#### Introduction

This discourse, attributed to the **Alter Rebbe** — Rabbi Schneur Zalman of Liadi (1745–1812), founder of Chabad Chassidus and author of the *Tanya* and *Shulchan Aruch HaRav* — explores the inner meaning of the two sets of spies: those sent by Moshe and those sent by Yehoshua. Living in Liozna and later Liadi, under the mentorship of the Maggid of Mezritch, the Alter Rebbe developed a profound system of contemplative Divine service, emphasizing intellectual meditation and emotional refinement. In this teaching, he uses the imagery of 'spies' to examine the soul's garments—thought, speech, and action—and how one must relate to their spiritual integrity.

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And Yehoshua sent from Shittim two men, spies, secretly, saying: Go and see the land and Yericho, etc.	וַיִּשְׁלֵּח יְהוֹשֻׁעַ מִן־הַשִּׁשִּׁים שְׁנֵיִם אֲנָשִׁים מְרַגְּלֵים הָרָשׁ לֵאמֶר לְכִּוּ רְאוּ אֶת־הָאָרִץ וְאֶת יְרִיחִוֹ:
And behold, surely Yehoshua did not do this of his own mind, only that Hashem commanded him, therefore.	וְהָנֵּה בְּוַדָּאי לְא־עָשָה יְהוֹשֵּׁעַ מִדַּעְתָּוֹ רַק שֶׁהַשֵּׁם צִּוָּהָוּ עַל־בָּן:
But with the spies that Moshe sent, it is written: "Send for yourself" (Numbers 13:2), and our Sages said: "According to your understanding — I am not commanding you."	וּבְמָרַגְּלִיםׂ שֶׁשֶׁלָח מֹשֶׁה כְּתָיב שְׁלַח לְדֶּ וְאָמְרָוּ רַזַ״לֹּ לְדַעְתָּךָּ אֲנִי אֵינִי מְצַנֶּדָ:
To understand this matter — that in all of Eretz Yisrael Hashem did not command the sending of spies, except in Yericho, which was the lock of Eretz Yisrael, as it is written: "And Yericho was shut up" (Joshua 6:1).	לְהָבִין עִנְיָן זָהֹ שֶׁבְּכָל־אֶבֶץ יִשְׂרָאֵל ׁלֹא צִּנָּה הַשֵּׁם לִשְׁלְחַ מְרַגְּלִים רַק בִּירִיחוֹ שֶׁהָיְתָה מִנְעוּלָה שֶׁל־אֶבֶץ־יִשְׂרָאֵל כְּמַשֶּׁבָּתוּב וַיִירִיחֶוֹ סְגַרָה וגו׳:
And in it dwelled people from all the nations, as it is written: "The Hittite, the Amorite, etc." — all the masters of Yericho, etc., they were all included there, for it was the inclusive essence of Eretz Yisrael.	וּבָה הָיוּ דָּרָין מִכָּל־הָאֻמוֹת כְּמַה־שֶׁכָּתוּבֹ הַחִתְּי הָאֱמֹרִי וגו׳ כָּל־בַּעֲלֵי יְרִיחָוֹ כו׳ שֶׁנִּתְכַּלְלִוּ בֵּה שֶׁהָיְתָהֹ כְּלֶלוּת אָרֵץ יִשְׂרָאֵל:
And to understand this matter — how this concept exists in every Jew, that in his personal aspect of "Yericho," he requires spies, but in his other aspects of Eretz Yisrael he does not need spies —	וּלְהָבִין עִנְיָן זֶהֹ אֵיךּ עִנְיָן זֶה הָוּא נִמְצָא בְּכָל־יִשְּׂרָאֵל שֶׁבִּבְחִינַת יְרִיחוֹ שֶׁלֶּוֹ הָוּא צָרָיךְ מְרַגְּלֵים וּבִבְחִינַת שְׁאָר־אָרֶץ־יִשְׂרָאֵל שֶׁלָּוֹ אֵין־צָרָיךְ מְרַגְּלִים:
Behold, it is written: "And Avraham was old, advanced in days" (Genesis 24:1), and the Zohar explains: that he became clothed in the days — for the days are garments given to the soul.	הָנֵּה כְּתוּב ֹ וְאַבְרָהָם זָלֵן בָּא בַּיָּמֵים וגו׳ וּפַרִשׁ בַּזּהַר שֶׁנִּתְלַבֵּשׁׁ בַּיָּמִים שֶׁהַיָּמִים הָם בְּחִינַת לְבוּשֵׁין הַנִּתָּנִים לַנְּשָׁמָה:
And each one is given the span of his life according to what he needs for garments, as it is written: "Days were formed" (Psalms 139:16).	וְכָל־אֶחָד נְתָּן לוֹ שְׁנֵי חַיָּיו כְּפִי מַה־שֶׁצָּוְידְ לִלְבוּשִׁין כְּמַה־שֶּׁכָּתוּב ֹיָמִים יֻצָּׁרוּ:

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וְהַיְנוּ עַל־יָדֵי תּוֹלָה וּמִצְּוָוֹת שֶׁהָאָדָם עוֹסֵק בְּיָמֵיו וְכָל־יֹּוֹם שֶׁבִּימֵל תּוֹרֶה וּמִצְוָוֹת חָסֵר מִן־הַנְּשָׁמֶה הַלְּבוּשׁ כְּפִי עֵׁרֶךְ הַבִּּטוּלְוֹ:
וּלְהָבֵין עִנְיָן הַלְבוּשִׁין וְלָמָּה צָרֵיכָה הַנְּשָׁמָּה לִלְבוּשִׁין שֶׁלָּא תִהְיֶּה עֵירֹטָה וְגַם לָמָה נִכְתַּב עִנְיָן זֶה בַּתּוָרָה לְהוֹדִיעֵנוּ זְאת:
ְוָהָעִנְיָן הוּא דְהִנֵּה אֲנַחְנוּ אוֹמְרִים בְּכָל־יוֹם נַקְדִישָׁךּ. וּלְכָאוֹרָה הוּא נִפְלָא לוֹמַר כֵּן עַל הַשֵּׁם יִתְבָּרֵךּ שֶׁהוּא קָדוֹש וּמְקַדָּשׁ בְּעַצְמוֹ, וְאֵיךִּ אָנוּ אוֹמְרִים שֶׁאֲנַחְנוּ מָקַדְּשִׁים אוֹתוֹ.
וְגַם לָמָה אוֹמְרִים ג' פָּעָמִים קדוֹשׁ בְּמִסְפָּר זֶה דַּוְקָא.
אֲבָל הָנֵּה הַתּוֹרָה נִתְּנָה לָנוּ בִּשְׁלֹשָׁה דְּבָרִים שֶׁהֵם מַחֲשֶׁבָה דִּבּוּר וּמֵעֲשֶׂה, שֶׁכַּמָּה מִצְוֹת תְּלוּיִים בְּדִבּוּר לְבַד, וְכַמָּה מִצְוֹת תְּלוּיִים בְּמַחֲשֶׁבָה לְבַדָּה, וְכַמָּה מִצְוֹת תְּלוּיִים בְּמַעֲשֶׂה לְבַד
וּלְכָאוֹרָה יִטְעָה הָאָדָם לוֹמֵר שֶׁאֵין בְּחִינַת גִּילּוּי אֱלֹקוּת הַמִּתְגַלֶּה בִּבְחִינַת מַצְשֶׂה שָׁנֶה לְבְחִינַת גִּילּוּי אֱלֹקוּת הַמִּתְגַלֶּה בִּבְחִינַת דִּבּוּר וּמַחֲשָׁבָה, שֶׁבְּחִינַת מַצְשֶׂה הוּא מִתְעַבֶּה וּמִתְגַּשֵּׁם יוֹתֵר, גַּם בִּבְחִינַת דּוֹמֵם כְּמוֹ כֶּסֶף וּנְחוֹשֶׁת מִמַּצְשֵׂה הַצִּדָקָה.
אֲבָל בֶּאֱמֶת אֵינוֹ כֵּן, כִּי הַכּּל שָׁוֶה אֶצְלוֹ יִתְבָּרֵה, כִּי כֵּלָא קמֵיה כְּלָא חֲשִׁיב (דָּנִיֵּאל ד׳:ל״ב), וְאֵין הֶפְרֵשׁ אֶצְלוֹ בֵּין עֶלְיוֹנִים לְתַחְתּוֹנִים מִכִּיוָן שֶׁהַכּּל כָּאַיִן נֶגְדּוֹ, כִּי הוּא יִתְבָּרֵהְ אֵין־סוֹף וְאֵין עֲרוֹךְ אֵלָיו יִתְבָּרַהְ.
וְזֶהוּ מַה שֶׁאוֹמְרִים ٛוְהַקֶּדוֹשׁ בַּשָּׁמַיִם וּבָאָּרֶץ [וּרְאֵּה מַה שֶּׁבָּתוּב מִזֶּה בְּפָּרָשַׁת רְאֵה עַל פָּסוּק "אַחֲרֵּי ה׳ [אֱלְהֵיכָּם תֵּלֵכוּ וְאֹתוֹ תִירָאוּ" דְּבָרִים י״ג:ה׳].
ּכְּלוֹמֵר שֶׁבְּחִינַת שָׁמַיִם וּבְחִינַת אֶבֶץ שֶׁנָה אֶצְלוֹ יִתְבָּרֵהְ, כִּי הָוּא קָדָוֹשׁ וּמֵבְדֵּל מֵהֶם אַף שֶׁהָוּא מְחַיֶּה אֶת־כּוּלֶם וּמְהַנָּה אֶת־כּוּלֶם:

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The vitality [He gives them] is in the manner of "running and returning" (רָצוֹא וְשׁוֹב), etc.	הַחַיֵּיֶת הִיא בִּבְחִינַת רָצֻוֹא וָשֶׁוֹב כו׳:
And behold, the drawing down of vitality from His holiness is done through Yisrael, as it is written: "And who is like Your people Israel — one nation on earth?" (II Samuel 7:23).	וְהַבֵּה הַמְשָׁבַת הַחַיּוּת מִקְדוּשָׁתְוֹ יִתְבָּרֵךְ נַעֲשֵׁׁית עַל־יְדָי יִשְׂרָאֵל כְּמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב "וּמִּׁי כְּעַמְךְּ יִשְׂרָאֵל גָּוֹי אֶחָּד בָּאָרֶץ" שְׁמוּאֵל־ב׳ ז׳:כ״ג:
Meaning — that even on earth below, they draw down the level of "One."	פֵירוּשׁ שֶׁצְפִילָוּ בָּאָרֶץ מַמָּשׁ מַמְשִׁיכִים בְּחִינַת אָחָד:
And therefore we say "Holy" three times — to draw down His holiness into these three aspects: thought, speech, and action, which correspond to the three levels of the soul — Nefesh, Ruach, Neshamah (נֶפֶשׁ רוּהַ נְשָׁמָה).	ְּוְלָבֵׁן אוֹמְרִיםֹ ג' פָּעָמִים קָדׁוֹשׁ לְהַמְשִׁיךּ קְדוּשָׁתוֹ בִּגְ' בְּחִינוֹתׄ אֵלוּ מַחֲשָׁבָּה דִּבָּוּר וּמַצְשֻׂה שֶׁהַן ג' בְּחִינוֹת הַנְּשֶׁבֶּה נָבָשׁ רוּחַ נְשָׁבָה:
[See what is written on this above on the verse "And now, may the power of the Lord be great" (Numbers 14:17)].	ּוֹרְאֵה מַה שֶּׁכֶּתוּב מִזֶּה לְעֵיל עַל פָּסוּק "וְעַתָּה יִגְדַּל נָא"] [בַּמִּדְבָּר י״ד:י״ז].
For in all of them is drawn down the level of "Holy" — that is, through engagement with Torah and mitzvos in the three aspects [of the soul], which are garments for the soul.	שֶׁבְּכֵלֶם נִמְשָׁךְ בְּחִינַת קָדְוֹשׁ דְהַיְנוּ עַל־יֵדֵי עֵסֶק הַתּוֹרָה וְהַמִּצְוֹוֹת בִּגְ' בְּחִינוֹת אֵלּוּ שֶׁהֵן בְּחִינַת לְבוּשִּׁין לַנְּשָׁמָה:
So that the soul may receive pleasure from the radiance of the Shechinah — that is, to become included in "One."	שֶׁתּוּכַל <sup>י</sup> הַנְּשָׁמֶּה לֵהָנָוֹת מִזְיֵו הַשְּׁכִינָה דְהַיְנוּ לְהִכָּלֵל בָּאֶחָד:
Whereas when it is naked, without garments, it cannot become included in "One," since it is a created being — and every created being comes into being and perishes, and is exceedingly distant from the level of "One."	מַה־שֶּׁאֵין־פֵּן כְּשֶׁהָיא עֵירֹם בְּלֵי לְבוּשׁ אֵינָה יְכוֹלָה לְהִכָּלֵל בְּאָחָד מֵאַחַר שָׁהִיא בְּחִינַת נִבֶּרֶא וְכָל־נִבְּרָּא הָוָה וְנֵאֱפָד וְרָחָוֹק מְאָד מִבְּחִינַת אֶחָד:
Therefore, it needs garments — meaning thoughts of Torah and mitzvos, which are garments that clothe the soul and surround it from its head to its feet.	לָצֵן צָּלִיךְ לְבוּשִׁין הַיִּנוּ מַחֲשָׁבְוֹת תּוֹלֶה וּמִצְּוָוֹת שֶׁהַם בְּחִינַת לְבוּשֵׁין שֶׁמַּלְבִּישִׁין הַנְּשָׁמָה וּמַקּיפִין אוֹתָה מֵראשָה וְעַד־רַגְלֶה:
And they are drawn from the level of "One," so that thereby the souls will be able to be included in "One."	ְרָהַם נִמְשָׁכִים מִבְּחִינַת אֶחֶד שֶׁעַל־יְדֵי־זֶּה יוּכְלוּ הַנְּשָׁמוֹת לְהַכָּלֵל בְּאָחָד:
And this is [the meaning of the verse] "And the soul of my master shall be bound in the bundle of life with Hashem" (I Samuel 25:29) — that just as one binds his silver in a pouch, so shall the soul be bound in the bundle of life.	וְזֶּהוּ "וְהָיְתָּה נָפֶשׁ אֲדֹנִי צְרוּרָהֹ בִּצְרוֹר´ הַחַיִּים אַת הי" (שְׁמוּאֵל־א׳ כ״ה:כ״ט) דְהַיְנוּ כְּמוֹ שֶׁאָדָם צוֹרֶר כַּסְפֵּוֹ בְּחָרִט כָּדֶ תִּהָיָהָ נַפְשׁוֹ צְרוָּרָה בִּצְרוֹךְ הַחַיִּיִם:
Meaning — that it should surround and clothe it in the garment and bundle of life, to become included in "One" with Hashem.	דְהַנְנוּ שֶׁיַּקִיפֶנּוּ וְיַלְבִּישֶׁנּוּ לְבוּשׁ וְצְרוֹר הַחַיִּים לְהִכָּלֵל בְּאֶחֲד אֶת־ה׳:

[See also regarding "bound in the bundle..." in Chagigah 12b: "The seventh heaven is called Aravos..."; and what is written in the explanation of the verse "This was the dedication of the altar"; and in Shabbos 152b, Midrash Rabba on Ha'azinu, and Parshas Naso, end of section 11 on the verse "May He guard you"; and in Koheles Rabba on the verse "Who knows the spirit of man"; and in Zohar Vol. I Vayeira 106b, Terumah 142b, 178b, Vayikra 25a, Metzora 55a, Acharei 71b; Pardes, entry "Tzeror"; and Maareches HaAlef-Beis, letter Tzaddik, section 20.]

וּרְאֵה מֵענְיֵן "צְרוּרָה בִּצְרוֹר כוי" בַּגְּמֶרָא חֲגִיגָה דַף]
י"ב ע"ב: "עַרָבוֹת שֶׁבּוֹ כוי"; וּמֵה שֶׁכָּתוּב בְּבֵיאוּר עַל
פָּסוּק "זֹאת חֲנֻכַּת הַמִּזְבַּחַ"; שַׁבָּת קנ"ב ע"ב; רַבָּה עַל
הָאַזִינוּ; נָשׁוֹ סוֹף סִימָן י"א "וְיִשְׁמְרֶדָּ"; קֹהֶלֶת רַבָּה עַל
פָּסוּק "מִי יוֹדֵעַ רוּחַ בְּנֵי הָאָדָם"; זֹהַר ח"א וַיִּרָא ק"ו ב׳;
תְּרוּמָה קמ"ב ע"ב, קע"ח ע"ב; וַיִּקְרָא כ"ה א'; מְּצֹרָע
נ"ה א'; אַחָרֵי ע"א ב׳; בַּפַּרְדַּ"ס עֵרֶךְּ "צְרוֹר";
ירמארבת דּצוֹת יוֹצִא צַבָּיה תַשְּם בִין:

In Zohar Vol. I Vayeira 106b, Terumah 142b, 178b, Vayikra 25a, Metzora 55a, Acharei 71b; Pardes, entry "Tzeror"; and Maareches HaAlef-Beis, letter Tzaddik, section 20.]	נ״ה א׳; אַחֲבִי ע״א ב׳; בַּפַּרְדֵּ״ס עֵרֶךְ "צְרוֹר"; וּבְמַאֲרֶכֶת הָאוֹת יוֹצֵא צַדִּיק סֵעֵף כ׳]:
(ב)	
And this illumination and drawing forth is the aspect of "scent," as it is written: "And he shall smell in the fear of Hashem" (Isaiah 11:3).	ְוָהָאֶרָה וְהַמְשָׁכָה זוֹ הִיאבְּחִינַת רֵיחַ, כְּמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב וֹ"וַהַרִיחוֹ בְּיִרְאַת ה'" (יְשַׁעְיָהוּ י״א:ג׳).
And it is like a metaphor: just as scent is not the essence of the thing, but an illumination and drawing from it, so too this illumination extends from the Infinite Light, may He be blessed.	ְהוּא לְמָשֶׁל כְּמוֹ שֶׁהָרֵיחַ אֵינוֹ עַצְמוּת הַדָּבָר אֶלָּא הָאָרָה וְהַמְשָׁכָה מִמֶּנוּ – כָּךְ הָאָרָה זוֹ מִתְפַּשֶּׁטֶת מֵאוֹר־אֵין־סוֹף בָּרוּךְ־הוּא.
And this measure is called "Arich Anpin" (Long Face), as it is written: "I will prolong My anger and for My praise I will restrain for you" (Isaiah 48:9).	וְנִקְרֵאת מִדָּה זוֹ אֲרִידְּ אַנְפִּין, כְּמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב "אַאֲרִידְּ אַפִּי (וּתְהִלָּתִי אֶחֱטָם לָדְּ" (יְשַׁעְיָהוּ מ״ח:ט׳).
As is written in the Idra Rabba (Zohar III, 130b): "To the Master of the Nose I pray, to the Master of the Nose I supplicate," for this illumination is called the aspect of "nose," which is the aspect of "scent."	ּכְּמוֹ שֶׁכֶּתוּב בְּאִדְרָא רַבָּא (זֹהַר ח״ג קל׳ ע״ב): "לְבַעַל הַחוֹטֶם אֲנִי מִתְפַּלֵּל, וּלְבַעַל הַחוֹטֶם אֲנִי מִתְחַנֵּן" – שָׁהֶאָרָה זוֹ נִקְרֵאת בְּחִינַת חוֹטֶם, וְהוּא בְּחִינַת רֵיחַ:
And the Holy One, blessed be He, is called "Master of the Nose," for He is the essence and source of the illumination that spreads from Him.	וְהַקָּדוֹשׁ־בָּרוּדְ־הוּא נִקְרָא בַּעַל הַחוֹטֶם, שֶׁהוּא הָעֶצֶם וּמְקוֹר הָאָרָה הַמִּתְפַּשֶּׁטֶת מִמֶּנוּ.
And this illumination is "longer than the measure of the land" (Job 11:9), and spreads from an exceedingly high place — that is, from the Infinite, blessed be He, Who is without limit, down to the lowest depths — the place of limitation.	ְרָאָרָה זוֹ אֲרוּכָה מֵאֶרֶץ מִדָּה, וּמִתְפַּשֶּׁטֶת מִמֶּקוֹם גָּבוֹהַ מְאֹד, דְּהַיְנוּ מֵאֵין־סוֹף בָּרוּדְ־הוּא שֶׁהוּא בְּלִי גְבוּל, בִּבְחִינַת מַטָּה מֵטָה מְאֹד, מְקוֹם הַגְּבוּל.

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[And perhaps this is why it says in Midrash Rabbah (Bamidbar Rabbah, end of ch. 5) on the verse "I will restrain for you" — that "restrain (אָהֶשְׁטָּם")" is like "seal," as in "Set me as a seal," which refers to drawing down light below. See also what is written about "the seal of the Holy One is Truth" in the explanation on the verse "These are the journeys"].	וְאֶפְשָׁר לוֹמַר שֶׁלָּכֵן פַּרְשׁוּ בְּרַבָּה בַּמִּדְבָּר סוֹף כֶּּרֶק ה׳] עַל פָּסוּק "אָחֱטָם לָךְ" – לְשׁוֹן חוֹתָם, כְּמוֹ "שִׁימֵנִי כַחוֹתָם", שֶׁזָּהוּ עִנְיַן הַמְשָׁכַת הָאוֹר לְמַטָּה; וּרְאֵה מַה שֶׁכָּתוּב מֵעִנְיַן "חוֹתָמוֹ שֶׁל הַקָּדוֹשׁ־בָּרוּדְ־הוּא – אֱמֶת", ["בְּבֵיאוּר עַל פָּסוּק "אֵלֶּה מַסְעֵי
Therefore, Arich Anpin (A"A) is called "Long of Face," because it extends — in the aspect of the aforementioned scent — to clothe the soul in the garments of thought, speech, and action of the mitzvos and Torah.	וְלָכֵן נִקְרָא א״א – אֲרִיכָא דְאַנְפִּין, שֶׁמִּתְאָרֵךְ בְּבְחִינַת רֵיחַ הַנִּזְכָּר לְעֵיל לְהַלְבִּישׁ הַנְּשָׁמָה בִּבְחִינוֹת מַחֲשָׁבָה דָּבּוּר וּמַעֲשֶׂה שֶׁל הַמִּצְוֹת וְהַתּוֹרָה.
[See what is written on this in the discourse on "These are the journeys" regarding "Jordan [opposite] Jericho"; and Zohar Balak 256a on "by the scent of your garments" and the discourse on "And now let the power of the Lord be great"].	וּרְאֵה מַה שֶּׁכָּתוּב מָזֶּה עַל פָּסוּק "אֵלֶה מַסְעֵי" בְּעִנְיַן] "יַרְדֵּן יְרֵחוֹ"; וּבַזֹּהַר בָּלֶק דַף קפ״ו ע״א עַל "בְּרֵיחָא דְּלְבוּשַיִירְוּ"; וּמַה שֶּׁכָּתוּב בְּסִדְרָ״ה "וְעַתָּה יִגְדַּל ["נָא
And behold, the aspect of garments is drawn down through the aspect of "days." For there are 365 days, which are 365 drawings — like the analogy of 365 sinews, through which blood and vitality extend from the heart to all the limbs.	ְהָנֵּה בְּחִינַת הַלְּבוּשִׁין נִמְשָׁכִים עַל־יְדֵי בְּחִינַת יָמִים, שָׁיֵשׁ שֶׁס״ה יָמִים – שָׁהֵן שֶׁס״ה הַמְשָׁכוֹת, כְּמוֹ הַמְּשָׁל שָׁיֵשׁ שֶׁס״ה גִּיִדִין, שֶׁהַדָּם וְהַחֵיּוּת הַיּוֹצֵא מִן הַלֵּב לְכָל הָאֵבָרִים נִמְשָׁךְ דָּרֶךְ הַגִּידִין.
[See discourse "To My horse among Pharaoh's chariots" in Shir HaShirim] — for they are aspects of gevuros (severities), for a person needs to exert himself to overcome the Sitra Achra in these three aspects — so that his thought, speech, and action be devoted solely to Divine service.	וּרְאֵה מַה שֶׁכָּתוּב בְּדִ״ה "לְסוּסָתִי בְּרְכְבֵי פַּרְעֹה" עַל] שִׁיר הַשִּׁיִרִים] – שֶׁהֵם בְּחִינַת גְּבוּרוֹת, שֶׁצְּרִיךְ הָאָדָם הָתְגַבְּרוּת לְהִתְגַבֵּר לְאַכְפָּיָא לְסִטְרָא אָחֲרָא בִּג׳ בְּחִינוֹת אֵלוּ – שֶׁיִּהְיוּ כָּל בְּחִינוֹת אֵלוּ, דְּהַיְנוּ מַחֲשֵׁכְתּוֹ וְדִבּוּרוֹ וּמַעְשָׂיו, לַעֲבוֹדַת ה׳ לְבַד.
[See Zohar III Pinchas 249b on the verse "Draw out and take" — "What is 'draw out'? Like one who draws from another domain to this one," i.e. "Draw down the supernal days into the lower days" — and the supernal days are the 365 corresponding to the word 'draw out" (מְשְׁכוּ) See also Pardes, entry "Yemei Olam"; Zohar I Vayechi 247a on "seven days and seven days"; and Miketz 204b; and Bereishis 51b; and Sefer HaMa'amarim §141].	וּרְאֵה בַּזֹהַר ח״ג פִּינְחָס דַף רמ״ט ע״ב עַל פָּסוּק "מָשְׁכוּ] וּקְחוּ" – מֵאי "מָשָׁכוּ"? כְּמַאן דְּמָשֵׁךְ מֵאֲתַר אַחָרָא לְאַתְּרָא דָּא, "מָשָׁכוּ יוֹמִין עִילָּאֵין לְגַבֵּי יוֹמִין תַּתָּאֵין", יוֹמִין עִילָּאֵין אִינוּן שָׁס״ה כְּחָשְׁבּוֹן "מָשְׁכוּ"; וּרְאֵה בְּפַרְדֵּ״ס עֵרֶךְ "יְמֵי עוֹלָם"; וּבְזֹהֵר ח״א וַיְחִי דף רמ״ז ע״א עַל "שָׁבְעַת יָמִים וְשִׁבְעַת יָמִים"; וּבְפַרְשַׁת מִקֵץ דַף ר״ד ע״ב; וּבְפַרְשַׁת בְּרָאשִׁית דַף נ״א ע״ב; וּבְסֵפֶּר ר״ד מִימָן קמ״א

Tarshas bilach - ¿e m; mːe.ː	
The general rule is: a person should direct his thought to contemplate that through his holy thought, he draws upon himself from above a garment for the soul.	ְּכָלֶלָא דְּמִלְתָא – שֶׁיָשִׁים הָאָדָם מַחֲשַׁבְתּוֹ לְהַתְבּוֹנֵן, אֲשֶׁר בְּמַחֲשַׁבְתּוֹ הַקְּדוֹשָׁה מַמְשִׁיךְ עָלָיו מִלְמַעְלָה בְּחִינַת לְבוּשׁ לַנְּשָׁמָה.
And not that his intent should be in order to receive reward, but that through this, he be included in the Oneness, as mentioned above.	וְלֹא שֶׁתְּהֵא כַוָּנָתוֹ עַל מְנַת לְקַבֵּל פְּרָס, רַק שֶׁעַל יְדֵי זֶה יוּכַל לְהִכָּלֵל בְּאֶחָד, כְּנִזְכָּר לְעֵיל.
And through this, his desire will constantly be not to separate from His unity, may He be blessed.	ּוּבָזֶה יִהְיֶה תָמִיד רְצוֹנוֹ שֶׁלֹּא לְהִפָּרֵד מֵאַחְדוּתוֹ יִתְבָּרֵךְ.
And he should also contemplate the opposite — namely, evil thoughts, which are impure garments for the soul.	ְוִיתְבּוֹנֵן גַּם־כֵּן בָּזֶה לְעוּמַת זֶה, דְהַיְנוּ מַחֲשָׁבוֹת רַעוֹת, שֶׁהֵן לְבוּשִׁים טְמֵאִים לַנְּשָׁמָה.
And not like the mistaken fools, who take it lightly to think foreign thoughts, since they are not an actual deed.	וְלֹא כְּטַעוּת הַפְּתָאִים – שֶׁקַל בְּעֵינֵיהֶם לַחְשׁוֹב מַחֲשָׁבוֹת חוּץ, מֵאַחַר שָׁאֵינָן לְמַעֲשֶׂה כְּלָל.
And they also say, as our Sages taught: "A bad thought is not joined by Hashem to an act," and all the more so, evil imaginings [alternative reading: meaningless wanderings], which are not even included in the category of bad thought.	וְגַם אוֹמְרִים כְּדָבְרֵי רַזָ״ל: "מַחֲשָׁבָה רָעָה – אֵין הַקָּדוֹשׁ־בָּרוּהְ־הוּא מְצָּרְפָה לְמַצְשֶׂה", וּכְלָא־חֹמֵר הָרְהוּרִים רָעִים [נוּסְחָא אַחֶּרָת: בְּטֵלִים], שֶׁאֵינָם אֲפָלוּ בִּכְלַל מַחֲשָׁבָה רָעָה.
But in truth, the thought itself is a garment of impurity, which clothes and surrounds the soul from head to toe.	אֲבָל בֶּאֱמֶת לַאֲמִתּוֹ, הַמַּחֲשֶׁבָה בְּעַצְמָה הִיא לְבוּשׁ הַטוּמְאָה, שֶׁמַּלְבֶּשֶׁת וּמֵקֶפֶת אֶת הַנְּשָׁמָה מֵרֹאשָׁה וְעַד רַגְלָה.
And the soul is then unable to be included in His Oneness, for it is a created being — and every created thing comes to be and perishes, and is very distant from the level of Oneness.	ןְאֵינָהּ יְכוֹלָה לְהָכָּלֵל בְּאַחְדוּתוֹ, מֵאַחַר שֶׁהִיא בְּחִינַת נִבְרָא, וְכָל נִבְרָא – הָוֵה וְנֶאֱפָד, וְרָחוֹק מְאֹד מִבְּחִינַת אָחָד.
Therefore, one should regard a foreign thought as truly the most severe form of idol worship — since through it, he separates from the unity of Hashem, may He be blessed.	לֶכַן יִהְיֶה בְּעֵינָיו מַחֲשֶׁבֶת חוּץ – כַּעֲבוֹדָה זָרָה הַיּוֹתֵר חֲמוּרָה מַמָּשׁ, מֵאַחַר שֶׁבָּזֶה נִפְרָד מֵאַחְדוּתוֹ יִתְבָּרֵךְ.
And he should be among "the masters of accounting," thinking every single day about how many, many thoughts passed through him that day — for thoughts are garments, as stated above.	ְוִיהָיֶה מִּמְּאֲרֵי דְּחֻשְׁבָּנָא, לַחְשׁוֹב בְּכָל יוֹם וַיוֹם מַמָּשׁ – פַּמָּה וְכַמָּה מַחֲשָׁבוֹת שֶׁעָבְרוּ בּוֹ בִּיוֹם, שֶׁהַמַּחֲשָׁבוֹת הֵם לְבוּשִׁין, כְּנִזְכָּר לְעֵיל.
And this is [the meaning of the verse] "Days were formed and none among them was One" (Psalms 139:16) — which Adam said after he ate from the Tree of Knowledge: "My unshaped form Your eyes saw."	ן װָהוּ "יָמִים יוּצָרוּ וְלֹא אֶחָד בָּהֶם" (תְּהַלִּים קל״ט:ט״ז) שָׁאָמַר אָדָם הָרִאשׁוֹן אַחַר שֶׁאָכַל מֵעֵץ הַדַּעַת: "גָּלְמִי – שָׁאָמַר אָדָם הָרָאשׁוֹן אַחַר שֶׁאָכַל מֵעֵץ הַדַּעַת: "גָּלְמִי רָאוּ עֵינֶידָ.
Meaning: I saw myself naked, without garment — like an unformed lump, as it is written: "For I am naked."	פֵּירוּשׁ: רָאִיתִי אֶת עַצְמִי עֵירֹם בְּלֹא לְבוּשׁ, כְּמוֹ גֹּלֶם, (כְּמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב: "כִּי עֵירֹם אָנֹכִי" (בְּרֵאשִׁית ג׳:י׳).

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And he said, "Days were formed" — meaning, You gave me days, which are garments, in which to clothe the soul — in order to draw through them the aspect of Oneness.	וְאָמַר: "יָמִים יוּצָרוּ", פֵּירוּשׁ: נָתַתָּ לִי יָמִים, בְּחִינַת לְבוּשִׁין, לְהַלְבִּישׁ בָּהֶם הַנְּשָׁמָה, לְהַמְשִׁיךּ עַל־יְדֵי־כֵן בְּחִינַת אֶחָד.
"But not one among them" — meaning, I am the one who did not draw down through them the aspect of "One."	וְלֹא אֶחָד בָּהֶם", פַּירוּשׁ: שֶׁאֲנִי הוּא, שֶׁלֹּא הִמְשַׁכְתִּי" בָּהֶם בְּחִינַת אֶחָד.
[See on the verse "Golmi ra'u einecha" in Sanhedrin 38a; Bereishis Rabbah 24:6; Parshas Tazria ch. 14; Zohar I Bereishis 55b; Lech Lecha 94b; Yamin Yutzaru – Vayeira 99a, Chayei Sarah 121b; and Ramaz there, Vayechi 224a, 233b].	וּרְאֵה בְּעִנְיֵן הַפָּסוּק "גָּלְמִי רָאוּ עֵינֶיךּ" – סַנְהָדְרִין ל״ח] ע״א; בְּרֵאשִׁית רַבָּה רפ״ח פ״כ״ד; מַזְרִיעַ פֶּרֶק י״ד; זוֹהַר ח״א בְּרֵאשִׁית נ״ה ב׳; לֶךְ לְךָּ צ״ד ע״ב; עַל "יָמִים יוּצָרוּ" – וַיַּרָא צ״ט ע״א, חַיֵּי שָׂרָה קכ״א ע״ב; וּבְהַרְמַ״ז שָׁם, וַיְחִי דרכ״ד ע״א, דרל״ג ב׳.
And this is the concept of the spies that Yehoshua sent to spy out Yericho — meaning, the aspect of "scent," as mentioned above, to scout and discern the level of garments that derive from this aspect of "scent."	וְזֶהוּ בְּחִינַת מְרַגְּלִים שֶׁשָׁלַח יְהוֹשֵׁעַ לְרַגֵּל אֶת יְרִיחוֹ, דְּהַיְנוּ בְּחִינַת רֵיחַ הַנִּזְכָּר לְעֵיל, לְרַגֵּל וּלְהַבְחִין בְּחִינַת הַלְּבוּשִׁין שֶׁמִּבְּחִינַת רֵיחַ הַנּ״ל.
[See what is written on this in Parshas Chayei Sarah, in the discourse beginning "See Etz Chaim, Sha'ar 49, chapter 5"].	וּרְאֵה מַה שֶּׁכָּתוּב מִזֶּה בְּפָרָשַׁת חַיֵּי שָׂרָה, בְּדִ״ה "עֲיֵן] "בְּצֵץ חַיִּים שַׁעַר מ״ט פֶּרֶק ה׳,
And the level of the spies that Moshe sent to scout the land of Canaan — that is, to examine the essence of love and awe (ahavah and yirah) — this is only possible in the level of Moshe, the aspect of the sun, which is from chochmah (wisdom), as our Sages said: "The face of Moshe was like the face of the sun."	וּבְחִינַת מְרַגְּלִים שֶׁשָּׁלַח משֶׁה לָתוּר אֶת אֶרֶץ כְּנַעַן, דְּהַיְנוּ לִבְחֹן אֶת מַהוּת אַהָבָה וְיִרְאָה – זָהוּ אֵי אֶפְשָׁר אֶלֶּא בִּבְחִינַת משֶׁה, בְּחִינַת חַמָּה שֶׁהִיא מַחָּכְמָה, רְּכְּמַאָמַרֶם זִ״ל "פְּנֵי מֹשֶׁה כְּפְנֵי חַמָּה.
And it is not equal for every soul — therefore, there was no command about this for every person, as our Sages said: "I am not commanding you." (See Tanya, chapter 14.)	וְאֵינוֹ שָׁנֶה לְכָל נֶפֶשׁ, וְלָכֵן לֹא הָיָה צִוּוּי עַל זֶה לְכָל אָדָם, כְּמַאֲמַר רַזָ״ל: "אֲנִי אֵינִי מְצַנֶּה לְךָּ" (וּרְאֵה בְּסֵפֶּר הַתַּנְיָא פֶּרֶק י״ד.
But the level of the spies that Yehoshua sent — every person has this: to spy and reflect so that his soul not remain naked, without garments — which are the thoughts of Torah and mitzvos, as explained above.	מַה־שָּׁאֵין־כֵּן בְּחִינַת הַמְּרַגְּלִים שֶׁשָּׁלַח יְהוֹשֻׁעַ – יֵשׁ לְכָל אָדָם, לְרַגֵּל וְלַחְשֹׁב שֶׁלֹּא תִהָיֶה נִשְׁמָתוֹ עֵירֹם בְּלִי לְבוּשִׁין, שֶׁהֵם מַחְשָׁבוֹת הַתּוֹרָה וְהַמִּצְוֹת, כְּנַ״ל.

And in Midrash Rabbah this is referenced in the beginning of Parshas Shelach: "And Yehoshua sent" (See Ruth Rabbah, beginning of ch. 2: "These are the yotzrim — the spies"; Zohar II, end of Terumah; Safra D'Tzniusa, end of ch. 4; Zohar III, Acharei 60b and 62b; Parshas Shelach 160b; and see Shnei Luchos HaBris, Parshas Beshalach 314b, s.v. "Omnam.")	וּבְרַבּוֹת נִזְכַּר עִנְיָן "וַיִּשְׁלַח יְהוֹשֻׁעַ" רֵישׁ פָּרָשַׁת שְׁלַח. בְּרוּת רֵישׁ כֶּרֶק ב׳: "הֵם הַיוֹצְרִים – אֵלּוּ הַמְּרַגְּלִים", הַדָּ״ה "וַיִּשְׁלַח יְהוֹשֻׁעַ" כו׳; זֹהַר ח״ב סוֹף תְּרוּמָה; סַפְּרָא דְצְנִיעוּתָא סוֹף כָּרֶק ד׳; ח״ג אַחֲרֵי ס״ד ע״ב וְס״ב ב׳; כָּרָשַׁת שְׁלַח ק״ס ע״ב; וּרְאֵה בִּשְׁנֵי לוּחוֹת הַבְּרִית ב׳: כָּרָשַׁת בְּשַׁלַּח דַּף שי״ד ע״ב ד״ה "אָמְנָם.
And one may suggest that the Midrash's interpretation of "the yotzrim" is based on what was mentioned earlier — that they are spies over the aspect of "days were formed" (Psalms 139:16), and also over the verse: "And Hashem Elokim formed (וַיִּיצֶר) man," with two yuds.	וְאֶפְשָׁר לוֹמַר שֶׁפֵּירוּשׁ הַרַבּוֹת "הֵם הַיוֹצְרִים" הוּא עַל פִּי מַה שֶׁנָּאֲמַר לְמַעְלָה – שֶׁהַם מְרַגְּלִים לְבָחִינַת "יָמִים יוּצָרוּ", גַּם לְבָחִינַת "וַיִּיצֶר ה׳ אֱלֹקִים אֶת הָאָדָם", "וַיִּיצֶר" בִּשְׁנֵי יוּ״דִי״ן
And the Midrash in Bereishis Rabbah (14:9) explains: "Two formations — the good inclination and the evil inclination." The evil inclination must be bent and nullified to the good inclination.	שֶׁפֵּרְשׁוּ בְּרַבּוֹת בְּרֵאשִׁית (ר״פּ י״ד): "שְׁנֵי יְצִירִים – יֵצֶר טוֹב וְיֵצֶר רָע". וְצָרִיךְ שֶׁהַיֵּצֶר הָרָע יִהְיֶה כָּפוּף וּבָטֵל לַיֵּצֶר הַטוֹב.
Therefore, one of the yuds is marked and expressed, and the other is hidden — to hint that Hashem desires the evil inclination to be included in and subdued by the good inclination.	ְוָלֶכֵן אֶחָד מָן הֵיוּ״דִי״ן נָקוּד וְנוֹכָח, וְהַשֵּׁנִי נִסְתָּר – ֶרֶמֶז שֶׁחֵפֶץ ה׳ שֶׁיִּהְיֶה הַיֵּצֶר הָרָע נִכְלָל פַּיֵצֶר הַטּוֹב וְנִכְפֶּף לוֹ
So writes the Ramaz in Parshas Tazria (Zohar I, 46b), that this subjugation is through guarding thought, speech, and action — as it is written about beinonim (Tanya, ch. 12–14).	פָּכָה פָּתַב הָרַמַ״ז בְּפָּרָשַׁת תַּזְרִיעַ (זֹהַר ח״א דַף מ״ו ע״ב) – שֶׁהַהַכְנָעָה הַזֹּאת הִיא עַל־יְדֵי שְׁמִירַת הַמַּחֲשָׁבָה דִּבּוּר וּמַצֲשֶׂה, כְּמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב בְּעִנְיַן הַבֵּינוֹנִים.
And this is what is meant by "the yotzrim" — that they are the spies and messengers to discern the level of garments of machshavah, dibbur, and ma'aseh.	וְעַל זֶה נֶאֱמַר: "הֵם הֵיוֹצְרִים" – שֶׁהֵם הַמְּרַגְּלִים וְהַשְּׁלוּחִים לְהַבְחִין בְּחִינַת הַלְבוּשִׁים דְּמַחָשֶׁבָה דְּבּוּר וּמַצְשֶׂה.
And according to the simple meaning of the Midrash — that "yotzrim" is from the language of potters of earthen vessels, as it says "spies, silently (charash)" — this can be understood by what is written in Ma'areches HaAlef-Beis (s.v. peh, section 50): that the "small flasks" Yaakov returned for were sparks that fell in the shattering of the vessels from the world of Tohu.	וְלְפִי פְּשָׁטוֹ שֶׁל הַמִּדְרָשׁ, דְּפֵירַשׁ: "הֵם הַיוֹצְרִים" – לְשׁוֹן יוֹצֵר כְּלֵי חֶרֶשֹׁ, כְּמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב: "מְרַגְּלִים חֶרָשׁ" – יֵשׁ לוֹמֵר עַל־פִּי מַה שֶּׁכָּתוּב בְּמַאֲרֶכֶת הָאָלֶ״ף־בֵּית אוֹת פּ״א סֵעִיף נ׳: "פַּכִּים קְטַנִּים שֶׁחָזַר עֲלֵיהֶם יַעֲקֹב – הֵם "נִיצוֹצוֹת שֶׁנָּפְלוּ בְּשְׁבִירַת הַכֵּלִים מֵעוֹלֵם הַתֹּהוּ
And it is known that through mitzvos, one elevates those fallen sparks back to their root — and therefore "they are the yotzrim," i.e., the vessels.	וְיָדוּעַ שֶּׁעַל־יְדֵי הַמִּצְוֹת מַעְלִים אֶת הַנִּיצוֹצוֹת הַנּוְכָּרִים לְשָׁרְשָׁם, וְעַל כֵּן "הֵם הַיוֹצְרִים" – הַכֵּלִים הַנִּוְכָּרִים.

As it is also written: "We are the clay and You are our potter" (Yeshayahu 64:7). See also Midrash Rabbah Ki Tisa ch. 46, and Bereishis Rabbah ch. 14 on the verse "as the vessel of a potter."	וְגַם כְּמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב: "אֲנַחָנוּ הַחֹמֶר וְאַתָּה יוֹצְרֵנוּ" (יְשַׁעְיָהוּ ס״ד:ז׳). וּרְאֵה מִזֶּה בְּרַבּוֹת כִּי תִשָּׂא פֶּרֶק מ״ו; וּבְרַבּוֹת הַרָּאִשִּׁית פֶּרֶק י״ד עַל פָּסוּק "כִּכְלִי יוֹצֵר".
And this is [why it says] "the yotzrim" — and not "vessels of clay," because it's not written "as vessels of clay," but "as the vessels of a potter."	וְזֶהוּ: "הֵם הֵיוֹצְרִים", וְלֹא כְּלֵי חֶרֶשֹׁ – כִּי אֵין כְּתוּב כָּאן ""כִּכְלֵי חֶרֶשׁ", אֶלָּא "כִּכְלֵי יוֹצֵר".
Thus, one cannot interpret "spies, charash" as potters — rather, "charash" here means "thought," as in the verse: "Do not plot (tacharosh) against your neighbor" (Proverbs 3:29).	וְאִי אֶפְשָׁר לוֹמַר כֵּן פֵּירוּשׁ "מְרַגְּלִים חֶרֶשׁ", אֶלֶּא פֵּירוּשׁ "חֶרֶשׁ" – לְשׁוֹן מַחֲשָׁבָה, כְּמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב: "אַל (מִשְׁלֵי ג׳:כ״ט.
That is, one must be among "masters of accounting," reflecting constantly on guarding the soul's garments of machshavah, dibbur, and ma'aseh — that they be in the state of "a pleasing aroma" to Hashem, as explained above.	הַיְנוּ, שֶׁצָּרִידְּ לִהְיוֹת מִּמָּאֲרֵי דְּחֻשְׁבָּנָא, וּלְחַשֵּׁב מָּמִיד עַל שְׁמִירַת לְבוּשֵׁי הַנָּפֶשׁ – מַחֲשָׁבָה דְּבּוּר וּמַעֲשֶׂה – שֶׁיּהְיוּ בִּבְחִינַת "רֵיחַ נִיחוֹחַ לַה׳", כְּנַ״ל.
See also the discourse "Therefore the rulers say: Come, calculate" (Bamidbar Rabbah 22:6).	וּרְאֵה מַה שֶׁכָּתוּב בְּדִ״ה "עַל כֵּן יֹאמְרוּ הַמֹּשְׁלִים בֹּאוּ הָשְׁבּוֹן" כו׳,
And "charash" also implies silence, as Rashi explains on the Midrash: "Binding sheaves in silence — the silence of Imma (the supernal mother) stood up."	ן"חֶרֶשׁ" גַּם־כֵּן עִנְיָן שְׁתִיקָה, כְּדִפֵּירֵשׁ רַשִּׁ"י עַל מַה שֶׁכָּתוּב בְּרַבּוֹת פָּרָשַׁת וַיֵּשֶׁב כֶּּרֶק ד׳ עַל פָּסוּק: מְאַלְמִים אֲלֻמִּים" – מִשְׁתּוֹקִיתָא דְּאִימָא קָמָה.
And likewise in Esther Rabbah on the verse "For Esther would not reveal": "Yashefeh (Yesh peh) — she had a mouth, but was silent."	וְכֵן בְּרַבּוֹת בְּאֶסְתֵּר עַל פָּסוּק "אֵין אֶסְתֵּר מַגֶּדֶת": "יָשְׁפֵה – יֵשׁ פֶּה וְשׁוֹתֵק" כו׳".
See also Rambam's commentary to Avos, ch. 1, on the Mishnah: "I found nothing better for the body than silence."	וּרְאֵה בְּפֵירוּשׁ הַמִּשְׁנָיוֹת לָרַמְבַּ"ם, סוֹף פֶּרֶק ק׳ דְאָבוֹת, צַל הַמִּשְׁנָה: "וְלֹא מָצָאתִי לַגוּף טוֹב מִן הַשְּׁתִיקָה".

#### **[NOTE Summary:**

The Alter Rebbe compares the two missions of spies: those Moshe sent and those sent by Yehoshua. Moshe's spies were dispatched to investigate the essence of *ahavah* and *yirah*—love and fear of G-d—levels only accessible to rare souls like Moshe, whose face shone like the sun. This level is rooted in Divine wisdom (chochmah), and thus, there was no universal command to emulate it.

By contrast, the spies Yehoshua sent represent a task accessible to all: to examine one's *levushim*—the spiritual garments of thought, speech, and action—ensuring the soul is not left naked, without spiritual expression. These garments derive from proper engagement with Torah and mitzvos. The Midrash's use of the term *yotzrim* (artisans or shapers) for these spies connects with the idea that a person must shape and refine themselves through Divine service.

#### **Alter Rebbe**

#### Likkutei Torah

### Parshas Shlach - וַיִּשְׁלֵּח יְהוֹשֵּׁעַ

He further aligns the concept with the dual *yetzer* (impulse), good and evil, as alluded to in the double "yud" of יַיִּצֶר. The evil impulse must be subdued to serve holiness, and this is achieved by guarding one's inner garments. The discourse also explores "charash" (silence or thought), linking the spies' secretive mission to silent introspection and control. Ultimately, each person must become a *baal cheshbon*—a master of spiritual accounting—monitoring every thought to avoid spiritual "nakedness" and ensure unity with Hashem.

#### **Practical Takeaway:**

Every person must become their own "spy" and "artisan," constantly assessing the purity of their thoughts, speech, and actions. This self-examination ensures that the soul is clothed in garments worthy of Divine unity. While higher meditations may be reserved for spiritual giants, every Jew is empowered and responsible to maintain inner integrity, turning each day into a garment woven with awareness, discipline, and holiness. The mind is not a neutral space—thoughts shape the soul's form. One must guard their thoughts as zealously as deeds.

#### **Chassidic Story (with source):**

Once, the Alter Rebbe overheard a chassid who was visiting him say aloud to another, "I had an improper thought, but it's only a thought — no harm done." The Alter Rebbe turned sharply and said, "You think thoughts are nothing? A thought is a *garment* for the soul. Just as a fine robe ennobles its wearer, a tattered one disgraces him. And would you enter the presence of a king in torn clothes?"

The chassid later wrote in a letter (preserved in the *Igros Kodesh*) that this moment changed his life: "From that day on, I began guarding my thoughts like my limbs."

(Source: Igros Kodesh Admor HaZaken, letter 21; see also *Toras Chayim* Shemos 349b, "Mah Tovu.") END NOTE