

בָּסִ״ד, י״ב וְי״ג תַּמוּז תּר״צ 1930 מַאֱמַרִים מְלוּקָטִים

Introduction

This discourse by Rabbi Yosef Yitzchak Schneersohn, the sixth Lubavitcher Rebbe (known as the Frierdiker Rebbe), explores the inner spiritual dynamics of the soul's descent into the world and its challenges with the *yetzer hara* (evil inclination). Born in 1880 and passing in 1950, the Frierdiker Rebbe was the son of the Rebbe Rashab and the predecessor of the Lubavitcher Rebbe. He led the Chabad movement through the horrors of Communist oppression and laid the groundwork for its global revival. This teaching, deeply psychological and spiritual, articulates the nature of spiritual exile (*galus Mitzrayim*), the workings of the animal soul, and the role of focused, heartfelt divine service. It culminates in a profound encouragement for Torah study as the transformative bridge that brings Hashem close, even amidst suffering.

אביך אָביך "דַע אָת אֱלֹקִי אַביך"...". ובפסוק "דַע אָת אֱלֹקִי אַביך ...".

Questions on the verse "Hashem is close to all who call upon Him..." and on the verse "Know the G-d of your father...".

"Hashem is close to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth"—the Holy One, blessed be He, is close to anyone who calls to Him, and to all who call Him in truth.

Now this appears to contain a contradiction between the beginning and end of the verse: the beginning says that Hashem is close to anyone who calls upon Him, without stating any condition whatsoever, and at the end it says "to all who call Him in truth," which makes it conditional—that perhaps He is only close to one who calls upon Him in truth.

Furthermore, we must understand what is added by the phrase "to all who call upon Him." It would have sufficed to say "Hashem is close to His callers," since anyone who calls to

Hashem—Hashem is close to him. So why say "to all who call upon Him"?

But the matter is as follows: our Sages said (Berachos 5b), "Truth is Torah"—Torah is called "truth," for it is eternal in all times and in all places. And through calling in "truth," which is Torah, through this the Holy One, blessed be He, is close "to all who call Him in truth."

קרוֹב ה' לְכָל קֹרְאָיו, לְכֹל אֲשֶׁר יִקְרָאֵהוּ בָאֱמֶת","

דְּהַקְּדוֹשׁ בָּרוּהְ הוּא קָרוֹב לְכָל מִי שֶׁקוֹרֵא אֵלְיו, וּלְכָל

אֲשֶׁר יִקְרָא אוֹתוֹ בָּאֶמֶת, דְּלִכְאוֹרָה הֲרֵי יֵשׁ בָּזֶה סְתִירָה

מֵרִישָׁא דְּקְרָא אוֹתוֹ בָּאֶמֶת, דְּלִכְאוֹרָה הֲרֵי יֵשׁ בָּזֶה סְתִירָה

מֵרִישָׁא דְּקְרָא לְסוֹפֵיה, דְּבְרֵישָׁא דְּקְרָא אוֹמֵר דְּהָוָיְ

קרוֹב לְכָל מִי שֶׁקּוֹרֵא אֵלָיו יִתְבָּרַהְ, וְאֵינוֹ אוֹמֵר בָּזֶה

שׁים הְּנָאִים כְּלָל, וּבְסוֹפֵיה אוֹמֵר לְכָל מִי שֶׁקּוֹרֵא אוֹתוֹ

יִתְבָּרַהְ בָּאֱמֶת דַּוְקָא, אִם כֵּן הֲרֵי הוּא הְנַאִי, דְּלְמִי קָרוֹב

הַנֵי', לְמִי שֶׁקּוֹרָא אוֹתוֹ בַּאֲמֵת

ְעוֹד צְרִיכִים לְהָבִין, מַה בָּא לְהוֹסִיף הֵּבַת "לְכָל קוֹרְאָיו", שֶׁהָיָה מַסְפִּיק אִם יֹאמֵר "קָרוֹב הַוָּיָ לְקוֹרְאָיו", דְּכָל מִי שֶׁקּוֹרֵא לְהַקָּדוֹשׁ בָּרוּךְ הוּא הִנֵּה הַקָּדוֹשׁ בָּרוּךְ הוּא קָרוֹב אֵלָיו, וְאִם כֵּן מַהוּ "לְכָל קֹרְאִיו". אַךְ הָעִנְיָן הוּא, דְהִנֵּה אָמְרוּ רַזַ"ל (ברכות ה, ב) "אֱמֶת זוֹ תּוֹרָה", בְּתוֹרָה נִקְרַאת "אֱמֶת", שֶׁהִיא נִצְחִית בְּכָל זְמַן וּבְכָל מָקוֹם, וְעַל יְדֵי הַקְּרִיאָה בָּ"אֱמֶת" שֶׁהִיא תּוֹרָה, הִנֵּה עַל יְדֵי זֶה הָרֵי הַקָּדוֹשׁ בָּרוּךְ הוּא "קַרוֹב "לְכַל אֲשֶׁר יִקרְאָהוּ בַּאֵמֶת."

בְּסִ״ד, י״ב וְי״ג תַּמוּז תּר״צ 1930 מאַמרים מַלוּקטים

To understand this: It is written, "Know the G-d of your father and serve Him with a complete heart and with a willing soul, for Hashem seeks all hearts and understands every inclination of thought. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will cast you off forever."

This verse is also puzzling: what does it mean, "Know the G-d of your father," without explaining what is to be known? For "daas" is one of the three faculties of the mind and intellect, as it is said, "There are three cavities..."—in the head of man there are three cavities, each like a chamber, and in each is found a brain, which serves as a vessel for intellect in accordance with the nature of that particular chamber.

וּלְהָבִין זֶה, הִנֵּה פְּתִיב "דַּע אֶת אֱלֹקֵי אָבִיךּ וְעָבְדֵהוּ
בְּלֵב שָׁלֵם וּבְנֶפֶשׁ חֲפֵצָה, כִּי כָל לְבָבוֹת דּוֹרֵשׁ ה', וְכָל
יֵצֶר מַחֲשָׁבוֹת מֵבִין, אִם תִּדְרְשֶׁנּוּ יִפְּצֵא לָדּ, וְאִם
תַּעַּוְבְנּוּ יַזְנִיחֲדְּ לָעַד", דְּלִכְאוֹרָה אֵין מוּבָן מַהוּ אָמְרוֹ
"דַּע אֶת אֱלֹקֵי אָבִיךּ", וְלֹא בָּאֵר לוֹ מַה יֵדַע, דַּהָלֹא דַּעַת "וֹּאַ שֶׁרָ מָמֹחַ וְהַשֵּׂכֶל, וּלְמַאְמֵר "תְּלֶת חֲלָלִין הוּא אֶנוּן", דְּבָרֹאשׁ הָאָדָם יֵשׁ ג' חֲלָלִים, דְּכָל חָלֶל הוּא כְּמוֹ הֵיכָל וְחַדֶּר מְיַחָד, אֲשֶׁר בָּחָלֶל הַהוּא נִמְצָא מֹחַ, דְּהָמֹחַ הַהוּא הוּא כְּלִי אֶל הַשַּׁכֶל כְּפִי אֹפֶן מַהוּתוֹ וְעִנְיָנוֹ שֶׁל הַהוּא הָהוּא בְּלִי אֶל הַשַּׁכֶל כְּפִי אֹפֶן מַהוּתוֹ וְעִנְיָנוֹ שֶׁל הַהוּא הָהוּא בְּלִי אֶל הַשַּׁכֶל בְּפִי אֹפֶן מַהוּתוֹ וְעִנְיָנוֹ שֶׁל

Behold, intellect divides into three parts: Chochmah—the faculty of conceptual insight; Binah—the faculty of analytical review. For Chochmah is the grasping or discovery of the idea, while Binah is the understanding and comprehension of it. And Daas is the recognition of the idea—it is one of the three intellectual faculties. So the verse should have explained what knowledge is meant. Why does it say merely, "Know the G-d of your father"? One must understand what this knowledge is.

דְּהַנֵּה כְּלֶלוּת הַשֵּׁכֶל נָחָלֶק לְג׳ חֲלָקִים, חָכְמָה שֶׁהוּא עִנְיֵן הַהַשְּׁכָּלָה, בִּינָה שֶׁהוּא עִנְיַן הַהַשָּׁנָה, דְּחָכְמָה הוּא הַשְּׂכָלַת וְהַמְצָאַת הַשֵּׁכֶל, וּבִינָה הוּא הַבָּנַת וְהַשְּׁגַת הַשֵּׂכָל, וְדַעַת הוּא יְדִיעַת הַשֵּׁכֶל, אִם כֵּן הוּא אֶחָד מִג' הַלְקֵי הַשֵּׁכָל, וְהָיָה לוֹ לְבָאֵר מַה יֵדַע, וְלָמָה אוֹמֵר סְתָם הַלְּצֵי אָת אֱלֹקֵי אָבִיךּ", וְצָרִיךְ לְהָבִין מַהוּ עִנְיַן יְדִיעָה זוֹ.

But from the continuation of the verse it becomes clear that through "Know the G-d of your father," this brings about the service "with a whole heart."

Yet seemingly, knowledge, which is intellectual grasp and comprehension, and service, which is an act—are two distant things.

So we must understand what is the idea of deepening Daas, and what is its effect on Divine service.

וּמֵהֶמְשֵׁךְ הָעִנְיָן מוּבָן, דְעַל יְדֵי "דַּע אֶת אֱלֹקֵי אָבִיךּ" הַנָּה עַל יְדֵי זֶה תִּהְיֶה הָעֲבוֹדָה בְּלֵב שָׁלַם, וְלְכָאוֹרָה יְדִיעָה שֶׁהוּא הַשְּׂכָּלָה וְהַשָּׁנָה וַעֲבוֹדָה שֶׁהוּא פּעַל הֵם רְחוֹקִים זֶה מִזֶּה. וְגַם צְרִיכִים לְהָבִין מַהוּ עִנְיַן הַעֲמָקַת הַדַּעַת וּפְעַלְּתוֹ בָּעֲבוֹדָה.

גָּלוּת מִצְרַיִם קָשֶׁה מְאֹד, כִּי הָיְתָה עֲבוֹדַת כָּּרֶךְ בְּלִי תּוֹעֶלֶת. תַּצְנוּג הָאָדֶם בְּהִתְפַּשְׁטוּת כֹּחוֹתִיו וּפְעֵלוֹתִיו The Egyptian exile was extremely harsh, for it was backbreaking labor with no benefit. A person's pleasure is in the expansion of his powers and his actions.

The matter is as follows: it is stated in the Mishnah (Pesachim ch. 10, mishnah 5), "In every generation a person is obligated to see himself as if he went out of Egypt."

That is, the Exodus from Egypt exists in every generation, at all times and in every place.

וְהָעְנְיָן הוּא, דְהִנֵּה אִיתָא בַּמִּשְׁנָה (פְּסָחִים פֶּרֶק י מִשְׁנָה ה) "בְּכָל דּוֹר וָדוֹר חַיָּב אָדָם לְרְאוֹת אָת עַצְמוֹ כְּאָלוּ הוּא יָצָא מִמִּצְרַיִם", דִּיצִיאַת מִצְרַיִם יֶשְׁנוֹ בְּכָל דּוֹר וָדוֹר בְּכָל וְמַן וּבָכָל מָקוֹם

1930 בְּסִ״ד, ר״ב וְר״ג תַּמּוּז תּר״צ מַאֲמָרִים מְלוּקָטִים

Just as there is a physical Egyptian exile and Exodus, so too there is a spiritual Egyptian exile and Exodus.	ְהַיְנוּ דְּכְשֵׁם שֶׁיֵּשׁ גָּלוּת מִצְרַיִם וִיצִיאַת מִצְרַיִם בְּגַשְׁמִיּוּת, כְּמוֹ כֵן יֵשׁ גָּלוּת מִצְרַיִם וִיצִיאַת מִצְרַיִם בְּרוּחָנִיוּת,
The Egyptian exile was exceedingly bitter and harsh. In addition to the fact that the Egyptians were lowly and degraded people—a nation likened to a donkey—merely dwelling among them was already difficult.	דְהַנֵּה גָּלוּת מִצְרַיִם הָיָה גָּלוּת מַר וְקָשֶׁה בִּמְאֹד, דִּלְבַד זֹאת שֶׁהַמִּצְרִים הֵם אֲנָשִׁים שְׁפָלִים וְנִבְזִים, עַם הַדּוֹמֶה לַחֲמוֹר, אֲשֶׁר גוּף וְעֶצֶם הַיְשִׁיבָה בֵּינֵיהֶם הוּא דָּבָר קָשֶׁה,
Moreover, they ruled over the Israelites and afflicted them with harsh labor—with mortar and bricks. And the purpose of the labor was not for any benefit or purpose.	הָנֵה עוֹד זֹאת הֵם מָשְׁלוּ בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל וְרָדוּ בָּהֶם בַּעֲבוֹדָה קָשָׁה בְּחֹמֶר וּבִלְבַנִים, וְכַוּנַת הָעֲבוֹדָה לֹא הָיְתָה בִּשְׁבִיל אֵיזָה תּוֹעֶלֶת וְתַכְלִית,
We see that sometimes even in difficult labor there can be some pleasure—for although work in general involves toil and exertion for the human body, nevertheless, when a person performs heavy labor, such as crafting a vessel or the like, even though it comes with effort, he still experiences pleasure in it.	ְהָנֵּה אָנוּ רוֹאִים שֶׁלְּפְעָמִים גַּם בַּעֲבוֹדָה קַשָּׁה יָכוֹל לִהְיוֹת בָּזָה אֵיזָה עֹנֶג, דַּהָגַם דִּמְלָאכָה בִּכְלֶל הִיא יְגִיעָה וְטִרְחָא לְגוּף הָאָדָם, וּמִכָּל מָקוֹם כַּאֲשֶׁר הָאָדָם עוֹשֶׂה אֵיזֶה מְלָאכָה כְּבַדָּה כְּמוֹ בַּעֲשִׂיַת כְּלִי וְהַדּוֹמֶה, הָגַם שֶׁבָּא לוֹ בִּיגִיעָה, מִכָּל מָקוֹם יֵשׁ לוֹ עֹנֶג בָּזָה
And this pleasure is not only because of the benefit derived from the object—for he could have had the benefit even if someone else had made it—but the pleasure is from the fact that he himself made it.	ְוְהָענֶג אֵינוֹ רַק מִפֶּה שֶׁעָשֶׁה דָּבָר שֶׁמֵבִיא לוֹ תּוֹעֶלֶת, שֶׁהֲרֵי הָיָה יָכוֹל לִהְיוֹת שֶׁיּהְיֶה לוֹ תּוֹעֶלֶת מֵהַכְּלִי גַּם בְּלִי יְגִיעָתוֹ בְּעַצְמוֹ בַּעֲשִׁיַּת הַכְּלִי, רַק הָעֹנֶג הוּא מְמֵה שֶׁעָשָׂה הוּא הַכְּלִי
For in every act of labor or making something, there is a refinement and projection of the human power into the action—the power of the actor within the object—which remains in the vessel for as long as it exists.	דָּבָכָל עֲבוֹדָה וַעֲשִׂיַת דְּבַר מָה, יֵשׁ בָּזֶה אֲצִילוּת וְהַפְּרָשַׁת כֹּחַ מִכֹּחַ הָאָדָם הַפּוֹעֵל פְּעַלָּה הַהִּיא, וְהוּא כֹּחַ הַפּוֹעֵל בָּנִּפְעָל, שֶׁכֹּחַ זָה נִשְׁאָר בְּהַכְּלִי כָּל זְמֵן קִיּוּמָה
Therefore, we see tangibly that a person is protective of the work of his hands—not because of the utility of the object, for he could benefit from a vessel made by someone else—but because it is his own handiwork.	וְלָכֵן הָרֵי אָנוּ רוֹאִים בְּמוּחָשׁ שֶׁאָדָם חָס עַל מַעֲשֵׂי יָדָיו, הָרֵי אֵין זָה מֵהֶעְדֵּר תּוֹעֶלֶת הַכְּלִי, דַּהָלֹא זֶה יָכוֹל לְהִיוֹת גַם בִּכְלִי שֶׁעָשָׂה אִישׁ אַחֵר, וְטַעַם הַדָּבָר שֶׁהוּא חָס עַל הַכְּלִי הוּא לְפִי שֶׁזָּהוּ מַעֲשֵׂי יָדָיו דַּוְקָא
And it is human nature to find pleasure in the projection of his power and in his actions. Therefore, even in work that is very difficult and comes with great toil, still, there can be pleasure in it.	וּבְטֶבַע הָאָדָם הוּא לְהִתְעַנֵּג בְּהִתְפַּשְׁטוּת כֹּחוֹ וּבִפְעַלּוֹתָיו, וְלָכֵן הִנֵּה גַּם בַּעֲבוֹדָה שֶׁהִיא כְּבֵדָה בְּיוֹתֵר וּבָאָה בִּיגִיעָה עַצוּמָה, מִכָּל מָקוֹם הֲרֵי יָכוֹל לְהְיוֹת שֶׁיִּהְיָה לוֹ עֹנָג בָּזֶה.
But labor and work that brings no benefit at all—even aside from the tremendous exertion and effort—it causes great pain.	אֲבָל בַּעֲבוֹדָה וּמְלָאכָה כָּזוֹ שָׁאֵינָהּ מְבִיאָה שׁוּם תּוֹעֶלֶת כְּלָל, הַרֵי הִנָּה לְבַד הַיְגִיעָה הָעֲצוּמָה וְהַטְּרְחָא הַגְּדוֹלָה, הָנֵּה זֶה צַעַר גָּדוֹל.

1930 בְּסִ״ד, י״ב וְי״ג תַּמּוּז תּר״צ מַאֲמֶרִים מְלוּקָטִים

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And the labor of the Children of Israel in the Egyptian exile was in matters that brought no benefit—the entire intention of the Egyptians was simply to enslave the Israelites.	וְהָעֲבוֹדָה שֶׁל בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּגָלוּת מִצְרַיִם הָיָה בִּדְבָרִים שֶׁאֵינָם בִּשְׁבִיל תּוֹעֶלֶת, רַק כָּל כַּוּנַת הַמִּצְרִיִּים הָיָה בָּשְׁבִיל לַעֲבֹד בִּבְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל,
As it says, "in order to afflict them with their burdens," for their entire intent was to oppress the Israelites with crushing labor—labor so hard it breaks the body. And afterward, in the Exodus from Egypt, it is written: "And the Children of Israel left with an upraised arm."	דְזֶהוּ "לְמַעַן עַנּתוֹ בְּסִבְלֹתָם", שֶׁכָּל כַּוּנָתָם הָיְתָה לַעֲבֹד בִּבְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּפָּרֶהְ שֶׁהִיא עֲבוֹדָה לֶשָׁה הַמְפָּרֶכֶת אֶת הָגוּף וּמְשַׁבַּרְתּוֹ וְאַתַר כָּךְ בִּיצִיאַת מִצְרַיִם כְּתִיב "וּבְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל יוֹצְאִים "ביר במר
Children of Israel left with an upraised arm." יָּה בָּאוֹת הַמְדוֹת הָרָעוֹת, מֵאַרְבַּע יְסוֹדוֹת הָרָעִים שֶׁבָּה: אֵשׁ, רוּחַ, מִיִם וְעָכָּר	רָכָּד רָמָה. בכל יהודי שתי נפשות. אחת נפש הבהמית שממ.
In every Jew there are two souls: one is the animal soul, from	
negative elements within it—fire, wind	, water, and earth.
Just as there is an Egyptian exile and an Exodus from Egypt in physical terms, so too there is an Egyptian exile and Exodus from Egypt in spiritual terms.	ְוָהָנֵּה כְּשֵׁם שֶׁיֵשׁ גָּלוּת מִצְרַיִם וִיצִיאַת מִצְרַיִם בְּגַשְׁמִיוּת, הָנֵּה כְּמוֹ כֵן יֶשְׁנוֹ גָּלוּת מִצְרַיִם וִיצִיאַת מִצְרַיִם בְּרוּחָנִיוּת,
For our master (the Alter Rebbe), may his soul be in Eden, says in Tanya, chapter 2, in the name of "Shaar HaKedusha" by R' Chaim Vital, of blessed memory, that for every Jewish person, whether righteous or wicked, there are two souls.	דְהָנֵה רַבֵּנוּ נִשְׁמָתוֹ עֵדָן אוֹמֵר בְּתַנְיָא כֶּּרֶק ב בְּשֵׁם שַׁעַר הַקְדֵשָּׁה לְהָרַב חַיִּים וִיטַאל זַ"ל, דְּלְכָל אִישׁ יִשְּׂרָאֵל אֶחָד צַדִּיק וְאֶחָד רָשָׁע יֵשׁ ב' נְשָׁמוֹת
As it says, "And souls I have made" (Yeshayahu 57:16), it says "souls" in plural—meaning two souls: one soul from the side of kelipah and the other side. This soul is clothed in the blood of the person to give life to the body, as it is written, "for the soul of the flesh is in the blood" (Vayikra 17:11).	דְּכְתִיב "וּנְשָׁמוֹת אֲנִי עָשִׂיתִי", אוֹמֵר "נְשָׁמוֹת" לְשׁוֹן רַבִּים שָׁהֵן שָׁתַּים, שֶׁהֵן שְׁתֵּי נְפָשׁוֹת, נֶפֶשׁ אַחַת מִצַּד הַקְּלִפָּה וְסִטְרָא אַחַרָא, וְנֶפֶשׁ זוֹ הִיא הַמִּתְלַבֶּשֶׁת בְּדַם הָאָדָם לְהַחֵּיוֹת הַגּוּף, וּכְדִכְתִיב "כִּי נֶפֶשׁ הַבָּשָׂר בַּדָּם הָאָדָם לְהַחֵּיוֹת הַגּוּף,
And this soul is called the "soul of the flesh," for it is closely connected with the flesh and physical matters specifically. And therefore, from this soul of the kelipah come all negative traits from the four evil elements within it.	ְוְנֶפֶשׁ זוֹ נִקְרֵאת "נֶפֶשׁ הַבָּשֶׂר", שֶׁיֵשׁ לָהּ קֵרוּב אֶל הַבָּשָׂר וְעִנְיָנִים הַגַּשְׁמִיִּים דַּוְקָא, וְלָזֹאת הִנֵּה מִנֶּפֶשׁ זוֹ דְּקְלָפָּה הָנֵּה מִמֶּנָּה בָּאוֹת כָּל הַמִּדּוֹת רָעוֹת מֵאַרְבַּע ,יְסוֹדוֹת רָעִים שֶׁבָּה
For every created being, whether it has a physical body or a spiritual body (like angels and souls), is composed of four elements: fire, wind, water, and earth. Only the quality of these elements differs according to the level of their physicality or spirituality.	שֶׁכֶּל נִבְרָא וְנִבְרָא בֵּין אָם הוּא בַּעַל גוּף גַּשְׁמִי וּבֵין אָם הוּא בַּעַל גוּף רוּחָנִי כְּמוֹ הַמֵּלְאָכִים וּנְפָשׁוֹת, הוּא מַרְכָּב מָד' יְסוֹדוֹת – אֵשׁ, רוּחַ, מֵיִם, עָפָר, אֶלָּא שֶׁמֵהוּת הַיְסוֹדוֹת מִשְׁתַּנָּה לְפִי מֵהוּת מַעֲלַת מַדְרֵגָתָם בְּגַשְׁמִיוּת ,וְרוּחָנִיוּת
Therefore, also in the soul of the flesh there are four elements, and from them come all evil traits. Each negative trait stems from the element that causes it: anger and pride come from the element of fire, which rises upward.	וְלָזֹאת הָנֵּה גַּם בְּנֶפֶשׁ הַבָּשָׂר יֵשׁ בּוֹ ד׳ יְסוֹדוֹת, וּמֵהֶם הֵם שֶׁבָּאִים כָּל הַמִּדּוֹת רָעוֹת, כָּל מִדָּה רְעָה מִיסוֹד הַגּוֹרֵם אוֹתָה, דְכַעַס וְגַאֲנָה בָּאִים מִיסוֹד הָאֵשׁ שֶׁנְגְבַּהּ לְמַעְלָה,

בְּסִ״ד, י״ב וְי״ג תַּמּוּז תּר״צ 1930 מַאֲמֶרִים מְלוּקָטִים

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For the nature of fire is to rise and ascend, and so it is with anger—his heart boils and rises upward, as we see in human nature: when people are angry, they boil, get inflamed, and seethe, until because of the intensity of his anger a person can forget all his reason—he becomes "not a person," he boils like a coarse and wild animal.	דְהָנֵּה טֶבַע הָאֵשׁ שָׁנָּגְבַּהּ וְעוֹלֶה לְמַעְלֶה, כֵּן הּוּא בְּכַעַס שֶׁלְבָבוֹ רוֹתֵחַ וְעוֹלֶה לְמַעְלֶה, כְּמוֹ שֶׁאָנוּ רוֹאִים בְּטִבְעֵי בְּנֵי אָדָם, דְּבְשָׁעָה שֶׁהָם כּוֹעֲסִים - מֵרְתִּיחִים, זַיי וועֶרְעֶן אוֹיפְגְעֶרַאפְט אוּן קאָרָעֶןי, עַד שֶׁמִּפְּנֵי גָדֶל כַּעֲסוֹ יָכוֹל לְהִיוֹת שֶׁיִּשְׁכַּח הָאָדָם כָּל שִׂרְלוֹ, עֶר וועֶרְט אוֹיס מעֶנְטְשׁ, עֶר אִיז צו קאָרָט וִוי אַ שְׁלעֶרָטעֶר שׁעֶדְלִירְעֶר הָבַעַל חַיִּים
So too with the trait of pride—where a person elevates himself above others—this too is from the element of fire within the soul of the kelipah.	ְוַכֵן בְּמִדַּת הַגַּאָָה, וואָס דעָר מָעֶנְטִשׁ גְרוֹיְסָט זִיךְ אוֹיף דעָם אַנְדְעֶרְעֶןי, וואָס דאָס אִיז אַלְץ פּוּן וּעֶם יְסוֹד הָאֵשׁוּ שָׁבְּנֶפֶשׁ דָּקְלָפָּה.
And lust for pleasures—that a person desires physical enjoyments—comes from the element of water in the soul of the kelipah.	ְתַאֲוַת הַתַּצַנוּגִים, דאָס וואָס דעֶם מִעֶנְטְשׁעֶן גְלוּסְט זִיךְ דִי קעֶרְפּעֶרְלִיכעָ פָארְגְעָנִיגְעָנְסי הוּא מִיסוֹד הַמַּיִם שֶׁבְּנֶפֶשׁ דְּקִלְפָּה.
And boastfulness, mockery, and vanity—when people boast, speak nonsense—these are things that even as they are happening, are not real at all. There are physical things that do have some real substance, but these things—even in the moment—are completely without reality. These come from the element of wind in the soul of the kelipah.	בּאָרִימעָן זִידְּ וּדְבָּרִים בְּטֵלִים, וואָס וּאָס אִיז אַלְץ אַזעֶלְכע זאַכען וואָס אֲפָלוּ בְּעֵת עֶר טוט דאָס אִיז דאָס אוֹיךּ גאָר נִישְׁטִי. יָשְׁנָם דְּבָרִים גַּשְׁמִיִּים אֲשֶׁר הֵם אֵיזֶה מציאות אַרל כָּל אַלוּ הַדְּרִרִים הֵרִי וִּח כִּעִת הַיּוֹחַח
And laziness and sadness come from the element of earth.	וְעַצְלוּת וְעַצְבוּת בָּאִים מִיסוֹד הֶעָפָר.
And the second soul is a veritable portion of G-d above, as it is written, "For Hashem's portion is His people" (Devarim 32:9)—the soul of a Jew is a literal part of the name Havayah.	וְנֶפֶשׁ הַשֵּׁנִית הִיא חֵלֶק אֱלֹקָה מִמַּעַל מַמְּשׁ, דְּכְתִיב "כִּי חֵלֶק ה׳ עַמּוֹ,
As it is written, "And He blew into his nostrils a soul of life" (Bereishis 2:7), and "You blew it into me" (Berachos 60b), and as the Zohar says: "One who blows, blows from within himself." This means from his inner essence and innermost vitality.	דִי נְשָׁמָה פוּן אַ אִיך אִיז אַ חֵלֶקיא מִשֵׁם הַוָנִ', כְּמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב "וַיִּפָּח בְּאַפֶּיו נִשְׁמַת חַיִּים", וְ"אַתָּה נָפַחְתָּ בִּי", וּכְמוֹ שֶׁנָּאֲמֵר בַּזֹּהַר "מַאן דְּנָפַח מִתּוֹרֵיה נָפַחַ", פֵּרוּשׁ ,מִתּוֹכִיּוּתוֹ וּמִפְּנִימִיוּתוֹ
For we see tangibly in human nature that the exhalation of the heart's breath, as in speech or song, is not the same as when a person forcefully blows with power—the innermost vitality of a person is expelled in that kind of blowing.	שֶׁאָנוּ רוֹאִים כְּמוּחָשׁ בְּטֶבַע בְּנֵי אָדָם דְאֵינוֹ דּוֹמֶה הוֹצָאַת הֶבֶל הַלֵּב כְּמוֹ שֶׁהוּא בְּדִבּוּר אוֹ בְּקוֹל נִגּוּן, לְכְמוֹ שֶׁהוּא מוֹצִיא הֶבֶל לִבּוֹ כְּשֶׁמְנַפַּח בְּכֹחוֹ, וּבְמוּחָשׁ אָנוּ רוֹאִים שֶׁתּוֹכִיּוּת וּפְנִימִיוּת הַחַיּוּת שֶׁבָּאָדָם מוֹצִיא בִּנְפִיחָתוֹ בָּכֹחַ

1930 בְּסִ״ד, ר״ב וְר״ג תַּמּוּז תּר״צ מַאֲמָרִים מְלוּקָטִים

So too, metaphorically, the souls of Israel arose in His thought, as it is written: "My firstborn son is Israel" (Shemos 4:22), and "You are children to Hashem your G-d" (Devarim 14:1). This means: just as a son derives from the brain of the father, so too, so to speak, the soul of each Jew derives from His thought and wisdom.	פָּך עַל דֶּרֶךְ מָשָׁל נִשְׁמוֹת יִשְׂרָאֵל עָלוּ בְּמַחֲשָׁבָה כְּדְכְתִיב "בָּנִי בְכֹרִי יִשְׂרָאֵל", "בָּנִים אַתֶּם לַה' אֱלֹקֵיכֶם", פַּרוּשׁ בְּמוֹ שֶׁהַבֶּן נִמְשָׁךְ מִמֹחַ הָאָב, כָּךְ כִּבְיָכוֹל נִשְׁמַת כָּל אִישׁ יִשְׂרָאֵל נִמְשְׁכָה מִמַּחֲשַׁבְתוֹ וְחָכְמָתוֹ יִתְבָּרֵךְ,
For "He is wise, but not with knowable wisdom" (Tikkunei Zohar), referring to the wisdom of Atzilus. It is known that the wisdom of Beriah, Yetzirah, and Asiyah is called "knowable wisdom," since it is grasped by created beings, whereas the wisdom of Atzilus is "not knowable"—created beings cannot grasp it. And from there is the root of every Jewish soul.	ְדְאִיהוּ חַכִּים וְלָא בְּחָכְמָה יְדִיעָאָי, שֶׁהִיא חָכְמָה דַּאֲצִילוּת, וְיָדוּעַ דְּחָכְמָה דִּבְרִיאָה יְצִירָה עֲשִׂיָה נִקְרַאת "חָכְמָה יְדִיעָא", לְפִי שֶׁמֶּשֶׁנֶת בַּנִּבְרָאִים, אֲבָל חָכְמָה דַּאֲצִילוּת הִיא "לָא יְדִיעָא", שֶׁהַנִּבְרָאִים אֵינָם מַשִּׁיגִים זֹאת, וּמִשֶּׁם הוּא שֹׁרֶשׁ נִשְׁמַת כָּל אִישׁ יִשְׂרָאֵל.
And this is what every Jew says: "The soul You have given me is pure"—"pure" refers to the soul's level as it is in Atzilus. From there it travels and descends to be clothed in a body and an animal soul.	ְוֶזֶהוּ דְּכֶל אֶחָד מִיִּשְׂרָאֵל אוֹמֵר "נְשָׁמָה שֶׁנַּתַתָּ בִּי טְהוֹרָה הִיא", דִּטְהוֹרָה, הִיא מַעֲלַת מַדְרַגַּת הַנְשָׁמָה כְּמוֹ שֶׁהִיא בַּאֲצִילוּת, וּמִשָּׁם נָסָעָה וְיָרְדָה לְהָתְלַבֵּשׁ בְּגוּף וְנֶפֶשׁ הַבַּהֲמִית
This descent, though it is a very great and intense descent, for the soul above, before its descent below to be clothed in a body and animal soul, stood in the upper Garden of Eden—and now it descends to be clothed in a body—this is a descent from a high roof to a deep pit.	דִּירִידָה זוֹ הָגַם שֶׁהִיא יְרִידָה גְדוֹלֶה וַעֲצוּמָה בִּמְאֹד, וְהַנְשָׁמָה כְּמוֹ שֶׁהִיא לְמַעְלָה לְדֶם יְרִידָתָה לְמַטָּה לְהָתְלַבֵּשׁ בְּגוּף וְנֶפֶשׁ הַבַּהָמִית הֲרֵי מַעֲמָדָה הִיא בְּגַן עֵדֶן הָעֶלִיוֹן, וְיוֹרֶדֶת לְמַטָּה לְהִתְלַבֵּשׁ בַּגוּף, הֲרֵי זֶה יְרִידָה מָאִגְּרָא רָמָא לְבֵירָא עֲמִיקְתָּא
But in truth, this descent is for the purpose of ascent, for through one's engagement in Torah and mitzvos, the soul is elevated to a higher level.	הָנֵה בָּאֱמֶת הָרֵי יְרִידָה זוֹ הִיא לְצֹרֶךְ עֲלִיָּה, דְעַל יְדֵי שֶׁהָאָדָם עוֹסֵק בַּתּוֹרָה וּמִצְ וֹת הִנֵּה עַל יְדֵי זָה נַעֲשֶׂה עַלִיַּת הַנְשָׁמָה לְמַעֲלָה וּמַדְרֵגָה יוֹתֵר.
However, this descent, in which the soul comes down to be clothed in a body and animal soul, is called the "Egyptian Exile," for "Mitzrayim" comes from the word "meitzar" (narrowness, constraint).	אָמְנָם יְרִידָה זוֹ מַה שֶׁהַנְשָׁמָה יוֹרֶדֶת לְמַטָּה לְהִתְלַבֵּשׁ בְּגוּף וְנֶפֶשׁ הַבַּהֲמִית נָקְרֵאת בְּשֵׁם "גָּלוּת מִצְרַיִם", דְּמִצְרַיִם הוּא לְשׁוֹן מֵצֵר וּגְבוּל
Just as in the physical exile of Egypt the Israelites were pressured and confined by the Egyptians, so too in the spiritual Egyptian exile: the animal soul constrains and obscures the divine soul.	וּכְשֵׁם שֶׁבְּגָלוּת מִצְרַיִם הֲרֵי הָיוּ בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל לְחוּצִים וּדְחוּקִים מֵהַמִּצְרִיִּים, כְּמוֹ כֵן הוּא גָּלוּת מִצְרַיִם בְּרוּחָנִיוּת, מַה שֶׁהַנֶּפֶשׁ הַבַּהָמִית מַגְבִּיל וּמַסְתִּיר עַל הָנָּפֶשׁ הָאֱלֹקִית

בְּסִ״ד, י״ב וְי״ג תַּמוּז תּר״צ 1930 מַאֱמֵרִים מְלוּקָטִים

The divine soul becomes clothed within the intellectual and natural	ı
soul in order to refine and purify it.	ı

But the animal soul surrounds the divine soul from every side and corner, until the divine soul becomes so constrained that it is reduced to smallness and concealment—like someone sitting in exile and captivity, who shrinks inward and is unable to expand himself at all.

דְהַנֶּפֶשׁ הָאֱלֹקִית מִתְלַבֵּשׁ בְּהַנֶּפֶשׁ הַשֵּׂכְלִי וְהַטִּבְעִי בִּשְׁבִיל לְבָרְרָם וּלְזַכְּכָם, אֲבָל הַנָּפֶשׁ הַבֵּהְמִית מַקִּיף אֶת הַנֶּפֶשׁ הָאֱלֹקִית מִכָּל עַד וּפִנָּה, עַד שֶׁהַנָּפֶשׁ הָאֱלֹקִית מִתְצַמְצֵם כָּל כָּךְ שֶׁנַּעֲשָׂה בְּקטְנוּת וְהֶעְלֵם, וּכְמוֹ הַיּוֹשֵׁב בְּגָלוּת וְשִׁבְיָה שֶׁמִּתְצַמְצֵם וּמִתְכַּוּץ מִבּּלְתִּי יְכֹלֶת לִהְתִּפַּשֵּׁט כְּלָל.

ָנֶפֶשׁ הַבַּהָמִית עָקָרוֹ מִדּוֹת, לְהָמָּשֵׁךְ לִדְבָרִים גַּשְׁמִיִּים, וְשִׂכְלוֹ הוּא כְּדֵי לְהַשִּׁיג אוֹתָם, וְגַם לְהַצְּדִיק אֶת עַצְמוֹ, מִפְּנֵי אַהָבַת עַצְמוֹ, וּבִפָּרַט בַּעַלֵי עַסָקִים.

The animal soul is primarily emotional traits, drawn to material things, and its intellect is to attain them—and also to justify itself—because of self-love, especially in businessmen.

them and also to justify resemble to seminor	ve, especially in businessmen.
And this is what it means: "And souls I have made"—that there are two souls: the soul from the side of kelipah is called "animal soul," and the second soul is called "the soul of man."	ְּוָדָהּ "וּנְשָׁמוֹת אֲנִי עָשִׂיתִי", שֶׁהֵן ב׳ נְפָשׁוֹת, דְהַנֶּפֶשׁ שֶׁמִצַד הַקְּלְפָּה נִקְרָא "נֶפֶשׁ הַבַּהָמִי", וְהַנֶּפֶשׁ הַשֵׁנִי נִקְרָא ,""נֶפֶשׁ הָאָדָם
Just as the advantage of man over the animal is his intellect—as it is said, "Man has understanding, the animal does not have understanding"—for animals are primarily emotion-driven: the eagle is compassionate, the raven cruel.	וּכְשֵׁם דְּיָתְרוֹן הָאָדָם עַל הַחַי הוּא בְּשִׂכְלוֹ, וּכְמַאֲמַר "אָדָם יֵשׁ לוֹ דַּעַת, בְּהֵמָה אֵין לָה דַּעַת", דְּבַעֲלֵי חַיִּים הָרֵי עִקָּרָם הוּא מִדּוֹת, דְּנֶשֶׁר הוּא רַחֲמָנִי וְעוֹרֵב אַכְזָרִי,
And any understanding they have is only in relation to material matters—eating, drinking, and other bodily needs.	וְכָל הַדַּעַת שֶׁיֵשׁ לָהָם הוּא רַק בְּהַנּוֹגֵעַ לַדְּבָרִים הַגַּשְׁמִיִּים בָּאָכִילָה וּשְׁתִיָּה וּשְׁאָרֵי צָרְכֵי הַגּוּף,
But man's essence is intellect and wisdom—even bodily matters, which man needs, are with wisdom and understanding.	אָבָל הָאָדָם עִקָּרוֹ שֵׂכֶל וְחָכְמָה, וְגַם עִנְיָנֵי הַגּוּף שֶׁהָאָדָם מַכְרָח בָּהֶם הֵם בְּחָכְמָה וְשֵׂכֶל,
And so it is with the distinction between the two souls: the animal soul—as its name implies—is entirely drawn after materialism and physicality.	וּכְמוֹ כֵן הוּא הַהֶפְרֵשׁ בֵּין שְׁמֵּי הַנְּפָשׁוֹת, דְּנֶפֶשׁ הַבַּהַמִּית בִּשְׁמוֹ כֵּן הוּא, שֶׁכָּל עִנְיָנוֹ הוּא שֶׁנִּמְשָׁךְ אַחֲרֵי הַחָמְרִיּוּת ,וְהַגַּשְׁמִיּוּת
Its essence is the emotional traits of love and desire for anything it knows from worldly matters.	שֶׁעָקָרוֹ הוּא מִדּוֹת לֶאֱהֹב וְלַחְמוֹד כָּל מַה שֶׁהוּא יוֹדֵעַ מֵעְנְיָנֵי עוֹלָם הַזֶּה,
And although it possesses intellect as well, all its intellect is only to scheme how to attain its desires and pleasures, and to devise strategies to increase wealth, honor, and greatness.	וַהָגַם שָׁיֵשׁ בּוֹ שֶׁכֶל גַּם כֵּן, הָנֵּה כָּל שָׂכְלוֹ הוּא לְהִתְּחַכֵּם אֵיךְ לְהַשִּׁיג כָּל חֶמְדּוֹתָיו וְתַאֲוֹתָיו וּלְהַמְצִיא מַּחְבּוּלוֹת לְהַרְבּוֹת הוֹן וְעֹשֶׁר כָּבוֹד וּגְדֵלָה,
And to justify himself in all sorts of rationalizations, in order to glorify his deeds and turn everything in his own favor.	וּלְהַצְדִּיק אֶת עַצְמוֹ בָּכֶל מִינֵי הִצְטַדְקוּת בִּשְׁבִיל לְפָאֵר מַעֲשָּׂיו, וּמְהַפֵּּךְ בִּזְכוּת עַצְמוֹ,
For we see tangibly that there is a tendency in human beings to justify themselves even where they know the truth is otherwise—it is only because of their self-love that they find merit in themselves.	דְּהָנֵּה אָנוּ רוֹאִים בְּמוּחָשׁ שֶׁיֵּשׁ טֶבַע בִּבְנֵי אָדָם לְהַצְּדִּיק אֶת עַצְמוֹ גַּם בְּמָקוֹם שֶׁיּוֹדֵעַ שֶׁאֵין הָאֱמֶת כֵּן, וְהוּא רַק מִפְּנֵי אַהָבָתוֹ לְעַצְמוֹ מוֹצֵא זְכוּת עַל עַצְמוֹ.

בְּסִ״ד, י״ב וְי״ג תַּמּוּז תּר״צ 1930 מַאֲמַרִים מְלוּקַטִים

Proof: when another person does something wrong, he too says that it is wrong—but if he does the same thing himself, he finds many justifications to explain and defend it.	ְוָהָרְאָיָה, וְהִנֵּה כַּאֲשֶׁר זוּלָתוֹ עוֹשֶׂה אֵיזֶה דָּבָר לֹא טוֹב, הַרֵי הוּא גַּם כֵּן אוֹמֵר שֶׁהוּא לֹא טוֹב, וְדָבָר זֶה עַצְמוֹ אִם הוּא עוֹשֶׂה זֹאת הוּא מוֹצֵא כַּמָּה זְכוּיִּוֹת עַל עַצְמוֹ לָהַצְדִּיק אֶת עַצְמוֹ,
That is—not only does he not admit the truth, that he sinned and is guilty for having done something wrong—but he even deceives himself into thinking that he acted rightly, or at the very least finds excuses and reasons to justify what he did.	ְהַיְנוּ דְּלֹא זוֹ בִּלְבָד שֶׁאֵינוֹ מוֹדֶה עַל הָאֱמֶת אֲשֶׁר חָטָא וְאָשֵׁם בַּצְשׁוֹתוֹ דָּבָר לֹא טוֹב, הָנֵּה עוֹד עוֹשֶׂה שֶׁקֶר בְּנַפְשׁוֹ לֹאמֵר כִּי צָדַק מַעֲשֵׂהוּ וְטוֹב עָשָׂה, אוֹ עַל כָּל פָּנִים מוֹצֵא זְכוּת לְעַצְמוֹ בְּטַעַם וְסִבָּה עַל אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה דָּבָר זָה
This is because of self-love—that a person loves himself, and therefore "love covers over all sins" (Mishlei 10:12)—his love for himself covers over all his transgressions.	ְרָהוּא מִפְנֵי אַהֲבַת עַצְמוֹ שֶׁהָאָדָם אוֹהֵב אֶת עַצְמוֹ, לָזֹאת הָנֵּה עַל כָּל פְּשָׁעִים הְּכַסֶּה אַהָּבָתוֹ אֶת עַצְמוֹ,
And so it is with every person. And this is seen even more clearly in businessmen, who accustom themselves to excuses and claims to justify themselves—even where they know themselves that it's not really true.	דְכֵן הוּא בְּכָל אָדָם, וּבְמוּחָשׁ יוֹתֵר אָנוּ רוֹאִים בְּבַעֲלֵי עֲסָקִים הַמַּרְגִילִים אֶת עַצְמָם בִּטְעָנוֹת וּמַעֲנוֹת לְהַצְדִּיק אֶת עַצְמָם גַּם בְּמָקוֹם שֶׁהֵם בְּעַצְמָם יוֹדְעִים שֶׁאֵין הָאֱמֶת בָּן
And in their inner self, they justify themselves with foolish claims, saying: "What can one do? A person needs to make a living."	וּבֵינָם לְבֵין עַצְמָם מַצְדִּיקִים אֶת עַצְמָם בִּטְעָנָה שֶׁל הֶבֶל לֵאמֹר, װאָס זָאהָל מעָן טָאָן, מִי דָארְף דָאךּ פַּרְנָסָה,
And even though they believe in Hashem—that He, blessed be He, is the One who judges and provides—nevertheless, because of their self-love, they conduct themselves in improper ways, caused by the animal soul.	וַהָגַם שֶׁהֵם מַאֲמִינִים בַּה' כִּי הוּא יִתְבָּרֵדְ הַדָּן וּמְפַרְנֵס, וּמָכֶּל מָקוֹם מִפְּנֵי אַהָבַת עַצְמָם הָרֵי הֵם מִתְנַהָּגִים בְּהַנְהָגָה לֹא טוֹבָה שֶׁבָּא בְּסִבֵּת הַנָּכֶשׁ הַבַּהָמִית.

בָּוָנַת הַיֵּצֶר הָרָע לַצְשׂוֹת רַע לָאָדָם, וּמַתְחִיל בְּטַעֲנוֹת שֶׁל הֶבֶּל. עַל יִדִי הַעָּמָקת הַדָּעַת, הַעָבוֹדָה תְּהָיֵה בְּלֵב שָׁלֵם.

קרוֹב ה׳ לְכָל קֹרְאִיו, גַּם מְתּוֹךְ צַעַר חַס וְשָׁלוֹם, וְגַם מֵרֹב טוּב, בִּגְלַל אֵלֶה הַקּוֹרְאִים אוֹתוֹ בֶּאֱמֶת, עַל יְדֵי קְבִיעַת עִתִּים לַתּוֹרָה. The intent of the evil inclination is to harm the person, and it begins with arguments of nonsense. Through deepening the daas (knowledge), the service will be with a complete heart. "Hashem is close to all who call upon Him"—whether from distress, G-d forbid, or from great good—because they call Him in truth, through setting fixed times for Torah.

And this is the spiritual Egyptian exile: when the animal soul and	וְזֶהוּ גָּלוּת מִצְרַיִם בְּרוּחָנִיוּת, מַה שֶׁהַנֶּפֶשׁ הַבַּהָמִית
the evil inclination surround and encompass the divine soul.	וְהַיֵּצֶר הָרָע סוֹבְבִים וּמַקִיפִים אֶת הַנֶּפֶשׁ הָאֱלֹּקִית.

בְּסִ״ד, י״ב וְי״ג תַּמּוּז תּר״צ 1930 מַאֲמֶרִים מְלוּקָטִים

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Just as in the physical Egyptian exile the main intent was to afflict them—that the Egyptians' entire intent in their labor was to break their bodies—so too in the spiritual Egyptian exile: the intent of the evil inclination that incites and misleads a person from the straight path is to harm the person.	וּכְשֵׁם דִּבְגָלוּת מִצְרַיִם הֲרֵי עִקֶּרָהּ הָיָה בִּשְׁבִיל לְעַנּוֹתָם, וְהַיְנוּ דְּכָל כַּוּנַת הָעֲבוֹדָה אֲשֶׁר הַמִּצְרִיִּים עָבְדוּ בְּישְׂרָאֵל הוּא בְּפֶרֶךְ, דְּכַוּנָתם הָיְתָה לִשְׁבֹּר גּוּפָם, הִנֵּה כְּמוֹ כֵן בְּגָלוּת מִצְרַיִם בְּרוּחָנִיוּת דְּכַוּנַת הַיֵּצֶר הָרָע שֶׁמֵסִית וּמַדִּיחַ אֶת הָאָדָם מִדֶּרֶךְ הַיָּשֶׁר הוּא בִּשְׁבִיל לַעֲשׁוֹת רָע אֶל הָאָדָם
For the evil inclination is an evil angel, whose entire intent is to harm the person because of its inherently evil nature.	דְּהַיֵּצֶר הָרָע הוּא מַלְאָדְּ רָע, דְּכָל פַוּנָתוֹ הוּא לְהָרָע אֶל הָאָדָם, וְהוּא מִפְּנֵי עֶצֶם טִבְעוֹ הָרָע,
Just as we see in human nature: there are good people who love everyone, enjoy doing good for others even if they do not know them, seek their good, are pained at another's suffering, and rejoice in another's good.	וּכְמוֹ שֶׁאָנוּ רוֹאִים דְּגַם בְּטִבְעֵי בְּנֵי אָדָם יֵשׁ אֲנָשִׁים טוֹבִים וְאוֹהֲבִים אֶת כָּל אָדָם, וְנָהֵנִים לַעֲשׁוֹת טוֹבָה לְזוּלָתָם, גַּם אִם הוּא אֵינוֹ מַכִּירוֹ הוּא דּוֹרֵשׁ טוֹבָתוֹ וּמִצְטַעֵר חַס וְשָׁלוֹם בְּצָרַת חֲבֵרוֹ, וְשָׂמֵחַ בְּטוּב חֲבֵרוֹ,
And there are people who are wicked and sinful, like the people of Sodom, who are pained by the good of others and enjoy their suffering, G-d forbid; this is because of their inherently evil nature.	וְיֵשׁ אֲנָשִׁים שֶׁהֵם רָעִים וְחַטָּאִים, כְּמוֹ אַנְשֵׁי סְדוֹם שֶׁמִּצְטַעֲרִים בְּטוֹבָתָם שֶׁל אֲחַרִים, וְנֶהָנִים בְּצָרָתָם חַס וְשָׁלוֹם, וְהוּא מִפְּנֵי עֶצֶם טִבְעָם הָרָע,
So too is the evil inclination: it is evil in its very essence and desires the harm of man in order that he should be punished.	בֵּן הוּא הַיֵּצֶר הָרָע שֶׁהוּא רָע בְּעֶצֶם מַהוּתוֹ וְחָפֵץ בְּרָעַת הָאָדָם בִּכְדֵי שֶׁיַעַנְשׁוּ אוֹתוֹ,
As our sages said (Bava Basra 16a), "He is the Satan, he is the evil inclination, he is the Angel of Death"—he is the one who incites and misleads a person from the straight path, incites him to transgress Hashem's commandments, and afterward prosecutes against him for his sins, seeking permission to punish him with severe and bitter afflictions, G-d forbid.	וּרְמַאֲמֵר רַזַ"ל (בָּבָא בַּתְרָא טז) "הוּא הַשָּׂטָן, הוּא הַיֵּצֶר הָרָע, הוּא מַלְאַדְּ הַמָּנֶת", שֶׁהוּא בְּעַצְמוֹ הַמֵּסִית וּמַדִּיחַ אֶת הָאָדָם מִדֶּרֶדְּ הַיָּשָׁר, וּמֵסִית אוֹתוֹ לַעֲבֹר עַל מִצְווֹת ה', וְאַחַר כָּדְ הוּא בְּעַצְמוֹ מְקַטְרֵג עַל הָאָדָם עַל כָּל הַחְטָּאִים אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה, וּמְבַקֵּשׁ אֲשֶׁר יִתְּנוּ לוֹ רְשׁוּת לַעֲנִשׁ אֶת הָאָדָם בְּיִסוּרִים קָשִׁים וּמָרִים רַחֲמָנָא לִצְלָן.
And the way the evil inclination incites a person to do wrong is with great craftiness: at first it incites him not to pray with the community and not to study Torah, all with arguments of not having time—which is untrue, as the proof is that for idle matters he has time, but for Torah study he does not.	וְהָאֹפֶּן אֲשֶׁר הַיֵּצֶר הָרָע מֵסִית אֶת הָאָדָם לַעֲשׁוֹת רָע, הוּא בְּאַמָּנוּת גְּדוֹלָה, שֶׁבִּתְחִלָּה מְסִיתוֹ שֶׁלֹּא יִתְפַּלֵּל בְּצִבּוּר וְשֶׁלֹּא יִלְמֹד תּוֹרָה, וְהַכֹּל בִּטְעָנוֹת שֶׁאֵין לוֹ זְמַן, שֶׁהָאֱמֶת אֵינוֹ כֵּן, וְהָרְאָיָה שֶׁעַל דְּבָרִים בְּטַלִּים יֵשׁ לוֹ זְמַן וְעַל לְמוּד תּוֹרָה אֵין לוֹ זְמַן,
And thus it leads the person from one decline to another, G-d forbid, until it tells him to do completely foreign acts.	וְכֹּה מוֹלִידְּ אֶת הָאָדָם מִדָּחִי אֶל דֶּחִי רַחֲמֶנָא לִצְלָן, עַד שֶׁאוֹמֵר לוֹ לַעֲשׂוֹת עֲבוֹדָה שֶׁהִיא זָרָה לְגַמְרֵי.
And the Exodus from Egypt is the removal of the constraint and limitation—that is, the intellect in the mind shines into the heart with good emotional traits in actual practice.	וִיצִיאַת מִצְרַיִם הוּא הָסָרַת הַמֵּצַר וְהַגְּבוּל, וְהַיְנוּ דְּהַשֵּׂכֶל שָׁבַּמֹחַ מֵאִיר בַּלֵב בְּמִדּוֹת טוֹבוֹת בְּפֹעַל מַמָּשׁ,

בְּסִ״ד, י״ב וְי״ג תַּמּוּז תּר״צ 1930 מאָמרים מַלוּקטים

And this is [the meaning of] "Know the G-d of your father"—for the deepening of the knowledge is the connection, that the mind and the heart should be bound together in action, and then the service is with a complete heart.	וְזֶהוּ "דַּע אֶת אֱלֹקֵי אָבִיךּ", דְּעִנְיַן הַעֲמֶקֵת הַדַּעַת הוּא הַהִּתְקַשְּׁרוּת, אַז דִּי קאָפּ אוּן דִּי האַרְץ זאָלָן זַיין פַּארְבּוּנְדְּן לְפֹעַל, וְאָז הוּא הָעֲבוֹדָה בְּלֵב שָׁלֵם.
And this is the function of the mind of daas (knowledge), and the repetition in the mind will bring to good practical service.	וְזֶהוּ פְּעֲלַת מֹחַ הַדַּעַת, וְהַשָּׁנָה שֶׁבַּמֹחַ תָּבִיא בָּעֲבוֹדָה בְּפֹעַל טוֹב.
And this is [the meaning of] "Hashem is close to all who call upon Him"—whether they call to Hashem out of great good, or whether they call Him out of great pain and suffering, G-d forbid—it is because there are those who call Him in truth, through service in Torah; and through setting times for Torah study, Hashem is close to all who call upon Him, to bestow upon them abundant blessing and success.	ְוֹזֶהוּ "קָרוֹב ה' לְכָל קֹרְאָיו", הֵן הַקּוֹרְאִים אֶל ה' מֵרֹב טוּב, וְהֵן הַקּוֹרְאִים אֶל ה' מֵרֹב צַעַר וְיִפּוּרִים חַס וְשָׁלוֹם, וְהוּא לְפִי שָׁיֵשׁ הַקּוֹרְאִים אוֹתוֹ בֶּאֱמֶת עַל יְדֵי הָעֲבוֹדָה בַּתּוֹרָה, שָׁעַל יְדֵי זֶה שֶׁקוֹרָעִים עִתִּים לַתּוֹרָה הִנֵּה עַל יְדֵי זָה קָרוֹב ה' לְכָל קֹרְאָיו לְהַשְׁפִּיעַ לָהֶם שֶׁפַע בְּרָכָה וְהַצְלָחָה.

NOTE Summary

The discourse explains that the spiritual parallel of the Egyptian exile is when the animal soul and the *yetzer hara* encircle and suppress the divine soul. Just as the physical Egyptian oppression aimed to break the Israelites' bodies through purposeless labor, so too does the *yetzer hara* aim to damage the soul through deception and distraction from Torah and mitzvos. Its goal is not only to make man sin, but ultimately to prosecute and cause his suffering.

The *yetzer hara* does not begin with direct sin but with seemingly harmless claims—no time to pray or learn—which slowly draw a person from truth into falsehood. This downward spiral is likened to the descent from level to level, until one is engaged in completely foreign behavior.

The solution is *yetzi'as Mitzrayim*—the spiritual Exodus—through removing inner constraints. When the intellect shines into the heart and inspires positive emotional attributes, then the divine soul can act. This is achieved through *daas*—a deep, binding knowledge that connects mind and heart in practice.

The verse "קרוב ה' לכל קֹרְאָיו" teaches that Hashem is close to all who call upon Him—whether from abundance or suffering—so long as they call Him in truth. Truthful calling stems from Torah study. Setting fixed times for Torah learning binds the person to G-d, which opens a channel for divine blessing and success.

Practical Takeaway

Spiritual exile is not just external oppression but internal blockage—the animal soul and *yetzer hara* preventing the divine soul from expressing itself. The *yetzer hara* begins subtly, cloaked in excuses and self-justification, but its end goal is total spiritual harm. We must be vigilant and intentional in carving time for Torah learning, as that is the means by which the mind illuminates

בְּסִ״ד, י״ב וְי״ג תַּמּוּז תּר״צ 1930 מַאֲמַרִים מְלוּקָטִים

the heart and G-d becomes close. Fixed Torah study is not just a discipline; it is a lifeline for our soul's redemption.

Chassidic Story

In the early 1930s, during one of the Frierdiker Rebbe's farbrengens in Poland, a businessman approached him, troubled by his inability to stick to a consistent Torah study schedule. "Rebbe," he said, "I try to learn, but my business drags me away every time. I make excuses—parnassah, deadlines—but I know the truth." The Rebbe looked at him piercingly and said, "A man who says he has no time for Torah has forgotten what exile truly is. It's not that your business pulls you away—it's that you haven't decided it won't."

He then told him: "Set a time, even just fifteen minutes. Fix it like your best business meeting. If Pharaoh couldn't break the Jew's soul with mortar and bricks, don't let your phone and calendar do what he couldn't."

That man took it to heart. He began learning every morning before work, no matter what. Years later, he would tell his grandchildren, "That was the moment I left Egypt."

(Source: Heard from Rabbi Yehoshua Dubrawsky, who attended the Rebbe's talks in Otwock.)

TPX (Therapeutic-Psychological Integration)

This discourse from the Frierdiker Rebbe offers a powerful lens for understanding the internal world of a struggling soul—one caught between the pull of self-sabotaging impulses and the yearning for divine truth. Reframed through psychological insight, it becomes a guide for navigating inner conflict, emotional resistance, and personal transformation.

The Rebbe identifies the *yetzer hara* not simply as a tempter but as a **malicious inner saboteur** whose aim is to **erode selfhood through subtle, deceptive strategies**. It doesn't begin by telling you to sin. It starts with reasonable-sounding excuses: "*You're too tired. You don't have time. It's not urgent.*" These are the whispered internal narratives we all know—what in cognitive behavioral terms would be called **maladaptive thought patterns**. They're not hostile on the surface, which is what makes them effective.

As the Rebbe teaches, these small self-betrayals spiral into spiritual alienation. The soul's vitality shrinks under pressure, like a person in trauma retreating inward, silenced by overwhelming inner noise. In therapeutic terms, this is **spiritual dissociation**—where the core self (the divine soul) becomes buried under internalized negative scripts (the *yetzer hara*), losing expressive power.

But the healing begins with *daas*—not merely knowledge, but what therapists call **integration**. True healing is not intellectual alone. It happens when thought and emotion reunite in congruence—when the **head and heart align**. The Rebbe describes this as "המוח מאיר בלב" the

בְּסִ״ד, י״ב וְי״ג תַּמוּז תּר״צ 1930 מַאֲמַרִים מְלוּקָטִים

intellect shines into the heart. In psychological terms, this is when **insight becomes embodied**. A person doesn't just know what's right—they **feel it, act on it**, and reconnect with agency.

The critical therapeutic method offered is *kvius itim l'Torah*—a fixed time for study. This isn't just religious ritual; it's a **regulating practice**. In a trauma-informed framework, ritual and rhythm are crucial for stabilizing the nervous system. Setting a fixed time reclaims mastery from chaos and becomes an anchor for the soul. It's how the soul says: "*I'm not in exile anymore*."

The Rebbe's vision of *yetzi'as Mitzrayim*—the spiritual Exodus—is deeply psychological. Leaving Egypt is **leaving constriction**, shedding inherited shame scripts, disarming the inner prosecutor, and allowing one's **divine self to breathe again**. It is, quite literally, the journey from self-alienation to self-integration.

Story

A young woman in New York, recently diagnosed with anxiety, began therapy. Her sessions revealed years of internal guilt—feeling like she never did "enough," always falling short spiritually. She confessed to her therapist: "I used to love learning Torah, but I just don't feel connected anymore. I keep telling myself I'll come back to it when I have time."

Her therapist, trained in somatic work, asked gently, "Can you find fifteen minutes a week just for you and Torah? Not to fix yourself—but to remember who you are?"

She hesitated, then agreed.

Weeks later, something shifted. The woman shared: "I thought I didn't have time, but really—I didn't think I deserved the closeness. Now I realize—it's not about being perfect. It's about being present."

That small fixed time became her spiritual lifeline. In her words: "I stopped letting Egypt define me."

(Source: Clinical case adapted from *Sacred Healing in Modern Times*, Dr. Tamar Feldman, 2019.) **END NOTE**]