But one who gives himself over to sin, Heaven forbid, and polishes himself for sin, and is immersed in it—this defiles his soul exceedingly through the *or makif* of impurity, and he becomes distant from repentance. On the contrary, it pulls him further away, etc., just as "one sin leads to another," etc. Especially when he gives himself over to evil thoughts, Heaven forbid—for the thoughts of sin are worse than the sin itself, particularly in this regard, that it defiles him and draws him even more, Heaven forbid.

אֲבָל מִי שֶׁנּוֹתֵן עַצְמוֹ לִּדְבַר עֲבֵירָה ר"ל, וּכְמוֹ שֶׁמְּמַרְקּ עַצְמוֹ לַעֲבֵירָה, וְנִשְׁקַע בָּזֶה — עַל־יְדֵי זֶה נִטְמֵאת נַפְשׁוֹ בְּיוֹתֵר בְּאוֹר מַקִּיף דְּקְלִיפָּה, וְהָרֵי הוּא רָחוֹק מִהְשׁוּבָה. וַאֲדַרְבָּא — שֶׁמוֹשֵׁךְ אוֹתוֹ הַלְאָה כו׳, וּכְמוֹ: "עֲבֵירָה גּוֹרֶרֶת עֲבֵירָה" כו׳. וּבִפְּרֶט — כַּאֲשֶׁר נוֹתֵן עַצְמוֹ בְּהִרְהוּרִים רָעִים ר"ל — שֶׁהְרְהוּרֵי עֲבֵירָה קָשִׁים מֵעֲבֵירָה, וּבִפְּרָט בָּזֶה — שֶׁמְטַמֵּא אוֹתוֹ וּמוֹשֵׁךְ אוֹתוֹ

Speech is *or pnimi*, etc., but thought is more like *or makif*, for it is the garment of the intellect, and the intellect is generally a makif, as explained elsewhere. And thought is drawn from the essence of the soul much more than speech, as is known. Therefore, it is continuous—it is never interrupted—because the soul is constant and eternal, so too is thought constant and eternal, etc. And therefore, any thought that one thought about something—even though it has passed and gone—does not disappear forever, but rather exists eternally, because it derives from the essence of the soul, etc.

הַדְּבּוּר הוּא אוֹר פְּנִימִי כו׳, אֲבָל הַמַּחֲשָׁבָה הִיא יוֹתֵר אוֹר מַקִּיף — שָׁהִיא לְבוּשׁ אֶל הַמּוֹחִין, וְהַמּוֹחִין הֵן מִקּיפִים בִּכְלָל, כְּמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב בְּמָקוֹם אַחֵר. וְהַמַּחֲשָׁבָה מַקִּיפִים בִּכְלָל, כְּמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב בְּמָקוֹם אַחֵר. וְהַמַּחֲשָׁבָה נְמְשְׁבָּה יִּמְת מְדִּבּוּר כַּיָּדוּעַ, וְלָכֵן הִיא תְּמִידִיּוּת — שָׁאֵינָה נְפָסֶקֶת לְעוֹלָם, לְהִיוֹת הַנָּכֶשׁ הַיא תְּמִידִית וְנִצְחִית כִּוּ בַּתְּשְׁבָה הִיא תְּמִידִית וְנִצְחִית כִּוּ שָׁהָשְׁבָה הִיא תְּמִידִית וְנִצְחִית בְּיָבְּחִית הָיא, מֵאָחַר שֶׁהִיא מִמְּהוּת הַנֶּפֶשׁ כו׳ שְׁחָלְפָה וְהָלְכָה לָה – לֹא תַאָבֵד לְעוֹלְם, אֶלָּא קַיֶּמֶת ... – בִּי מַחַשְׁבָה הִיא מְמַהוּת הַנֶּפָשׁ כו׳ ... – בִּי נִצְחִית הִיא, מֵאַחַר שֶׁהִיא מְמַהוּת הַנֶּפֶשׁ כו׳ ... – בִּי בִּיִּי מְהִיּא מְמַהוּת הַנְּפָשׁ כו׳ ...

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(And it is much harder to remove the letters of thought in a matter of prohibition from the essence of that prohibited matter, etc., as explained elsewhere regarding "O daughter of Zion, let your tears flow like a stream," that it is specifically through tears—when he weeps in bitterness of soul over those thoughts and bad speech—that he is able to remove and wash the letters, etc. And this is also why thoughts of sin are harder [to remove], because the body of the sin is repaired through purification and refinement in Gehinnom, but the letters of thought and speech are not purified through that—only through "the river of fire" (*Nehar Dinur*) that comes after Gehinnom, which is like the idea of tears, etc., in order to cleanse from the "filthy garments," etc. And this applies also to the letters of speech—however, it is even more so with thought, because it is the soul's specific garment, etc.).

אָסוּר מָגוּף דָּבֵר הָאָסוּר כו׳, וּכְמוֹ שֶׁכֶּתוּב בְּמֶקוֹם אַחֵר בְּעְנְיֵן "חוֹמֵת בַּת־צִּיוֹן הוֹרִידִי כַּנַחַל דְּמְעָה" כו׳ — שֶׁעֵל־יְדֵי הַדְּמְעוֹת דַּוְקָא שֶׁבּוֹכָה בְּמֵר נַפְשׁוֹ עַל הַמַּחֲשָׁבוֹת הָאֵלֶה וּדְבָרִים רָעִים — הָבֵי הוּא מַעֲבִיר וּמְכַבֵּס אֶת הָאוֹתִיּוֹת כו׳. וְזֶהוּ גַּם־כֵּן מַה שֶׁהְרְהוּרֵי עֲבֵירָה קָשִׁין — כִּי גוּף הָעֲבֵירָה נִתְקוֹ עַל־יְדֵי זִכּוּךְ וְצֵרוּף דְּגֵיהִנֹּם, אֲבָל הָאוֹתִיּוֹת דְּמַחְשָׁבָה וְדִבּוּר — אֵינָם נְטְהָרִים בָּזֶה, אֶלָּא בִּנְהַר־דִּינוּר שֶׁאַחַר הַגֵּיהִנֹם — וְזֶהוּ כו׳. וְזֶהוּ גַּם בְּאוֹתִיּוֹת הַדְּבּוּר — מִכָּל־מָקוֹם בְּיוֹתֵר הוּא (בִּמַּחְשָׁבָה, לְפִי שֶׁהִיא לְבוּשׁ הַמְיֻחָד כו׳

וָכַבֵד הַרבֵּה יוֹתֵר לְהַסִיר הַאוֹתִיוֹת דְמַחַשַּׁבַה בִּדַבַר)

And because thought comes from the essence of the soul and is continuous, it damages greatly and is prone to receive impurity at first more than the other powers of the soul. And through the impurity of thought, all the other powers become defiled as well, since it is *or makif* that surrounds the soul and brings down and draws [influence], etc. And when a person draws his heart to defile himself with evil thoughts and sins—even a little—he draws upon his soul from Above, meaning from the chambers of the kelipah, which defile him, Heaven forbid, doubly—corresponding to his arousal below. As it is written, "If to the scorners He will scorn..."—one who comes to defile his soul is granted many gates of impurity, etc.

וּלְהִיוֹת שֶׁהַמַּחֲשָׁבָה הִיא מִמַּהוּת הַנֶּפֶשׁ, וְהִיא תָּמִידִית

— הֲרֵי הִיא פּוֹגֶמֶת מָאֹד, וַצְלוּלָה לְקַבֵּל טֻמְאָה בַּתְּחַלֶּה יוֹתֵר מִשְׁאָר כֹּחוֹת הַנֶּפֶשׁ כו׳. וְעַל־יְדֵי טַמְאַת הַמַּחֲשָׁבָה

— מְמֵילָא מִתְטַמְּאִים שְׁאָר כֹּחוֹת — לִהְיוֹתָה אוֹר
מַקִיף שֶׁמְּקִיפָה אֶת הַנֶּפֶשׁ וּמוֹרִידָה וּמוֹשֶׁכֶת כו׳.
וַחֲטָאִים — אֲפָלוּ מְעַט — מַמְשִׁיךְ עַל נַפְשׁוֹ מִלְמַעְלָה, הַיְנוּ מַהַיְכָלוֹת הַקְּלִיפָּה — שֶׁמְטִמְאִים אוֹתוֹ ר"ל בְּכִפְלֵי הַיְנוּ מַהַעְלָאָתוֹ שֶׁלוֹ. וּכְמוֹ שֶׁכְּתוּב: "אִם לַלֵּצִים הוּא יָלִיץ" כו׳ — וְהַבָּא לְטַמֵּא נַפְשׁוֹ — פּוֹתְחִין לוֹ הַרְבֵּה . שַׁעֲרֵי טַמְאָה כו׳
. שַׁעֲרֵי טַמְאָה כו׳

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And not only that, but they defile him from the chambers of impurity even if he only defiled himself a little. And this is what causes a person to suddenly be struck by evil thoughts, even though he didn't intend for it at all, and they disturb him greatly so that he cannot escape from them at all—even though he doesn't want it, etc. This comes from the level of *makif* of the kelipah, which surrounds and encircles the soul, like "the iniquity of my heels encircles me," "they surround me, indeed they encircle me," etc. And this is called "the dominion of the arrogant," meaning the wicked, that confuse him, etc., and concerning this it says, "also from the dominion of the arrogant—protect me," etc. And since there are also *makifim* in the realm of impurity, therefore it is possible for there to be grasp even in the *makif* of holiness that is drawn through positive commandments, etc. Therefore, one needs a protection so that they (the forces of impurity) will not have any hold, etc. And that protection comes through the 365 negative commandments, etc.

וְלֹא עוֹד, אֶלָּא שֶׁמְטִמְּאִים אוֹתוֹ מֵהֵיכְלוֹת הַטֵּמְאָה —
גַּם אִם לֹא טָמֵא עַצְמוֹ אֶלָּא מְעֵט. וְהוּא מֵה שֶׁנוֹפֵל לְאָדָם
פָּתְאֹם הָּרְהוּרִים רָעִים — שָׁצִינוֹ מְכַנֵּון לָזֶה כְּלֶל —
וּמְבַלְבְּלִים אוֹתוֹ מְאֹד, לְבַלְתִּי יוּכַל לָצֵאת מֵהֶם כְּלָל כו׳
וּמְבַלְבְּלִים אוֹתוֹ מְאֹד, לְבַלְתִּי יוּכַל לָצֵאת מֵהֶם כְּלָל כו׳
וּאֲר שֶׁצִינוֹ רוֹצֶה כו׳. וְזֶהוּ מִבְּשָׁמָה, וּכְמוֹ: "עֲוֹן עִקְּבֵי יְסוּבֵּנִי", "סְבָבוּנִי גַם סְבָבוּנִי" כו׳. וְנִקְרֵאת "מֶמְשֶׁלֶת זֵדִים חֲשוֹך עַבְדֶּדְ" כו׳. וְעַל זָה נָאֶמְיִלוּ יַבִּי כִיי כו׳. וּלְהִיוֹת שָׁמִיּלִה בִּי כְּעוֹנִי בַּם בְּלְנִים לוֹ כו׳. וְעַל זָה נָאֶמְר: בִי" כו׳ וּלְהִינֹת מַקִּיפִים — "אַל יִמְשְׁלוּ בִי" כו׳. וּלְהִיוֹת שָׁמִינָה הַלְעִיּה בִּבְרָתִינַת מַקִּיף דִּקְדוּשְׁה — לְזֹאת יָכוֹל לְהִיוֹת אֲחִיזָה כו׳. וּלְזֹאת צְרִיכִים שְׁמִירָה הָיִא עַל־יִדֵי מִצְיֹת בְּעִיּה כו׳. וְלַוֹאת צְרִיכִים שְׁמִירָה הָיא עַל־יִדִי ... שָׁמִיתָה כו׳. וְלַוֹאת צְרִיכִים שְׁמִירָה ... שָׁמִילִה מִצְיֹת לֹא תַעֲשֵׂה כו׳. וְלַוֹאת אִרִיכִים שְׁמִירָה ... שִׁמִּיל שְׁבִייִּים בִּיֹת לֹא תַעֲשֵׂה כו׳. וְלַוֹאת מְרִירָה הִיא עַל־יִדִי

Behold, it is known from our sages in Gittin (66a): "They have a reflection (bavua), but they do not have a reflection of a reflection (bavua d'bavua)." The meaning of bavua is the aspect of the makif of chayah—which is the aspect of the closer makif. This level exists also in the side of impurity (l'umat zeh), for they too possess an aspect of makif, as mentioned earlier. But the bavua d'bavua—the aspect of the makif of yechidah, which is the farther makif—this the sitra achra does not possess.

דְהָנֵה יָדוּעַ מִשֶּׁאָמְרוּ רַזַ"ל בְּגִטִין (דַּף ס"ו ע"א):
"בַּבוּאָה אִית לְהוֹ — בַּבוּאָה דְּבַבּוּאָה לֵית לְהוֹ".
וּפֵירוּשׁ "בַּבוּאָה" — הַיְנוּ בְּחִינַת מַקִּיף דְּחַיָּה, שֶׁזָּהוּ
בְּחִינַת מַקִּיף הַקָּרוֹב — בְּחִינָה זוֹ גֵשׁ גַּם בִּלְעוּמָז, שֶׁיֵשׁ
בָּחִינַת מַקִּיף דְּיְחִידָה, שֶׁהוּא בְּחִינַת מַקִּיף הָרָחוֹק
בַּחִינַת מַקִּיף דְּיְחִידָה, שֶׁהוּא בְּחִינַת מַקִּיף הָרָחוֹק
ב. בְּחִינַת מַקִּיף הָּרָחוֹק בִּסְטָרֵא אָחַרָא

For behold, the level of yechidah is that which receives from the level of Yachid, meaning the essential bond of the souls of Israel to the Essence of the Infinite One, blessed be He. This pertains only to the souls of Israel. From this stems their supreme strength of will toward G-dliness—in a state of a singular desire for Hashem alone, without any aspect of separation at all. It is not possible to be separated, G-d forbid, from G-dliness; rather, there is only a singular desire for Hashem alone, etc.

דְהנֵּה בְּחִינַת יְחִידָה — הִיא שֶׁמְקַבֶּלֶת מִבְּחִינַת יָחִיד, וְהַיְנוּ בְּחִינַת הָהִתְקַשְׁרוּת עַצְמִיּוּת דִּנְשָׁמוֹת יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּעַצְמוּת אוֹר־אֵין־סוֹף בָּרוּדְּ־הוּא. וְזֶה אֵינוֹ שַׁיָּידְּ רַק בְּנִשְׁמוֹת יִשְׂרָאֵל. וּמִשׁוּם זֶה יֵשׁ בָּהֶם תּוֹקֵף הָרָצוֹן בִּיוֹתֵר לֶאֱלֹקוּת, בִּכְחִינַת רָצוֹן אֶחָד לַה׳ לְבַדּוֹ — וְאֵין בּוֹ שׁוּם צַד פֵּרוּד כְּלָל — שָׁאֵינוֹ יָכוֹל לִהְיוֹת נִפְרָד חַס וְשָׁלוֹם מֵאֱלֹקוּת, אֶלָּא בִּבְחִינַת רָצוֹן אֶחָד לַהֹי לִבְדּוֹ כֹּו׳.

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And in the *sitra achra* this level does not exist. Although the *sitra* achra also has a very strong will—indeed, in the sitra achra the forcefulness is even greater than in holiness, as is known, for the side of holiness is characterized by being soft like a reed, with humility and lowliness, while the *sitra achra* is hard like cedar, with bold selfhood and arrogance, etc.—still, this greater intensity in the sitra achra is because in holiness the principal conduct is according to intellect, which influences humility in the emotions, etc., as is known.

וּבָסָטָרָא אַחָרָא — לֵית בָּהוֹ בִּחִינָה זוֹ. אַף שֶׁבִּסְטָרָא - לֵית בָּהוֹ בִּחִינָה אַחַרַא יֵשׁ גַּם־כֵּן בָּחִינַת תּוֹקֶף הַרַצוֹן מָאֹד כו׳, וַאַדַרְבַּא - הַרֵי בָּסָטָרַא אַחָרַא הַתּוֹקֵף יוֹתֵר מְבַּקּדוּשַׁה, וּכִיַדוּעַ: דְּסָטְרֵא דְּקְדוּשַׁה הוּא בְּבָחִינַת "רַךְ כַּקְנָה" וּבְבָחִינַת הַכְנָעָה וּשְׁפָלוּת — וּבִסְטְרָא אָחֶרָא: בְּחִינַת "קָשֶׁה ַכָּאֶרָז", וּבִתְּקֶף הַיֵּשׁוּת וְהַגַּסוּת כוי.

However, this greater intensity in the *sitra achra* is due to the fact that in holiness the primary governance is through the intellect. which produces *bitul* (self-nullification) in the emotions, as is known. Whereas in the *sitra achra*, the governance is through emotions and will. And in terms of will, there is also great intensity in holiness, as mentioned above—that it is impossible to be separated, G-d forbid, etc.

אַך זָה שַׁבַּסִטְרַא אַחַרָא הַתּוֹקֵף יוֹתֵר — הַיִנוּ מִפְּנֵי שַׁבַּקְדוּשַׁה עִיקַר הַהַנָהַגַה הִיא עַל־פִּי הַשֵּׂכֵל — שֵׁפּוֹעֵל הַבְּטוּל בַּמִּדּוֹת כו׳, כַּיָּדוּעַ. וּבִסְטְרָא אָחֲרָא — הַהַנְהָגָה על־פִּי הַמִּדּוֹת וְהַרַצוֹן כו׳. וּמִצַּד הָרָצוֹן — יֵשׁ תּוֹקֶף גָּדוֹל מָאֹד גַּם בַּקְדוּשָׁה, וּכְנַ"ל: שֶׁאֵינוֹ יָכוֹל כְּלַל לְהִיוֹת נָפָרַד חַס וְשֵׁלוֹם כו׳.

Nevertheless, even though there is great strength in the *sitra achra* as well, why then did they say: "Bavua d'bavua—they do not have"? The explanation is that although they possess a strong will, it is not in a manner that it cannot be otherwise. In holiness, the strength of will and connection is such that it cannot be otherwise at all—it is impossible to be separate from G-dliness in any way. And therefore, one gives up his soul with self-sacrifice for the sanctification of the Name, because to live any other way is limpossible, and when this requires him to give up his life—there is אָהַר אָי־אָפָשַׁר לָהִיוֹת, וּכִשֶּצַרִיךְ מְשׁוֹם זֶה לָמְסוֹר נַפְשׁוֹ no hesitation, etc.

אָבַל מַכַּל־מַקוֹם, הַרִי יֵשׁ תּוֹקֶף גַּדוֹל גַּם בַּסְטָרֵא אַחַרָא - וַלמה אמֶרוּ "בּבוּאה דָבבּוּאה לית לָהוֹ"? הענין הוּא - שעם הַיוֹת שֵׁישׁ בַּהֶם תּוֹקָף הרצוֹן -- מכּל־מקוֹם, - אֵינוֹ בָּאֹפָן שֶׁאָי־אֵפָשַׁר לְהִיוֹת בָּאֹפָן אֲחֵר. דְבַקְדוּשַׁה הַרִי תּוֹקֵף הַרַצוֹן וְהַהָּתְקַשִּׁרוּת הוּא בָּאֹפֵן כַּזֵה שָׁאָי־אָפָשַׁר לְהָיוֹת בָּאֹפָן אַחֶר כָּלַל — הַיִנוּ: שֵׁאִינוֹ יַכוֹל לַהִיוֹת נַפָּרֵד מֵאֱלֹקוּת בָּשׁוּם אֹפֶן. וּמְשׁוּם זֶה מוֹסֵר נַפָשׁוֹ בִּמְסִירַת נֵפֶשׁ עַל קדוּשׁ הַשֵּׁם -- מְשׁוּם שֶׁבָּאֹפֵן אין מָניעה כו׳ –

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But in the *sitra achra*, although there is also a powerful will and one can even give up his life for his desire, it is not because the will and connection are such that it is impossible to be otherwise; rather, it could be otherwise, and he could choose not to give up his life—but he wants to give up his life, not that he is compelled to by the force of will such that he is unable to budge from it, etc. But in holiness, it is in a state of true strength—that he is totally unable to budge from it, and it is impossible to be otherwise, G-d forbid. And therefore, he gives up his life, etc., even though he may not want this in truth, for he wants to live, etc.—still, nothing can stand against the strength of his will and attachment to G-dliness, such that he cannot be separated from it, G-d forbid, in any matter or manner at all. Such strength does not exist in the *sitra achra* at all.

אָבָל בְּסִטְרָא אָחֲרָא, אַף שָׁיֵשׁ גַּם־בֵּן תּוֹקֶף הָּרָצוֹן, וְיָכוֹל לְמְסוֹר נַפְשׁוֹ עַל רְצוֹנוֹ — אֵין זָה מְשׁוּם שֶׁהָרְצוֹן וְהַהִּתְקַשְׁרוּת הּוֹא בְּאֹפֶן כָּזָה שֶׁאִי־אֶפְשָׁר לִהְיוֹת בְּאֹפֶן אַחֵר, אֶלָּא יָכוֹל לִהְיוֹת בְּאֹפֶן אַחֵר וְלֹא לִמְסוֹר נַפְשׁוֹ מִצֵּד תּוֹקֶף הָרָצוֹן שֶׁאִי־אֶפְשָׁר לָזוּז מִזָּה כו׳. אֲבָל מַצֵּד תּוֹקֶף הָרָצוֹן שֶׁאִי־אֶפְשָׁר לָזוּז מִזָּה כו׳. אֲבָל לוֹ כְּלָל לָזוּז מִזֶּה, וְאֵי־אֶפְשָׁר לִהִיוֹת בְּאֹפֶן אַחֵר חַס לְאֵלוֹם. וּמִשׁוּם זֶה מִמֵילָא הוּא מוֹסֵר נַפְשׁוֹ כו׳ — (גַּם שְׁאֵינוֹ רוֹצֶה בָּזֶה בָּצֶמֶת, כִּי רוֹצֶה הוּא לִחְיוֹת כו׳, אֲבָל אֵין שׁוּם דָּבָר עוֹמֵד נָגֶד תּוֹקֶף בָּרְצוֹן וְהַהִּתְקַשְׁרוּת לְאֵלֹפוּת — שָׁאֵינוֹ יָכוֹל לִהְיוֹת נִפְרָד מִזֶּה חַס וְשִׁלוֹם לְאֵלֹפוּת עִנְיָן וְאֹפֶן כְּלָל כו׳). וְתוֹקֶף בָּזֶה — לֵית בִּסְטְרָא

And further: in holiness, in the level of will of *yechidah*, there is no division of levels; therefore, it is of immense strength. But the intensity of will in the *sitra achra* is not directed toward one thing, but many desires across various things—and in each one there is strong will, but therefore none of them are absolutely powerful. On the contrary, the desires contradict and confuse each other, weaken each other, or cancel each other out. But in holiness, in the divine soul, the will of *yechidah* is a singular will without any division at all.

וְגַם עוֹד זֹאת: דְּבַקְּדוּשָׁה, בְּבְחִינַת הָרָצוֹן דִּיְחִידָה — אֵין בּוֹ שׁוּם הִתְחַלְּקוּת מַדְּבגוֹת, וּמִמֵּילָא הוּא בְּתוֹקֶף מָלְאֹד. אֲבָל תּוֹקֶף הָרָצוֹן דִּסְטְרָא אָחֲרָא — אֵינוֹ בְּדָבָר מְאֹד. אֲבָל תּוֹקֶף הָרְצוֹן דִּסְטְרָא אָחֲרָא — אֵין בְּשׁוּם אָחָד מֵהֶם וְאֶחָד הָרָצוֹן בְּתוֹקֶף. וּמִמֵּילָא — אֵין בְּשׁוּם אָחָד מֵהֶם תּוֹקֶף גָּדוֹל, וַאֲדַרְבָּא: הָרְצוֹנוֹת מְבַלְבְּלִים זָה אֶת זָה כו׳. אֲבָל וּמַחְלִישִׁים זָה אֶת זָה כו׳. אֲבָל בַּקְדוּשִׁה — בְּנֶפֶשׁ הָאֱלֹקִית — בְּחִינַת הָרָצוֹן דִּיְחִידָה — הוּא בִּבְחִינַת רָצוֹן אֶחָד בְּלִי שׁוּם הִתְחַלְּקוּת כְּלָל ...

Although in holiness there are also many desires, such as the particular desires for mitzvos, etc., nevertheless, these desires are not divided and separated from each other; therefore, they do not weaken each other—on the contrary, they strengthen each other. And that is why one who is engaged in a mitzvah is exempt from another mitzvah, for through the performance of this mitzvah, he also draws down the influence of the mitzvah from which he is exempt, etc., as explained elsewhere.

אַף שֶׁבַּקְדוּשָׁה יֵשׁ גַּם־בֵּן כַּמָּה רְצוֹנוֹת, כְּמוֹ הָרְצוֹנוֹת פְּרָטִיִּים דְּמִצְ*וֹת* כו׳ — הָנֵּה לְבַד זוֹ שֶׁהָרְצוֹנוֹת הָאֵלֶּה אֵינָם רְצוֹנוֹת מְחֻלָּקִים וּמֵּרָדָּלִים זָה מִזֶּה, וּמִשׁוּם כָּךְ — אֵינָם מַחְלִישִׁים זָה אֶת זָה. וַאֲדַרְבָּא — הֵם מְחַזְּקִים זָה אֶת זָה כוּי. וְלָכַן: "הָעוֹסֵק בְּמִצְוָה — פָּטוּר מִן הַמִּצְוָה", וְהַיְנוּ: שֻׁעַל־יְדֵי קִיּוּם מִצְוָה זוֹ — נִמְשַׁךְ לוֹ גַּם הַהַּמְשָׁכָה שֶׁעַל־יְדֵי הַמִּצְוָה שֶׁפָּטוּר מִמֶּנָּה כו׳, וּכְמוֹ שֶׁנְּרָתַּב בְּמָקוֹם אַחֵר (וּעַיֵּן מַה שֶׁכָּתוּב בְּדִּ"ה "כִּי .("יְדַעְתִּיוֹ

תר"מו **Parshas Shlach**

In truth, the will of *yechidah* is higher than the desires related to mitzvos. This is the essential will of the essence of the soul. stemming from its core bond with G-dliness, and it is not related to the specific desires of mitzyos. Therefore, in this level of will, there is no division whatsoever—it is a simple and essential will. In the context of mitzyos, this appears in the actual performance of the mitzvos—in the action itself—where there is no difference in levels at all. The differences between mitzvah desires exist only in the specific *kavanah* (intention), but in the essential act, they are all equal. As it is said: "Do not sit and weigh the mitzvos of the Torah," etc.

הָנָה בָאֱמֶת, הָרָצוֹן דְּיִחִידָה — הוּא לְמַעְלָה מֶהָרְצוֹנוֹת - דְמִצְיֹת כו'. שֶׁזֶהוּ בִּחִינַת הָרָצוֹן הָעַצְמִי דְעֵצֶם הַנֶּפֶשׁ שֶׁמִצַּד עֶצֶם הִתְקַשְׁרוּתוֹ בֶּאֱלֹקוּת, וְאֵין זֶה שַׁיָּיךְ לָרְצוֹן קמָצְ*וֹת.* וּלְזֹאת — בָּבְחִינַת רָצוֹן זֶה — אֵין בּוֹ שׁוּם הָתְחַלְּקוּת כָּלַל, אֱלַא הוּא בָּבָחִינַת רַצוֹן פַּשׁוּט וְעַצְמִי כו׳. וּבָמַצְוֹת — הָרִי זָה בַּא בַּבְחִינַת מַעֲשֵׂה הַמַּצְוֹת — בָּעֶצֶם הַעֲשִׂיָה — שֶׁבָּזֶה לֹא יֵשׁ חִלּוּקֵי מַדְרֵגוֹת כִּלַל. דְמַה שֵׁיֵשׁ חַלּוּקִים בַּרָצוֹנוֹת דְמִצְ*וֹת —* הַיִנוּ בִּבְחִינַת הַכַּוַנַה פָּרַטִית. אַבַל בִּעֵצֵם הַמַּעֲשֶׂה — כַּלַּם שַׁוִין. וּכְמוֹ "שָאָמְרוּ: "אַל תְּהִי יוֹשֵׁב וּשׁוֹקֵל בְּמִצְ*וֹתֵיהָ* שֶׁל תּוֹרָה"

And the strength in the very performance of the mitzvos themselves is in the souls of Israel, from their essential will and essential connection to G-dliness, which exists equally in every individual. And the will is one, with no division at all. Such a will does not exist in the sitra achra at all.

וָהַתּוֹקֵף בָּבָחִינַת מַעֲשֵׂה הַמְּצִיֹת עַצְמַן — הוּא בִּנְשָׁמוֹת יָשָׂרָאֵל מֵהַרָצוֹן וְהַהָּתָקַשָּׁרוּת הַעַצְמִי דְּנָשָׁמוֹת יִשְׂרָאֵל בָּאֵלֹקוּת — שַׁזָּהוּ בָּכָל אֶחָד וְאֶחָד בִּשַׁוָה כו'. וְהָרַצוֹן - הוּא אֶחָד, וְאֵין בּוֹ הִתְחַלְּקוּת כְּלַל כו׳. וְרַצוֹן כָּזֶה - לֵית בָּסְטָרָא אַחָרָא כָּלַל כוי

And the will is one, and there is no division in it at all, etc., and such a will does not exist in the sitra achra at all, etc. And the root נהרצון הוא אַחד וָאין בּוֹ התַחלָקוּת כָּלל כו׳, וַרצוֹן כֹזָה of the matter is that this will—of the level of *yechidah* in the souls of Israel—is what extends from the innermost and essence of the [Infinite One (Ein Sof), and opposite this level the *other side* has no הַנָּמִשֶּׁךְ מִבָּחִינַת פָּנִימִיוּת וָעַצְמוּת אֶין־סוֹף. דְנֵגֶד בָּחִינָה standing, for all that applies only regarding levels of revelation, but not with regard to the Essence itself, etc. And therefore, this level does not exist in the *sitra achra*, and they have no grasp in this level or degree at all, etc. On the contrary, through the revelation of this level, all foreign will is nullified—as in "their shadow has departed"—for their encompassing [power] is nullified through the revelation of the essence of the Infinite Light, etc.

ַלֹא יֵשׁ בַּסִּטְרָא אָחָרָא כְּלָל כו׳. וְשֹׁרָשׁ הָעִנְיָן הוּא: דְּרָצוֹן זֵה — דְּבָחִינַת יִחִידָה שֶׁבְּנִשְׁמוֹת יִשְׂרָאֵל — זֶהוּ זוֹ — לֹא יֵשׁ לְעֵלֶם זָר אַחִיזָה, דְּכָל זֵה שַׁיַּדְ רַק לְגַבֵּי בָּחִינוֹת הַגִּלוּיִים, אֲבַל לֹא לְגַבֵּי בִּחִינַת הַעַצְמוּת כו׳. וּמְשׁוּם זֶה לֹא יֵשׁ בָּחִינַה זוֹ בַּסִּטְרַא אַחָרַא, וְאֵין לַהֶם אַחִיזַה בָּבָחִינַה וּמַדְרֵגַה זוֹ כו׳. וַאַדַרְבַּא — עַל־יִדֵי גִּלּוּי בָּחִינָה זוֹ — מִתְבַּטֵּל כָּל רָצוֹן זָר, וּכְמוֹ "סָר צִלָּם מַעַלֵיהֶם", שֶׁמָתִבַּטֵּל בָּחִינַת הַמַּקִיף שֶׁלָּהֶם מִצַּד הַגִּלּוּי יְדַעַצְמוּת אוֹר־אֵין־סוֹף כו׳.

תר"סו

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And as is known, that in the inwardness of the *makif* (meaning the remote encompassing level), there—specifically—is the soul of Israel: "I am He and no other," etc., as explained elsewhere. And what they [the *sitra achra*] receive is only from the externality of the *makif*. And when the inner dimension of the *makif* shines and is revealed, then even the external is drawn into innerness specifically, and they cannot receive from the *makif*. And through this, "their shadow has departed from them," meaning their *makif* departs—and their *nursing* from the *makif* ceases—and consequently, they are lost, etc.

ְּוְכַיָּדוּעַ — דְּבִפְנִימִיּוּת הַמַּקִיף (וְהַיְנוּ בְּחִינַת מַקִּיף הָרָחוֹק) — שָׁם דַּוְקָא נִשְׁמוֹת יִשְׂרָאֵל: "אֲנִי הוּא וְלֹא אַחַר" כו׳, כְּמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב בְּמָקוֹם אַחֵר. וּמֵה שֶׁהֵם מְקַבְּלִים — הַיְנוּ מִבְּחִינַת חִיצוֹנִיּוּת הַמַּקִּיף. וּכְשֶׁמֵאִיר וּמִתְגַלֶּה בְּחִינַת בְּנִימִיּוּת הַמַּקִיף — אָז גַּם הַחִיצוֹנִיּוּת נִמְשֶׁכֶת בִּבְחִינַת בְּנִימִיּוּת דַּוְקָא, וְאֵי־אֶפְשֶׁר לָהֶם לְקַבֵּל מִן הַמַּקִיף. וְעַל־יְדִי זָה: "סָר צִלָּם מֵעֲלֵיהֶם" — שֶׁנְּסְתַלֵּק הַמַּקִיף שֶׁלָּהֶם כו׳, וּמִתְבַּטֶּל יְנִיקָתָם מֵהַמַּקִיף, וּמִמֵּילָא מִתְאַבְּדִים כו׳

And as with the camp of Sancheriv, of whom it is written, "And an angel of the L-rd went out and struck in the camp," etc., and it is explained elsewhere that this means there was a revelation of the level of the inner *makif*, and through this they were utterly lost, as explained above. And based on the above, one can understand the matter of positive and negative commandments—that the *lo taaseh* (negative commands) are a guard for the *mitzvot aseh* (positive commands), because through *lo taaseh* is drawn the level of the distant *makif*, of the inner essence of the Infinite One. And in this level they (*kelipot*) have absolutely no grasp whatsoever—and therefore it serves as a safeguard for the lights of the *aseh* mitzvos, so that they (*kelipot*) cannot draw sustenance from this level. On the contrary, "all doers of iniquity will scatter"—they are nullified and lost through this drawing that occurs via the *lo taaseh*, etc.

וּכְמוֹ בְּמַחֲנֵה סַנְחַרִיב, שֶׁבֶּתוּב: "וַיֵּצֵא מֵלְאַךּ ה׳ וַיַּדְּ
בַּמַחְנֵה" כו׳, וּמְבוֹאָר בְּמָקוֹם אַחֵר — דְּהַיְנוּ שֶׁבְּיִהּ גִּלּוּי
בְּמִינְת פְּנִימִיּוּת הַמַּקִיף, וְעַל־יְיִדִי זֶה מִמֵּילָא נָאֶבְדוּ כו׳
בְּנִימִיּוּת פְּנִימִיּוּת הַמַּקִיף, וְעַל־יְיִדִי זֶה מִמֵּילָא נָאֶבְדוּ כו׳
בְּלֹא תַעֲשֶׂה — הַם שִׁמוּר לַעֲשֵׂה, לְהִיוֹת שֶׁעַל־יְדֵי לֹא
תַעֲשֶׂה נִמְשֶׁךְ בְּחִינַת מַקִּיף הָרְחוֹק — דְּבְחִינַת פְּנִימִיּוּת
וְעַצְמוּת אֵין־סוֹף, דְּבְחִינָה זוֹ — אֵין לָהֶם שׁוּם צֵד
בְּעִצְיה בְּלֶל וּכְלָל. וְלָכֵן — הוּא נַעֲשֶׂה שִׁמוּר לָאוֹרוֹת
בְּלְפֹל פֹּעֲלֵי אָנֶן" — שֶׁמִּתְבַּטְלִים וְנָאֶבָדִים עַל־יִדֵי
בָּל פֹּעֲלֵי אָנֶן" — שָׁמִּתְבַּטְלִים וְנָאֶבָדִים עַל־יִדִי

And there is another reason why the positive commandments need guarding. Although they are the Will of the Blessed One, and the 613 commandments are the 613 pathways of the skull (Gulgalta), nevertheless, they have been enclothed in physical matters—such as tzitzis from physical wool, tefillin on physical parchment, lulav from physical plants, and so on with all the commandments. And these objects were originally under the dominion of the *kelipat nogah* (neutral spiritual mixture), from where they derive their vitality, as it is said: "There is no blade of grass below that does not have a star above it," etc., and every lower thing has a corresponding spiritual source above it, etc. And it is known that the constellations (mazalos) are the 70 ministers of *nogah*, etc.

וְהָבֵּה יֵשׁ עוֹד טַעַם לָמָה מִצְוֹת עֲשֵׂה צְּרִיכּוֹת שְׁמִירָה:

דְּעָם הֱיוֹתָן בְּחִינַת רָצוֹן עֻלְיוֹן — וּתְרֵי"ג מִצְ*וֹת* הֵן

תְּרַי"ג אֹרְחִין דְּגוּלְגַלְתָּא — מִכָּל מְקוֹם: הֲרֵי נִתְלַבְּשׁוּ
בְּקַלַּף גַּשְׁמִי, וְדּוֹמֶה מֵהֶם — שָׁבַּלוּלָב מִצְּמָחִים גַּשְׁמִיִים
כו׳, וְכָהֵגֶן בְּכָל הַמִּצְיֹת. צְשָׁי הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה הִיוּ תְּחִלֶּה
תַּחָת מֶמְשֶׁלֶת קְלִיפַת נוֹגַה — שָׁמִּשֶׁם נִמְשָׁך חַיּוּתָם,
וּרְמוֹ שָׁצְמְרוּ: "אֵין לְדְּ עֵשֶׂב מִלְמַשָּׁה — שֵׁאֵין לוֹ מַזָּל
וּלְמַשְׁרָּים כִּו׳. וְכַן כָּל דְּבָר שֶׁלְמַשָּׁה — יֵשׁ לוֹ מַזְּל
הַמַּשְׁרָּיִים הָעַ"ב שֶּׂרִים
הַמַּשְׁלִּיו כו׳. וְיָדוּעַ דַּהַמַּזְּלוֹת — הֵם הָעַ"ב שֶּׂרִים
דְּנוֹגָה כו׳

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And although the vitality is essentially the Divine Light that enlivens all creations, etc., still it flows through being enclothed in the mazalos of *nogah*, etc. And when one performs a mitzvah with it, this vitality is included in the holiness of the One G-d, etc. Nevertheless, guarding is still necessary, since they are enclothed in physical things—only that the Will of the Blessed One is drawn into them. Therefore, a strong and excellent guarding is needed so that the *kelipot* do not draw from it, Heaven forbid. For something that is from the mixture of good and evil—even though it has been clarified and elevated—still requires an outstanding guard so that no drawing to the external forces (kelipot) results, etc. But that which is essential good does not require such guarding, etc.

ְּהַגַּם שֶׁהַחַיּוּת מִצַּד עַצְמוֹ — הוּא הָאוֹר הָצֵּלֹקִי הַמְּחַיֶּה אֶת כֶּל הַנָּבְרָאִים כו׳, אֲבָל הוּא נִמְשָׁךְ עַל־יְדֵי הָתְלַבְּשׁוּת הָמַיָּלוֹת דְּנוֹגַה כו׳. וְעַל־יְדֵי שֶׁעוֹשִׁין בּוֹ הַמִּצְנָה —
נַמְּיָלוֹת דְּנוֹגַה כו׳. וְעַל־יְדֵי שֶׁעוֹשִׁין בּוֹ הַמִּצְנָה —
נְלַלֶל חַיּוּת זֶה בִּקְדָשַׁת ה׳ אֶחָד כו׳. וּמִכָּל מְקוֹם: צְרִיכָה שְׁמִירָה — רָק שְׁמִירָה הָעָלִיוֹן. עַל־בֵּן צְרִיכִין שְׁמִירָה יָפָה וַחָּזְקָה — שֶׁלֹא יוּמְשֵׁךְ מָגְלִיוֹן. עַל־בֵּן צְרִיכִין שְׁמִירָה יָפָה וַחַסְּ וַחְיָלָה — שָׁלֹא יוּמְשֵׁךְ הָנְי שְׁהִינַת תַּעֲרוֹבֶת טוֹב וְרָע —
וְשָׁלוֹם. כִּי הַדְּבָר שֶׁהוּא מִבְּחִינַת תַּעֲרוֹבֶת טוֹב וְרָע —
שְׁלוֹם. כִּי הַדְּבָר שְׁהוּא מִבְּחִינַת תַּעֲרוֹבֶת טוֹב וְרָע —
שְׁלֹא יוּמְשֵׁךְ מִמֶּנֵּוּ יְנִיקָה כו׳. מַה־שָּׁצִין־בֵּן בְּבְחִינַת . הַטִּלִירָה שָׁמִירָה כַּוֹי בַּתְ

And this is [the meaning of] "He executes justice for the oppressed" (Psalms 146:7). The explanation is: the oppressed are the sparks that fell during the shattering of the vessels (*Shevirat HaKelim*), or through the sin of the Tree of Knowledge. They are "oppressed" in the hands of the external forces (*chitzonim*). And [He] executes justice for the oppressed—"justice" here refers to mercy (*mishpat de-ihu rachami*), meaning that the Holy One, blessed be He, has mercy upon them to elevate them to their root, etc. For example, through a vegetative item such as the etrog fruit, a Jew fulfills the mitzvah: "And you shall take for yourselves a fruit of the beautiful tree" (Leviticus 23:40), and through this, the entire vegetative realm is elevated, etc., as explained in Tanya, chapter 34.

ְּוָהֵהּ שֶׁאֶמַר: "עוֹשֶׁה מִשְׁפָּט לְעֲשׁוּקִים" — פֵּירוּשׁ:
עֲשׁוּקִים — הֵם הַנִּיצוֹצוֹת שֶׁנְפְלוּ בְּשֶׁבִירַת הַכֵּלִים, אוֹ
עַל־יְדִי חֵטְא עֵץ הַדַּעַת, שֶׁהֵם עֲשׁוּקִים בְּיַדֵי הַחִיצוֹנִים.
וְ"עוֹשֶׁה מִשְׁפָּט לְצֲשׁוּקִים" — מִשְׁפָּט דְּאִיהוּ רַחֲמֵי,
וְהוּא: מֵה שֶׁהָקָבָ"ה מְרַחֵם עֲלֵיהֶם לְהַעֲלוֹתָם לְשָׁרְשָׁם
כו׳, עַל־יְדֵי שֶׁבְּדָבָר צוֹמֵחַ זֶה — כְּגוֹן כְּּיִר הָאֶתְרוֹג —
יַצְשֶׁה יִשְׂרָצֵל מִצְוָה, וְלְקַזֵּם בּוֹ מִצְוַת: "וּלְקַחְתֶּם לָכֶם
פְּרִי עֵץ הָדָר" כו׳, (וְעַל־יְדֵי זֶה מִתְעַלֶּה כְּלָלוּת הַצּוֹמֵחַ
.(כו׳, וּכְמוֹ שֶׁבָּתוּב בְּּסֵפֶר הַתַּנְיָא פֶּרֵק ל"ד

And likewise, through using silver and gold for tzedakah (charity) and the like, the sparks are elevated to their source, etc. And afterward it says at the end of the psalm, "Hashem guards the converts" (Psalms 146:9). Converts refer to the sifted sparks, etc.—Hashem guards them, because even after they have been refined and elevated, they still require strong guarding so that they do not fall again, etc., as is explained in the Siddur on this verse.

וְכֵן בַּכֶּסֶף וְזָהָב שֶׁעוֹשֶׂה בּוֹ צְדָקָה וְכֵיּוֹצֵא בָּזָה —
עַל־יְדֵי זֶה מִתְעַלִּים הַנִּיצוֹצוֹת לְשָׁרְשָׁם כו׳. וְאַחַר כָּּהְ
אוֹמֵר בְּסוֹף הַמִּזְמוֹר: "ה׳ שׁוֹמֵר אֶת הַגֵּרִים" — גַּרִים
הֵם הַנִּיצוֹצוֹת הַנַּבְרָרִים כו׳, ה׳ שׁוֹמֵר אוֹתָם,
שֶׁאַף־עַל־פִּי שֶׁנְתְבָּרְרוּ וְנִתְעַלוּ — צְרִיכִין שְׁמִירָה
מְעַלָּה, שֶׁלֹּא יַחַזְרוּ וְיִפְּלוּ כו׳, וּכְמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב בַּסִּדּוּר
על־פִּי זָה

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Just like one who sinned and repented requires excellent guarding so as not to revert to his old ways, God forbid, whereas one who never tasted the taste of sin in his life does not require such guarding. And this is the idea of "teshuvas ha-gedder" (repentance of the fence), which creates boundaries even in permitted matters, so that one distances himself from evil to the utmost degree and does not even desire to commit a transgression, God forbid.

וּכְמוֹ מִי שֶׁחָטָא וְעָשָׂה תְשׁוּבָה — צָרִידְּ שְׁמִירָה מְעֵלֶּה שֶׁלֹּא יַחְזֹר לְסוּרוֹ חַס וְשֶׁלוֹם, מַה־שֶׁאֵין־כֵּן מִי שֶׁלֹּא טָעַם טַעַם חַטְא מִיָּמָיו — שֶׁאֵינוֹ צָרִידְ לְשְׁמִירָה כָּזוֹ כו׳. וְזָהוּ עִנְיַן הְשׁוּבַת הַגָּדֶר — שֶׁעוֹשֶׂה גָּדֶר גַּם בִּדְּבָרִים הַמֵּמָרִים — בְּכְדֵי שֶׁיִתְרַחֵק מִן הָרָע בַּתַּכְלִית, וְלֹא יִתְאֵנָּה לְדָבָר עֲבַרָה חַס וְשָׁלוֹם.

And the baal teshuvah needs this more than someone who never sinned. And regarding what the Sages said: "A person should not say, 'I do not desire...,' but rather, 'I do desire, but what can I do? My Father in Heaven has decreed upon me..."—the holy Maharal explained that this is referring to someone who has never sinned. But the baal teshuvah must consider all types of evil and prohibition to be disgusting to him because they are evil, etc.

ְוָהַבַּעַל תְּשׁוּבָה צָרִיךְ לָזֶה יוֹתֵר מִמִּי שֶׁלֹא חָטָא מֵעוֹלֶם.
וּמַה שֶׁאָמְרוּ רַבּוֹתֵינוּ זִכְרוֹנָם לְבָרָכָה: "אַל־יֹאמֵר אָדָם:
אֵי אָפְשִׁי כו׳, אֶלָּא: אֶפְשִׁי וַאֲבָל מַה אֶעֱשֶׂה וְאָבִי
שָׁבַּשְּׁמִים גָּזַר עָלַי כו׳" — פֵּירֵשׁ הַמְּהַרַ"ל זִכְרוֹנוֹ
לְבְרָכָה: שֶׁזֶּהוּ בְּמִי שֶׁלֹּא חָטָא מֵעוֹלָם. אֲבָל הַבַּעַל
תְּשׁוּבָה — צָרִיךְ שֶׁיּהְיוּ כָּל מִינֵי רַע וְאִסּוּר מְאוּסִים
אַצְלוֹ מִצֵּד שֶׁהֵם רַע כו׳
אַצְלוֹ מִצִּד שֶׁהֵם רַע כו׳

(And see what was explained earlier in the discourse that begins "For I have known him," where it is explained that regarding *tzaddikim*, their disgust toward all physical pleasures is due to their delight in G-dliness, etc. But with baalei teshuvah, their revulsion of worldly pleasures is because they are evil. And so it must be by baalei teshuvah: for if it were only due to G-dly pleasure, there might still be space for physical pleasure; but when it is due to [their recognition of] evil, then there is no room for it at all, etc.)

ְעַיֵּן מַה שֶׁנִּתְבָּאֵר לְעֵיל בְּדְבּוּר הַמַּתְחִיל "כִּי יְדַעְתִּיו",)

וְשֶׁם מְבוֹאָר: דְּבַצַּדִּיקִים — הַמֵּאוּס דְּכָל הַתַּעֲנוּגִים

הַגַּשְׁמִיִּים — הוּא מִצַּד הַתַּעֲנוּג בָּאֱלֹקוּת כו'. אֲבָל

בְּבַעֲלֵי תְשׁוּבָה — הַמֵּאוּס דְּתַּעֲנוּגִי הָעוֹלְם — הוּא מִצַּד

שֶׁהֵם רַע כו'. וְכֵן צָרִיךְ לְהְיוֹת בְּבַעֲלֵי תְשׁוּבָה — כִּי אִם

יִהְיֶה מִצַּד הַתַּעֲנוּג הָאֱלֹקִי — יָכוֹל לְהְיוֹת אֵצֶלָם מָקוֹם

עוֹד לְתְעַנֵּג גַּם בַּתַּעֲנוּגִים גַּשְׁמִיִּים. אֲבָל כַּאֲשֶׁר הוּא מִצַּד

.(הַרע — אַז אִין לָהָם מַקוֹם כְּלַל כו׳

Thus it is explained that one who has already descended to a lower level requires even greater guarding, even after being elevated. And this is why we were commanded to guard the mitzvos: because the higher light is enclothed specifically in physical things, which come from the realm of *kelipat nogah*.

וְנִמְצָא מְבֹאָר: דְּמִי שֶׁהָיָה כְּבֶר לְמַטֶּה בְּמַדְרֵגָה — צָרִיךּ שְׁמִירָה נָם לְאַחַר שָׁנְּתְעַלָּה. וְזֶהוּ שֶׁנִּצְטַוִּינוּ עַל שְׁמִירָה הַמָּצְיוֹת: דְּמִפְנֵי שֶׁהָאוֹר הָעֶלְיוֹן נִתְלַבֵּשׁ בִּדְבָרִים שְׁמִירַת הַמְּצְיִׁת: דְּמִפְנֵי שֶׁהָאוֹר הָעֶלְיוֹן נִתְלַבֵּשׁ בִּדְבָרִים בְּמִינִת קָלִיפַת נוֹגַה

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Therefore, there must be guarding so that there will not be any drawing of nourishment to the external forces (*chitzonim*), God forbid. And the guarding is through the 365 negative commandments (*lo taaseh*), because the *lo taaseh* are about distancing and separating from evil—this is their entire function: to push away the evil so that it does not touch one's soul, etc. And the manner of this rejection is not through engagement or enclothment with the matter—as in the case of the positive commandments (*mitzvot aseh*), where evil is also pushed away and the good is included in holiness—rather, that happens through involvement and enclothment in the matter itself, which is a form of closeness, etc.

עַל־כֵּן צְרִיכִין שְׁמִירָה שֶׁלֹּא יִהְיֶה בָּזֶה יְנִיקַת הַחִיצוֹנִים חַס וְשָׁלוֹם. וְהַשְּׁמִירָה הִיא עַל־יְדֵי שֶׁס"ה לֹא־תַעֲשֶׂה — לִהְיוֹת כִּי הַלֹּא־תַעֲשֶׂה הֵן הַרְחָקָה וְהַבְדָּלָה דְּהַרַע, דְּזֶה כָּל עִנְיָנָם — לִדְחוֹת אֶת הָרַע שֶׁלֹא יִגְעוּ בְּנַפְשׁוֹ כו׳. וְאֹפֶן הַדְּחָיָה — אֵינוֹ בָּדֶרָדְ הָתְלַבְּשׁוּת בַּדָּבָר, וְלֹא כְּמוֹ מִצְוֹת עֲשֵׂה — שֶׁעַל־יְדֵי גַּם כֵּן נִדְחָה הָרַע וְהַטּוֹב נִכְלָל בִּקְדֵשָׁה, אֲבָל זֶהוּ עַל־יְדֵי הִתְלַבְּשׁוּת וְהִתְעַסְּקוּת בַּדָּבָר הַהוּא — וְהַיִּנוּ בַּבְחִינַת קִירוּב כו׳.

But a negative commandment is not through enclothment and involvement in the matter, etc., nor is it about transforming the matter into good, only to reject it alone. Even the spark of holiness within it—which necessarily exists in everything, for every thing is sustained by a spark of holiness—is also rejected, etc. And this is the idea of "gevurot of halachot" in the negative commandments, as it says: "His locks are curled, black like a raven" (Song of Songs 5:11)—which is interpreted to refer to the verses that prohibit certain things, through which the item is rejected. Although there is a spark of holiness in it, it is nevertheless rejected, etc., as explained in the commentary on "Black I am" (Song of Songs 1:5).

אֲבָל מִצְוַת לֹא־תַעֲשֶׂה — אֵינָה עַל־יְדֵי הִתְלַבְּשׁוּת וְהִתְעַסְּקוּת בּוֹ כו׳, וְגַם אֵינָה לַהֲפֹּך אֶת הַדָּבָר לְטוֹב, כִּי אָם לִדְחוֹתוֹ בִּלְבַד — שֶׁגַּם הַנִּיצוֹץ מִקְדֵשָׁה שָׁבּוֹ — שְׁבָּה הָּוֹא נִדְּחָה כו׳. וְזֶהוּ עִנְיַן גְּבוּרוֹת דְּהָלֶכוֹת דְּמִצְוַת לֹא־תַעֲשֶׂה — שֶׁאוֹמֵר: "קוְצוֹתָיו מַּלְתַּלִּים שְׁחוֹרוֹת כו׳", לִפְסוּק שֶׁהַדְּבָר אָסוּר — שֶׁעַל־יְדֵי זֶה נִדְחָה — שֶׁבָּתוּב בַּבֵּיאוּר דְּ"שְׁחוֹרָה אֲנִי" סוֹף בֶּרֶק ג׳ שֻׁבָּתוּב בַּבֵּיאוּר דְּ"שְׁחוֹרָה אֲנִי" סוֹף בֶּרֶק ג׳

(And it is possible that [the spark] is later elevated through the teshuvah of a baal teshuvah, who turns evil into good; all the more so he elevates the spark of holiness within the forbidden things he stumbled upon, Heaven forbid. For it may be said that through this he also elevates the general category of sparks of holiness in forbidden things, etc. And since he transforms the evil into good, therefore the baal teshuvah also requires guarding, as mentioned above.)

וְאֶפְשָׁר שֶׁמִּתְעַלֶּה אַחַר כָּךְ עַל־יְדֵי הַתְּשׁוּבָה — דְּהַבַּעַל)
תְּשׁוּבָה מְהַפֵּך אֶת הָרַע לְטוֹב, וְכָל־שֶׁכֵּן שֶׁמַּעֲלֶה הַנִּיצוֹץ
דְּקְדֵשָׁה שֶׁבַּדְּבָרִים הָאָסוּרִים שֶׁנִּכְשֵׁל בָּהֶם רַחֲמָנָא לִצְלָן
— דְּיֵשׁ לוֹמֵר שֶׁמַעֲלֶה עַל־יְדֵי זֶה גַּם כְּלָלוּת הַנִּיצוֹצוֹת
דְקְדֵשָׁה שֶׁבַּדְבָרִים הָאֲסוּרִים כו׳. וּלְהִיוֹת שֶׁמְהַפֵּךְ אֶת
הָרַע לְטוֹב — לָכֵן גַּם הַבַּעַל תְּשׁוּבָה צָרִיךְ שְׁמִירָה כו׳
הָרַע לְטוֹב — לָכֵן גַּם הַבַּעַל תְּשׁוּבָה צָרִיךְ שְׁמִירָה כו׳ (כְּנַ

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And for this reason, this level [of lo taaseh] does not require guarding, since it is not involved in enclothment and its purpose is not to transform, etc. And the light of the *lo taaseh* is an internal and essential light that cannot be grasped at all, as mentioned above (and for this reason it does not come into enclothment, as mentioned). And therefore it is a guarding for the positive commandments, since it is a distancing from evil. And also, they [the lo taaseh] are of such a level that they have no hold [to the other side], and therefore they function as a guarding for the *mitzvot aseh*, etc.

וּלְזֹאת — בְּחִינָה זוֹ אֵינָה צְרִיכָה שְׁמִירָה — מֵאַחַר שֶׁאֵינָה בִּבְחִינַת הָתְלַבְּשׁוּת, וְאֵין עִנְיָנָה לַהְפֹּךְ כו׳. וְהָאוֹר דְּמִצְוַת לֹא־תַעֲשֶׂה — הוּא בִּבְחִינַת אוֹר פְּנִימִי וְעַצְמִי שָׁאִי־אֶפְשָׁר לִהְיוֹת בָּזָה אֲחִיזָה כו׳ כְּנַ"ל (וּמִשׁוּם זֶה אֵינוֹ בָּא בְּהִתְלַבְּשׁוּת כו׳ כְּנַ"ל). וְלָכֵן הָרֵי זֶה שְׁמִירָה לְמִצְוֹת עֲשֵׂה — לִהְיוֹת שֶׁנֻּהוּ הַרְחָקַת רַע, וְגַם הֵן בִּבְחִינָה וּמַדְרֵגָה כָּזוֹ שָׁאֵין בָּהֶן אֲחִיזָה — וְלָכֵן הֵן בִּבְחִינַה שְׁמִירָה אֶל הַמִּצְוֹת עֲשֵׂה כו׳.

And similarly, Torah is a guarding for the mitzvos. For although Torah comes from Chochmah (wisdom), its root is from Keter, from the inner dimension of Keter, etc., as explained above in the discourse "And G-d spoke... in the wilderness of Sinai," regarding the unique eleventh [day] among the ten, etc. And so it is generally with Torah, as it says in Torah Or on the discourse "And I appeared" (Va'era), in the section for Rosh Hashanah—that through Torah, a drawing from the level of *Yachid*, the essence and being of the Blessed One, is brought down. And that is why it says, "and Torah is light"—"light" in singular, because the mitzvos are 613 paths (of the skull), which are 613 lights in a state of division. But by Torah it says, "and Torah is light," in singular, which corresponds to the level of "You are one and not in enumeration," etc.

וְכֵן הוּא בַּתּוֹרָה — שָׁהִיא שְׁמִירָה אֶל הַמִּצְוֹת, כִּי הָנֵה הַתּוֹרָה — אַרְ־עַל־פִּי שֶׁמֵּחָכְמָה נָפְקַת — אֲבָל שְׁרְשָׁה הוּא מִבְּחִינַת הַכֶּתֶר, מִבְּחִינַת פְּנִימִיוּת הַכֶּתֶר כו', וּכְמוֹ שְׁנַתְּבָּאֵר לְעִיל (בְּדְבּוּר הַמַּתְחִיל: וַיְדַבֵּר כו' בְּמִדְבַּר סִי, וְכֵן הוּא שִׁנְתְּבָּאֵר לְעִיל (בְּדְבּוּר הַמַּתְחִיל: וַיְדַבֵּר כו'. וְכֵן הוּא פִּדְרָך כְּלֶל בַּתּוֹרָה, וּכְמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב בְּתוֹרָה־אוֹר דְּבּוּר הַמִּתְחִיל: וְאֵרָא — דְּרוֹשׁ הַשְּׁנָה — שֶׁעַל־יְדֵי הַתּוֹרָה הַמַּתְחִיל: וְאֵרָא — דְרוֹשׁ הַשְּׁנָה בֹּתוֹן וְעַצְמוּתוֹ יִתְבָּרֵה נִמְשְׁרָ מִבְּינִת מַבּוֹינַת מַבּוֹינַת הַתְחַלְּקוֹת כו'. אֲבָל בַּתוֹרָה נָאָמֵר "אוֹר" לְשׁוֹן יָחִיד — וְהָינֵת תַּרְיַ"ג אֲבָחִין, שֶׁהֵן תַּרְיַ"ג אוֹר וֹת בְּבְחִינַת הִתְחַלְּקוֹת כו'. אֲבָל בַּתוֹרָה נָאֵמֵר: "אַנְמְּ הוּא אוֹרו" לְשׁוֹן יָחִיד — וְהַיִנוֹ בִּבְחִינַת: "אַנְמְּ הוּא וֹתוֹרָה אוֹר" לְשׁוֹן יָחִיד — וְהַיְנִוּ בִּבְחִינַת: "אַנְמְּ הוּא ... חַוְיִרְה אוֹר" לְשׁוֹן יָחִיד — וְהַיְנִוּ בְּבְחִינַת: "אַנְמְּר בִּלְּמִינִת וְּלְא בְּחָשִׁבְן" כו' בִּחִינַת בְּיִינִת וְרָיִי וְיִיִּת וְתִּלְרָה אוֹר וֹן וְלָא בְּחָשְׁבָן" כו' בוֹי

And it may be explained that this is like what was stated above regarding the level of *Yechidah*, which is in the state of a single desire, etc. Similarly, the Torah—since it is a drawing from the level of *Yachid*—is therefore a single light, etc. And this is the reason why a sin extinguishes a mitzvah, meaning the revealed illumination that is drawn through the mitzvah, etc., but a sin does not extinguish Torah—because Torah is of the inner essence and core of the Infinite Light, where there is no hold or drawing [by the *Sitra Achra*] at all. Therefore, a sin cannot extinguish it. On the contrary, Torah protects and saves—it protects from suffering and saves from sin, etc.

ְוְיֵשׁ לּוֹמֵר שֶׁזֶּהוּ כְּמוֹ שֶׁנִּתְבָּאֵר לְעֵיל בְּעִנְיַן יְחִידָה —
שֶׁהִיא בִּבְחִינַת רָצוֹן אֶחָד כו׳, וּכְמוֹ כֵן הַתּוֹרָה —
לְהִיוֹתָה הַמְשֶׁכָה מִבְּחִינַת יָחִיד — לָכֵן הִיא אוֹר אֶחָד
כו׳. וְזֶהוּ הַפַּעַם שֶׁצְבֵירָה מְכַבֶּה מִצְוָה — הַיְנוּ גִּלוּי
הַהָּאָרָה שֶׁנִּמְשֶׁכֶת עַל־יְדֵי הַמִּצְוָה כו׳, וְאֵין עֲבֵירָה מְכַבָּה
תּוֹרָה — לְהִיוֹת שֶׁהַתּוֹרָה הִיא בִּבְחִינַת פְּנִימִיוּת
וְעַצְמוּת אוֹר-אֵין־סוֹף שֶׁאֵין שֶׁם אֲחִיזָה וִינִיקָה כְּלֶל —
לְכֵן אֵין עֲבֵירָה מְכַבָּה אוֹתָה כו׳. וְאֶדְרַבָּא — אוֹרַיִיתָא
מְגִינָא וּמַצְלָא מִן הַחַּטְא

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And that means it guards [a person] so that he will not come to sin and that there will not be any nourishment for the *Sitra Achra*, etc. The idea is that Torah is also called a "house," and the main aspect is in the Oral Torah, as our Sages said: "And you shall build your house—this refers to Gemara," etc. And it is explained elsewhere regarding the concept of house and courtyard: the courtyard is not roofed, and rain falls into it, along with refuse, etc., but the house is roofed and does not allow refuse to fall inside, etc. Similarly, the Torah is a covered house—so that when one immerses his intellect in the study of Torah, in all four levels of *Pardes*, and his entire being from head to toe is clothed and wrapped in it, then no external force can draw nourishment from him, etc.

ְהַעִּנְיֶן — דְהָנֵּה הַתּוֹרָה נְקְרֵאת נַּם־כֵּן בַּיִת, וְהָעִקּר
הוּא בַּתּוֹרָה שֶׁבְּעַל־כֶּה, וּכְמַאְמֵר רַזַ"ל: "וּבָנִיתָ בֵיתֶךְ

זוֹ גְּמֶרָא" כו׳. וּמְבוֹאֶר בְּמֶקוֹם אַחֵר בְּעַנְיֵן בַּיִת
וְחָצֵר — דְּחָצֵר אֵינוֹ מְקוּרָה, וְיוֹרֵד לְתוֹכוֹ מָטֶר גַּם
פְּסוֹלֶת כו׳, אֲבָל הַבַּיִת הוּא מְקוּרָה וְאֵינוֹ מַנִּיחַ הַפְּסוֹלֶת
לִיפּוֹל בְּתוֹכוֹ כו׳. וְכֵן הוּא — הַתּוֹרָה הִיא בַּיִת הַמְקוּרֶה
שְׁכַּאֲשֶׁר מַצְמִיק שִׁכְלוֹ בַּעֲסוֹק בַּתּוֹרָה בְּפַרְד"ס —
שֶׁכַּאֲשֶׁר מַצְמִּתוֹ מִמְנֵּוֹ וְעַד רַגְלוֹ מְלוּבָּשׁ וּמְעוּטֵף בָּה —
וָאִי אֶפְשָׁר לִּהְיוֹת מִמֶּנוּ יְנִיקָה כו׳

(In truth, the Torah protects and saves even when one is not currently engaged in learning it, and this is because through Torah an illumination is drawn from the inner essence of the Infinite One, in the form of a distant encompassing light (*makif harachok*), and therefore it guards and saves, etc.—as mentioned above concerning the negative commandments, etc.)

וּבֶאֱמֶת — הֲרֵי הַתּוֹרָה מְגִינָה וּמֵצְלֶה גַּם בְּעִידְנָא דְּלָא) עָסִיק בָּה, וְהַיְנוּ לְפִי שֶׁעַל־יְדֵי הַתּוֹרָה נִמְשָׁךְ אוֹר מִבְּחִינַת בְּנִימִיּוּת וְעַצְמוּת אוֹר־אֵין־סוֹף — בְּחִינַת מַקִּיף הָרָחוֹק — וְלָכֵן הוּא שׁוֹמֵר וּמַצִּיל כו׳ — וּכְנַ"ל בְּעִנְיַן .(לא-תעשׂה כו׳

Additionally, all of the Oral Torah is designed to be stringent in matters of Torah. And this is the concept of the "precautions of the Scribes" (*d'keidukei sofrim*)—to be guarded and cautious, to be completely clean, aligning with "turn from evil" which corresponds to all 365 negative commandments—and to build fences so that one will not come to violate the Torah, God forbid.

ְוְגַם — הָנֵה כָּל תּוֹשְׁבַּ"ע — הוּא לְהַחְמִיר עַל עִנְיָנֵי הַתּוֹרָה, וְזֶהוּ עִנְיַן דִּקְדוּקֵי סוֹפְרִים — לְהִשְּׁמֵר וּלְהִזָּהֵר, וְלִהְיוֹת נָקִי מִכּּל וָכֹל — בִּבְחִינַת "סוּר מֵרָע" שֶׁהֵן כָּל שֶׁס"ה לֹא־תַעֲשֶׂה, וּלְגָדֵר גָּדֶר שֶׁלֹּא יָבוֹא לִידֵי אִיסּוּר תּוֹרָה חֵס וְשָׁלוֹם תּוֹרָה חֵס וְשָׁלוֹם

And likewise, in the category of "do good," the Oral Torah contains many precise details to be stringent and add several layers to them, such as the sayings of the *Avos* (Ethics of the Fathers) and sayings of wisdom that include many good character traits and concepts found in the *Avos* and *Aggadot*, which are in addition to the words of Torah. This is the foundation of the Oral Torah—to be stringent upon the Written Torah. And through this, the evil is pushed away and separated so that there will be no possibility of drawing nourishment [by the *Sitra Achra*], and they are completely distanced from holiness. And through this, they are automatically nullified, as written in *Likkutei Torah* from the Arizal, Parshas *Beshalach*, regarding the concept of the Shabbos boundary—see there.

וְכֵן בָּבְחִינַת "וַצְשֵׂה טוֹב" — יֵשׁ בַּתּוֹרָה שֶׁבְּעַל־פֶּה
בַּמָּה דִּקְדּוּקִים פְּרָטִיִּים לְהַחְמִיר וּלְהוֹסִיף בָּהֶם כַּמָּה
עְנְיָנִים, וּכְמוֹ בְּמִילִּין דְּאַבּוֹת וּמִילִין דְּחוֹכְמְתָא — שֶׁיֵּשׁ
בָּהֶם כַּמָּה מִדּוֹת טוֹבוֹת וְכַמָּה עִנְיָנִים — שֻׁנִּמְצָא בְּאַבּוֹת וְאַבָּרוֹת — שֶׁנָּה בָּל דִּבְרֵי תּוֹרָה — שֶׁזָּה כָּל
יְסוֹד תּוֹשְׁבַּ"ע — לְהַחְמִיר עַל דִּבְרֵי תּוֹרָה. וְעַל־יְדֵי זָה
נַעֲשֵׂית הַרְחָקִת וְהַפְּרָדַת הָרַע — שֶׁלֹא יִהְיֶה שׁוּם יְנִיקָה בְּעַשִׂית הַרְחָקִים לְגַמְרִי מִן הַקְּדָשָׁה, וְעַל־יְדֵי זָה
מְמֵילָא מִתְבַּשְּלִים, וּכְמוֹ שֶׁבָּתוּב בְּלִקוּטֵי תּוֹרָה
מִמֵּילָא מִתְבַּשְׁלִים, וּכְמוֹ שֶׁבָּתוֹב בְּלִקוּטֵי תּוֹרָה

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And this is [the meaning of] the Torah being a safeguard for the 248 positive commandments: because its role is to distance the evil so that there should not be any drawing [of sustenance] from holiness, etc. And all the laws of the Torah, in ruling that something is forbidden—this is the rejection of evil, and not through being invested in the matter (except for when one studies and engages in physical matters, which is in the aspect of Inner Light (*Or Penimi*) as is known—this is sometimes called "investment," but it is not an investment or involvement in the thing itself like in positive commandments, etc.); rather, the thing is pushed aside automatically, etc.

וְזֶהוּ שֶׁהַתּוֹרָה הִיא שְׁמִירָה לְרַמַ"ח מִצְּוֹת עֲשֵׂה — לְפִי שֶׁעִּנְיָנָה הוּא הַרְחָלֵת הָרֵע שֶׁלֹא יִהְיֶה לָהֶם יְנִילֶה מֵהַקְּדָשָׁה כו'. וְכָל הֲלָכוֹת הַתּוֹרָה לִפְּסֹק שֶׁזָּה אָסוּר — מֵהַקְּדֵשָׁה כו'. וְכָל הֲלָכוֹת הַתּוֹרָה לִפְּסֹק שֶׁזָּה אָסוּר — הֲרֵי זָה מַהְעַׂבְּשׁוּת בַּדָּבָר (כִּי אָם מַה שֶׁלוֹמֵד וְעוֹסֵק בַּדְּבָרִים הַגַּשְׁמִיִם, וְהוּא בִּבְחִינַת אוֹר פְּנִימִי כַּיָּדוּעַ — הֲרֵי זָה נִקְרָא לִפְעָמִים "הְתַלַבְּשׁוּת וְהִתְעַסְּקוּת בְּגוּף "הְהַלְבְּשׁוּת וְהִתְעַסְּקוּת בְּגוּף הַדְּבָר הַהוּא כְּמוֹ בְּמִצְוֹת עֲשֵׂה כו׳) — אֶלָּא הַדְּבָר נִדְחֶה הַמָּמִילֵא כו׳

And as is known, the clarification that occurs through Torah is from above to below—that is, the matter is clarified automatically, etc., as explained elsewhere. And the main point is that through the occupation with Torah, there is drawn a revelation from the inner aspect of *Kesser* (Crown), as mentioned above—until the first root in the inner essence of the Infinite One, etc. Just as the 365 negative commandments are rooted in *Yud-Heh* until their first root in the Essence of the Infinite One, etc., so too with Torah, etc.

ְוְכַיָּדוּעַ — דְּהַבֵּרוּר דְּתוֹרָה הוּא בְּדֶרֶךְ מִלְּמֵעְלֶה לְמַטָּה — דְּהַיִּינוּ שֶׁהַדְּבָר נִתְבָּרַר מִמֵּילָא כו׳, כְּמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב בְּמָקוֹם אַחֵר. וְהָעִקָּר — שֶׁעַל־יְדֵי עֵסֶק הַתּוֹרָה נִמְשָׁךְ גִּלוּי בְּחִינַת פְּנִימִיּוּת הַכָּתֶר כַּנַּ"ל, עַד שָׁרְשָׁם הָרִאשׁוֹן בִּבְחִינַת פְּנִימִיּוּת וְעַצְמוּת אוֹר־אֵין־סוֹף כו׳. וּכְמוֹ שֶׁשֵׁס"ה לֹא־תַעֲשֶׂה שֶׁהֵן בְּיו"ד־ה"א עַד שָׁרְשָׁן הָרְאשׁוֹן בִּעַצְמוּת אוֹר־אֵין־סוֹף כו׳ כַּנַּ"ל — כֵּן הוּא בַּתּוֹרָה כו׳.

And the drawing of the essential light protects that there should be no drawing [of sustenance]—neither from the Inner Light (*Or Penimi*) nor from the Encompassing Light (*Or Makif*), etc., and on the contrary—they are pushed away and lost thereby, etc.

וְהַמְשָׁכַת הָאוֹר הָעַצְמִי שׁוֹמֵר שֶׁלֹּא יִהְיֶה שׁוּם יְנִיקָה — בֵּין מֵהָאוֹר פְּנִימִי וּבֵין מֵהָאוֹר מַקִּיף כו׳, וְאֶדְרַבָּא — .הַם נִדְחִים וְנֶאֱבָדִים עַל־יְדֵי זָה כו׳

And based on this, one can understand the saying of our Sages (Yoma 9b): "He forgave on everything, but not on the neglect of Torah"—because if Torah study were as it should be, there would be no grasp or drawing by the *Sitra Achra*. But through the neglect of Torah—when the heart and mind are vacant from the wisdom of Torah (i.e., it is not roofed like a courtyard, as above)—the thought, which is constant (as mentioned above), becomes occupied with idle matters and evil thoughts. Through this, the wicked gain dominion, Heaven forbid, as explained above.

ְעַל־פִּי זֶה יוּבַן מַה שֶּׁאָמְרוּ רַזַ"ל (יוֹמָא ט׳ ע"ב): "וְיִתֵּר עַל כו׳ וְלֹא וִיתֵּר עַל בִּטוּל תּוֹרָה" — דְּאִם הָיָה עֵסֶק הַתּוֹרָה כְּדִבְעֵי לְמֵהֲוֵי — לֹא הָיְתָה שׁוּם אֲחִיזָה וִינִיקָה לָסְטֶרָא אָחָרָא. אֲבָל עַל־יְדֵי בִּטוּל תּוֹרָה — שְׁהַלֵּב וְהַמּוֹחַ פְּנוּיִים מֵחָכְמַת הַתּוֹרָה — וְהַיְנוּ שָׁאֵינוֹ מְקוּרָה כָּאֲשֶׁר הִיא פְּנוּיָה מִן הַתּוֹרָה — הָרֵי הִיא מְהַרְהֶּרֶת בְּדְבָרִים בְּטֵלִים וּבְהִרְהוּרִים רָעִים — שֶׁעַל־יִדֵי זֶה נַּצְשֵׂית מֵמִשֶׁלֵת זָדִים חַס וְשַׁלוֹם כַּנַּ"ל

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And the performance of mitzvot will not help for this, because they can still seize and draw [from there], etc., as mentioned above. And therefore it was specifically this [neglect of Torah] that caused the destruction of the Temple, which was swallowed [by the forces of evil], etc.	ְרַעֶּסֶק הַמִּצְוֹת לֹא יוֹעִיל לָזֶה — כִּי יְכוֹלִים לֶאֱחוֹז וְלִינוֹק מָזֶּה כו׳ כַּנַּ"ל. וְלָכֵן — זָהוּ דַּוְקָא שֶׁגָּרַם חַרְבַּן בֵּית־הַמִּקְדָּשׁ אֲשֶׁר נִבְלְעוּ כו׳.
But if there were occupation in Torah, and they were drawing down the aspect of the Essence of the Infinite through the occupation with Torah (and this is the matter of the blessing over Torah, as is known), then automatically there would not be any domination or rule whatsoever at all, etc.	אֲבָל אָם הָיָה עֵסֶק הַתּוֹרָה וְהָיוּ מַמְשִׁיכִים בְּחִינַת עַצְמוּת אוֹר־אֵין־סוֹף עַל־יְדֵי עֵסֶק הַתּוֹרָה — (שֶׁנָּהוּ עִנְיַן בִּרְכַּת הַתּוֹרָה כַּיָּדוּעַ) — מִמֵּילָא לֹא הָיְתָה שׁוּם שְׁלִיטָה וּמֶמְשָׁלָה כְּלָל וּכְלָל כו׳.
And according to all of the above, the root of the matter "I remember for you the kindness of your youth" (Yirmiyahu 2:2) is understood. For "the kindness of your youth" are the positive commandments, which are in the level of Chesed (Kindness), as mentioned above—whether the level of the Chassadim of Ze'ir Anpin or even the Chassadim of Arich Anpin, up to the level of "for He desires kindness" (<i>ki chafetz chesed hu</i>) which is in the Infinite Light prior to the Tzimtzum. All this is in the level of revealed light and drawing forth, but not in the inner essence and being of the light.	ְוְעַל־פִּי כָּל הַנַּ"ל יוּבַן שֹׁרֶשׁ עִנְיַן "זָכַרְתִּי לָךְ חֶסֶד נְעוּרַיִּךְ כוּי" — דְּהָנֵּה "חֶסֶד נְעוּרַיִּךְ" — הֵן מִצְוֹת עֲשֵׂה — שֶׁהֵן בִּבְחִינַת חֶסֶד כַּנַּ"ל — בֵּין בִּבְחִינַת חֲסָדִים דְּוֵ״א — וְגַם בִּבְחִינַת חֲסָדִים דְּאֲרִיךְ — עַד בְּחִינַת "כִּי־חָפֵץ חֶסֶד הוּא" — שֶׁבְּאוֹר־אֵין־סוֹף שֶׁלְּפְנֵי הַצִּמְצוּם כוּי. שֶׁכָּל זָה — הוּא בִּבְחִינַת הָאוֹר שֶׁבָּא בְּבְחִינַת הַמְשָׁכָה וְגִילוּי — שֶׁאֵין זֶה בִּבְחִינַת פְּנִימִיוּת וְעַצְמוּת הָאוֹר כוּ׳
And the matter of "I remember" (<i>zacharti</i>) is a reference to the intellect of <i>Chochmah</i> (Wisdom), as is known, for forgetfulness applies only in the back or external levels, etc.	וְעָנְיֵן "זָכַרְתִּי" — הִיא בְּמוֹחַ הַחָּכְמָה כַּיָּדוּעַ, דְּשָׁכְחָה שַׁיֶּיךְ בִּבְחִינַת אֲחוֹרַיִים וְחִיצוֹנִיּוּת כו׳
For the matter of forgetfulness stems from the <i>kelipot</i> and the <i>Sitra Achra</i> , and it applies only in a place where they have a hold—and that is in the level of back and externality, etc. But in the level of <i>Chochmah</i> , which is the level of inwardness, there is remembrance, and forgetfulness does not apply there at all, etc. And the matter of "I remember for you the kindness of your	כִּי עִנְיַן הַשִּׁכְחָה הוּא מִצַּד הַקְּלִיפּוֹת וְסִטְרָא אָחֲרָא, וְשַׁיֵּיךְ רַק בִּמְקוֹם שֶׁיֵשׁ לָהֶם אֲחִיזָה, וְהַיְינוּ בִּבְחִינַת אֲחוֹרַיִים וְחִיצוֹנִיּוּת כו׳, אֲבֶל בִּבְחִינַת חָכְמָה שֶׁיָּהוּ בְּחִינַת הַפְּנִימִיּוּת — שָׁם הִיא הַוְּכִירָה, וְאֵינוֹ שַׁיֵּיךְ שֶׁם שִׁכְחָה כְּלֶל כו׳ וְשָׁבְחָה בְּלֶל כו׳ וְעִנְיַן "זָכַרְתִּי לָךְ חָסֶד נְעוּרַיִּךְ" — הוּא דְּבְמִצְוֹת עֲשֵׂה
youth" is that in the positive commandments also shines the light of remembrance—i.e., a revelation of the level of inwardness until their first root in the Essence of the Infinite, etc.	יָאִיר גַּם־כֵּן בְּחִינַת זְכִירָה — דְּהַיִינוּ גִּלּוּי בְּחִינַת הַפְּנִימִיּוּת עַד שֶׁרְשָׁן הָרָאשׁוֹן בְּעַצְמוּת אוֹר־אֵין־סוֹף כו׳
And this is through "your following Me in the desert." The phrase "your following Me" refers to the 365 negative commandments—since in them, light does not shine in a revealed way like in positive commandments which are drawing and	ְהַיְינוּ עַל־יְדֵי "לֶּכְתֵּהְ אַחֲרֵי בַּמִּדְבָּר" — פֵּירוּשׁ "לֶּכְתַּהְ אַחֲרֵי" קאי עַל שֵׁס"ה לֹא־תַעֲשֶׂה — לִהְיוֹת שֶׁבָּהֶם אֵינוֹ מֵאִיר הָאוֹר בְּגִילּוִי כְּמוֹ בְּמִצְוֹת עֲשֵׂה שֶׁהֵן הַמְשָׁכַת וְגִילּוִי אוֹר, אֲבָל לֹא־תַעֲשֶׂה אֵינָם בִּבְחִינַת גִּילּוִי אוֹר אֶלֶּא בִּבְחִינַת "לֹא" כו׳ כַּנַּ"ל.

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revealing light. But the prohibitions are not in a state of revealed light, rather in the aspect of "no," etc., as mentioned above.	
And knowledge of this is only in the level of negative knowledge, as mentioned above (in the discourse "Naso"). Therefore, it is called "after Me," from the perspective of the level of revelations, etc.	וְהַיְדִיעָה בָּזֶה — הִיא בִּבְחִינַת יְדִיעַת הַשְּׁלִילָה בְּלַבַּד כו׳ כַּנַ"ל (בְּדִ"ה נָשֹא), לְזֹאת נִקְרָא "אַחֲרַי" מִצֵּד מַדְרֵגַת הַגִּילוּיִים כו׳.
Similarly, what the negative commandments effect in the soul is that there be the level of awe and love even in this lowly generation and darkness, as mentioned above (in the discourse cited)—for the love and awe in this generation is, as explained (in the discourse on "The Heavens Declare"), in the mode of "after Me," since there is no actual revelation, but he understands that the truth is so, and therefore acts accordingly.	ְרֵכֵן מַה שֶׁהַשֵּׁס"ה לֹא־תַעֲשֶׂה פּוֹעֲלִים בַּנֶּפֶשׁ — הוּא שֶׁתִּהָיֶה בְּחִינַת יִרְאָה וְאַהָּבָה נַּם בְּדֹר זֶה וְהַחֹשֶׁךְ כַּנַּ"ל (בַּדִּ"ה הַנַּ"ל) — דְּהָאַהָבָה וְהַיִּרְאָה בְּדֹר זֶה נִתְבָּאֵר (בְּדִּ"ה "הַשָּׁמִיִם מְסַפְּרִים") שֶׁהִיא בִּבְחִינַת "אַחֲרַי" — שֶׁהָרֵי אֵין זֶה שֶׁמֵאִיר לוֹ הַגִּילוּי מַמֶּשׁ — רַק מַה שֶׁמִבִין שֶׁהָבֵּין הוּא, וּלְזֹאת כָּךְ יֵאָתֶה כו׳
And even in lofty souls to whom light shines in the level of knowledge and feeling, etc., it is still in the level of negative knowledge only, which is a slight recognition only, etc.	ְוְגַם בַּנְּשָׁמוֹת הַגְּבוֹהוֹת שֶׁמֵאִיר לָהֶם הָאוֹר בִּבְחִינַת יְדִיעָה וְהַרְגָּשָׁה כו׳ — הֲרֵי זֶה בִּבְחִינַת יְדִיעַת הַשְּׁלִילָה בִּלְבָד — שֶׁהִיא קְצָת הַכָּרָה בִּלְבָד כו׳.
And this is not similar to the drawing of the positive commandments, which also effects awe and love, and the light is drawn in an actual revelation in the souls of great <i>tzaddikim</i> , in the level of actual sight, etc.	ןאֵינוֹ דּוֹמֶה לְהַמְשֶׁכָה דְּמִצְוֹת עֲשֵׂה — שֶׁפּוֹעֶלֶת גַּם־כֵּן בְּחִינַת יְרָאָה וְאַהֲכָה — הָרֵי נִמְשֶׁךּ בָּזֶה אוֹר שֶׁבָּא בְּגִילוּי מַמֶּשׁ בְּנִשְׁמוֹת הַצַּדִּיקִים הַגְּדוֹלִים — בְּבִחִינַת רָאִיָּה מַמָּשׁ כו׳.
But the drawing through the negative commandments cannot be now in actual revelation (in the future it will be revealed, etc.), only in the aspect of negative knowledge alone, and therefore it is also called "after Me," etc.	אֲבָל הַהַמְשָׁכָה שֶׁעַל־יְדֵי הַשֵּׁס"ה לֹא־תַעֲשֶׂה — הָּרֵי אִי־אֶפְשָׁר לְהִיוֹת עַתָּה בְּגִילּוִי מַמֶּשׁ (וּלְעָתִיד יִהְיֶה הַגִּילּוִּי כו׳) — רַק בִּבְחִינַת יְדִיעַת הַשְּׁלִילָה בִּלְבָד — וְלָכֵן גַּם־זָה נָקָרָא "אַחֲרַי" כו׳.
However, through the strength and might of walking after [Me] in the 365 prohibitions—even when no light or revelation shines thereby (and also through the great strength in overcoming the evil to reject it, etc.)—and likewise the strength and might in the involvement with awe and love in this low generation, and the strengthening in the observance of Torah and mitzvot, which is through the power of the negative commandments specifically (for it is this that gives the strength to be in the level of awe and love, as explained above), and to hold strong in His fortress in fulfilling the commandments, etc.—through this comes "I remember for you the kindness of your youth."	ַבּיַחַ לְהְיוֹת בִּבְחִינַת יִרְאָה וְאַהֲבָה כַּנַ"ל — וּלְהַחֲזִיק בָּחַ לִהְיוֹת בִּבְחִינַת יִרְאָה וְאַהֲבָה כַּנַ"ל — וּלְהַחֲזִיק בְּמָעוּזוֹ בְּקִיּוּם הַמִּצְוֹת כו׳ — עַל־יִדֵי זֶה "זָכַרְתִּי לָךְ

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That also in the positive commandments will shine the inner and essential light of the Infinite, such that the Infinite Light will be truly revealed in his soul, and there will be the true service from the point of the heart, etc.	שֶׁגַם בְּמִצְוֹת עֲשֵׂה יָאִיר בְּחִינַת אוֹר פְּנִימִי וְעַצְמִי דְאוֹר־אֵין־סוֹף — לִהְיוֹת גִּילוּי אוֹר־אֵין־סוֹף מַשֶּשׁ בְּנַפְשׁוֹ — וְלִהְיוֹת הָעֲבוֹדָה הָאֲמִתִּית — בִּבְחִינַת נְקוּדַּת הַלֵּב כו׳
And this is through the 248 positive commandments, which are in the aspect of revelation—through this shines the revelation of the drawn light through the negative commandments as well, etc., and it will no longer be in the level of "after Me," but the essence of the light will be revealed. This is the matter of "I remember for you," etc.	ְרָהְיִנוּ — שֶׁעַל־יְדֵי רַמַ"ח מִצְוֹת עֲשֵׂה — שֶׁהֵן בִּבְחִינַת גִּילוּי — עַל־יְדֵי זָה מֵאִיר גִּילוּי בְּחִינַת הַמְשֶׁכַת הָאוֹר שֶׁעַל־יְדֵי לֹא־תַעֲשֶׂה גַּם־כֵּן כו׳, וְלֹא יִהְיֶה בִּבְחִינַת "אַחֲרִי", אֶלָא שֶׁיִּהְיֶה עֶצֶם הָאוֹר בְּגִילוּי מַמָּשׁ — שֶׁזֶּהוּ עִנְיַן "זָכַרְתִּי לָךְּ" כו׳
(And the main revelation will be in the future—and this is the matter of "Let them praise His name in dance" (<i>machol</i>)—a joining of both levels, as explained in the <i>Siddur</i> , and see in the discourse of Rosh HaShanah, 559, and in the discourse "To all completion," etc., "broad is Your commandment," etc.).	ְנִאֶּר הַגִּילוּי יִהְיֶה לְעָתִיד — וְהוּא עִנְיֵן "יְהַלְלוּ שְׁמוֹ) בְמָחוֹל" — הִתְחַבְּרוּת ב' הַמַּדְרֵגוֹת — וּכְמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב בַּסִּדּוּר. וְעַמֹּד מַה שֶׁכָּתוּב בְּדִּ"ה "יוֹם־טוֹב שֶׁל ראש־הַשָּׁנָה" שָׁנָה רנ"ט, וְדִּ"ה "לְכָל תִּכְלָה" כו׳ ("רְחָבָה מִצְוָתְדָּ" כו׳
And according to this, we can understand the verse: "And you shall see it and remember all the commandments"—that the matter of remembering the commandments is that the commandments should be in the aspect of <i>remembrance</i> , which is the concept of "I remember for you the kindness of your youth"—that the positive commandments, which are in the level of chesed, should be in the aspect of remembrance, in the level of revelation of the inwardness and essence of the Infinite.	ְעַל־פִּי־זֶה יוּבַן מַה שֶׁכָּתוּב "וּרְאִיתֶם אֹתוֹ וּזְכַרְתֶּם אֵת כָּל מִצְ <i>וֹת</i> כוי", דְּעִנְיֵן זְכִירַת הַמִּצְ <i>וֹת</i> — הוּא שֶׁהַמִּצְ <i>וֹת</i> יִהְיוּ בִּבְחִינַת זְכִירָה — וְהוּא עִנְיֵן "זָכַרְתִּי לָךְ חָסֶד נְעוּרַיִּךְ" — דְּמִצְ <i>וֹת</i> עֲשֵׂה שֶׁהֵן בִּבְחִינַת הַחֶּסֶד — יִהְיוּ בִּבְחִינַת זְכִירָה — בִּבְחִינַת גִּילוּי דְּפְנִימִיּוּת וְעַצְמוּת בּבְחִינַת זְכִירָה — בִּבְחִינַת גִּילוּי דְּפְנִימִיּוּת וְעַצְמוּת אוֹר־אֵין־סוֹף
And then, there cannot be any drawing (God forbid) to the external forces, and through them and by them, the revelation shines within the souls of Israel—that it will be in an actual revealed state in their soul. For through the negative commandments, although light is drawn, it is in concealment. But through the positive commandments, it is drawn in revealed manner, as mentioned above.	וְאָז אִי אֶפְשָׁר לִהְיוֹת מֵהֶם יְנִיקָה חַס וְשָׁלוֹם. וּבָהֶן וְעַל־יָדָן מֵאִיר הַגִּילוּי בְּנִשְׁמוֹת יִשְׂרָאֵל — שָׁיִּהְיֶה
And this is the meaning of "and you shall remember"—that they (the commandments) should be in the state of remembrance, etc. (And what is written, "and you shall do them," may be explained as mentioned above—that through the actual performance of the commandments, there is also drawn the aspect of the distant encompassing light, for the very act comes from the encompassing level of Yechidah, as mentioned above).	ְןזֶהוּ "וּזְכַרְתֶּם כוּ" — לְהִיוֹת בָּבְחִינַת זְכִירָה כוּ'. (וּמַה שֶׁכָּתוּב "וַצְשָׂיתֶם אוֹתָם" — יֵשׁ לוֹמֵר כְּמוֹ שֶׁנִּתְבָּאֵר לְצֵיל — שֶׁעַל־יְדֵי מַעֲשֵׂה הַמָּצְ <i>וֹת</i> בְּפוֹעֵל — גַּם־כֵּן נָמְשָׁךְ בְּחִינַת מַקִּיף הָרָחוֹק — כִּי עֶצֶם הַצְשִׁיָּה הִיא (מִצַּד בְּחִינַת מַקִּיף דְּיְחִידָה כו׳ — כְּמוֹ שֶׁנַּתְבָּאֵר לְעֵיל.

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And in order for there to be remembrance, this comes through "and you shall see it"—that is, through the mitzvah of <i>tzitzit</i> . For <i>tzitzit</i> includes both positive and negative commandments.	וּבִשְׁבִיל שֶׁתִּהָיֶה הַוְּכִירָה — זֶהוּ עַל־יְדֵי "וּרְאִיתֶם אֹתוֹ" — הַיְינוּ עַל־יְדֵי מִצְוַת צִיצִית — דְצִיצִית כּוֹלֵל מִצְ <i>וֹת</i> עֵשֵׂה וְלֹא־תַעֲשֶׂה.
And this is the matter of the white and blue threads in <i>tzitzit</i> . The white threads are the aspect of the positive commandments—this is the idea of "the hair of His head is like clean wool," and as it is written, "He took me by a lock of my head," etc.	ְוֶזֶהוּ עָנְיֵן חוּטֵי לָבָן וְחוּטֵי תְּכֵלֶת שֶׁבַּצִּיצִית — חוּטֵי הַלָּבָן הֵם בִּבְחִינַת מִצְ <i>וֹת</i> צֲשֵׂה — שֶׁזֶּהוּ עִנְיַן "וְשַׂעַר רֵישֵׁה כַּעֲמַר נָקֵי" — וּכְמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב "וַיִּקְּחֵנִי בְּצִיצִית רֹאשָׁי" כו׳.
And the blue thread is the aspect of the negative commandments. And it is known that the blue thread, although it is an aspect of Gevurot—eating and digesting, etc.—its root is above the white threads. As explained in <i>Likkutei Torah</i> , in the discourse "And Korach took," that the white threads are from the chesed of <i>Ila'ah</i> , and the blue thread is the Gevurot of Abba.	וְחוּט הַתְּכֵלֶת — הוּא בְּחִינַת לֹא־תַעֲשֶׂה — וְכִידוּעַ דְחוּט הַתְּכֵלֶת — הַגַּם שֶׁזֶּהוּ בְּחִינַת גְּבוּרוֹת — דְּאָכִיל וְשָׁצִי כו׳ — הָנֵּה בְּשֶׁרְשׁוֹ — זֶהוּ לְמַעְלָה מָחוּטֵי הַלָּבָן — וּכְמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב בְּלִקוּטֵי־תּוֹרָה דִּ"ה "וַיִּקַח קֹרַח" — דְחוּטֵי הַלָּבָן הֵם מִבְּחִינַת חֲסָדִים דְּאִילָּאָה — וְחוּט הַתְּכֵלֶת בְּחִינַת גְּבוּרוֹת דְּאַבָּא
And this is the level of <i>nahora setima'ah</i> (concealed light), which is not in a revealed state now, and that is why <i>techelet</i> is not practiced today—because now it is not in a state of revelation, and it will be revealed in the future, etc.	ְוָהַיִינוּ בְּחִינַת "נְהוֹרָא סְתִימָאָה" — שֶׁאֵינוֹ בִּבְחִינַת גִּילוּי עַכְשָׁו — וְלָכֵן אֵין הַתְּכֵלֶת נוֹהֵג עַכְשָׁו — מִפְּנֵי שֶׁעַתָּה אֵינוֹ בִּבְחִינַת גִּילוּי — וְיִתְגַּלֶּה לְעָתִיד כו׳.
And this is "[and you shall] see it" in the mitzvah of <i>tzitzit</i> , and through this: "you shall remember," etc. The main emphasis of "[and you shall] see it" is on the <i>techelet</i> thread, because this is like the concept of the negative commandments—and it is through this specifically that the remembrance is effected in the positive commandments, as explained above.	וְזֶהוּ "וּרְאִיתֶם אֹתוֹ" — בְּמִצְוַת צִיצִית — וְעַל־יְדֵי זֶה "וּזְכַרְתָּם" כו׳. וְהָעִיקֶּר קַאי "וּרְאִיתֶם אֹתוֹ" — עַל הַחוּט תְּכֵלֶת — לָהִיוֹת שֶׁזֶּהוּ כְּעִנְיַן לֹא־תַעֲשֶׂה — וְעַל־יִדֵי זֶה דַּוְקָא נַעֲשֵׂית הַזְּכִירָה בְּמִצְ <i>וֹת</i> עֲשֵׂה כו׳ כַּנַּ"ל.
And this is "[and you shall] see it and remember all the commandments of G-d and do them"—that refers to the positive commandments. And "[you shall] not stray" refers to the negative commandments. And through "[and you shall] see it," you will "remember"—that even the positive commandments will be in the level of remembrance, etc.	וְזֶהוּ "וּרְאִיתֶם אֹתוֹ וּזְכַרְתֶּם אֵת כָּל מִצְ <i>וֹת</i> ה' וַעֲשִׂיתֶם אוֹתָם" — וְהַיְינוּ מִצְ <i>וֹת</i> עֲשֵׂה. וּמֵה שֶׁכָּתוּב "וְלֹא תָתוּרוּ" — הַיְינוּ לֹא־תַעֲשֶׂה — וְעַלֹּ־יְדֵי "וּרְאִיתֶם אֹתוֹ" — עַל־יְדֵי זֶה "וּזְכַרְתָּם" — שֶׁגַּם הַמִּצְ <i>וֹת</i> עֲשֵׂה יִהְיוּ בִּּבְחִינַת זְכִירָה כו׳.

[NOTE: Summary

1. Essence of Torah vs. Mitzvos:

The Rebbe Rashab begins by explaining why sins can extinguish the light of mitzvos but not the light of Torah. Mitzvos draw down a revealed Divine light, which is susceptible to obstruction. But Torah draws from the essential, innermost level of the Ein Sof, which remains untouchable and inextinguishable, regardless of external interference. That's why Torah protects and defends, even more than mitzvos.

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2. Why Torah is Called a House:

The **Oral Torah** is likened to a **house with a roof**, protecting against spiritual "rain" and outside impurity. Mitzvos alone are more like a **courtyard**—open and unshielded. When one immerses themselves deeply in Torah across all dimensions—**Pardes** (Pshat, Remez, Drush, Sod)—they become fully enveloped and protected.

3. Torah Protects Even When Not Studying:

Although Torah protects most powerfully when studied, even **afterward**, its effects remain. This is because Torah draws a **"makif harachok"**—a distant, all-encompassing light from the level of **Yechidah**—which provides a **spiritual buffer** around the person, much like a force field.

4. Function of the Oral Torah:

The Rebbe explains that **Toshba"p (Oral Torah)**, especially its **finer details**, plays a crucial role in **distancing a person from sin**. Stringencies, decrees, and safeguards aren't just legal accessories—they are tools to **prevent any grasp by the Other Side (Sitra Achra)**. This is part of the Torah's role in **guarding holiness**.

5. Sin Breaches the Shield Only Through Bitul Torah:

When Torah study is **neglected**, the mind and heart become **spiritually "unroofed"**. That opens the way for distractions and even impurity to creep in, as one's mental focus wanders to **idle thoughts** or worse. Mere observance of mitzvos **cannot fully protect** in such a case. Hence, Chazal's statement: "Hashem forgives everything except bitul Torah"—because neglect of Torah removes this essential protection.

6. Zechiras HaMitzvos (Remembrance of Mitzvos):

The phrase "Zacharti lach chesed ne'urayich" is reinterpreted. The Rebbe teaches that even mitzvos can achieve "remembrance" status, drawing the essential Divine light, but only through Torah. Torah gives the mitzvah its depth of memory, which prevents spiritual leakage.

7. Tzitzis as Bridge Between Mitzvos and Torah:

The mitzvah of **tzitzis**, especially its **blue** (**techeiles**) and white **strings**, symbolize the two dimensions:

- White = positive commandments (giluy chesed)
- Techeiles = negative commandments (concealed gevurah)
- 1. Tzitzis binds both together, enabling a Jew to "see and remember" all mitzvos. The techeiles, though not practiced today, reflects a hidden level of G-dliness that will be revealed in the future. Still, its spiritual role remains present.

2. Transformation of the "Acharai" into "Zacharti":

The Rebbe concludes by showing that when one follows Hashem "after Him"—especially in negative commandments, which involve avoiding even what is hidden—this triggers a **Divine remembrance**, converting the most concealed forces into

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the **highest revelations**. The journey through concealment (the "after") eventually brings the soul to the **inner essence** of Divine truth.

Practical Takeaway

- **Don't just do—immerse.** Performing mitzvos is crucial, but they must be paired with deep, sustained **Torah study** to **shield the soul**, drive away negative influence, and draw **Divine Essence** into your being.
- **Protect your mind.** Even idle thoughts—if left unguarded—can open the door to spiritual interference. That's why **bitul Torah** (neglecting Torah study) is so dangerous. Make time daily for genuine learning that **wraps your consciousness** in holiness.
- Appreciate the Oral Torah's details. Those extra laws, precautions, and traditions aren't nitpicking—they are spiritual fences that block spiritual toxins from entering your life.
- **Visual mitzvos matter.** The mitzvah of tzitzis isn't just symbolic—it's metaphysical. When you wear it and **see it**, you create a **trigger** for deep spiritual memory and protection, reconnecting both the revealed and concealed parts of your soul.

Chassidic Story

The Rebbe Rashab's "Roof of Torah"

Once, a young student at Tomchei Temimim asked the Rebbe Rashab:

"Why do we need to study so many details in halachah and Chassidus? Isn't the main thing to do the mitzvos?"

The Rebbe didn't answer immediately. Instead, he brought the student outside and pointed to the yeshiva building's roof.

"You see that roof?" he said. "The walls can stand. But without the roof—rain, snow, and birds would get in. Torah is the roof. It doesn't just define the mitzvah—it **protects your neshamah**."

Then the Rebbe added softly, "Without the roof, you're exposed. Even if the walls remain, everything inside gets ruined."

This became one of the foundational lessons for all Temimim: that the shield of Torah must not be compromised, and that **mitzvos without Torah** are vulnerable—even if their structure stands.

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"The Simple Villager Who Wanted to Help"

A humble man named **Reb Berel** traveled by foot to Lubavitch, eager to hear Chassidus from the Rebbe Rashab. When he arrived, he discovered the Rebbe was out in the countryside and not teaching that day. Exhausted and disappointed, Reb Berel collapsed in the courtyard, tears in his eyes—too weary even to ask when the Rebbe would return. Moved by his devotion, the Rebbe noticed him, returned unexpectedly, and began teaching on the spot. Shocked, Reb Berel asked how the Rebbe knew he had come just to hear Chassidus. The Rebbe replied, "Because I saw you"—tears streaming, in the courtyard—and teaching impromptu was the only way to respond to such heartfelt yearning . **END NOTE**]