These are the statutes, and the ordinances, and the teachings that Hashem gave between Himself and between the Children of Israel.	אָלֶה הַחָּקִים וְהַמִּשְׁפָּטִים וְהַתּוֹרוֹת אֲשֶׁר נָתַן ה' בֵּינוֹ וּבֵין בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵלֹ
Behold, at first glance, it does not seem appropriate to say "statutes and ordinances and teachings" regarding the blessings and curses written earlier in this portion, since there is no command of statute, ordinance, or law within them.	הָבֵּה לְכָאוֹרָה לֹא שַׁיָּדְ לוֹמֵר חֻקִּים וּמִשְׁפָּטִים וְתוֹרוֹת עַל הַבְּרָכוֹת וְקְלָלוֹת הַכְּתוּבִים לְמַעְלָה בְּפָרָשָׁה זוֹ שֶׁאֵין בָּהֶם צִוּוִּי דָּבָר חֹק וּמִשְׁפָּט.
And further, we must understand: what is the meaning of "between Him and between the Children of Israel"? It should have said "to the Children of Israel," etc.	וְגַם לְהָבִין מַהוּ בֵּינוֹ וּבֵין בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וְהָוָה לֵיהּ לְמֵימַר אֶל בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל כו'.
But the matter is as follows: for in the above portion it is written, "If in My statutes you walk, and My commandments you guard, and you perform them."	אֲבָל הָענְיָן דְּהָנֵּה בַּפָּרָשָׁה שֶׁלְמַעְלָה כְּתִיב אִם בְּחֻקּתַי הֵלֵכוּ וְאֶת מִצְוֹתֵי תִּשְׁמְרוּ וַעֲשִׂיתֶם אוֹתָם.
And these three aspects — "you walk," "you guard," and "you perform" — correspond to thought, speech, and action.	וְגִ' בְּחִינּוֹת אֵלּוּ תֵּלֵכוּ תִּשְׁמְרוּ וַעֲשִׂיתֶם אוֹתָם הֵם כְּנָגֶד מַחֲשָׁבָה דִּבּוּר וּמַעֲשֶׂה.
"In My statutes you walk" refers to thought — the contemplation and comprehension of His greatness, blessed be He, which includes many levels, each higher than the next.	בְּחָקֹתֵי תֵּלֵכוּ הוּא עִנְיַן הַמַּחֲשָׁבָה בְּעִיּוּן וְהַשָּׁגַת גָּדְלוֹתוֹ יִתְבָּרֵךְ שֶׁיֵשׁ בָּה כַּמָּה מַדְרֵגוֹת זוֹ לְמַעְלָה מִזּוֹ:
And for this reason it is called "walking," as it is written (Tehillim 84:8), "They go from strength to strength."	וְלָכֵן נִקְרֵאת בָּשֵׁם הָלִיכָה כְּמוֹ שֶׁכֶּתוּב יֵלְכוּ מֵחַיִּל אֶל תהילים פ"ד:ח.
And this is the meaning of the verse "The pathways of the world are His" (Chavakuk 3:6) — meaning, he walks and transcends from this world toward Him alone, to be nullified to Him, in His unity, blessed be He, through comprehension of His greatness.	וְהוּא עִנְיַן מַה שֶׁכָּתוּב הְלִיכוֹת עוֹלָם לוֹ (חבקוק ג׳:ו׳) פֵּירוּשׁ שֶׁהוֹלֵךְ וְנֶעֲתָק מִזֶּה הָעוֹלֶם לוֹ לְבַדוֹ לְהִבָּטֵל אַלָיו לְיִחוּדוֹ יִתְבָּרֵךְ בְּהַשֶּׁגָתוֹ בִּגְדַלֶּתוֹ.
Level after level.	מַדְרֵגָה אַחַר מַדְרֵגָה.
And also, "the pathways of the world are His" — meaning, the world itself ascends and is uplifted with the person to the unity of the blessed Creator, since the person is within the world.	וְגַם הָלִיכוֹת הָעוֹלָם עַצְמוֹ לוֹ, גַּם כֵּן הָעוֹלָם עַצְמוֹ הוֹלֵךְ וּמִתְעַלֶּה עִם הָאָדָם לְיִחוּדוֹ יִתְבָּרֵךְ מֵאַחַר שָׁהָאָדָם הוּא בְתוֹכוֹ.
And they are called "halichot" (walkings), plural, as the sages said: "Do not read 'halichot' (walkings) but 'halachot' (laws)" (Megillah 28b).	ְנִקְרֶאוּ הָלִיכוֹת לְשׁוֹן רַבִּים כְּמַאֲמֵר רַזָ"ל אַל תִּקְרֵי הָלִיכוֹת אֶלָּא הָלָכוֹת (מגילה כ״ח ב׳).

And as is written, "maidens without number" (Shir HaShirim 6:8), and the sages expounded: these are the halachot — for this is why they are called halachot.	וּכְמוֹ שֶׁכֶּתוּב וְעֲלָמוֹת אֵין מִסְכֶּר (שיר השירים ו׳:ח׳) וְדָרְשׁוּ רַזָ"ל אֵלּוּ הָלָכוֹת שֶׁלְכֵן נִקְרְאוּ בְשֵׁם הַלָּכוֹת.
Because through contemplation in them to comprehend thoroughly and precisely, a person merits to ascend from level to level in the comprehension of the infinite One, blessed be He, and His nearness — if he truly desires closeness to God, and seeks it like silver, etc.	שֶׁעַל יְדֵי הָעִיּוּן בָּהֶם לְהַשִּׁיגוֹ הֵיטֵב עַל בּוֹרְיוֹ זוֹכֶה הָאָדָם לָלֶכֶת מִפַּדְרַגָּה לְמַדְרֵגָה בְּהַשָּׁגַת גְּדוּלֵּת אֵין־סוֹף בָּרוּךְ הוּא וּקְרָבָתוֹ, אָם קּרְבַת אֱלֹהִים יַחְפֹּץ בָּאֱמֶת יִיבַקְשֶׁנָּה בַּכָּסֶף כו.
"I toiled and I found," etc. (Megillah 6b) — and to exclude one who does not, etc.	וְיָגַעְתִּי וּמָצָאתִי כו' וְלַאֲפוּקֵי מִי שֶׁאֵינוֹ כו'.
"And My commandments you shall guard" — this refers to speech, as the sages said: "'Guard' — this is Mishnah," which is the speech in words of Torah, from the phrase "and you shall teach them to your children" (Devarim 6:7).	וְאֶת מִצְוֹתֵי תִּשְׁמְרוּ הוּא עִנְיַן הַדְּבּוּר כְּמַאֲמֵר רַזָּ"ל שָׁמוֹר זוֹ מִשְׁנָה שֶׁהוּא הַדְּבּוּר בִּדְבֵרֵי תּוֹרָה מִלְּשׁוֹן (וְשִׁנַּנְתָּם לְבָנֶיךְ (דברים ו׳:ז׳).
And the matter is: Even one whose intellect is too limited to grasp the greatness of Hashem and to walk in it from level to level—	וְהָעָנָיָן, כִּי אַף מִי שֶׁמּוֹחוֹ קָטָן לְהַשִּׂיג בִּגְדַלַּת ה' וְלֵילֵּךּ בָּה מִמַּדְרֵגָה לְמַדְרֵגָה
Behold, nevertheless, in every single Jew there is a dimension of G-dliness and the word of Hashem that dwells within him,	הָנֵה אַפַּעַ"פ כֵּן יֵשׁ בְּכָל אֶחָד וְאֶחָד מִיִשְׂרָאֵל בְּחִינַת אֱלֹקוּת וּדְבַר ה' הַשׁוֹכֵן בְּתוֹכוֹ,
as it is written (Vayikra 26:11), "And I shall place My dwelling among you," and the Zohar explains: "My dwelling," i.e., My pledge (mashkon)."	ּכְּמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב (ויקרא כ"ו:י"א) וְנָתַתִּי מִשְׁכָּנִי בְּתוֹכְכֶם, וּפֵירֵשׁ בַּזּהַר מִשְׁכוֹנָא דִילִי.
And this is like the analogy of a man who gives a pledge to his fellow—	וְהוּא עַל דָּרֶךְ מָשָׁל כְּאָדָם שֶׁנוֹתֵן מֵשְׁכּוֹן לַחֲבֵירוֹ —
the pledge is not given willingly; so too, as it were,	שָהַמַּשְׁכּוֹן אֵינוֹ מֵרָצוֹן טוֹב, כָּךְ כְּבָיָּכוֹל –
the sages said: "They were exiled to Edom—and the Shechinah is with them" (Megillah 29a).	הָנֵה אָמְרוּ רַזָ"ל: גָּלוּ לֶאֱדוֹם – שְׁכִינָה עִמְּהֶם (מגילה כ״ט א׳.
Meaning: Even if a person knows in his soul where he stands—that he is on the lowest rung, in the exile of Edom and Yishmael, etc.—	פֵּירוּשׁ: אַף כִּי יָדַע אִינִישׁ בְּנַפְשֵׁה אַיֵּה מְקוֹמוֹ, שֶׁהוּא בָּתַחְתִּית הַמַּדְרֵגָה בְּגָלוּת אֱדוֹם וְיִשְׁמֶעֵאל כו'.
which correspond to the evil traits: lust, anger, and the like—	שָהֵם הֵם הַמִּדּוֹת הָרָעוֹת: תַּאֲווֹת וְכַעַס וְדוֹמֵיהֶם –
nevertheless, his heart should not fall within him to say "My hope is lost,"	– מָכֶּל מָקוֹם לֹא יָפּוֹל לְבּוֹ בְּקּרְבּוֹ לֵאמֹר: אָבְדָה תִקְוַתִי
for the truth is not so. Even in exile, the Shechinah is with them,	פִי הָאֱמֶת אֵינוֹ כֵּן – שֶׁאֲפִלּוּ בַּגָּלוּת שְׁכִינָה עִמָּהֶם,

providing him with G-dly vitality even while he transgresses His will, may He be blessed.	הַנוֹתֶנֶת לוֹ חַיּוּת אֱלֹקִי, אֲפָלוּ בְּעוֹדוֹ עוֹבֵר עַל רְצוֹנוֹ יִתְבָּרַךְּ.
He is able to fix in his mind and thought the belief in His true Oneness:	שֶׁיוּכַל לִקְבּוֹעַ בְּמוֹחוֹ וּמַחֲשֵׁבְתּוֹ עִנְיַן אֱמוּנַת יִחוּדוֹ יִתְבָּרֵךְ הָאֲמִתִּי:
"That in the heavens above and upon the earth below—there is none else" (Devarim 4:39),	פִּי בַשָּׁמַיִם מִמַּעַל וְעַל הָאָרֶץ מִתָּחַת – אֵין עוֹד (דברים רִד:בֹי׳ט,
and "All is considered as nothing before Him" (Daniel 4:32).	ן רוּנָא קַמֵּיה כְּלָא חֲשִׁיב (דניאל ד׳:ל״ב).
And this is "I am Hashem your G-d," for the Name Havayah implies "He was, is, and will be."	ְוֶזֶהוּ: אֲנִי ה' אֱלֹקֵיכֶם – כִּי הוי' הוּא בְּחִינַת הָיָה הוֹוֶה וְיִהָיֶה.
"I, Hashem, have not changed" (Malachi 3:6) — He can dwell and be fixed in one's mind, to be to us as "your G-d,"	וַאֲנִי הוי' לֹא שָׁנִיתִי (מלאכי ג׳:ו׳) – הוּא יָכוֹל לְהְיוֹת שׁוֹרֶה וְקָבוּעַ בְּמוֹחוֹ, לְהִיוֹת לָנוּ בִּבְחִינַת אֱלֹקֵיכֶם,
as is explained elsewhere.	ָּכְמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב בְּמָקוֹם אַחֵר.
But this level must be guarded and fixed within oneself—not merely something that hovers over the intellect from above and is not fully grasped within his understanding.	אֲבָל צָרִידִּ שֶׁתִּהְיֶה בְּחִינָה זוֹ שְׁמוּרָה וּקְבוּעָה בּוֹ בְּתוֹכוֹ מַמָּשׁ – שֶׁלֹא תִּהְיֶה רַק כְּמוֹ שֶׁעוֹמֶדֶת עַל שִׂכְלוֹ מִלְמַעְלָה וְאֵינָה נִתְאַמֶּת וְנִתְכֶּּסֶת בְּשִׂכְלוֹ הֵיטֵב.
As it is written (Vayikra 26:11): "And I shall place My dwelling within you" — specifically within you.	– כְּמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב (ויקרא כ"ו:י"א): וְנָתַתִּי מִשְׁכָּנִי בְּתוֹכְכֶם דַּיְקָא
And the guarding of this—our sages said: "'Guarding' — this is Mishnah," meaning the speech and repetition of Torah.	וְהַשְּׁמִירָה לָזֶה אָמְרוּ רַזָ"ל: שָׁמוֹר – זוֹ מִשְׁנָה, שֶׁהוּא הַדְּבּוּר וְהַשִּׁנּוּן בְּדָבְרֵי תּוֹרָה.
For "the word of Hashem — this is halachah" (Yerushalmi Peah 2:4).	ירושלמי פאה פ"ב ה"ד הַלָּכָה (ירושלמי פאה פ"ב ה"ד).
As the sages said: "One who studies halachos every day" (Niddah 73a).	יּרְמַאֲמַר רַזָ"ל: הַשּׁוֹנֶה הַלָּכוֹת כָּל יוֹם (נִדָּה ע"ג א').
This is only the aspect of "guarding" — to preserve within himself what has already been given to him,	שֶׁהוּא רַק בְּחִינַת שְׁמִירָה – לְהִיוֹת מִשְׁתַּמֵּר בְּקּרְבּוֹ מַה שֶׁבְּבָר נִתְּנָה לוֹ,
even though he is not able to ascend and elevate higher and higher in the comprehension of His greatness and closeness, blessed be He—	אַף שֶׁאֵינוֹ יָכוֹל לָלֶכֶת וּלְהִתְעַלּוֹת מַעְלָה מַעְלָה בְּהַשָּׂגַת הְדָלָתוֹ וּקְרָבָתוֹ יִתְבָּרֵךְ
nevertheless, through drawing down the world of speech into himself, as it is written, "And Your Torah is within my innards" (Tehillim 40:9),	מָכֶּל מָקוֹם, עַל יְדֵי הַמְשֶׁכַת עוֹלַם הַדִּבּוּר בְּתוֹכוֹ, כְּמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב (תהילים מ׳:ט׳): וְתוֹרָתְדְּ בְּתוֹדְּ מֵעֵי.
and "I have placed My words in your mouth" (Yeshayahu 51:16),	וְכָתוּב: וָאָשִׂים דְּבָרַי בְּפִיךָ (ישעיהו נ״א:ט״ז), כו'.

then the belief in His Oneness becomes grasped and confirmed by	נִתְפַּס וְנִתְאַמֵּת אֶצְלוֹ עִנְיַן אֱמוּנַת יִחוּדוֹ יִתְבָּרֵךְ בֶּאֱמֶת
him in truth — not in false imaginings.	לָאֲמָתּוֹ – וְלֹא בָּדָמְיוֹנוֹת שָׁוְא.
As the sages said: "The exiles will only be gathered in by the merit of Mishnayot" (Bereshit Rabbah 5:9),	כְּמַאֲמֵר רַזָ"ל: אֵין הַגָּלִיּוֹת מְתְכַּנְּסוֹת אֶלָּא בִּזְכוּת הָמִּשְׁנָיוֹת (בראשית רבה ה׳:ט׳,
which is the level of speech in Torah study. As it is written (Hoshea 8:10), "Though they give among the nations, I will now gather them."	שֶׁהוּא בְּחִינַת הַדְּבּוּר בְּתוֹרָה – שֶׁנָּאֱמֵר (הוֹשֵׁעַ ח׳:י׳): גַם כִּי יִתְנוּ בַגוֹיִם עַתָּה אֲקַבְּצֵם.
That is, even though they are in a state of exile, the Shechinah is with them.	פֵּירוּשׁ: שָׁאַף עַל פִּי שֶׁהֵם בִּבְחִינַת גָּלוּת – שְׁכִינָה .עִמָּהֶם
And this is what the sages said regarding the verse (Yirmiyahu 9:11), "For what reason was the land lost?" — because of the neglect of Torah.	וְזֶהוּ שֶׁאָמָרוּ רַזָ"ל עַל פָּסוּק (ירמיהו ט׳:י״א): עַל מָה אָבְדָה הָאָרֶץ – עַל בִּטוּל תּוֹרָה.
For through the neglect of Torah, which is the word of Hashem,	פִי עַל יְדֵי בִּטוּל תּוֹרָה, שֶׁהוּא בְּחִינַת דְּבַר ה',
the faith — which is the "earth" (Yeshayahu 66:1: "the earth is My footstool") — is lost, since the faith in His unity is no longer grasped in the mind.	אָבְדָה הָצֵמוּנָה, שֶׁהִיא בְּחִינַת הָאָרֶץ – הַדוֹם רַגְלֵי (ישעיהו ס"ו:א'), שֶׁצִינָה נִתְפֶּסֶת בְּמוֹחוֹ צֵמוּנַת יִחוּדוֹ .יִתְבָּרֵךְ
"And you shall perform them" — this refers to action, which is the matter of drawing His G-dliness, may He be blessed, from the level of <i>Sovev Kol Almin</i> (the all-encompassing light) specifically through action.	וַצְשִׂיתָם אוֹתָם – זֶה הַמַּצְשֶׂה, שֶׁהוּא עִנְיָן הַמְשָׁכַת אֱלֹקוּתוֹ יִתְבָּרֵךְ מִבְּחִינַת סוֹבֵב כָּל עָלְמִין עַל יְדֵי הַמַּצְשֶׂה.
As our Sages said (Avot 1:17): "Not study is the primary thing, but action."	כְּמַאֲמֵר רַזָ"ל (אבות א׳:י״ז): לֹא הַמִּדְרָשׁ הוּא הָעָקֶּר אֶלָא הַמַּעֲשֶׂה.
And the Sages also said (Kiddushin 40b): "Great is study, for it leads to action"—which implies that action is the primary purpose.	וְאָמָרוּ רַזָ"ל (קידושין מ׳ ב׳): גָּדוֹל תַּלְמוּד שֶׁמֵּבִיא לִידֵי מַעֲשֶׂה – מִכְּלֵל שֶׁהַמַּעֲשֶׂה הוּא עָקַר הַתַּכְלִית.
And the meaning is that it is impossible to draw revelation of His G-dliness, may He be blessed, from the level of <i>Sovev Kol Almin</i> through any comprehension or intellectual contemplation or speech,	ְוָהַעִנְיָן הוּא כִּי אִי אָפְשָׁר לְהַמְשִׁיךּ גִּילוּי אֱלֹקוּתוֹ יִתְבָּרֵךְ מִבְּחִינַת סוֹבֵב כָּל עָלְמִין עַל יְדֵי שׁוּם הַשָּׂגָה אוֹ כֹּחַ הַמַּחֲשָׁבָה וְדִבּוּר,
for "no thought can grasp Him at all" (Tikkunei Zohar 17a), even not the most exalted comprehensions.	ּדְלֵית מַחֲשָׁבָה תְּפִיסָא בֵּיה כְּלֶל (תיקוני זהר י"ז ע״א), וַאֲפָלוּ הַשְּׂגוֹת עֶלְיוֹנוֹת כו'.
Rather, it is only through the aspect of action and the performance of mitzvot.	רַק עַל יְדֵי בְּחִינַת הַמַּעֲשֶׂה וְקִיּוּם הַמָּצְוֹת.

Alter Rebbe Likkutei Torah Parshas Bechukosai

ים	ب	₽	ליי	<u>ה</u> ַלְּי	י	הַחָקִים	אֵלֶה

As in the concept of "L'chakhima b'remiza" — "To the wise, a hint suffices" (Sanhedrin 93a).	(פְעִנְיָן לְחַכִּימָא בְּרְמִיזָא (סנהדרין צ״ג א׳).
And it is like the analogy of a person who is unable to speak and explain all that is in his heart to his friend — what does he do? He simply hints with even the slightest motion.	וְהוּא כְּמָשָׁל לְאָדָם שֶׁאֵינוֹ יָכוֹל לְדַבֵּר וּלְהַסְבִּיר כָּל לְבּוֹ לִפְנֵי חֲבֵירוֹ – הֵיאַךְ יַעֲשֶׂה? רַק עַל יְדֵי שֶׁרוֹמֵז לוֹ בִּתְנוּעָה כָּל שֶׁהִיא.
So too, as it were, in the realm of "arousal from below" (<i>Isarusa d'l'tata</i>), there must be "arousal from above" (<i>Isarusa d'le'eila</i>).	בָּךְ כְּבָיָכוֹל, הָנֵּה בְּאָתְעָרוּתָא דִּלְתַתָּא צֶרִיךְ לִהְיוֹת אָתְעָרוּתָא דִּלְעִילָא.
Some of this depends on action: Through the performance of mitzvot and their fulfillment, a hint is made, and something is drawn from above — very high and from an even loftier place.	יֵשׁ מֵהֶן דְּתָלְיָא בְּעוּבְדָא, וְעַל יְדֵי מַעֲשֵׂה הַמִּצְוֹת וּקְיּוּמָן נָרְמָז וְנִמְשָׁךְּ מִלְמַעְלָה – מַעְלָה מָאֹד, וּמִמָּקוֹם גָּבוֹהַ יוֹתֵר, כְּעֵין רֶמָז.
For example, the mitzvah of tzedakah: When one grants vitality to another, it hints Above to the source of all vitality to bestow life and kindness to all the worlds.	וּלְמָשֶׁל: כְּמוֹ מַעֲשֵׂה הַצְּדָקָה – שֶׁעַל יְדֵי שֶׁמַשְׁפִּיעַ חַיּוּת לַזּוּלָתוֹ, רוֹמֵז לְמַעְלָה לִמְקוֹר כָּל הַהַשְּׁפָּעוֹת לְהַשְּׁפִּיעַ חַיִּים וָחֶסֶד לְכָל הָעוֹלָמוֹת.
So too with all the mitzvot. Even the mitzvah of Torah study — though it is through speech — since the movement of the lips is considered an action.	וְכֵן עִנְיָן כָּל הַמִּצְוֹת, וַאֲפִילוּ מִצְוַת תַּלְמוּד תּוֹרָה שֶׁבַּדִּבּוּר – דַּעֲקִימַת שְּׁפָתָיו הֲוֵי מַעֲשֶׂה.
And this is what is written (Yeshayahu 32:17), "And the action of righteousness shall be peace" —	וְזֶהוּ שֶׁנֶּאֱמַר (ישעיהו ל"ב:י"ז): וְהָיָה מַעֲשֵׂה הַצְּדָקָה – שָׁלוֹם
for the matter of peace is that it connects two opposites and makes peace between them.	כִּי עַנָיָן הַשָּׁלוֹם הוּא שֶׁמְּחַבֵּר שְׁנֵי הָפָּכִים וְעוֹשֶׂה שָׁלוֹם בֵּינֵיהֶם.
So too, the worlds cannot receive shefa (flow) and vitality from the Creator, blessed be He, who is infinitely removed from them—	כָּדְ אִי אֶפְשָׁר לָעוֹלָמוֹת לְקַבֵּל שֶׁפַע וְחַיּוּת מֵהַבּוֹרֵא יִתְבָּרַדְּ שֶׁהוּא מֻבְדָּל מֵהֶם מִן הַקָּצֶה כו',
unless through the quality of peace.	פִי אָם בִּבְחִינַת שָׁלוֹם.
And this is the meaning of (Vayikra 26:6): "And I shall place peace in the land."	ו:וְזֶהוּ: וְנָתַתִּי שָׁלוֹם בָּאֶרֶץ (ויקרא כ"ו:ו).
For "Your kingdom is a kingdom of all worlds" (Tehillim 145:13), and all of them are like "earth" in relation to the Holy One, blessed be He.	פִּי מַלְכוּתָדְּ מַלְכוּת פָּל עוֹלָמִים (תהילים קמ״ה:י״ג), וְכַלָּם הֵם בְּחִינַת אֶּרֶץ לְגַבֵּי הַקְּדוֹשׁ בָּרוּדְ הוּא
And this is what is meant by the saying of our Sages (Uktzin 3:12): "The Holy One, blessed be He, found no vessel that holds blessing for Israel except peace."	וְזֶהוּ מַה שֶּׁאָמְרוּ רַזָ"ל (עוקצין פ"ג מ"י): לֹא מָצָא הַקֶּדוֹשׁ בָּרוּךְ הוּא כְּלִי מַחֲזִיק בְּרָכָה לְיִשְׂרָאֵל אֶלָּא הַשָּׁלוֹם.
For peace is what holds the blessing and the drawing down of divine vitality to be revealed below.	כִּי הַשֶּׁלוֹם הוּא הַמַּחָזִיק בְּרָכָה וְהַמְשָׁכוֹת חַיּוּת אֱלֹקוּת בְּהִתְגַלוּת לְמַשָּה.
(c)	

And this is the concept behind all the blessings in the Torah. For example, "And you shall eat your bread to satisfaction" (Vayikra 26:5) —	וְזֶהוּ עִנְיַן כָּל הַבְּרָכוֹת שֶׁבַּתּוֹרָה. כְּמוֹ דָּמְיָן מָשֶׁל: – ('וַאֲכַלְתֶּם לַחְמְכֶם לָשֹׁבַע (ויקרא כ"ו:ה
meaning, that there will be a state of <i>sova</i> (satisfaction), as in the verse (Tehillim 16:11): "Satiation of joys is in Your presence."	פֵּירוּשׁ: שֶׁיְהָיֶה בְּחִינַת שָׂבְעָ – "שְׂבַע שְׂמָחוֹת אֶת פָּנֶיךְּ" ((תהילים ט"ז:י"א).
As it is written (Divrei HaYamim I 16:27): "Might and joy are in His place."	ְרַכַּדְּכְתִיב: "עוֹז וְחֶדְוָה בִּמְקוֹמוֹ" (דברי הימים א' ט"ז:כ"ז.
And the curses are regarding the forces that conceal and obstruct a person from serving Hashem — these are the <i>chitzonim</i> (external forces).	וְהַקְלָלוֹת הֵם עַל הַמַּסְתִּירִים וּמוֹנְעִים אֶת הָאָדָם מֵעֲבוֹדַת ה' – שֶׁהֵם הַחִיצוֹנִים.
For Yisrael, on their own, arose in [Divine] thought — where there is no concealment of countenance at all.	כִּי יִשְׂרָאֵל מִצַּד עַצְמָם עָלוּ בַּמַּחֲשָׁבָה – שֶׁאֵין שָׁם שׁוּם הֶסְתֵּר פָּנִים.
And their will is to cleave to Him, to His unity, may He be blessed, and they are believers, the children of believers.	וְרְצוֹנָם לְדָבְקָה בּוֹ לְיִחוּדוֹ יִתְבָּרֵךְ, וּמַאֲמִינִים בְּנֵי מַאֲמִינִים.
And no curse whatsoever applies to them on their own, Heaven forbid.	וְאֵין שַׁיָּידְ שׁוּם קְלָלָה חַס וְשָׁלוֹם מִצֵּד עַצְמָם.
And in the future, all the curses will be transformed into blessings.	ַוְלֶעָתִיד יֵיהָפְּכוּ כָּל הַקְּלָלוֹת לִבְרָכָה.
For the curses exist only to remove the spirit of the <i>chitzonim</i> and impurity that clung to them through their entanglement, etc.	רַק הַקְּלֶלוֹת הֵן לְהַצְבִיר רוּחַ הַחִיצוֹנִים וְהַטוּמְאָה שָׁנִּדְבַּק בָּהֶם בְּהִתְעָרְבָם כו'.
And this is the meaning of the verse (Devarim 30:7): "And Hashem will place all these curses upon your enemies and upon those who hate you, who pursued you."	וְזָהוּ שֶׁכָּתוּב: וְנָתַן ה' אֶת כָּל הָאָלֹת הָאֵלֶּה עַל אוֹיְכֶיךּ (וְעַל שׂנָאֶיךָ אֲשֶׁר רְדָפוּדָ (דברים ל':ז׳).
And as it says (Vayikra 16:22): "And the goat shall bear upon itself all their sins" — this refers to Esav, the man of Seir.	וּרָמוֹ שֶׁבָּתוּב: וְנָשָׂא הַשָּׂעִיר עָלָיו אֶת כָּל עֲוֹנֹתָם (ויקרא ט"ז:כ"ב) – שֶׁהוּא בְּחִינַת עֵשָׂו אִישׁ שֶׂעִיר.
And this is the explanation of all the curses — that they are in truth blessings for Yisrael in their essence.	וְזֶהוּ פֵּירוּשׁ עִנְיַן כָּל הַקְּלָלוֹת – שֶׁהֵן בֶּאֱמֶת בְּרָכָה עַל יִשְׂרָאֵל מִצַּד עַצְמָם.
And the greatest of the curses stated in Mishneh Torah, "The stranger who is within you shall rise up" (Devarim 28:43) —	וְהַקְּלָלָה הַגְּדוֹלָה שֶׁנָּאֱמְרָה בְּמִשְׁנֵה תּוֹרָה: הַגַּר אֲשֶׁר – (בָּקרְבָּדְּ וגו' (דברים כ"ח:מ"ג –
this applies not to the inner soul but only to the externals that cling to them.	אֵינָה רַק עַל חִיצוֹנִיוּת הַנִּדְבָּקוֹת בָּהֶם.
And the explanation of "the stranger who is within you" — this is the <i>Shechinah</i> ,	הָיא הַשְּׁכִינָה – קּקְרְבָּּק – הִיא הַשְּׁכִינָה,
from which comes the hidden love in the heart of every Jew.	אֲשֶׁר מִמֶּנָה בָּאָה הָאַהָבָה הַמְּסֵתֶּרֶת אֲשֶׁר בַלֵּב כָּל אֶחָד וְאֶחָד מִיִּשְׂרָאֵל.

And she is in a state of exile within the body, and is metaphorically called a <i>ger</i> (sojourner),	אֲשֶׁר הִיא בְּבְחִינַת גָּלוּת בְּתוֹךְ הַגוּף, וְנִקְרֵאת בְּשֵׁם גֵּר,
for she dwells in a land not hers — meaning the G-dly spark that gives life to his soul.	שֶׁהִיא בְּאֶרֶץ לֹא לָהּ – שֶׁהוּא נִצּוֹץ אֱלֹקוּת הַמְחַיֶּה אֶת נַפְשׁוֹ
As our Sages said: "They went into exile the Shechinah is with them" (Megillah 29a).	יט אי (מגילה כ״ט אי). וּרְמַאֲמֵר רַזָ"ל: גָּלוּ כו' שְׁכִינָה עִמָּהֶם (מגילה כ״ט אי).
[Then the verse continues:] "He shall rise up above you higher and higher" — meaning that she [the Shechinah] will ascend to a very lofty and exalted state.	יַעֲלֶה עָלֶיךּ מַעְלָה מַעְלָה — שֶׁיִהְיֶה בִּבְחִינַת עִלּוּי רַב וְעָצוּם.
That is, one should deepen his thought on the infinite greatness of Hashem,	ךָהַיִינוּ שָׁיַּצְמִיק בְּמַחֲשַׁבְתּוֹ גּוֹדֶל גְּדוּלָתוֹ עַד אֵין חֵקֶר,
as it is written (Shemot 20:2): "I am Hashem your G-d who took you out of the land of Egypt."	וּכְמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב: אָנֹכִי ה' אֱלֹקֶיךְ אֲשֶׁר הוֹצֵאתִיךְ מֵאֶרֶץ מות כ':ב (שמות כ':ב).
Meaning, he should not remain in a state of Mitzrayim (constraints and boundaries),	פֵירוּשׁ: שֶׁלֹא יִהְיֶה בִּבְחִינַת מִצְרַיִם וּגְבוּלִים,
but rather (Tehillim 119:45): "I shall walk in broad places."	כִּי אָם כְּמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב: וְאֶתְהַלְּכָה בָּרְחָבָה וגו' (תהילים (קי״ט:מ״ה).
For then, "And you" — meaning, what is "you," i.e. the body and externals — will descend downward.	שֶׁאָז: וְאַתָּה – דְהַיִּינוּ מֵה שֶׁהוּא "אַתָּה", שֶׁהוּא בְּחִינַת הַגוּף וְחִיצוֹנִים – חֵּרֵדִי מַטָּה מַטָּה.
And so, the entire matter of the curses is about the externals, which hinder — and their removal and destruction.	ְרֵבן כָּל עִנְיַן הַקְּלֶלוֹת הֵם עַל הַחִיצוֹנִים הַמּוֹנְעִים – ַלְהַעֲבִירָם וּלְהַכְרִיתָם.
And with this, we can understand the intent of Yitzchak our forefather, peace be upon him, in his desire to bless Esav and not Yaakov.	וּבְזֶה יוּבַן פַּוָּנַת יִצְחָק אָבִינוּ עָלָיו הַשָּׁלוֹם שֶׁרָצָה לְבָרֵךְ אֶת עֵשָׂו וְלֹא אֶת יַעַקֹב.
For behold, the blessings — and similarly all the mitzvot of the Torah, which draw down the revelation of His G-dliness, may He be blessed, below —	כִּי הִנֵּה הַבְּרָכוֹת וְכֵן כָּל מִצְוֹת הַתּוֹרָה שֶׁהֵן הַמְשֶׁכַת – גִּילוּי אֱלֹקוּתוֹ יִתְבָּרֵךְ לְמַטָּה
are only for the purpose of subjugating the sitra achra and bringing them under the dominion of holiness.	אֵינָן אֶלָּא לְאַכְפָּיָא לְסְטְרָ"א וּלְהַכְנִיעָם תַּחַת הַקְּדוּשָׁה.
Therefore, the Torah was not given until after the Exodus from Egypt.	וָלְכֵן לֹא נִתְּנָה תּוֹרָה עַד אַחַר יְצִיאַת מִצְרָיִם.
But during the time of the Patriarchs, who were themselves the Divine Chariot and nullified to His unity, may He be blessed,	מַשְּׁאֵין כֵּן בִּזְמַן הָאָבוֹת שֶׁהֵן הֵן הַמֶּרְכָּבָה וּבְטֵלִים – לְיַחוּדוֹ יִתְבָּרַהְ
there was no need for drawing revelation below.	לא הָיוּ צְרִיכִים לְהַמְשֶׁכַת גִּילוּי לְמַטָּה.

Therefore, Yitzchak did not desire to bless Yaakov, for he was in the category of the chariot.	לְכָךְ לֹא רָצָה יִצְחָק לְבָרֵךְ אֶת יַעֲקֹב, כִּי הָיָה בִּבְחִינַת מֶרְכָּבָה.
Rather, his intention was to bless Esav, to subdue him and draw him near to holiness.	אֶלֶא דַּעְתּוֹ הָיְתָה לְבָרֵךְ אֶת עֵשָׂו וּלְהַכְנִיעוֹ וּלְקָרְבוֹ אֶל הַקְדוּשָׁה.
Therefore, he said in his blessings — thinking that Esav was standing before him —	וְלָכֵן אָמַר בִּבְרָכוֹתִיו, שֶׁסָבֵר שֶׁהוּא עֵשָׂו עוֹמֵד לְפָנָיו:
"And may Elokim give you of the dew of the heavens and the fatness of the earth, and abundant grain and wine" (Bereishit 27:28).	וְיָתֶּן לְךּ הָאֱלֹקִים מִטַּל הַשָּׁמַיִם וּמִשְׁמַנֵּי הָאָרֶץ וְרֹב דָּגָן וְוְתִירוֹשׁ (בראשית כ"ז:כ"ח.
"The dew of the heavens" — this refers to the Written Torah (Toras Shebikhsav),	מָטַל הַשָּׁמֵיִם – זוֹ תּוֹרָה שֶׁבִּכְתָב.
"The fatness of the earth" — this refers to the Oral Torah (<i>Toras Shebaal Peh</i>),	וּמִשְּׁמַנֵּי הָאָרֶץ – זוֹ תּוֹרָה שֶׁבְּעַל פֶּה.
"Abundant grain" — these are the <i>halachot</i> , which are very numerous,	וְרֹב דָּגָן – אֵלוּ הָלָכוֹת, שֶׁהֵן לְרוֹב מְאֹד,
as it says (Bereishit 41:49): "And Yosef stored an exceedingly great amount of grain, until they ceased counting."	ּכְּמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב (בראשית מ"א:מ"ט): וַיִּצְבּׂר יוֹסֵף בָּר בָּהָרִים רַב מְאֹד עַד כִּי חָדַל לְסְפּׂר.
And as it says (Shir HaShirim 6:8): "Maidens without number," which the sages expound: these maidens are halachot.	ְוְכָמוֹ שֶׁפָּתוּב: וַעֲלָמוֹת אֵין מִסְפָּר (שיר השירים ו׳:ח׳), וְדָרְשׁוּ רַזָ"ל: עֲלָמוֹת – אֵלוּ הָלָכוֹת.
"Wine" — these are the secrets of the Torah, as it is written (Eruvin 65a): "When wine enters, the secret comes out."	ְ וְתִירוֹשׁ – אֵלּוּ רָזִין דְּאוֹרַיְתָא, כְּמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב: נִכְנַס יַיִן – עירובין ס״ה א׳ (עירובין ס״ה א׳).
And all this Yitzchak wished to give to Esav, to subdue and suppress the sitra achra.	ּוְרָצָה כָּל זֶה לָתֵת לְעֵשָׁו – וּלְהַכְנִיעַ וּלְאַכְפָּיָא לְסְטָרָ"א.
But in truth, it was not possible to subdue him and draw him close to holiness,	אָבָל בֶּאֱמֶת לֹא הָיָה בֶּאֶפְשֶׁרוּת לְהַכְנִיעוֹ וּלְקָרְבוֹ תַּחַת – הַקְּדוּשָׁה
for he is complete evil, and must be utterly removed and eradicated through all the curses.	מִפְּנֵי שֶׁהוּא רַע גָּמוּר, וְצָרִיךְּ לְהַעֲבִיר הַסִּטְרָ"א לְגַמְרֵי וּלְהַכְרִיתָהּ בְּכָל הַקְּלָלוֹת.
Only the blessings were given to Yaakov — in order to subdue the sitra achra that mixed into his descendants.	רַק הַבְּרָכוֹת נִתְּנוּ לְיַעֲקֹב – וּלְהַכְנִיעַ הַסְּטְרָ"א שֶׁנִּתְעָרְבָה בְּזַרְעוֹ:
As it says (Tehillim 106:35): "And they mingled" and as it says (Bereishit 33:14): "And Esav his brother came from his side."	ּכְּמוֹ שֶׁכֶּתוּב: וַיִּתְעֶּרְבוּ כו' (תהילים ק"ו:ל"ה), וּכְמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב: וְעֵשָּׂו אָחִיו בָּא מִצִּידוֹ (בראשית ל"ג:י"ד).
Do not read <i>mitzido</i> ("from his side") but <i>mitsido</i> ("from his inclination"),	אַל תִּקְרִי מִצִּידוֹ – אֶלָּא מִצִּדוֹ.

meaning: when a person stands in prayer and desires to cleave to his Creator,	שֶׁבְּעָמְדּוֹ הָאָדָם בַּתְּפִלָּה וְרוֹצֶה לְהִדָּבֵק בְּקוֹנוֹ –
foreign thoughts fall into his mind, not by his will, but seemingly from the side, automatically.	נוֹפְלִים לוֹ מַחְשָׁבוֹת זָרוֹת שֶׁלֹא בִרְצוֹנוֹ, רַק כְּאִילֹּוּ הֵן בָּאוֹת מִן הַצַּד, מֵאֵלֵיהֶן וּמִמֵּילָא.
Nevertheless, these are still his thoughts — thoughts he once thought willingly at other times.	אֲבָל מִכָּל מָקוֹם הֵן הֵן מַחְשְׁבוֹתִיו – שֶׁחָשַׁב בָּהֶן בְּרָצוֹן שָׁלֹא בִשְׁעַת הַתְּפִלָּה וְכַיוֹצֵא בָהֶן.
But during prayer, they fall into his mind unwillingly — and this is why they are called <i>mitsido</i> ("from his side").	– אֶלָּא שֶׁבִּשְׁעַת הַתְּפִלָּה הֵן נוֹפְלוֹת לוֹ שֶׁלֹּא בִרְצוֹנוֹ וְלָכֵן נָקָרָאוֹת מִצִּידוֹ.
They are not in the category of "backside" — meaning something totally against his will,	שֶׁאֵינָן בְּבְחִינַת אֲחוֹרַיִים – שֶׁהוּא דָּבָר שֶׁהוּא בַּעֲכָרַח נֶמוּר,
nor are they "face" — meaning full desire and will — rather, they cling when he tries to ascend.	וְלֹא בְּחִינַת פָּנִים, שֶׁהוּא רָצוֹן וְחֵפֶץ גָּמוּר – אֶלָּא שֶׁהֵן נִמְשָׁכוֹת אַחֲרָיו בִּשְׁעַת רְצוֹנוֹ לַעֲלוֹת.
Like a man wearing a long garment that drags in the mud and mire —	בְּטָשָׁל אָדָם שֶׁלוֹבֵשׁ בֶּגֶד אָרוֹךְ וְנִגְרֵר בַּטִּיט וַחֹמֶּר – כְּמָשָׁל אָדָם שֶׁלוֹבֵשׁ בֶּגֶד אָרוֹךְ וְנִגְרֵר בַּטִּיט וַחֹמֶּר
when he wishes to climb a ladder, the garment too — with its mud — rises with him.	וּכְשֶׁרוֹצֶה לַעֲלוֹת בְּסֵלֶּם – גַּם הַבֶּגֶד עִם הַחֹמֶר וְהַטִּיט עוֹלֶה עִמוֹ
And to subdue the evil, the Esav-nature, and to bring it low, he said to Yitzchak his father —	וּלְהַלְּהַשְׁפִּילוֹ, אָמַר – בְּחִינַת עֵשָׂו – וּלְהַשְׁפִּילוֹ, אָמַר לִיצְחָק אָבִיו:
who was in the category of the Divine Chariot — "Please rise and sit" etc. (Bereishit 27:19).	שֶׁהָיָה בְּבְחִינַת מֶּרְכָּבָה לַה' – קוּם נָא שְׁבָה כו' ((בראשית כ"ז:י"ט).
For it is impossible to draw down the blessings, which are revelations of G-dliness, while evil is still in force and power.	– פִּי אִי אֶפְשָׁר לְהַמְשִׁידְ הַבְּרָכוֹת – שֶׁהֵן גִּילוּי אֱלֹקוּת בְּעוֹד הָרַע בְּתָקְפוֹ וּבִגְבוּרָתוֹ.
As it is written (Tehillim 5:5): "Evil does not dwell with You."	(כִּי לֹא יְגוּרְךָּ רָע כְּתִיב (תהילים ה׳:ה׳).
And see what is written elsewhere in the explanation of the verse (Bamidbar 1:1): "In the wilderness of Sinai."	וְעַיֵּן מַה שֶׁכָּתוּב בְּבֵיאוּר עַל פָּסוּק: בַּמִּדְבָּר סִינַי ((במדבר א׳:א׳).
And the advice for this is: "Please rise" (Bereishit 27:19), as in what is written (Shemot 15:1), "For He has risen high above the arrogant," and the Targum explains: "For He has elevated Himself over the proud ones."	ְוְהָעֵצָה לָזֶה: קוּם נָא (בראשית כ"ז:י"ט) עַל דֶּרֶךְ מַה שֶׁכָּתוּב: כִּי גָאָה גָּאָה (שמות ט"ו:א'), וּתַרְגוּמוֹ: אֲרֵי אָתְגַּאֵי עַל גָּאוָתְנַיָּא.
The meaning is that He elevates and raises Himself above them — and by doing so, He distances from them and withdraws His vitality from them, and they can no longer draw sustenance or life-force from Him.	וּפֵירוּשׁ: שֶׁמָּתְרוֹמֵם וּמָתְנַשֵּׂא עֲלֵיהֶם, וְעַל־יְדֵי זֶה מִתְרַחֵק מֵהֶם וּמְסַלֵּק חַיּוּתוֹ מֵהֶם, וְאֵין לָהֶם יְנִיקָה וְחַיּוּת מָמֶנּוּ

And so it is below, in the service of man: that is, to deepen one's daas and thought in the greatness of Hashem — how He fills all worlds and surrounds all worlds, and all before Him is considered as nothing.	ְוְכֵן הוּא לְמַטָּה בַּעְבוֹדַת הָאָדָם: דְהַיִינוּ לְהַעֲמִיק דַּעְתּוֹ וּמַחֲשַׁבְתּוֹ בִּגְדַלַּת ה', אֵיךּ שֶׁהוּא מְמַלֵּא כָּל עָלְמִין וְסוֹבֵב בָּל עָלְמִין, וְכוּלָּא קַמֵּיהּ כְּלָא חֲשִׁיב,
"And His greatness is unfathomable" (Tehillim 145:3).	יג:ג׳ (תהילים קמ״ה:ג׳).
And automatically, the external forces (<i>chitzonim</i>) no longer receive from him nourishment,	וּמָמֵילָא אֵין לַחִיצוֹנִים יְנִיקָה כָּדְ,
and all the obstructors — which are the negative traits and foreign thoughts — fall away.	וּמִמֵּילָא נוֹפְלִים כָּל הַמּוֹנְעִים, שֶׁהֵן הַמִּדּוֹת הָרָעוֹת וּמַחְשָׁבוֹת זָרוֹת.
For Yisrael, in their essence, arose in [Divine] thought, etc.	יִּבִּי יִשְׂרָאֵל מִצַּד עַצְמָם עָלוּ בַּמַּחֲשָׁבָה כו'.
And therefore, he [Yaakov] then said "sit," meaning: to Yisrael themselves — in a state of sitting,	ְןלָכֵן אָמֵר אַחַר כָּךְ: שְׁבָה – דְהַיְינוּ לְיִשְׂרָאֵל עַצְמָן, בִּישִׁיבָה,
which is a descent and a drawing down of revelation below, so that there should be for Him a dwelling in the lower realms.	שֶׁהִיא יְרִידָה וְהַמְשֶׁכַת גִּילּוּי לְמַטָּה – לִהְיוֹת לוֹ דִּירָה בְּתַחָתּוֹנִים.
As it is written (Tehillim 29:10): "Hashem sat as King forever."	יט:י (תהילים כ"ט:י).
For example, like a person who sits — he lowers himself downward.	לְמָשָׁל: כְּמוֹ אָדָם הַיוֹשֵׁב – שֶׁמַּרְכִּין עַצְמוֹ לְמַטָּה.
"And I ate from my game" (Bereishit 27:19) — for the entire matter of speech and action in Torah and mitzvot are the category of <i>tzayid</i> (game),	וָאֹכַל מִצֵּידִי (בראשית כ"ז:י"ט) – כִּי כָּל עִנְיַן דְּבּוּר וּמַצְשֶׂה הַתּוֹרָה וְהַמִּצְוֹת הֵם בְּחִינַת צֵיִד,
for they trap the sparks that were within the body and the animal soul and transform them to holiness.	שֶׁנִּצוֹדִים נִצּוֹצוֹת שֶׁהָיוּ בַּגּוּף וְנֶכֶשׁ הַחִיוּנִית, וְנִתְהַפְּכוּ לָקְדוּשָׁה.
And the aspect of eating is as in the saying: "Yisrael sustain their Father in Heaven" etc.	וּבְחִינַת אֲכִילָה הוּא עַל דָּרֶךְ: יִשְׂרָאֵל מְפַרְנָסִין לְאַבִיהֶם שְׁבַּשָּׁמַיִם כו'.
"So that your soul may bless me" (Bereishit 27:25) — this refers to the inner essence and vitality of all the worlds,	בַּצְבוּר הְּבָרֶכְדְּ נַפְשֶׁדְּ (בראשית כ"ז:כ"ה) – הוּא בְּחִינַת פְּנִימִיוּת וְחַיוּת כָּל הָעוֹלָמוֹת,
which is drawn from the Life of all life, the Infinite One, blessed be He,	הָנִּמְשֶׁכֶת מֵחַיֵּי הַחַיִּים – אֵין־סוֹף בָּרוּךְ הוּא,
and is enclothed and hidden and concealed within them in order to give them life, within the hidden soul in the body.	וּמְלוּבֶּשֶׁת וּמֵסְתֶּרֶת וּמִתְעַלֶּמֶת בָּהֶם – לְהַחֵּיוֹתָם בַּנֶּפֶשׁ הַמְסַתֶּרֶת בַּגוּף.
And the <i>berachah</i> (blessing) is its emergence from concealment and hiddenness into revelation and comprehension —	וְהַבְּרָכָה – הִיא יְצִיאַתָּהּ מֵהֶעָלֶם וְהַסְתָּר אוֹר אֶל הַגִּילּוּי וְהַשָּׂגָה,

לָהְיוֹת נִגְלֶה כְּבוֹד ה' וְיִחוּדוֹ אֶל יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּמַחְשַׁבְתָּם וְשִׂבְלָם וּמוֹחָם בָּעוֹלָם הַזֶּה, וּבְכָל הָעוֹלָם לֶעָתִיד.	
ָּכְמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב בְּמָקוֹם אַחֵר.	
וְיִהְיֶה בְּבְחִינַת בְּרָכָה וְהַמְשֶׁכָה בָּעוֹלָם הַזֶּה – בְּהִתְגַּלּוּת לָמַטָּה	
וְזֶהוּ שֶׁכָּתוּב: אֵלֶה הַחָקִים וְהַמִּשְׁפָּטִים וְהַתּוֹרוֹת – עַל הַבְּרָכוֹת וְהַקְּלָלוֹת,	
שֶׁהֵן הֵם גִּילּוּי אֱלֹקוּתוֹ יִתְבָּרֵךְ לְמַטָּה לְבְחִינַת יִשְׂרָאֵל, וְהַאֲבָרַת וּבִטוּל הַמַּסְתִּירִים וּמוֹנְעִים אוֹתָם מֵעֲבוֹדָתָם.	
שֶׁהֵם הֵם נִמְשָׁכִים מִבְּחִינַת מִצְוּוֹת עֲשֵׂה וְלֹא תַעֲשֶׂה – ,וְדוּגְמָתָם מַפֶּשׁ	
רַק שֶׁהֵם בֵּינוֹ וּבֵין בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל, מִפְּנֵי שֶׁהַקְּלֶלוֹת הֵן אַחַר שָׁיֵשׁ מָסָךְ מַבְדִּיל,	
ן וַעֲוֹנוֹתֵיכֶם מַבְדִּילִים נִ״ט:ב׳): וַעֲוֹנוֹתֵיכֶם מַבְדִּילִים.	
וְכָבֶר עָבֹר עַל הַלֹּא תַעֲשֶׂה וְכַיּוֹצֵא – וְלָכֵן צָרִיךְ לְהַכְרִיתוֹ וּלְהַעֲבִירוֹ.	
מַשָּׁאֵין כֵּן שֶׁס"ה מִצְוֹת לֹא תַעֲשֶׂה – הֵן שְׁמִירָה מָן הַחִיצוֹנִים שֶׁלֹּא יִינָקוּ וְלֹא יִהְיָה מֶסָךּ מַבְדִּיל כְּלָל.	
וְלָכֵן כָּתוּב: בֵּינוֹ וּבֵין בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל – וְלֹא: אֶל בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל.	

[NOTE: O S — Summary

This deeply Kabbalistic and Chassidic discourse by the **Alter Rebbe** explains the inner structure and purpose behind the **blessings and curses** (berachos and klalos) found in the Torah, particularly as they appear in *Parshas Bechukosai* and *Parshas Ki Savo*. These are not merely rewards and punishments but spiritual mechanisms designed to effect *giluy Elokus* — the revelation of G-dliness — in the lower realms.

The discourse unfolds in three major arcs:

Alter Rebbe

Likkutei Torah Parshas Bechukosai

אֵלֶה הַחָקִים וְהַמִּשְׁפָּטִים

1. Threefold Avodah — Thought, Speech, and Action:

The three phrases in "If in My statutes you walk, and My commandments you guard, and perform them" correspond to:

- "Walk" deep contemplation (מחשבה) of G-d's greatness,
- Guard" Torah speech/study (דיבור),
- "Perform" physical mitzvah action (מעשה).
 Action is emphasized as primary, because only through concrete deeds can we draw down Sovev Kol Almin the transcendent, unknowable aspect of G-dliness.
 Like hints or gestures between beings that cannot fully communicate, mitzvos hint upward and trigger supernal flow.

1. Blessings and Curses as Elokus-Mechanisms:

The **blessings** are **direct revelations** of G-dliness that nourish and elevate. The **curses**, paradoxically, are tools for **dislodging klippos** (spiritual obstructions). They are not punishments in essence, but severe forms of healing — dissolving *chitzonim* (externalities) that cling to a soul due to sin or negligence.

The **klalos** apply not to the *essence* of Yisrael (who "arose in Divine thought") but to the spiritual pollutants they've absorbed. Hence the Torah says: "Between Him and the Children of Israel" — not to them, for the curses target only what blocks the relationship, not the relationship itself.

2. Yitzchak's Desire to Bless Esav — Mystically Reframed:

Yitzchak's original intent to bless Esav is reinterpreted not as a mistake, but as an attempt to **elevate Esav** by granting him spiritual tools (Torah, dew, wine, halachos). But Esav, being *ra gamur* (utter evil), cannot be uplifted — he must be obliterated. The true recipient of blessing is **Yaakov**, who carries sparks of Esav within and can refine them through avodah. This is likened to unwanted thoughts in prayer (*machshavos zaros*) — not desired, but generated by past willing actions, now trailing behind like a muddy garment climbing a ladder.

Thus, the **goal of curses** is not wrath — it's purification. The **goal of blessings** is not reward — it's revelation. And **both** are mechanisms of Hashem making a **dirah b'tachtonim**, a dwelling below, within our actual experience.

X Practical Takeaway

- Don't see struggle or hardship as mere punishment. Often, it's spiritual **surgery** removing toxins the soul has absorbed.
- Thought, speech, and most of all, action are tools to draw G-d into the world. Physical mitzvos, even without full understanding, trigger the deepest revelation.

Alter Rebbe Likkutei Torah

Parshas Bechukosai

אֵלֶה הַחָקִים וְהַמִּשְׁפָּטִים

- When **foreign thoughts** arise in prayer, don't despair. They're not a sign of failure but evidence of **ascent**. As you rise, what clings to you rises too. Your focus itself helps purify it.
- The **goal is not escape**, but transformation to make holiness dwell **within** physicality, not above it.

Chassidic Story (Alter Rebbe)

One winter, a wealthy chassid from Vitebsk came to the **Alter Rebbe** with a broken heart. He described how, during davening, terrible thoughts would attack him — foreign desires, angry images, distracting nonsense. He cried: "Rebbe, I must be completely unworthy — how can such thoughts enter during my deepest moments?"

The **Alter Rebbe** listened and then told him a story:

"There was once a great king who had many sons. One of them, destined to inherit the throne, had been taken by enemy forces and locked in a dungeon. He was fed scraps, denied sunlight, made to forget he was royal. But one day, a letter from his father the king arrived. It was written in glowing letters and perfumed with royal seal. When the prince read it, he remembered. He stood, trembling, and began to climb out of the pit.

But with every step upward, he felt the filth of the dungeon clinging to him — rats nibbling his coat, chains dragging from his ankles. The more he rose, the more he noticed the muck around him.

Yet that was the sign he was no longer asleep — he was finally rising."

The Alter Rebbe concluded:

"So too you. These thoughts are not proof that you are distant — they are proof that you are **ascending**. Were you not climbing, the mud would not stir."

Source: HaRav Yosef Yitzchak Schneersohn, Likutei Dibburim vol. 1, related in the name of elder chassidim who heard it from the Alter Rebbe's chadorim. **END NOTE**]