Parshas Korach - וְהָנֶה פַּרַח מְשֶה אָהַרֹן כו

Introduction

This discourse from **Rabbi Schneur Zalman of Liadi**, the Alter Rebbe (1745–1812), is a deeply layered mystical explanation of the power of **Ahavas Yisrael** and the Divine flow that comes through the Kohanim—particularly in the blessing known as *Birchas Kohanim*. The Alter Rebbe, founder of Chabad Chassidus and author of the *Tanya* and *Shulchan Aruch HaRav*, was not only a master of halacha and philosophy but also of conveying the metaphysical structure of Hashem's influence in this world. Drawing on Kabbalistic sources like the Zohar and Midrash, this discourse traces the difference between limited kindness (*Chesed Olam*) and expansive, unstoppable Divine flow (*Rav Chesed*), and how Aharon and his descendants, through their love and blessing, channel a unique form of unimpeded Divine generosity into the physical world.

And behold, the staff of Aharon blossomed and it produced almonds. To understand: why almonds? (See also in Midrash Rabbah, end of Parshas Korach.)	וְהָנֵּה פָּרַת מַטֵּה אַהָּרֹן כו׳ וַיָּגֶמֶל שְׁקֵדִים. לְהָבִין לָמָּה (שְׁקֵדִים (וּרְאֵה בְּרַבָּ״ת סו״פ קֹרַח
Almonds ripen faster than all other fruits and produce—such as olives, grapes, figs, etc.—which all take more time to ripen than almonds. As it states in Midrash Rabbah, end of Koheles (15b): What is the sign of the almond? From the moment it blossoms until it finishes is twenty-one days.	הָנֵּה שְׁקֵדִים הֵם מְמַהָּרִים לְהָנָּמֵר יוֹתֵר מִכָּל הַפֵּרוֹת וּתְבוּאוֹת כְּמוֹ זַיִת נֶּכֶּן מְּאֵנָה כו׳ שֶׁכֵּלֶם מִשְׁתַּהִים זְמֵן רַב יוֹתֵר מֵהַשְּׁקִדִים וּכְמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב בְּרַבָּ״ת סוֹף קֹהֶלֶת (קט״ו ב׳) מַה סִימָנוֹ שֶׁל שָׁקֵד זָה מִשָּׁעָה שֶׁהוּא מַצִּיץ עֵד שָׁעָה שֶׁהוּא גוֹמֵר כ״א יוֹם
Therefore, it is called "shaked" (almond), which implies speed—as it is written (Jeremiah 1): "A rod of an almond tree for I am shoked (watching, hastening) over My word to perform it."	ְוַעַל כֵּן נָקְרָא שָׁקַד שֶׁהוּא עִנְיַן מְהִירוּת כְּמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב (בִּירְמִיָה סִימָן אִי) מַקֵּל שָׁקֵד כו׳ כִּי שׁקֵד אֲנִי עַל דְּבָרִי לַעֲשׂתוֹ.
This is an allusion to the kehunah (priesthood), because the name Aharon shares the same letters as "nira" (is seen/revealed). (See further in the discourse beginning "Behaalos'cha.")	ְוֶזֶהוּ רֶמֶז עַל הַכְּהוּנָה. כִּי הִנֵּה אַהָרֹן אוֹתִיוֹת נִרְאָה ((עַמ״שׁ מִזֶּה בְּד״ה בְּהַעֲלֹתְךָּ
Through him all revelations and transmissions of Divine light were drawn from Above downward. (See the discourse on "Ki Imcha Mekor Chayim," on "in Your light we see light.")	שֶׁעַל יָדוֹ הָיוּ כָּל הַהָּתְגַּלּוּיוֹת וְהַמְשֶׁכוֹת הָאוֹרוֹת מִלְמַעְלָה לְמַטָּה. וְעַמ״שׁ סְד״ה כִּי עִמְּךְ מְקוֹר חַיִּים בְּאוֹרְךְ נִרְאֶה אוֹר.
And the transmissions that come through him descend from the highest levels all the way below with great speed, without any delays.	ְוָהָבֵּה הַהַמְשָׁכוֹת הַבִּמְשָׁכוֹת עַל יָדוֹ הֵן נִמְשָׁכוֹת מֵרוּם הַמַּעֲלוֹת עַד לְמַטָּה בְּמְהֵירוּת גְּדוֹלָה בְּלִי שׁוּם עִכּוּבִים.
For behold, in Birkas HaMazon it says: "He nourishes the entire world with His goodness, with grace and kindness"—that is, the physical blessings originate from His upper kindness and goodness.	כִּי הִנֵּה כָּתוּב בְּבִרְכַּת הַמָּזוֹן הַזָּן אֶת הָעוֹלָם כֵּלוֹ בְּטוּבוֹ בְּחֵן בְּחֶסֶד לִהְיוֹת מִתְהַנֶּה מִטוּבוֹ וְחַסְדּוֹ הָעֶלְיוֹנִים הַשְּׁפָעוֹת גַּשְׁמִיּוֹת.

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There must be a descent of that kindness through many stages of spiritual descent (hishtalshelus) until it condenses into physical kindness.	צָרִידְ יְרִידַת הַחֶּסֶד בְּהָשְׁתַּלְשְׁלוּת מַדְרֵגוֹת רַבּוֹת מְאֹד עַד שָׁיִּתְעַבֶּה הַהַשְׁפָּעָה מִמֶּנוּ עַל חֶסֶד גַּשְׁמִי.
But through Aharon, who is the level of "Nir'eh Or"—"in Your light we see light"—the flow of kindness is drawn with speed, without delay, through the worlds and many levels of hishtalshelus, until it can be drawn and revealed below.	ְעַל יְדֵי אַהָרֹן שֶׁהוּא בְּחִינַת נִרְאֶה אוֹר הֵינוּ שֶׁיְהִיֶּה נִמְשָׁךְּ הַשְׁפָּעַת הַחֶּסֶד בְּמְהֵירוּת שֶׁלֹא יִתְעַכֵּב בָּעוֹלְמוֹת וּרְבוּי הַהִשְׁתַּלְשְׁלוּת שֶׁמֵּכְרָח לְהִיוֹת נִמְשֶׁךְ בָּהֶם עַד שָׁיִמָּשִׁךְ וְיִתְגַלֶּה לְמַשָּה כִּי אִם יִהְיֶה עוֹבֵר וְנִמְשָׁךְ דֶּרֶךְ הֵם בִּמְהֵירוּת מִבְּלִי עִכּוּבָא בָהֶם.
(See also regarding this type of speed in <i>RaMaZ</i> , beginning of Emor, page 99, etc.) Therefore, the allusion to this is the almond, as above.	ןעַיֵּן כַּהֵגָּוְנָא מֵעִנְיַן מְהֵירוּת בְּהָרַמַ״ז אֱמוֹר רֵישׁ דַּף) צ״ט כו׳) וְעַל כֵּן הָרֶמֶז לָזֶה הוּא שְׁקַדִים כַּנַּ״ל.
Now, to explain the matter further: it is known the question—why do we request every day in prayer "Heal us, Hashem," "Bless upon us" if the main judgment for a person is on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur? This question is raised in Tosafos (Shabbos 12b, Rosh Hashanah 16a).	וּבֵיאוּר הָעַנְיָן הִנֵּה יָדוּעַ הַקַּשְׁיָא מֵהוּ שֶׁמְּבַקְּשִׁים בְּכָל יוֹם וּמִתְפַּלְּלִים רְפָאֵנוּ ה׳ בָּרֵךְּ עָלֵינוּ הַרֵי עִקַּר דִּינוֹ שֶׁל אָדָם הוּא בְּרֹאשׁ הַשָּׁנָה וְיוֹם הַכִּיפוּרִים וּכְמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב לֵשְׁיָא זוֹ בְּתוֹס׳ (פ״ק דְשַׁבָּת דף י״ב ע״ב וּבְפּ״ק דְּר״ה (דף ט״ז ע״א.
But the explanation is: what is written and sealed on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur is that a flow of kindness is drawn upon the person's soul.	אֲבֶל הָעַנָיֶן כִּי מֵה שֶׁנִּכְתָּב וְנַחְתָּם בְּרֹאשׁ הַשֶּׁנָה וְיוֹם הַכִּפּוּרִים הָנֵּה שֶׁנִּמְשָׁךְ לוֹ חֶסֶד עַל נַפְשׁוֹ.
And this kindness, drawn from the Infinite One, is still only in the level of Malchus of Atzilus, which is the source of Beriah, Yetzirah, and Asiyah.	ןהַחֶּסֶד הַהוּא הַנִּמְשֶׁךְ מֵאֵין סוֹף בָּרוּךְ הוּא הוּא לְמַעְלָה עַדַיִן בְּמַלְכוּת דְּאַצִילוּת שֶׁהִיא מָקוֹר דְּבִּי״ע
That is what is meant by the phrase: "With His goodness, with His grace and kindness"—i.e., His supernal kindness, which is vastly beyond the nature of physical influence.	וְהָנֵּה הוּא מַה שֶׁנֶּאֲמֵר בְּטוּבוֹ בְּחֵן וּבְחֶסֶד שֶׁלוֹ שֶׁהוּא חֶסֶד עֶלְיוֹן בָּרוּךְ הוּא אֲשֶׁר הוּא לְמַעְלָה מַעְלָה מִמְהוּת הַשְׁפָּעוֹת גַּשְׁמִיוֹת.
And as is known from what was said by Avraham: "I am but dust and ashes"—meaning that his love and kindness cannot even compare to that of Atzilus, but are like dust and ashes in contrast.	ְרַבּוֹדָע מֵעַנְיֵן וְאָנֹכִי עָפָר וָאֵפֶר שֶׁאָמֵר אַבְרָהָם עַל חֶסֶד וְאַהַבָּה רַבָּה שָׁלוֹ שֶׁאֵין לוֹ דִּמְיוֹן לְחֶסֶד דְּאַצִילוּת רַק בָּמוֹ עָפָר וָאֵפֶר כו׳.
Therefore, in order that from the kindness of Atzilus will be drawn physical influence in the world of Asiyah—as the soul requires for its needs in the body	וְלָכֵן כְּדֵי שֶׁיִּמָּשֵׁךּ מֵחֶסֶד שֶׁבַּאֲצִילוּת הַשְּׁפָּעוֹת הַגַּשְׁמִיּוֹת בּצְרָכֵי הַנָּפָשׁ בַּגוּףבַּעֲשִׂיָּה כְּצָרְכֵי הַנָּפָשׁ בַּגוּף
It must descend and be drawn downward through a chain of many stages, through the chambers of Atzilus, Beriah, Yetzirah, and Asiyah—from one chamber to another—until the kindness condenses into material form, such as healing the sick and blessing the years (agricultural bounty).	הוּא צָרִיךְ לְהִשְׁתַּלְשֵׁל וְלֵירֵד בְּהִשְׁתַּלְשְׁלוּת מַדְרֵגוֹת רַבּוֹת בְּהֵיכָלוֹת דְּאַבִּי״ע מֵהֵיכָל לְהֵיכָל עַד שָׁיִּתְעַבֶּה לִהְיוֹת חַסְדּוֹ בְּעִנְיָנִים גַּשְׁמִיִּים לְרַפְּאוֹת הַחוֹלֶה וּלְבָרֵךְ הַשָּׁנִים

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(This can be understood from what is written elsewhere in the discourse <i>Patach Eliyahu</i> regarding "there is no blade of grass"; and in the discourse <i>Mezuzah MiYamin</i> , concerning "three thousand parables"; and in the discourse <i>Mar'eihem U'Ma'aseihem</i> , on "He does kindness to thousands"; and in <i>Kechu Me'itchem Terumah</i> .)	ְוְיוּבַן זֶה מִמַּה שֶּׁכָּתוּב בְּמֶקוֹם אַחֵר בְּד״ה פָּתַח אֵלִיָּהוּ) גַּבֵּי אֵין לְךְּ עֵשֶׂב כו׳ וּסְד״ה מְזוּזָה מִימִין בְּעִנְיַן שְׁלֹשֶׁת אֲלָפִים מָשָׁל וּבְד״ה מַרְאֵיהֶם וּמַעֲשֵׂיהֶם כו׳ בְּעִנְיַן עוֹשֵׂה תָסֶד לַאֲלָפִים וּבָד״ה קְחוּ מֵאִתְּכֶם תְּרוּמָה
And this is what our Sages meant when they said: "A person is judged every day"—that is, he is judged according to his deeds on that day—whether he is worthy and fitting that the supernal kindness that was already drawn upon his soul on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur should descend and be drawn level by level, from chamber to chamber, so that it should pass from spiritual into physical.	ְעַל זֶה אָרְזוּ״ל אָדָם נִדּוֹן בְּכָל יוֹם שֶׁהוּא נִדּוֹן לְפִּי מַעֲשָׂיו הַיּוֹם הַאָם רָאוּי וְכָדַאי הוּא שֶׁיֵּרִד וְיִמְּשֵׁךְּ הַחֶּסֶד עֶלְיוֹן הַנִּמְשָׁךְּ כְּבָר עַל נַפְשׁוֹ לְמַעְלָה בְּר״ה וְיוֹם הַכִּפּוּרִים שֶׁיְהָיֶּה יוֹרֵד וְנִמְשֶׁךְ מִמַּדְרֵגָה לְמַדְרֵגָה מֵהֵיכָל לָהֵיכָל כְּדֵי שֶׁיִּמָשֵׁךְ מֵרוּחָנִיוּת לְגַשְׁמִיּוּת.
Or perhaps the person is not worthy of it, and then the kindness will be held back and not descend below, but will remain above in the spiritual realm. There, he will receive greater delight in Gan Eden because kindness was drawn to him, but it will not extend downward into the physical realm at all.	אוֹ שֶׁמָּא אֵין רָאוּי הָאָדָם לָזֶה וְאָז יִתְעַכֵּב וְלֹא יֵרַד לְמַטָּה רַק יִשָּׁאֵר לְמַעְלָה בְּרוּחָנִיוּת וְשֶׁם יַגִּיעַ לוֹ שֶׁיוֹסִיפוּ לוֹ תַּעֲנוּג בְּגַן עֵדֶן מֵאַחַר שֶׁנָּמְשַׁךּ לוֹ הַחֶסֶד. אֲבָל עִכָּז לֹא יִמְשֵׁךְ מִמֶּנוּ לְמֵטָה כְּלָל
(And even though the statement "A person is judged every day" is the opinion of Rabbi Yosi and Rabbi Nasan—and not the Sages—nevertheless, one must conclude that even according to Rabbi Yosi and Rabbi Nasan, the primary judgment is on Rosh Hashanah. Otherwise, how could they explain the verse: "For it is a statute for Israel, a judgment for the G-d of Jacob," which refers to Rosh Hashanah?	וְהַגַּם שֶׁמֵּה שֶׁאָמָרוּ אָדָם נִדּוֹן בְּכָל יוֹם זֶהוּ דִּבְרֵי ר׳) יוֹסֵי וְר׳ נָתָן מַשְׁאֵ״כ לְרַבָּנַן מִ״מ הָא עַל כָּרְחָדְּ גַּם לְר׳ יוֹסֵי וְר׳ נָתָן עִקַּר הַדִּין בְּר״ה דְאַלְכֵּי אֵידְ יְפָרְשׁוּ הַכָּּסוּק דְּכִי חֹק לְיִשְׂרָאֵל הוּא מִשְׁכָּט לֵאלֹקֵי יַעֲקֹב דְּקָאֵי עַל (ר״ה
And also the verse: "The eyes of the Lord your G-d are upon it from the beginning of the year"—from which the sages in Rosh Hashanah (8a) learned that Rosh Hashanah is the New Year for judgment.	ְוְגַם מַה שֶׁכָּתוּב עֵינֵי ה׳ אֱלֹקֶיךְ בָּה מֵרֵאשִׁית הַשָּׁנָה שֶׁמָּנֶּה לָמְדוּ בְּפ״ק דְּר״ה (דַּף ח׳) דְּר״ה הוּא ר״ה לְדִין כו׳
Furthermore, what would be the meaning of the Rosh Hashanah prayers—Malchiyos, Zichronos, and Shofros—and the phrase "HaMelech HaMishpat" said during the Ten Days of Repentance? How is this day different than any other?	ְעוֹד דְּאַלְכֵּי מֵה עִנְיַן מַלְכִּיוֹת זְכְרוֹנוֹת וְשׁוֹפָרוֹת שֶׁאוֹמְרִים בְּר״ה. וְהַמֶּלֶךְ הַמִּשְׁפָּט בַּעֲשֶׂרֶת יְמֵי תְּשׁוּבָה. וּמֵה יוֹם מִיּוֹמֵיִם.

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It must therefore be that Rabbi Yosi and Rabbi Nasan also agree that Rosh Hashanah is the day of judgment. And likewise, the sages said (Beitzah 17a): "A person's sustenance is designated from Rosh Hashanah to Yom Kippur"—clearly indicating that this is agreed upon by all, and there is no disagreement about it.	אֶלֶּא וַדַּאי גַּם ר׳ יוֹסֵי וְר׳ נָתָן מוֹדִים דְר״ה הוּא יוֹם הַדִּין. וְכֵן מַה שֶׁאָמְרוּ רַזַ״ל (פ״ב דְּבֵיצָה דְּי״ז ע״א) מְזוֹנוֹתָיו שֶׁל אָדָם קְצוּבִין לוֹ מֵר״ה וְעַד יוֹם הַכִּפּוּרִים. מַשְׁמֵע דְּאָתֵי וַדַּאי לִּכְעֵלְּעָל וְאֵין בָּזָה שׁוּם מַחַלוֹקֶת.
Nevertheless, they maintain that a person is also judged every day—and this is in the manner explained above.	וְאַף עַל פִּי כֵן ס״ל דְאָדָם נִדּוֹן גַּם כֵּן בְּכֶל יוֹם וְהַיְנוּ עַל דֶּרֶךְ שֶׁנִּתְבָּאֵר.
And similarly, even according to the Sages who argue with Rabbi Yosi and Rabbi Nasan, we must also say that there is some level of judgment every day. After all, we recite all the daily requests in the Shemoneh Esrei—even according to the Sages—as explained in the Gemara, Shabbos (12a–b).	וכדידהו מרצ"כ דשייה החיוח דיו הככ יום שהכי
And this too is as explained above, and the discussion regarding their disagreement is not for this place. This was already explained at length as well in the <i>Maamar Chakur Din</i> , Vol. 2, Ch. 1 and Ch. 26.	וְהַיְנוּ גַּם כֵּן עַל דֶּרֶךְּ שֶׁנְּתְבָּאֵר וְעִנְיֵן הַמַּחֲלוֹקֶת שֶׁבֵּינֵיהֶם אֵין כָּאן מְקוֹמוֹ. וְכְבָר הָאֱרִיךְ בָּזֶה גַּם כֵּן בְּעִנָיָן מַאֲמָר חָקוּר דִּין חֵלֶק ב׳ פָּרֶק א׳ וּפֶּרֶק כ״ו.
Now, this influence of kindness is delayed and held back until it actually descends and arrives below—for in each stage of descent, from chamber to chamber, it must pass through a process of judgment to determine whether the person is worthy for this flow to be drawn down.	וְהָנֵה הַשְּׁפָּעַת חֶסֶד זָה הוּא מִתְעַכֵּב וְשׁוֹהֶה עַד שֶׁנִּמְשַׁךְ וּבָא לְמַטָּה שֶׁהֲרֵי בְּכָל הַשְׁתַּלְשְׁלוּת מֵהֵיכָל לְהֵיכָל הוּא עַל יְדֵי מִשְׁפָּט אָם רָאוּי הוּא שֶׁיִּמָּשֵׁךְ הַשְׁפָּעָה לְמַטָּה.
And his judgment is examined, and there may be an accuser who claims that the person has sinned and is not worthy of this influence.	וּמְעַיְנִים בְּדִינוֹ וְיֵשׁ מִי שֶׁמְּקַטְרֵג לוֹמַר שֶׁחָטָא וְאֵינוֹ רָאוּי לָזֶה.
(And this is what our Sages said in <i>Bereishis Rabbah</i> , Vayishlach, chapter 76, on the verse "And Benayahu said, Amen, so may it be." The Midrash asks: was it not already said, "Behold, a son shall be born to you—he shall be a man of peace"? Rather, many accusers will arise from here to Gichon see there.)	וְזֶהוּ מֵאֲרָזְ"ל בְּרַבָּ״ת וַיִּשְׁלַח פַּע"וּ עַל פָּסוּק וַיֹּאמֶר) בְּנָיָהוּ כו׳ אָמֵן כֵּן יֹאמֵר וְהַלֹא כְּבָר נָאֱמֵר הִנַּה בֵן נוֹלַד לָדְּ הוּא יִהְיָה אִישׁ מְנוּחָה אֶלֶּא אָמֵר הַרְבֵּה קַטֵּגוֹרִין (יַעַמְדוּ מִכָּאן וְעַד גִּיחוֹן. ע"ש
But when the Divine light and influence is drawn through Aharon, or through his descendants after him—the Kohanim who raise their hands and bless the people with <i>Birchas Kohanim</i> —then the influence descends swiftly through all the worlds, with no hindrance or delay, and no judgment is examined at all.	אֲבָל כְּשֶׁנִמְשֶׁךְ הָאוֹר וְהַשֶּׁפַע עַל יְדֵי אַהָרוֹ וּמִגּזְעוֹ תַּחְתָּיו כֹּהָנִים הַנּוֹשְׂאִים אֶת יְדֵיהֶם וּמְבַרְכִים אֶת הָעָם בִּבְרָכַת כֹּהֲנִים אָזֵי הַשֶּׁפַע הִיא נִמְשֶׁכֶת בִּמְהֵירוּת דֶּרֶךְ בָּל הָעוֹלָמוֹת בְּאֵין מֹנֵעַ וּמְעַכֵּב וְאֵין מְעַיְּנִים בְּדִין כְּלָל בָּל הָעוֹלָמוֹת בְּאֵין מֹנֵעַ וּמְעַכֵּב וְאֵין מְעַיְּנִים בְּדִין כְּלָל

ְוְעַל דֶּרֶךְ שֶׁנִּתְבָּאֵר עַל פָּסוּק וְלֹא אֶבָה ה' אֱלֹקֶיךּ) לִשְׁמֹעַ אֶל בִּלְעָם כו' שֶׁלֹא שָׁמַע שׁוּם קִטְרוּג וְהַיְנוּ עַל יְדֵי כִּי אֲהַבְךָ כו'. וְזֶהוּ שֶׁמְבָרְכִים הַכֹּהַנִים אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ (לְבָרֵךְ אֶת עַמּוֹ יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּאַהָּבָה
וְעַל דֶּרֶךְ זֶה יֵשׁ לוֹמַר פֵּירוּשׁ הַפָּסוּק הַשֹּׁלֵחַ אִמְרָתוֹ אָרֶץ עַד מְהַרָה יָרוּץ דְּבָרוֹ. דְפֵירוּשׁ הַשֹּׁוֹלֵחַ הוּא כְּשֶׁיוֹרֵד הַשֶּׁפַע לְאַט לְאַט וּבְהַדְרָגָה וּבִמְתוּן. אֲבָל עַד מְהַרָה יָרוּץ דְּבָרוֹ הַיְנוּ כְּשֶׁהַשֶּׁפַע הוֹלֵךְ בִּמְהֵירוּת עַל (דֶּרֶךְ הַנַּ״ל. וְעַמ״שׁ עַל זֶה בְּמָקוֹם אַחֵר
ְוְעַיֵּן בְּרַבָּ״ת פּ׳ וָאֶתְחַבַּן יֵשׁ תְּפָלֶה שֶׁנַּעֲנֵית לְאַרְבָּעִים יוֹם כו׳ וְיֵשׁ תִּפָּלֶה שֶׁנַּעֲנִית לְעֶשְׂרִים יוֹם כו׳ וְיֵשׁ תְּפָלֶה שֶׁנַּעֲנִית לְיוֹם אֶחָד כו׳ וְיֵשׁ תְּפָלֶה כו׳ ע״ש. וְעַמ״שׁ בְּמָקוֹם אַחֵר בְּפֵירוּשׁ מַהֵר קַח אֶת הַלְּבוּשׁ כו׳ בְּד״ה עַד (דְּלָא יָדְעֵי בֵּין כו׳
וְזֶהוּ עִנְיֵן בִּרְכַּת כֹּהָנִים יְבֶרֶכְדּ ה׳ וְיִשְׁמְרֶדְּ. וְאַרְזוּ״ל יְבֶרֶכְדְּ בְּמָמוֹן כו׳ יְבָרֶכְדְּ בְּבָנִים כו׳ וְיִשְׁמְרֶדְּ מִן הַמַּזִּיקִין. כְּמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב בְּרַבָּ״ת נָשׂא פֶּרֶק י״א.
הַיְנוּ שֶׁנִּמְשָׁךְ הַחֶּסֶד הָעֶלְיוֹן מִיָּד בַּגַּשְׁמִי לְהִיוֹת הַבְּּרָכָה בְּבָנִי וּמְזוֹנֵי. יָאֵר ה׳ פָּנָיו הַיְנוּ הַאֲרַת פָּנִים וִיחֻנֶּךֶ שָׁנִּמְשָׁךְ לְמַטָּה מַטָּה.
וְאַמְנָם שֹׁרֶשׁ הַפַּעַם לָזֶה עַל הֶיוֹת הַמְשָׁכַת הַחֶּסֶד שֶׁעַל יְדֵי אַהָרֹן נִמְשֶׁכֶת בִּמְהֵירוּת בְּאֵין מְעַכֵּב וּמוֹנֵעַ הַהַמְשְׁכָה הוּא לְפִי כִּי אִית חֶסֶד וְאִית חֶסֶד—חֶסֶד עוֹלָם וְרַב חֶסֶד וְהִנֵּה הַהַמְשָׁכָה עַל יְדֵי אַהָרֹן הוּא מִבְּחִינַת וְרַב חֶסֶד בַּנִּזְכָּר עַל פָּסוּק בְּהַעֲלֹתְךָּ
ןעַל־פִּי וְעָשִׂיתָ בִגְדֵי־קֹדֶשׁ וְהוּא חֶסֶד שֶׁבְּלִי גְּבוּל שֶׁיוֹרֵד וְנִמְשָׁהְּ עַל־פִּי מִדּוֹתָיו וְאֵין שׁוּם בְּחִינַת דִּין שֶׁיַעַכְּבוּ בְּלָלִ

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Whereas in <i>Chesed Olam</i> (eternal kindness), there is an opposing aspect of judgment that delays it. (See elsewhere on the verse "Chasdei Hashem ki lo tamnu.")	מַשְׁאֵ״כ בָּחֶסֶד עוֹלֶם יֵשׁ כְּנֶגְדּוֹ בְּחִינַת דִּין הַמְּעַכְּבוֹ וְעַמ״שׁ בְּמָקוֹם אַחֵר עַל־פָּסוּק חַסְדֵי ה׳ כִּי לֹא תָמְנוּ.
The analogy for this is, for example, a very large river whose water flows with overwhelming force—its current cannot be obstructed.	וְהַמֶּשָׁל לָזֶה עַל דֶּרֶהְ מָשָׁל נָהָר גָּדוֹל בְּמְאֹד שֶׁהַלִּיכַת הַמֵּיִם הוּא בְּתִגְבּוֹרֶת גְּדוֹלָה לֹא יוּכְלוּ לְעַכֵּב הָלִיכַת הַמֵּיִם
In contrast, in rivers that are not so large, the flow of water can be delayed by wood, dirt, or similar things—until structures like water mills or bridges are erected over them.	מַשְׁאֵ״כ בִּנְהָרוֹת שֶׁאֵינָם גְּדוֹלִים כָּל כָּדְּ מְעַכְּבִים הַלִּיכַת וְהַמְשֶׁכֶת מֵימָיו עַל יְדֵי עֵצִים וַעֲפָר וְכַיּוֹצֵא עַד שֶׁמַּצְמִידִין עַל יְדֵי זֶה עֲלֵיהֶם בֵּית הַטְּחִינָה אוֹ גְּשָׁרִים.
But a very great river will not be hindered by such blockages. Rather, it flows continuously as usual and sweeps away the obstructing trees and dirt.	אֲבָל בְּנָהָר גָּדוֹל מָאֹד לֹא יֵעָכֵב עַל יְדֵי מוֹנְעִים וּמְעַכְּבִים הַנַּ״ל כִּי אָם הָלוֹךְ יֵלֵךְ כְּמִנְהָגוֹ וִישְׁטֹף הָעֵצִים וְהָעָפָּר הַמְּעַבְּבִים.
So too is the analogy regarding the flow from the level of <i>Rav Chesed</i> —it proceeds and draws downward with rapid force. All judgments are pushed aside and nullified in the face of it.	כָּהְ הַנִּמְשָׁל בְּעִנְיַן הַהַמְשָׁכָה מִבְּחִינַת וְרֵב חֶסֶד הוּא הוֹלֵה וְנִמְשָׁךְ בִּמְרוּצָה. וְכָל הַדִּינִין מִתְעַבְּרִין וּמִתְבַּטְּלִין מַחֲמָתוֹ כו׳.
(See elsewhere on the verse "Yom le-yom yabia omer"—in the Zohar, Terumah 136b, where it explains that "yabia" [shall pour forth] is like "meva"—as in <i>meva itabed</i> —meaning to rush, as in "He shall rush to bring their future." That is, on Shabbos the light and influence is also drawn down swiftly, because all judgments are removed from it—see there.)	ןעַמ״שׁ בְּמָקוֹם אַחֵר עַל־פָּסוּק יוֹם לְיוֹם יַבִּיעַ אֹמֶר) דְפֵירוּשׁ בַּזּהַר תְּרוּמָה קל״ו ב׳ יַבִּיעַ כְּדָ״א מְבַּע אִתְעֲבֵד אוּחִי לְאַתְנַהַרָא דָּא מִן דָּא לְשׁוֹן מְהֵירוּת כְּדִמְתַּרְגְּם וְחַשׁ עֲתִידוֹת לְמוֹ וּמְבַּע דְּעָתִיד לְהוֹן. דְּהַיְנוּ שֶׁבְּשַׁבָּת נִמְשָׁךְ הָאוֹר וְהַשֶּׁפַע גַּם כֵּן בִּמְהֵירוּת מִשׁוּם דְּכָל דִּינִין (מִתְעַבְּרִין מִנָּה כו׳ ע״ש
And see further regarding almonds in Parshas Shemos (15:2), and it will be understood based on what is written in Jeremiah (31:28), that there is also "watchfulness" (<i>sh'kida</i>) for good and benefit.	ּוְעַיֵּן עוֹד מֵעִנְיַן שְׁקֵדִים בְּפַרְשַׁת שְׁמוֹת (ט״ו ב׳) וְיוּבַן עַל־פִּי מַה שֶׁכָּתוּב (בִּירְמִיָּה סִימָן ל״א כ״ח) שֶׁיֵשׁ שָׁקִידָה לְמוּטָב וְלַטוֹב.
Similarly, it says: "For the matter is from G-d, and G-d hastens to do it." There were the seven years of plenty—and also the opposite. (See in the <i>Sefer Magen David</i> , letter gimel, on this.)	וְעַל דֶּרֶךְ זֶה נֶאֱמַר כִּי נָכוֹן הַדָּבָר מֵעִם הָאֱלֹקִים וּמְמַהֵּר הָאֱלֹקִים לַעֲשֹתוֹ וְהָיוּ שֶׁבַע שָׁנִים שֶׂבַע וְגַם הַהֶּפֶּךְ. וְעַיֵּוְ בְּסֵפֶּר מָגֵן דָּוִד בְּאוֹת ג׳ מִזֶּה.
And the almonds mentioned in connection with the staff of Aharon—"and it sprouted almonds"—refer to the idea of "Kel Elyon, who bestows good kindnesses," and "good" here refers to light—as in "and the light was good." Aharon has the same letters as <i>nireh</i> ("seen")—that the light should be drawn downward to become visible.	וְשְׁקֵדִים דְּגַבֵּי מַטֵּה אַהְרוֹ וַיִּגְמֹל שְׁקַדִים הַיְנוּ כְּמַאֲמַר אַל עֶלְיוֹן גּוֹמֵל חֲסָדִים טוֹבִים דְּפֵירוּשׁ טוֹבִים עַל דֶּרֶה וַיַּרְא אֶת הָאוֹר כִּי־טוֹב אַהָרוֹ אוֹתִיּוֹת נִרְאֶה שֶׁיִּמְּשֵׁהְ הָאוֹר לְמַטָּה לִהְיוֹת נִרְאָה אוֹר.

Parshas Korach - וְהָנֶה פַּרַח מְשֶה אָהַרֹן כו

And see further regarding *Birchas Kohanim* in the discourse "Inyan Mesamei'ach Chassan." (Also see in *RaMaZ*, Parshas Shelach, 158, and the concept that the two types of Divine flow are... see there.)

יעַמ״שׁ עוֹד מֵענְיַן בִּרְכַּת כֹּהֲנִים בְּד״ה עִנְיַן מְשַׂמֵּחַ חָתָן (וְעַיֵּן בְּהָרַמַ״ז פ׳ שְׁלַח דַּף קנ״ח וְעוֹד נוֹדָע שֶׁשְׁנֵי מִינֵי (שֶׁפַע הֵם הֵם כו׳ ע״ש:(שֶׁפַע הֵם הֵם כו׳ ע״ש

[NOTE Summary:

The discourse begins by analyzing the image of **Aharon's staff blossoming with almonds**. Almonds ripen faster than any other fruit, symbolizing speed and immediacy. The Alter Rebbe explains that this swiftness is not incidental—it reflects the nature of Aharon's spiritual role as the channel for a higher form of Divine kindness.

He distinguishes between two levels of kindness:

- Chesed Olam an eternal but limited kindness. This flow must pass through many spiritual filters (*heichalos* and *olamos*), and can be obstructed by spiritual judgments (*dinim*) along the way.
- Rav Chesed a boundless, overwhelming kindness. When drawn through the spiritual lineage of Aharon and the Birchas Kohanim, this flow rushes downward without obstruction. It bypasses judgment altogether, flooding all worlds until it reaches the physical level—bringing blessing in children, health, and livelihood.

The Kohanim's blessing—when done *b'ahavah* (with love)—activates this higher kindness. This is why their blessing is uniquely effective: no prosecuting angels stand in the way, and no court examines the worthiness of the recipient. The Divine flow simply descends—fast, direct, and overflowing.

The Alter Rebbe uses the analogy of two rivers: a small river can be blocked by sticks and dirt; a mighty river, however, rushes forward, sweeping all barriers away. So too, the kindness of *Rav Chesed*—flowing through Aharon—is like a mighty river, unhindered by spiritual obstacles.

Even in prayer, some requests take 40 days, others 20, others a single day—but through the channel of *Birchas Kohanim*, results can be immediate, because the source is so high and the flow so swift. This is the meaning of "He sends His word to the earth; swiftly runs His command."

In closing, the Alter Rebbe ties the concept of *nireh or*—"visible light"—to Aharon. His name contains the letters of *nireh* ("is seen"). Through his descendants and their blessings, the light of Hashem doesn't just remain spiritual—it becomes revealed in the lowest realms. That is the ultimate goal: that Hashem's goodness not remain abstract, but become tangible in this world.

Alter Rebbe

Likkutei Torah

Parshas Korach - וְהַנֶּה פַּרַח מֵשֶה אָהַרֹן כו

Practical Takeaway

When a person receives a blessing from someone **who truly loves them**, it bypasses judgment. The Alter Rebbe teaches that **love draws down an unfiltered Divine flow**, just as the Kohanim do during their blessing. If you want your prayers and blessings to reach deeper and faster, you must act **like Aharon**—with selfless love, peace-seeking, and genuine desire to uplift others.

This also means that **each of us can become a miniature Kohen** in our own lives. When we pray or bless others with sincere love—not for show, not with judgment—our words carry the same unstoppable spiritual energy. Love transforms the spiritual pipeline: it changes *if* something will happen into *when*. The more we embody "Rav Chesed," the more we open the gates for Heaven's goodness to flood the earth.

Chassidic Story

The Alter Rebbe once visited a small village just before **Birchas Kohanim**. A simple Kohen with a rustic appearance stood up to recite the blessing. The Alter Rebbe turned to his students and said, "Watch carefully."

After the service, the students asked what he had seen. The Rebbe explained:

"When that Kohen raised his hands and said, 'May Hashem bless you and guard you,' the angels of judgment tried to object: 'This man is unlearned, and the people here are not righteous!' But in Heaven, they saw that this Kohen loved every Jew in the shul with a full heart. His blessing came from that love. And from the side of *Rav Chesed*, no prosecuting angel may speak.

The blessing flew past the chambers of Atzilus and Beriah and landed—right here, right now—like lightning. That is *Birchas Kohanim*."

Source: Beis Rebbe, vol. 2; oral traditions from Reb Hillel Paritcher. END NOTE