

וְלֹא יָקָרָא עוֹד שִׁמְךָ אַבְרָם וְהָיָה שִׁמְךְ אַבְרָהָם כִּי אַב הַמוֹן גּוֹיִם וגוי

Introduction

In this Maamer, the Alter Rebbe explores the mystical depth of the command of *bris milah* — circumcision — not merely as a physical sign of the covenant but as a profound act of spiritual revelation. He connects the transformation of Avram into Avraham with the cosmic process of creation, concealment, and revelation — showing how man's rectification parallels G-d's continuous renewal of the world. Through the act of *milah*, man completes creation itself, transforming the concealed Divine potential within reality into a revealed, living connection with G-dliness.

And your name shall no longer be called Avram, but your name shall be Avraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations, etc. The idea is that the reason for circumcision, as it is written "which G-d created to do," means "to repair" — that everything still requires rectification through man.

For although G-d already created man, He did not create him in a state of perfection. As it is stated in Bereishis Rabbah (Parsha 11), that when one asked, if circumcision is beloved, why was man created uncircumcised? The answer was that everything created during the six days of Creation requires action and rectification — like the lupine beans which require preparation.

And to understand this analogy, how it resembles the concept it represents: it is known from the saying "He renews in His goodness each day continually the act of Creation," that this renewal — the bringing into being of something from nothing, of a physical from a spiritual — can only occur through the aspect of what is written, "And the curtain shall separate for you between the Holy..."

For in the Holy Temple there was the source of Divine influence and the revelation of the Shechinah in the Holy of Holies. For the flow of Divine light to extend from there outward could not be in full revelation, for then all would be utterly one; therefore it extended through a separating screen — the curtain, which divided between the Holy of Holies, where the Shechinah was revealed, and the Holy.

וְלֹא יִקֶּרֵא עוֹד שִׁמְדְּ אַבְּרָם וְהָיָה שִׁמְדְּ אַבְּרָהָם כִּי אַב הָמוֹן גּוֹיִם וגוי. הָעִנְיָן כִּי הַטַּעַם לַמִּילָה דְּכְתִיב אֲשֶׁר בָּרָא אֱלֹקִים לַעֲשׁוֹת לְתַקֵּן שֶׁעֲדַיִן צָרִידְּ תִּקּוּן עַל־יְדֵי הָאָדָם.

כִּי הַגַּם שֶׁכְּבָר בָּרָא אֱלֹקִים אֶת הָאָדָם לֹא בְּרָאוֹ בְּשְׁלֵמוּת וְכַדְּאִיתָא בְּמִדְרָשׁ רַבָּה (כּ׳ בְּרִאשִׁית כּ׳ י״א) שֶׁשָּׁאַל עַל הַמִּילָה אָם חֲבִיבָה הִיא הַמִּילָה לָמָה נִבְרָא הָאָדָם עָרַל וְהָיְתָה הַמְּשׁוּבָה שֶׁכָּל מַה שֶׁנִּרָרא בְּשֵׁשֶׁת יְמֵי בְּרַאשִׁית צְרִיכִין עֲשִׂיָּה וְתִקוּו וּכְמוֹ הַתּוּרְמַסִין שֲצָּרִיכִין תּקוּוּן.

וּלְהָבִין הַפָּשָׁל אֵיךּ הוּא דוֹמֶה לַנִּמְשָׁל, הָנֵה נוֹדַע מַאֲמַר הַמְחַדֵּשׁ בְּטוּבוֹ בְּכֶל יוֹם תָּמִיד מַעֲשֵׂה בְרֵאשִׁית תָּמִיד הוּא הַחִדוּשׁ יֵשׁ מֵאַיִן וְעִנְיֵן הִתְהַוּוּת יֵשׁ וְגַשְׁמִי מֵאַיִן וְרוּחָנִי אִי אֶפְשָׁר לִהְיוֹת כָּךְ רַק עַל־יְדֵי בְּחִינַת מַה שֶׁכָּתוּב וְהִבְדִּילָה הַפָּרוֹכֶת לָכֶם בֵּין הַקֹּדֶשׁ כו׳.

פִּי בַבֵּית הַמִּקְדָּשׁ שֶׁם הָיָה מְקוֹר הַהַשְׁפָּעָה וְגִילּוּי הַשְּׁכִינָה בְּקוֹדֶשׁ הַמֵּדְשִׁים, וּלְהִיוֹת הַהַשְׁפָּעָה נִמְשֶׁכֶּת מִשָּׁם וְהָלְאָה לֹא הָיָה עַל־יְדֵי גִילּוּי כָּל־כָּךְ כִּי אָם כֵּן הָיָה הַכּּל אֶחָד, רַק שָׁנִּמְשָׁך עַל־יְדֵי מָסָף מַבְדִּיל, וְהוּא הַפָּרוֹכֶת הַמַּבְדֶּלֶת בֵּין קוֹדֶשׁ הַמֵּדְשִׁים שֶׁשָׁם הַיַּה גִילּוּי הַשְּׁכִינַה לֹבָחינַת קֹדֵשׁ.

ולא יָקָרָא עוֹד שִׁמְדְ אַבָרָם וְהָיָה שִׁמְדְ אַבְרָהָם כִּי אַב הַמוֹן גוֹיִם וגוי

And "Paroches" (curtain) in Targum is translated as "Parsa" (divider). And there were many levels of curtains in the Temple and in the Mishkan, for the entire chain of descent from world to world occurs through such partitions and divisions between each realm.

וּפָרוֹכֶת תַּרְגוּמֵיה פָּרְסָא, וְכַמָּה בְּחִינוֹת פָּרוֹכֶת הָיוּ בַּבֵּית הַמִּקְדָּשׁ וּמִשְׁכָּן, שֶׁכֶּל הִשְׁתַּלְשְׁלוּת מֵעוֹלֶם וְעַד עוֹלֶם הִיא עַל־יְדֵי מָסָךְ פָּרְסָא מַפְּסִיק בֵּין כָּל עוֹלֶם כו׳

And this is the meaning of "He renews in His goodness" — that the coming into being of something from nothing is through renewal, that is, through the screen and partition, a new light is produced, a derivative light, which is not of the same essence as the first light. And as it descends and extends further, another partition is formed until physical existence itself comes into being.

וְזֶהוּ עִנְיַן הַמְחַדֵּשׁ בְּטוּבוֹ שֶׁהִתְהַוּוּת מֵאַיִן לְיֵשׁ הוּא עַל־יְדֵי חִדּוּשׁ דְּהַיְנוּ עַל־יְדֵי מֶסָדְ וּפָּרְסָא נַעֲשֶׂה אוֹר חָדָשׁ, אוֹר שֶׁל תוֹלָדָה, וְאֵין זֶה מִמַהוּת אוֹר הָרִאשׁוֹן, וּכְשֶׁיוֹרֵד וּמִשְׁתַּלְשֵׁל נַעֲשֶׂה עוֹד כָּּרְסָא עַד שֶׁנְתְהַנָּה גַּשְׁמִיּוּת מַמַּשׁ

However, there are several kinds of partitions that separate. There is another level referred to on Motzaei Shabbos, "He Who separates between holy and mundane." This is a complete separating curtain, not like the partition between the Holy and the Holy of Holies, which represents the same light becoming more material, and even beyond that partition, it remains holy.

אַהְ יֵשׁ כַּמָּה מִינֵי מָסָכִים הַמַּבְדִּילִין, יֵשׁ עוֹד בְּחִינָה שָׁאוֹמְרִים בְּמוֹצָאֵי שַׁבָּת הַמַּבְדִּיל בֵּין קֹדָשׁ לְחוֹל, שֶׁאוֹמְרִים בְּמוֹצָאֵי שַׁבָּת הַמַּבְדִּיל בֵּין קֹדֶשׁ לְחוֹל, שְׁהוֹא מֶסֶהְ מַבְדִּיל גָּמוּר, וְאֵינוֹ דוֹמֶה לְפָרְסָא שְׁבָּהוֹ בָּיְרְהְּ שְׁמַּפְסִיקָה בֵּין הַקּדֶשׁ לְקוֹדֶשׁ הַקְּדָשִׁים, שָׁזָהוּ דָּרָהְ הָשְׁמַּלְיִּת אוֹתוֹ הָאוֹר עַצְמוֹ שֶׁנְּתְגַּשֵׁם, וְגַם לְאַחַר הַשְּׁרַסָא הוּא קֹדֵשׁ

Unlike the separation between holy and mundane, which conceals and hides the light until it becomes truly distinct, like the outer palaces that elevate themselves saying "The Nile is mine," etc. Yet, "You give life to all," and they call Him "the G-d of gods." They are not total deniers.

מַה־שֶּׁצֵין כֵּן בֵּין לָדֶשׁ לְחוֹל שֶׁהוּא מָסָךּ שֶׁמַּעֲלִים וּמַסְתִּיר הָאוֹר עַד שֶׁנַעֲשֶׂה נִפְּרָד מַמָּשׁ, כְּמוֹ הֵיכָלוֹת הַחִיצוֹנִים הַמַּגְבִּיהִים עַצְמָם לוֹמֵר לִי יְאֹרִי וַאֲנִי עֲשִׂיתִנִי, אֶלָּא שֶׁאַתָּה מְחַיֶּה אֶת כֵּלָם, וְקָרוּ לֵיהּ אֱלָהָא דְאֱלָהַיָּא, וְאֵינָם כּוֹפְרִים מַמְּשׁ דְאֱלָהַיָּא, וְאֵינָם כּוֹפְרִים מַמְּשׁ

This is the meaning of "Give thanks to the G-d of gods" (Psalms 136), for His kindness endures forever — His influence extends from world to world, even to the level of "G-d of gods," in a place of concealment and darkness. About this curtain it says, "I clothe the heavens with blackness," etc.

וְזֶהוּ הוֹדוּ לֵאלֹקֵי הָאֱלֹקִים כִּי לְעוֹלָם חַסְדּוֹ, וְהַשְּׁפָּעָתוֹ מֵעוֹלָם וְעַד עוֹלָם עַד שֶׁהוּא בִּבְחִינַת אֱלֹקֵי הָאֱלֹקִים בִּמְקוֹם הַהֶּעְלֵם וְהַהַסְתֵּר וְהַחֹשֶׁךְ, וְעַל מָסָךְ מַבְדִּיל זֶה נָאֲמֵר אַלְבִּישׁ שָׁמַיִם קַדְרוּת.

In this level of the mundane there are two aspects: (1) completely mundane, the palaces of Nogah that call Him "the G-d of gods" as above; and (2) mundane made holy — like "Chol HaMoed," where light from holiness extends even into the mundane, bringing self-nullification there too.

וְהָבֵּה בִּבְחִינַת חוֹל זֶה יֵשׁ בּ׳ בְּחִינוֹת, הָאֶחָד חוֹל גָּמוּר הֵיכָלוֹת דְּנוֹגַה דְּקָרוּ לֵיה אֱלָקֵא דְאֱלָקִיֶּא כְּנַ״ל, וְהַבֵּית הוּא בְּחִינַת חוּלִּין שֶׁנַּעְשׁוּ עַל טָהֶרת הַקּדָשׁ, חוֹלוֹ שֶׁל מוֹעֵד, דְהַיִנוּ שֶׁנִּמְשַׁךְ הָאָרָה מִקְדוּשָׁה בְּחִינַת בִּטוּל .גם בחוֹל

וְלֹא יִקָּרָא עוֹד שִׁמְךָ אַבְרָם וְהָיָה שִׁמְךָ אַבְרָהָם כִּי אַב הַמוֹן גּוֹיִם וגוי

For example, through observing Shabbos, there is an illumination within the six weekdays from the holiness of Shabbos — three days before from the previous Shabbos and three after from the next one. Thus Israel draw holiness into the six days of labor, making their weekday actions like "mundane made holy."

And this is the meaning of the Havdalah blessing on Motzaei Shabbos, "Blessed is He Who separates..." — the blessing is a drawing down that the mundane be made holy.

And concerning this it is said, "Six days you shall do your work," etc., for the six days of labor must specifically be through concealment and the partition that separates between holy and mundane, for otherwise there would be total nullification, like one prostrating before the king who cannot raise his hand before him.

In truth it is written, "When you eat the labor of your hands," for through the thirty-nine labors — sowing, plowing, harvesting, etc. — through the act itself one draws forth a new Divine Name Havayah, a new creation, "He Who renews in His goodness the work of Creation."

And this is the meaning of "which G-d created to do." The lupine beans require rectification — to turn their bitterness to sweetness. So too, "Who toiled on the eve of Shabbos will eat on Shabbos," when everything is elevated to the level of Shabbos — for Shabbos is rest, the state of nullification, like Shemoneh Esreh

And it is impossible for the entire week to be Shabbos, just as one cannot always be in Shemoneh Esreh — rather first there must be the weekdays, etc.

And this rectification is also the aspect of circumcision. For before Avraham was circumcised, his name was Avram — "Av," meaning "father," refers to the beginning of the revelation of something from nothing, which is the source of influence and is therefore called "father." He was in the state of "Ram," exalted above all nations, because his influence came through a screen.

וּכְמוֹ עַל־יְדֵי שְׁמִירַת שַׁבָּת יֵשׁ הָאָרָה בְּשֵׁשֶׁת יְמֵי הַחֹל מִבְּחִינַת קְדוּשַׁת הַשַּבָּת, שְׁלוֹשָׁה יָמִים הָרָאשׁוֹנִים מִשֵּׁבָּת שֶׁעָבַר וּשְׁלוֹשָׁה אַחֲרוֹנִים מִשֵּׁבָּת הַבָּא, וְזֶה נִמְשָׁךְ לְיִשְׂרָאֵל בְּשׁשָׁת יְמֵי הַמַּצְשֶׂה מִקְדוּשַׁת שַׁבָּת לִהְיוֹת כָּל מַצְשֵׂיהֶם בַּחוֹל עַל דֶּרֶךְ חוּלִין שֶׁנַּצְשׁוּ עַל טָהֲרַת הַקֹּדֶשׁ.

וְזֶהוּ עִנְיַן הַבְדָּלָה בְּמוֹצָאֵי שַׁבָּת בָּרוּךְ הַמַּבְדִּיל כו׳, הַבְּרָכָה הִיא הַמְשָׁכָה שֶׁיִהְיוּ הַחוּלִּין נַעֲשִׂים עַל טָהֶרת הַקֹּדֵשׁ.

ְוַעַל זֶה נָאֶמַר שֵׁשֶׁת יָמִים תַּעֲשֶׂה מַעֲשֶׂיךְ כו׳, וְצָרִיךְ לִהְיוֹת שֵׁשֶׁת יְמֵי הַמַּעֲשֶׂה דַּוְקָא עַל־יְדֵי הַהָּעְלֵם וּמְסָךְ (הַמַּבְדִּיל בֵּין לִדָשׁ לְחוֹל), שֶׁאִלּוּלֵי כֵן הָיָה בִּטוּל מַמָּשׁ, וּכְמוֹ עִנְיַן תְּפִלַּת שְׁמוֹנֶה עֶשְׂרֵה בְּהִשְׁתַּחָוָאָה, וּכְמוֹ שֶׁאִי אֶפְשֶׁר לְהָרִים יָד לִפְנֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ כו׳.

וּבֶצֱמֶת כְּתִיב, יְגִיעַ כַּפֶּיךְ כִּי תֹאכֵל, כִּי עַל־יְדֵי ל״ט מְלָאכוֹת — הַזוֹרֵעַ, הַחוֹרֵשׁ, הַקוֹצֵר כו׳ — דְּהַיְינוּ שָׁעַל־יְדֵי הַמַּצְשֶׂה מַמְשִׁיךְ הוָנָ״ה חֲדָשָׁה וְהִתְהוּוּת דָּבֶר חָדָשׁ, לְהִיוֹת הַמְחַדֵּשׁ בְּטוּבוֹ מַצְשֵׂה בְרֵאשִׁית דַּוְקָא.

וְזֶהוּ אֲשֶׁר בָּרָא אֱלֹקִים לַצְשׁוֹת, תּוּרְמוּסִין צְּרִיכִין תִּקּוּן לַהָפּוֹהְ מְרִירוֹ לְמִיתְקוֹ, לְהִיוֹת מִי שֶׁטָרַח בְּעֶרֶב שַׁבָּת יֹאכַל בְּשַׁבָּת, שֶׁיִּתְעַלֶּה הַכֹּל בִּבְחִינַת שַׁבָּת, כִּי שַׁבָּת הִיא מִנוּחָה בָּחִינַת בִּטוּל כִּמוֹ שְׁמוֹנָה עַשְׂרָה.

וְאִי אֶפְשָׁר לִהְיוֹת כֻּלּוֹ שַׁבָּת כְּמוֹ כַּלּוֹ שְׁמוֹנֶה עֶשְׂרֵה, רַק מָחַלֵּה לְהִיוֹת יָמֵי הַחוֹל כו׳.

וְתִקּוּן זֶה הוּא גַּם כֵּן בְּחִינַת הַמִּילָה, כִּי עַד שֶׁלֹּא נִמּוֹל אַבְרָם, אָב — הוּא בְּחִינַת רֵאשִׁית אַבְרָם, אָב — הוּא בְּחִינַת רֵאשִׁית הַגִּלוּי יֵשׁ מֵאַיִן, שֶׁהוּא מָקוֹר הַהַשְׁפָעָה נִקְרָא בְּשֵׁם אָב, וְהָיָה בְּבְחִינַת רָם עַל כָּל גוֹיִם כּו׳, מִפְּנֵי שֶׁהָיָה על־יִדי מסךּ

וְלֹא יִקְרֵא עוֹד שִׁמְךָ אַבְרָם וְהָיָה שִׁמְךָ אַבְרָהָם כִּי אַב הַמוֹן גּוֹיִם וגוי

And through circumcision, he was called Avraham — "father of a multitude of nations," adding the inclusion of sparks. For the revelation must be complete, until even distant sparks are drawn close to be included under the wings of the Shechinah, and this occurs through circumcision.

For "מָל י"ה" (circumcision) are the letters of "מִל י"ה," referring to

For "מִילָה" (circumcision) are the letters of "מֵל י"ה," referring to Chochmah and Binah, and "מֵל" (to speak) means revelation, for "mal" is from "memalela," speech, since speech reveals wisdom, bringing it from potential into actuality, from concealment into revelation.

Therefore, in the future time, as it is written, "Then I will transform the nations to a pure language," it also says, "And all flesh will see together that the mouth of the Lord has spoken," because there will be a revelation of Divine speech — the revelation of G-dliness, the revelation of wisdom.

And this revelation Above is in the aspect of "Chashmal" — "sometimes silent," meaning concealment ("silence is a fence for wisdom"), and "sometimes speaking," the aspect of speech and revelation.

And "mal" is also from the expression "והוא ישב ממולי" — meaning "before me," that which appears openly before one's eyes.

And below, in the lower man, it is written, "Let us make man in Our image, after Our likeness." There too is a screen upon the organ of influence, which is in the aspect of "Ram" (exalted).

"The hidden things belong to the Lord our G-d" — this refers to Chochmah and Binah; "and the revealed things belong to us and our children" — for through circumcision, it becomes revealed to us and our children, since revelation is only in the aspect of "our children," meaning offspring.

Therefore, when the letter "hei" was added to Avraham, the "reish" was not removed — he remained "Ram," exalted, but the "hei" was added to bring this exalted state into revelation.

ְעַל־יְדֵי הַמִּילָה נִקְרָא אַבְרָהָם — אָב הָמוֹן גּוֹיִם — לְהוֹסִיף הִתְּכַּלְלוּת נִיצוֹצוֹת, כִּי לְהִיוֹת הַהָּאָרָה בְּגִילּוּי גָמוּר עַד שֶׁיִתְקָרֵב הַנִּיצוֹץ לְהִכָּלֵל תַּחַת כַּנְפֵי הַשְּׁכִינָה הוּא עַל־יִדֵי הַמִּילַה.

כִּי מִילָה אוֹתִיּוֹת מַל י"ה — הֵם חָכְמָה וּבִינָה — וּ"מַל" הוּא לָשׁוֹן הִתְגַּלּוּת, כִּי "מַל" מִלְשׁוֹן "מְמַלְלָא," שֶׁהַדְּבּוּר הוּא הַמְגַלֶּה אֶת הַחָּכְמָה, לִהְיוֹת הַחָּכְמָה יוֹצֵאת מִכּּחַ אֶל הַפּוֹעֵל וּמֵהֶעְלֵם אֶל הַגִּילוּי. הַחָּכְמָה יוֹצֵאת מִכּחַ אֶל הַפּוֹעֵל וּמֵהֶעְלֵם אֶל הַגִּילוּי.

וְלָכֵן לֶעָתִיד, דְּכְתִיב "אָז אֶהְפּּדְ אֶל עַמִּים שָׂפָּה בְרוּרָה," כְּתִיב גַּם "וְרָאוּ כָל בָּשֶׂר יַחְדָּו כִּי פִּי ה׳ דְּבֵּר," מִפְנֵי שָׁיָּהָיֶה גִּילוּי בְּחִינַת דְּבּוּר — הִתְגַּלוּת אַלֹקוּת, התִגּלּוּת חכמה.

ןְגִילּוּי זֶה לְמַעְלָה הוּא בְּבְחִינַת "חַשְׁמַל," "עִתִּים חָשׁוֹת" — דְּהַיִינוּ שֶׁלְּפָעָמִים הוּא בְּבְחִינַת הָעְלֵם, "סְיָג לַחָּבְמָה שְׁתִיקָה," ןְ"עִתִּים מְמַלְלוֹת" — בְּחִינַת דְּבוּר וְגִילּוּי

וְגַם "מַל" מִלְשׁוֹן "וְהוּא יֹשֵב מִמּוּלִי," שֶׁהוּא פֵּירוּשׁ נְרָאָה כְּאִלּוּ הוּא לְנֹכַח עֵינָיו "נָגְדִּי," כְּלוֹמַר, דָּבָר שֶׁנְּרָאָה כְּאִלּוּ הוּא לְנֹכַח עֵינָיו

וּלְמַטָּה בָּאָדָם הַתַּחְתּוֹן, הָנֵּה כָּתוּב ''נַצְשֶׂה אָדָם בְּצַלְמֵנוּ כִּדְמוּתֵנוּ'' — יֵשׁ גַּם כֵּן מָסָךְ עַל הָאֵבֶר הַמַּשְׁפִּיעַ, שֶׁהוּא בְּבְחִינַת רָם.

הַנָּסְתָּרוֹת לַה' אֱלֹקֵינוּ'' — חָכְמָה וּבִינָה; ''וְהַנִּגְלוֹת''
לָנוּ וּלְבָנֵינוּ'' — שָׁעַל־יְדֵי הַמִּילָה נַעֲשֶׂה נִגְלוֹת לָנוּ
וּלְבָנֵינוּ, שֶׁהַגִּילּוּי אֵינוֹ אֶלָּא בְּבְחִינַת ''לְבָנֵינוּ,'' שֶׁהוּא
בָּחִינַת הוֹלָדָה

וְלָכֵן כַּאֲשֶׁר נוֹסְפָּה הַ"הֵא" בְּאַבְרָהָם, מִכָּל מָקוֹם לֹא נֶעְקַר הָ"בִי״שׁ" בְּאַבְרָהָם, שֶׁעֲדַיִן הוּא בְּבְחִינַת "רָם," אֶלָּא שֶׁנּוֹסְפָה בְּחִינַת "הֵא" לְהִיוֹת בְּחִינַת "רַם" זָה בְּגִילּוִי

וְלֹא יָקָרָא עוֹד שָׁמְדְּ אַבְרָם וְהַיָה שָׁמְדְּ אַבְרָהַם כִּי אַב הַמוֹן גּוֹיָם וגוי

And circumcision is revelation — and "priah" (uncovering) is an even greater revelation, as in "and he shall uncover the woman's head," and "a slaughtered animal is called 'meporaret' (opened)."

It is the removal of the partition separating between holy and mundane — for Israel are "mundane made holy," and this is the main Havdalah, for in the seven distinctions, "to distinguish between the impure and the pure," etc., we do not say them, because they are not as necessary; for once the separation between holy and mundane is removed, all others are automatically rectified.

וְהָבֵּה הַמִּילָה הִיא גִּילוּי, וּפְרִיעָה הִיא גִּילוּי יָתֵר, כְּמוֹ "וּפָרַע אֶת רֹאשׁ הָאִשָּׁה," "שְׁחִיטָה מְפוֹרָעַת" כּו׳.

הָיא גִּילוּי וְהָסָרַת הַפֶּסָהְ הַפֵּבְדִּיל בֵּין לְּדֶשׁ לְחוֹל, דְּיִשְׂרָאֵל חוּלִּין שָׁנַּעֲשׂוּ עַל טָהָרַת הַקּדֶשׁ, שֶׁהִיא עַקּר הַהַבְדָּלָה, כִּי בְּשֶׁבַע הַבְדָּלוֹת לְהַבְדִּיל בֵּין הַטָּמֵא כו׳ — אֵין אָנוּ אוֹמְרִים, לְפִי שֶׁאֵין צָרִיךְ כָּל־כָּךְ, כִּי .מִאַחַר שֶׁמַּצְבִירִים הַהַבְדָּלָה שֶׁבֵּין לִדָּשׁ לְחוֹל כּו׳

[NOTE Summary

Before Avraham's circumcision, his name — *Avram* — symbolized exaltedness and distance. "Av" (father) represents the origin of creation, and "Ram" (exalted) denotes being beyond connection to the lower realms. His Divine flow was thus mediated through a *masach* (screen), a barrier that allowed the influence of holiness to descend while keeping it concealed.

The act of *milah* — circumcision — removed that concealment. When Avraham circumcised himself, he became *Avraham*, "father of a multitude of nations." The additional letter *hei* represents revelation — the Divine wisdom (Chochmah) emerging into expression through speech (*milah* shares its root with *memalela*, "to speak"). This was not merely a personal covenant; it was the opening of Divine revelation to the world, allowing sparks of holiness from even the most distant nations to be drawn under the wings of the Shechinah.

The Alter Rebbe explains that in the higher realms, this process corresponds to *Chashmal* — a state that alternates between silence ("*itim chashos*", concealment) and speech ("*itim memalelos*", revelation). Similarly, in man, there is a spiritual organ of influence that remains veiled until *milah* removes its covering, allowing Divine creative energy to flow into revelation and continuation — "the revealed things belong to us and to our children."

Even after Avraham received the letter *hei*, the *reish* (Ram) remained — the exaltedness was not removed but made visible. Thus, *milah* reveals what was always there: the union of transcendence and immanence. The act parallels the removal of the *masach* (screen) separating holy from mundane, transforming Israel into "mundane made holy" — *chullin she'na'asu al taharas hakodesh*. Through this, man not only becomes a vessel for holiness but completes the purpose of creation — "that which G-d created to do" — meaning to rectify and reveal.

וְלֹא יָקָרָא עוֹד שִׁמְךָ אַבְרָם וְהָיָה שִׁמְךְ אַבְרָהָם כִּי אַב הַמוֹן גּוֹיִם וגוי

Practical Takeaway

The *bris milah* represents more than an ancient ritual — it is the model for all spiritual work. Every act of serving G-d requires uncovering the concealed — taking what is distant, "Ram," and revealing it within the world. One must remove the inner *masach* that conceals one's Divine light, transforming the "mundane" aspects of life into holiness. When we refine our thoughts, speech, and actions — turning bitterness into sweetness — we mirror Avraham's transformation and fulfill our role as partners in creation.

Chassidic Story

The Alter Rebbe once said that the moment of *bris milah* is a moment of cosmic renewal, for it reflects G-d's own act of creation "which He created to make." At the *bris* of one of his grandchildren, he stood deeply focused, eyes closed in *deveikus*. When the *mohel* completed the circumcision, the Alter Rebbe whispered a teaching: "Now, the hidden becomes revealed." Those present sensed that he was not speaking only of the child, but of the Divine mystery within all existence — that through each act of uncovering, whether physical or spiritual, we allow the Infinite to shine openly in the finite world.

END NOTE