

Introduction:

This discourse by the **Alter Rebbe** (Rabbi Schneur Zalman of Liadi, 1745–1812), founder of Chabad Chassidus and author of the *Tanya* and *Shulchan Aruch HaRav*, delves into the inner structure of *Krias Shema* through the lens of Kabbalah and Chassidus. Delivered in the classic conceptual style of the Alter Rebbe, the maamar focuses on the dynamic interplay between opposites—*chesed* and *gevurah*, light and vessel, ratzoh and shuv—and how they harmonize within the framework of Divine unity. Rooted in the mystical significance of the Divine Names 42) מייב (מייב (מייב (מייב (מייב Chaim))), it explores how the soul ascends through love and returns through integration, transforming abstract G-dly light into internalized experience. The discourse also references teachings from *Pri Etz Chaim*, the *Zohar*, and *Tanya*, weaving together halachic precision with transcendent devotion.

(8) And "You shall love Hashem your G-d," etc. Behold, from "And you shall love" until "and upon your gates" are 42 words, וְאָהַבְתָּ אֶת ה׳ אֱלֹקֵיךָ כו׳. הָנָה מִוְאָהַבְתָּ עַד and the second paragraph there has 72. And see in Zohar III, וּבָשָׁעַרֵיךָ מ"ב הַּיבִין וּפּ׳ שָׁנִיַּה שַׁם ע"ב וְעַיֵן בְּזַח"ב Terumah (132b), and in Pardes (Gate 61, Chapter 6 and Chapter י״ב ב״ן וּבָפַרְדֵּס (שכ״א פ״ו וּפַרֶק י״ב (תְּרוּמָה (קל״ב ב׳) וּבָפַרְדֵּס (שכ״א 12). And behold, it is known that the Name of 42 is in Gevurah, and וָהָנָה נוֹדַע כִּי שֵׁם מ״ב הוּא בִּגְבוּרָה וְשֵׁם ע״ב בְּחֶסֶד וְהָלֹא כָּאן נַהְפוֹדְ הוּא. כִּי פ׳ רִאשׁוֹנָה דְּק״ש the Name of 72 is in Chesed. And yet here it is the opposite: for the first paragraph of Shema is in the aspect of Chesed and הִיא בָּבְחִינַת חֶסֶד וְאָהַבְתַּ בִּחִינַת חֶסֶד וּפ׳ שִׁנְיָה "You shall love" is the aspect of Chesed, while the second הַשַּׁמָרוּ לַכָם כו׳ בַּגְבוּרֵה. paragraph, "Beware for yourselves..." is in Gevurah. And it is explained regarding the order of the paragraphs: וּכְמוֹבַאֵר מֵענִיַן סָדֵר הַפַּרַשִּׁיוֹת קַדֵּשׁ וְהַיַה כִּי "Sanctify," "And it shall be when He brings you," "Hear," and יָבִיאַך שָׁמַע וָהַיָה אָם שַׁמוֹעַ שֶׁהֶם חו״ב חו״ג קַדָּשׁ "And it shall be if you listen"—they correspond to Chochmah בּחָכִמָה כו׳. and Binah, Chesed and Gevurah. "Sanctify" is in Chochmah, etc. But the explanation is as stated in the Zohar regarding the lights אַבַל הַעִנָיַן דְאִיתַא בַּזּהַר עַל הַאוֹרוֹת דַאַחַלִּיפוּ that they swapped places, and they included the left within the דוּכָתֵיִיהוּ וְאַכְלִילוּ שְׂמֵאָלַא בִּימִינַא. right. And the explanation is that the lights were exchanged in their וָהַבֵּיאוּר הוּא שֶׁנְתְחַלְפוּ הַאוֹרוֹת בַּבְחִינַת כַּלִיהֶם vessels: that the light of Chesed dwells in the vessel of שאור הַחֶסֶד שוֹרֶה בַּכְלִי הַגְבוּרָה וָאוֹר הַגְבוּרָה Gevurah, and the light of Gevurah in the vessel of Chesed. [See בַּכַלִי הַחֶּסֶד [עֵיֵן מְזֵּה בָּהַרְמ"ז פ׳ צו בִּדַף כ"ז this in Ramaz, Parshas Tzav, on daf 27, and as mentioned וּכְנֵזְכֵּר מְזֶּה בִּבִיאוּר עַל פ׳ לְבַּבְחַנִי].

regarding the explanation of the verse "You have captivated me"].

And likewise, with these two paragraphs: that the first paragraph is in the aspect of Chesed in terms of vessels, and "You shall love" is the aspect of the vessel of Chesed—and the Name of 42, which is in Gevurah, is the light of Gevurah that dwells in the vessel of Chesed. And the second paragraph, the Name of 72, is the light of Chesed in the vessel of Gevurah.

And to understand this explanation, one must first explain the concept of the Higher Unification and the Lower Unification in "Shema Yisrael" and in "Baruch Shem Kevod..." For behold, in the words "Hashem Elokeinu" in the first verse of the Shema, the Arizal explains that this is the matter of the drawing down of light into Chochmah and Binah of Atzilus, and it is called the unification of Abba and Imma.

And the explanation is as follows: Behold, the process of Hishtalshelus (downward progression) and the bringing into being from nothingness to existence must be continual, as explained in Chassidus, and not only from nothing to physical existence, such as the seven heavens and the earth, etc., which must be renewed every hour and moment from nothing to something—for if the flow of vitality into them were to cease, they would revert to nothingness and absolute void, just as before the Six Days of Creation, as is explained at length in Tanya, Part II.

Rather, likewise it is so in the supernal worlds—even for the existence of Chochmah and Binah, as it is written, "And wisdom is found from nothingness," and from it extends to Binah, which is called the aspect of "To endow those who love Me with substance (yesh)."

וְהַכִּי נַמִי בִּשְׁתֵּי בָּּרָשִׁיוֹת אֵלוּ דְפֹ׳ רָאשׁוֹנָה הִיא בִּבְחִינַת חֶסֶד בִּבְחִינַת כֵּלִים וְאָהַבְתָּ בְּחִינַת כְּלִי הַחֶּסֶד וְשֵׁם מ״ב בִּגְבוּרָה הוּא אוֹר הַגְּבוּרָה הַשׁוֹרֶה בִּכְלִי הַחֶּסֶד וּפֹ׳ שְׁנִיָּה שֵׁם ע״ב אוֹר הַחֶּסֶד בִּּכְלִי הַגְּבוּרָה.

וּלְהָבִין בֵּיאוּר זֶה יֵשׁ לְבָאֵר תְּחִלָּה עִנְיַן יִחוּ״ע וְיָחוּ״ת שֶׁבְּשְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל וּבִשְׁכָמֵ"ל"וֹ דְּהִנֵּה בִּחְבוֹת ה׳ אֱלֹקֵינוּ שֶׁבְּפָסוּק רָאשׁוֹן דְּק״ש פֵּירֵשׁ הָאֲרִיזַ"ל שֶׁנָּהוּ עִנְיַן הַמְשָׁכַת הָאוֹר בַּחָכְמָה וּבִינָה דְּאֲצִילוּת וְנִקְרָא יִחוּד אוֹ״א.

וּפֵירוּשׁ כִּי הָנֵּה הַהִּשְׁתַּלְשְׁלוּת וְהַהְתְהַוּוּת מֵאַיִן לְיֵשׁ צְרִידְּ לְהִיוֹת תָּמִיד כְּמוֹ ז׳ רְקִיעִים וָאָרֶץ כו׳ שֶׁצָּרִידְּ לְיֵשׁ גַּשְׁמִי בִּלְבַד כְּמוֹ ז׳ רְקִיעִים וָאָרֶץ כו׳ שֶׁצָּרִידְּ לְהִיוֹת מִתְחַדְשִׁים בְּכָל שָׁעָה וְרָגַע מֵאַיִן לְיֵשׁ שָׁאִלוּ הָיְתָה נִפְּסֶקֶת הַמְשָׁכַת הַחֵּיוּת בָּהֶם הָיוּ חוֹזְרִים לְאַיִן וָאֶפֶס מַמָּשׁ כְּמוֹ קוֹדֶם שֵׁשֶׁת יְמֵי בְּרֵאשִׁית וּכְמוֹ שַׁבֶּרוּב בַּאֲרִיכוּת בְּסֵפֶר שַׁעַר הַיִּחוּד וְהָאֱמוּנָה חֵלֶק ב׳

אֶלָּא כֵּן מַמָּשׁ גַּם בָּעוֹלָמוֹת הָעֶלְיוֹנִים וַאֲפָלוּ לִהְיוֹת בְּחִינַת חָכְמָה וּבִינָה כְּמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב וְהַחָּכְמָה מֵאַיִן תִּמָּצֵא וּמִמֶּנָה נִמְשָׁךְ בַּבִּינָה שֶׁנָּקְרֵאת בְּחִינַת יֵשׁ לָהַנְחִיל אוֹהַבֵי יֵשׁ.

And this is the concept of "And a river flows from Eden"—"flows" in the sense of continual drawing forth from nothing to something—the two companions who never separate. And this is what is meant by "Which G-d created to do," meaning "which He created"—this refers to spiritual something-from-nothing, the level of "And wisdom is found from nothing," and from this extends afterward "to do"—the level of something-from-nothing in the physical. And see what is explained in the discourse "Es Shabsoisai Tishmoru."

וְזֶהוּ עִנְיַן וְנָהָר יוֹצֵא מֵעֵדֶן יוֹצֵא לְשׁוֹן תְּמִידִית הַהַּמְשָׁכָה מֵאַיִן לְיֵשׁ תְּרֵין רֵעִין דְּלָא מִתְפָּרְשִׁין. וְזֶהוּ אֲשֶׁר בָּרָא אֱלֹקִים לַעֲשׁוֹת דְּפֵירוּשׁ אֲשֶׁר בָּרָא זֶהוּ יֵשׁ מֵאַיִן רוּחָנִי בְּחִינַת וְהַחָּכְמָה מֵאַיִן תִּמָּצֵא וּמִזֶּה נִמְשָׁךְ אַחַר כָּךְ לַעֲשׁוֹת הוּא בְּחִינַת מֵאַיִן לְיֵשׁ גַּשְׁמִי וְעֵיֵן מֵה שֶׁכָּתוּב בְּדִ״ה אֶת שַׁבְּתוֹתֵי תִּשְׁמֹרוּ.

And this level of Chochmah is the level of Havayah, which brings into being to become the level of "Elokeinu" from nothing into something, etc. (And see what is written in the explanation of the verse "And I shall be sanctified among," and in the explanation of the verse "My dove," regarding this drawing down in Krias Shema, which is the drawing of a new light, etc., see there.)

וּבְחָינַת חָכְמָה זוֹ הִיא בְּחִינַת הוי׳ הַמְהַנָּה לְהִיוֹת בְּחִינַת אֱלֹקֵינוּ מֵאַיִן לְיֵשׁ כו׳ (וְעַמ״שׁ בְּבִיאוּר עַל פ׳ וְנָקְדַשְׁתִּי בְּתוֹךְ וּבְבִיאוּר עַל פ׳ יוֹנָתִי מֵעִנְיֵן כּיְ וְנָקְדַשְׁתִּי בְּתוֹךְ וּבְבִיאוּר עַל פ׳ יוֹנָתִי מֵעִנְיֵן הַמְשָׁכָת אוֹר חָדָשׁ כו׳ הַמְשָׁכָת אוֹר חָדָשׁ כו׳ מִעִישׁ.

And therefore we precede with saying "Shema Yisrael"—which is the elevation of mayin nukvin (feminine waters) from below to above—in order to draw the revelation of the infinite light, blessed be He, in Atik and Arich, which is what is said afterward: "Hashem Elokeinu," as explained above.

וְלָכֵן מַקְדִּימִין לוֹמַר שָׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל הִיא הַעֲלָאַת מ״ן מִמַּטָּה לְמַעְלָה כְּדֵי לְהַמְשִׁיךּ הָתְגַלוּת אוֹר אֵין־סוֹף בָּרוּדְ־הוּא בַּאָרִידְ וְעַתִּיק שֶׁזָּהוּ מַה שֶׁנָּאֱמַר אַחַר כָּדְ הוי׳ אֱלֹקִינוּ כַּנַּ״ל.

And this is because "Shema" has the letter Ayin enlarged—meaning, the source of the Middos, that is, when the Middos are within the intellect (and the seven Middos, each one included of ten, total seventy), then they are in the state of greatness.

וְהַהִּיא כִּי שְׁמַע שֶׁם ע׳ עַיָּן רַבְּּתָא הוּא מָקוֹר הַמִּדּוֹת דְהַיְנוּ כְּשֶׁהַמִּדּוֹת הֵם בַּשֵּׂכֶל (וְז׳ מִדּוֹת כָּל אֶחָד בָּלוּלַה מִיו״ד הַרֵי ע׳) שֵׁאָז הַן בְּבְחִינַת גַּדְלוּת.

Not so when they become complete Middos, after they are drawn down into the heart to become a full emotional reaction—complete love and awe—then they are in a state of smallness, and they have no comparison to how they are in the intellect, when love and awe are far greater, etc.

מַה שָׁאֵין כֵּן כְּשָׁנַּעֲשׂוֹת מִדּוֹת גְּמוּרוֹת אַחַר שָׁנָּמְשְׁכוּ לַלֵּב לְהִיוֹת הִתְּפַּעֲלוּת הָאַהָבָה גְמוּרָה וְיִרְאָה גְמוּרָה הֵן בִּבְחִינַת קְטַנּוּת וְאֵין לָהֶן עֵרוּךְ לְכַשֶּׁהֵם בַּשֵּׂכֶל שָׁאָז הָאַהֲבָה וְהַיִּרְאָה הֵם גְּדוֹלִים בְּיוֹתֵר שֵׂאת כו׳.

And therefore the Middos are called "Ze'eir Anpin," because they have become diminished and made "small"—the term ze'eir means little. And see what is written in the discourse "Es Karbani Lachmi" regarding the essence of sinews, flesh, and וְלָכֵן נָקְרָאוּ הַמִּדּוֹת בְּשֵׁם ז״א שֶׁנַתְקַטְנוּ וְנַצְשׁוּ זְצֵיר לְשׁוֹן מוּעָט. וְעַמ״שׁ בְּדִ״ה אֶת קֶרְבָּנִי לַחְמִי בְּעִנְיַן עַצְמוּת גִּידִין וּבָשָׂר וּמֵה שֶׁבָּתוּב בְּפֹ׳ הַבְּרֵרָה עַל פ׳ וָאָתַּה מֵרְבָּבוֹת קֹדָשׁ.

what is written in Parshas HaBrera on the verse "And you [Yisrael] from among the myriads of holiness."

And see in the Zohar, Parshas Vayikra and Parshas Terumah (132) about the concept of large letters and small letters. And see what is written on the verse "And He called to Moshe," about the small Aleph and the large Aleph.

And the elevation of mayin nukvin to the source of the Middos is through the level of "Shem" (name), that is, the 288 sparks (רפ״ה ניצוצין) with Shem Ban, which equals the gematria of "shem" (name). For Shem Ban is what elevates the 288 sparks that fell in the shattering of the vessels, to give life to all physical matters—whose entire vitality comes from the 288 sparks.

And these 288 sparks—which are the life-force in all physical matters—ascend through Shem Ban, which is Malchus, the level that does the refinement, etc., to the level of the enlarged Ayin, the source of the Middos, from which the drawing down of those 288 sparks is drawn.

And this is the meaning of the "Name Ayin ("")," and there is another reason why it is called the Name Ayin—meaning, literally "name." And this is also from the root of the root of the 288 sparks and the Name Ban of Tikkun, which are all only from the level of His Name alone, may He be blessed, as it is written, "For I am Havayah, that is My Name."

And as is known, Kesser is the intermediary between the Emanator and the Emanated, and is called Malchus of Ein Sof, a level of Name only—that is, to bring about the existence of the level of Atzilus, and of the Shattering, and of the Tikkun.

Whereas in the Essence of the Ein Sof itself, such a thing is not applicable at all, for "I am Havayah, I have not changed," and "I am first and I am last"—before the Shattering, and after the Shattering, and during the Tikkun and refinement, and after the completion of the refinement, all is equal before Him, may He be blessed.

וְצְיֵן בְּזֹהַר בָּרְשַׁת וַיִּקְרָא וּבְפֹ׳ תְּרוּמָה (דַּף קּל״ב) מֵענְיֵן אָתְוון רַבְרְבִין וְאָתְוון זְעֵירִין וְעַמ״שׁ עַל פ׳ וַיִּקְרָא אֶל מֹשֶׁה בְּעִנְיַן אַלֶף זְעֵירָא וְאַלֶף רַבְרְבָא.

ְהַעֲלֶאַת מ״ן לְמָקוֹר הַמִּדּוֹת הוּא עַל יְדֵי בְּחִינַת שֵׁם דְּהַיְנוּ רפ״ח נִיצוֹצִין עִם שֵׁם ב״ן בְּגִימַטְרִיָּא שֵׁם כִּי שֵׁם ב״ן הוּא הַמַּעֲלֶה בְּחִינַת רפ״ח נִיצוֹצִין שֶׁנָּפְלוּ בְּשֶׁבֶר הַכֵּלִים לְהַחֲיוֹת כָּל עִנְינֵי גַשְׁמִיִּים שֶׁכָּל חֵיּוּתָם הוּא מרפ״ח נִיצוֹצִין.

וְרפ״ח נִיצוֹצִין הָאֵלּוּ שֶׁהֵם הַחַּיּוּת שֶׁבְּכָל עִנְיָנִים הַגַּשְׁמִיִּים עוֹלֶה עַל יְדֵי שֵׁם ב״ן מַלְכוּת הַמְבָרֵר כו׳ לְבָחִינַת ע׳ רַבְּתָא מְקוֹרוֹת הַמִּדּוֹת שֶׁמֵּהֶם הַמְשָׁכַת הָרפ״ח נִיצוֹצִין הַנ״ל.

וְזֶהוּ שֵׁם ע׳ וְעוֹד יֵשׁ טַעַם עַל שֶׁנְּקְרָא שֵׁם ע׳ לָשׁוֹן שֵׁם מַפָּשׁ וְהַהִּיא גַּם מָצַּד שֹׁרֶשׁ שֹׁרְשָׁן שֶׁל הָרפ״ח נִיצוֹצִין וְשֵׁם ב״ן דְּתִיקּוּן שֶׁהוּא הַכּּל רַק מִבְּחִינַת שְׁמוֹ יִתְבָּרֵךְ בִּלְבַד וְכַמַּשְׁבָּתוּב כִּי אֲנִי הוי׳ הוּא שָׁמִי

וּכְנוֹדָע שֶׁכֶּתֶר הוּא מְמוּצָע בֵּין מַאֲצִיל לְנֶאֱצָלִים וְנִקְרָא מַלְכוּת דְּאֵין־סוֹף בְּחִינַת שֵׁם בִּלְבַד שֶׁהוּא לִהְיוֹת הִתְהַוּוּת בְּחִינַת אֲצִילוּת וְשְׁבִירָה וְתִיקוּוּן.

מַה שָׁאֵין כֵּן בְּאֵין־סוֹף עַצְמוֹ לֹא שַׁיֵּיךּ כְּלֶל כִּי אֲנִי ה׳ לֹא שָׁנִיתִי וַאֲנִי רִאשׁוֹן וַאֲנִי אַחֲרוֹן וְקוֹדֶם הַשְּׁבִירָה וְאַחַר הַשְּׁבִירָה וּבִשְׁעַת הַתִּיקוּן וְהַבִּירוּר וְלְאַחַר שֶׁיוּגְמַר תַּשְׁלוּם הַבִּירוּר הַכֹּל שָׁוָה לְפָנָיו וְתְבָּרַךְּ

For the Shattering of the Vessels did not affect except the light of the Ein Sof, may He be blessed, but not the Essence of the Luminary itself, God forbid—for in the Essence of the Luminary, there was no change at all, God forbid.

כִּי שֶׁבֶר הַכֵּלִים לֹא הָיְתָה נוֹגַעַת כִּי אָם לְאוֹר אֵין־סוֹף בָּרוּדְ־הוּא וְלֹא בַּמָּאוֹר עַצְמוֹ חַס וְשָׁלוֹם שָׁבַּמָּאוֹר עַצְמוֹ לֹא הָיָה שׁוּם שִׁנּוּי חַס וְשָׁלוֹם.

Like the parable of a curtain or a cloud that blocks the light and radiance of the sun and darkens it—yet it does not touch the essence and nature of the sun itself, etc.

וּכְמָשָׁל מָסָדּ וַעֲנָן הַמַּפְסִיק אֶת אוֹר וְזִיו הַשֶּׁמֶשׁ וּמַחַשִּׁיכוֹ שָׁאֵינוֹ נוֹגֵעַ לְעַצְמוּת וּמַהוּת הַשֶּׁמֶשׁ כוי.

And this level of "Name" is what elevates the 288 sparks to the great Ayin—that is, the level of Binah, the source of the Middos, the root of the seven kings that were broken: "And he reigned... and he died," etc.—these are the kings who ruled in the land of Edom, etc.

וּבְחִינַת שֵׁם זֶה הוּא הַמַּעֲלֶה רפ״ח נִיצוֹצִין לְע׳ רַבְּתָא הִיא בְּחִינַת בִּינָה מָקוֹר הַמִּדּוֹת שֹׁרֶשׁ הַז׳ מְלָכִים שֶׁנִּשְׁבְּרוּ וַיִּמְלֹךְ וַיָּמֶת כו׳ שֶׁהֵם הַמְּלָכִים שַׁמַּלִכוּ בָּאֵרֵץ אֲדוֹם כו׳ שֵׁמֵּלִכוּ בָּאֵרֵץ אֲדוֹם כו׳

It is Binah from which they fell and were broken, and this Name is what elevates those 288 sparks that were in the Shattering back to their source and root, which is the level of Binah—the great Ayin, etc.

הִיא בִּינָה וּמִשֶּׁם נָפָלוּ וְנִשְׁבִּרוּ וְהַשֵּׁם הַנֶּה הוּא הַמַּצֵלֶה אוֹתָן רפ״ח נִיצוֹצִין שֶׁבַּשְׁבִירָה לְמָקוֹרָן וְשַׁרִשַׁן שֶׁהִיא בָּחִינַת בִּינָה ע' רַבָּתָא כו'.

And afterward, there is a higher elevation to the level of "Yisrael," for "E-l" is the radiance of Chochmah, as it is written in the Zohar on the verse "The heavens declare the glory of E-l," etc., and "Yisrael" is spelled with the letters "Shir-E-l" (Song of E-l), etc.

וְאַחַר כָּדְּ הַעֲלָאָה יוֹתֵר לִבְּחִינַת יִשְׂרָאֵל כִּי אֵ־ל הוּא נְהִירוּ דְּחָכְמְתָא כְּמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב בַּזֹהַר עַל פָּסוּק הַשְּׁמַיִם מְסַפְּרִים כְּבוֹד אֵ־ל כו׳ וְיִשְׂרָאֵל אוֹתִיּוֹת שִׁיר אֵ־ל כו׳

[And see what is written in Shir HaShirim in the explanation of the verse "Go out and see" regarding the matter of "And Yisrael shall rejoice in You, the sanctifiers of Your Name," and in the explanation of the verse "My dove in the clefts of the rock" regarding "Yisrael arose in [Divine] thought," and what is written on the verse "And He saw no toil in Yisrael."]

ְוְעַמ״שׁ בְּשִׁיר הַשִּׁירִים בְּבִיאוּר עַל פּ׳ צֵאֵנָה] וּרְאֵינָה בְּעִנְיַן וְיִשְׂמְחוּ בְדּ יִשְׂרָאֵל מְקַדְּשֵׁי שִׁמְדּ. וּבְבִיאוּר עַל פּ׳ יוֹנָתִי בְּחַגְוֵי הַפֶּלֵע בְּעִנְיַן יִשְׂרָאֵל עָלוּ בַּמַּחֲשָׁבָה וּמַה שֶּׁבָּתוּב עַל פּ׳ וְלֹא רָאָה עָמָל בִּישִׂרְאֵל.

(2)

And behold, through the above-mentioned elevations of feminine waters (mayin nukvin), we draw down from above to below that "Hashem is our G-d," etc.—Hashem in Chochmah, the level of bittul, etc., for the Infinite Light does not dwell except in Chochmah, which is ko'ach mah ("the power of what").

וְהָנֵּה עַל־יְדֵי בְּחִינַת הַעֲלָאוֹת מֵ״ן הַנּ״ל מַמְשִׁיכִים מִלְמַעְלָה לְמַטָּה לִהְיוֹת הוי׳ אֱלֹקֵינוּ כו׳ הוי׳ בַּחָכְמָה בְּחִינַת בִּטוּל כו׳ כִּי אֵין אוֹר אֵין־סוֹף שׁוֹרֶה אֶלָּא בַּחַכְמַה שֵׁהִיא כֹּחַ מַ״ה. בַּחַכְמַה שֵׁהִיא כֹּחַ מַ״ה.

And even in Binah the Infinite Light does not dwell, except through the enclothing of Chochmah. And Chochmah is the level that connects and draws down the Infinite Light into every world, etc., for "You made them all with wisdom." And it is known regarding the Torah in every world, etc.

And this is because, behold, the Infinite Light, blessed be He, is the Sovev Kol Almin, which encompasses from head to foot in perfect equality.

And similarly, the Eitz Chayim gives a parable of the great circle that surrounds the line and cannot be enclothed in any vessel in the manner of an inner light—because all are considered as naught before Him, blessed be He, and there is no comparison, etc.

And regarding this it is said, "The heavens and the earth I fill" with an equal presence—and this is in a concealed way, because "no thought can grasp Him at all," and He does not become enclothed in any vessel as an inner light except in the aspect of Chochmah alone, in which He does become enclothed as an inner light, and through it is drawn and affects the other ten Sefiros.

And therefore, through the occupation with Torah, one draws Him, blessed be He, to be revealed to us as an inner light—because the Torah was enclothed in physical matters within Beriah, Yetzirah, and Asiyah, and we grasp it; and within it is enclothed Supernal Chochmah, and within it specifically is enclothed the Infinite Light as an inner light, as mentioned above.

Whereas He does not become enclothed in any other vessel as an inner light except as a surrounding light, etc., as mentioned above. And this is the matter of "Hashem is our G-d," and through this: "Hashem is One."

וַאֲפָלוּ בַּבִּינָה אֵינוֹ שׁוֹרֶה אוֹר אֵין־סוֹף אֶלָּא עַל־יְדֵי הַתְלַבְּשׁוּת הַחָּכְמָה וְהַחָּכְמָה הִיא בְּחִינַת הַמְּהַבֶּרֶת לְהִיוֹת הַמְשָׁכַת אוֹר אֵין־סוֹף בְּכָל עוֹלָם כו' כִּי כֵלָם בְּחָכְמָה עָשִׂיתָ וּכְנוֹדָע מֵעִנְיַן הַתּוֹרָה שֶׁבְּכָל עוֹלָם כו'

וְהַהִּיא כִּי הָנֵה אוֹר אֵין־סוֹף בֶּרוּדְּ־הוּא הוּא הַסוֹבֵב בָּל עָלְמִין שֶׁמַּקִּיף מֵרֹאשׁ עַד רֶגֶל בְּהַשְׁוָאָה אַחַת.

ְוְעַד״ז הָמְשִׁיל בְּעֵץ חַיִּים מָשֶׁל הָעִגּוּל הַגָּדוֹל הַמַּקִּיף אֶת הַקַּו וְאֵינוֹ יָכוֹל לְהִתְלַבֵּשׁ בְּשׁוּם כֵּלִי בִּבְחִינַת אוֹר פְּנִימִי. כִּי כֻלָּם כְּלָא חֲשִׁיבוּ קַמֵּיה יִתְבָּרֵךְ וְאֵין .עֵרוּך כו׳

ְעַל זֶה נֶאֱמַר אֶת הַשָּׁמִים וְאֶת הָאָרֶץ אַנִי מָלֵא בְּהַשְׁוָאָה אַחַת וְהַהִּיא בִּבְחִינַת הָעָלֵם כִּי לֵית מַחֲשָׁבָה תְּפִיסָא בֵיהּ כְּלָל וְאֵינוֹ מִתְלַבֵּשׁ בְּשׁוּם כֵּלִי בִּבְחִינַת אוֹר כְּנִימִי כִּי אִם בִּבְחִינַת הַחָּכְמָה לְבַדָּה שָׁבָּה הוּא מִתְלַבֵּשׁ בִּבְחִינַת אוֹר כְּנִימִי וְעַל יָדָה נִמְשָׁךְ וּפוֹעֵל בִּשְׁאָר הַט׳ סְפִירוֹת וּכְמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב הַשַּעַם בְּסֵפֵר שַׁעַר הַיָּחוּד וְהָאֵמוֹנָה כֵּרָק ל״ה בְּהַגַּה.

וְלָכֵן עַל־יְדֵי עֵסֶק הַתּוֹרָה מַמְשִׁיכִים אוֹתוֹ יִתְבֶּרֵךְ שָׁיִתְגַלֶּה אֵלֵינוּ בִּבְחִינֵת אוֹר פְּנִימִי כִּי הַתּוֹרָה נִתְלַבְּשָׁה בִּדְבָרִים גַּשְׁמִיִּים בִּבְרִיאָה יְצִירָה עֲשִׂיָּה וַאֲנַחְנוּ מַשִּׁיגִים אוֹתָה וְתוֹכָה מְלוּבָּשׁ חָכְמָה עִילָּאָה וּבְתוֹכָה דַּוְקָא מְלוּבָּשׁ אוֹר אֵין־סוֹף בִּבְחִינַת אוֹר בְּנִימִי כַּנַ״ל.

מַה שָׁאֵינוֹ מִתְלַבֵּשׁ בְּשׁוּם כֵּלִי בִּבְחִינַת אוֹר פְּנִימִי כִּי אִם בִּבְחִינַת אוֹר מַקִּיף כו׳ כַּנַּ״ל וְזֶהוּ עִנְיַן הוי׳ אֱלֹקֵינוּ וְעַל יְדֵי זֶה הוי׳ אֶחָד.

Alter Rebbe Likkutei Torah Parshas Va'eschanan וְאָהַבְּהָ אֵת ה׳ אֱלֹקֶיךְּ כו׳

For behold, the word "One" does not express His unity, for since there is nothing besides Him, the term "one" is not applicable—for this term is only relevant to something divisible and distinct. And nevertheless, all is one.	כִּי הָנֵּה מִלַּת אֶחָד אֵינֶנָּה מוֹרָה עַל יִחוּדוֹ יִתְבָּרֵךְ כִּי מֵאַחַר שָׁאֵין עוֹד מִלְּבַדּוֹ לֹא שַׁיֵּיךְ לְשׁוֹן אֶחָד שָׁלְשׁוֹן זָה לֹא שַׁיֵּיךְ רַק בְּדָבָר הַמִּתְפָּרֵד וּמִתְחַלֵּק וָאַעַפּ״כָּלָל אֶחָד.
Just like the matters of "these and those are the words of the living G-d" in the Talmud—that even though they appear to be in disagreement, nevertheless, all is one, etc.	כְּמוֹ אֵלוּ וְאֵלוּ דְּבָרֵי אֱלֹקִים חַיִּים שֶׁאַף־עַל־פִּי שֶׁלְכָאוֹרָה הֵם חֲלוּקִים מִכָּל־מָקוֹם הַכּּל אֶחָד כו׳.
Rather, it refers to His, may He be blessed, attributes—Chesed and Gevurah, etc.—that is, although they are distinct things, and nearly opposites (for where there is Chesed, Gevurah is not applicable), nevertheless, all is one.	אֶלָּא דְּקָאֵי עַל מִדּוֹתָיו יִתְבָּרֵךְ חֶסֶד וּגְבוּרָה כו׳ דְּהַיְנוּ שֶׁהַגַּם שֶׁהֵם דְּבָרִים נִפְרָדִים וְכִמְעַט שְׁנֵי הַפָּכִים שֶׁבִּמְקוֹם שֶׁיֵשׁ חֶסֶד לֹא שַׁיֵּיךְ גְּבוּרָה וַאַף־עַל־פִּי־כֵן הַכֹּל אֶחָד.
Because the Infinite Light, blessed be He, which is enclothed in Chochmah of Binah—and from there it is drawn also to the Middos—so that they too contain bittul (self-nullification) and integration, to be "one within one."	לְפִי שֶׁנִּמְשֵׁךְ אוֹר אֵין־סוֹף בָּרוּדְּ־הוּא הַמְלוּבָּשׁ בַּחָכְמָה לִבִּינָה וּמִשָּׁם נִמְשֵׁךְ לַמִּדוֹת גַּם־כֵּן לִהְיוֹת בָּהֶן גַּם־כֵּן בִּטוּל וְהִתְּכַלְלוּת וּלְהֶנֵי אֶחָד בְּאֶחָד.
As it is written: "To You, Hashem, is the greatness and the power," etc.—that all is nullified to You and does not even attain the status of a defined name, for "He is not of all these attributes," etc.	וּכְמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב לְךָּ ה׳ הַגְּדֵלָּה וְהַגְּבוּרָה כו׳ שֶׁהַכּּל בְּטֵלִים לְךָּ וְאֵינָם עוֹלִים בְּשֵׁם כְּלָל דְּלָא מִכָּל אֵלִין מִדוֹת כו׳
And see what is written about this in the discourse "Behaaloscha Es HaNeiros," and on the verse "And I appeared to Avraham."	וְעַמ״שׁ מִזֶּה עַל פּ׳ בְּהַעֲלוֹתְדָּ אֶת הַנֵּרוֹת וְעַל פּ׳ וָאַרָא אֶל אַבְרָהָם.
And afterwards, we draw down this unification in "Baruch Shem Kevod" (Sh'ma's second verse)—"Baruch" means drawing down—meaning that it is drawn into Beri'ah, Yetzirah, and Asiyah and into the Heichalos (palaces), too, the same level of unification as above in Atzilus: that they, too, receive the Infinite Light to experience bittul and integration, etc.	וְאַחַר כָּדְ מַמְשִׁיכִים יִחוּד זֶה בִּשְׁכָמַ״ל וּבָרוּדְ לָשׁוֹן הַמְשָׁכָה שָׁנְּמְשָׁךְ בִּבְרִיאָה יְצִירָה עֲשִׂיָּה וּבְהֵיכָלוֹת גַּם־בֵּן בְּחִינַת יִחוּד כְּמוֹ לְמַעְלָה בַּאֲצִילוּת שֶׁנִּמְשָׁךְ גַּם לָהֶם אוֹר אֵין־סוֹף לִהְיוֹת בִּטוּל וְהִתְּכַלְלוּת כו׳.
[And from this one can understand what is written about the destruction of the Beis HaMikdash: "Messengers of peace cry bitterly, the pathways are desolate," etc.	וּמִזֶּה יוּבַן מַה שֶּׁכָּתוּב בְּחַרְבַּן בֵּית הַמִּקְדָּשׁ מַלְאַכֵּי] שָׁלוֹם מָר יִבְכָּיוּן נִשְׁמוּ מְסָלוֹת כו׳.
And as the students of the Arizal wrote, that when there is unification in Zeir Anpin and Nukva of Atzilus, then also the Heichalos that are drawn from Tiferes unite with the Heichalos drawn from Malchus.	וּכְמוֹ שֶׁכָּתְבוּ תַּלְמִידֵי הָאֲרִיזַ״ל שֶׁכְּשֶׁיֵשׁ יִחוּד בְּזו״ן דְּאֲצִילוּת אָז נִתְיַחֲדוּ גַּם־כֵּן הַהֵיכָלוֹת הַנִּמְשָׁכִים מִתִּפְאֶרֶת עִם הַהֵּיכָלוֹת הַנִּמְשָׁכִים מִבְּחִינַת מַלְכוּת.

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And see in the Mikdash Melech on the beginning of Parshas Shemos (p. 4) on the verse "A man and his household came," and its explanation.	וְעַיֵּן בְּמָקְדָּ״מ רֵישׁ פּ׳ שְׁמוֹת (דַּף די) עַל פּ׳ אִישׁ וּבֵיתוֹ בָּאוּ וּפִירוּשׁוֹ.
And the concept of this unification is the drawing down of the revelation of the Infinite Light into them to bring them to bittul—and this is the meaning of "Baruch Shem Kevod."	ּוְעִנְיַן יִחוּד זָה הוּא שֶׁנִּמְשֶׁךְ בָּהֶם גִּילוּי אוֹר אֵין־סוֹף לָהְיוֹת בִּטוּל וְזֶהוּ עִנְיַן בִּשְׁכֶמַ״ל.
And therefore, during the destruction of the Beis HaMikdash, "Messengers of peace cry bitterly"—over the absence of this revelation, etc.	וְלָכֵן בַּחָרָבָּן בֵּית הַמִּקְדָּשׁ מַלְא כִּי שָׁלוֹם מָר יִבְכּוּן עַל הֶעְדֵּר הַגִּילוּי כו׳.
And see also what is written further on this concept of unification—of the Heichalos and the angels—on the verse "And they will speak of the awesomeness of Your strength."	וְעַמ״שׁ עוֹד מֵעָנְיַן יִחוּד זֶה דְהַהֵּיכָלוֹת וּמַלְאָכִים עַל פ׳ וְעֻזּוֹז נוֹרָאוֹתֶידִּ יֹאמֵרוּ.
And thus one can say that the meaning of the Higher Unification (Yichuda Ila'ah) is the root of the drawing forth from nothing to something in Chochmah and Binah of Atzilus.	וְכָךְ יֵשׁ לוֹמַר פַּירוּשׁ יִחוּדָא עִילָּאָה הוּא שׁרֶשׁ הַמְשָׁכַת מֵאַיִן לְיֵשׁ חָכְמָה וּבִינָה דְּאַצִילוּת.
And the Lower Unification (Yichuda Tata'ah) is from nothing to something in Beri'ah, Yetzirah, and Asiyah, until it is drawn even into physical something-from-nothing.	וְיִחוּדָא תְּתָאָה הוּא מֵאַיִן לְיֵשׁ בִּבְרִיאָה יְצִירָה עֲשִׂיָּה עַד שֶׁנִּמְשָׁךּ גַּם־כֵּן מֵאַיִן לְיֵשׁ גַּשְׁמִי.
And through this, "And you shall love Hashem your G-d with all your might"—meaning, without limit. That is, to go out from the level of vessel and limitation, for the vessel is what limits the light.	וְעַל יְדֵי זָה וְאָהַבְתָּ אֵת הוי׳ אֱלֹקֵיךְ בְּכָל מְאֹדֶךְ בִּלְגִּבּוּל דְּהַיְנוּ לָצֵאת מִבְּחִינַת כְּלִי וּגְבוּל שֶׁהַכְּלִי הוּא הַמַּגְבִּיל אֶת הָאוֹר.
And in this manner is the entire paragraph, which is to bring about the withdrawal of light from the vessel.	וְעַד״ז כָּל הַפָּרֶשָׁה כַּלָּה הִיא לִהְיוֹת הִסְתַלְּקוּת הָאוֹר מָן הַכְּלִי.
Now, this withdrawal is the level of the Name of 42 (שם מ"ב) in Gevurah—as is known, that all elevations happen through the Name of 42.	וְהָנֵה הָסְתַלְּקוּת זוֹ הִיא בְּחִינַת שֵׁם מ״ב בִּגְבוּרָה כַּנּוֹדָע שֶׁכָּל הַעֲלָאוֹת הוּא עַל־יְדֵי שֵׁם מ״ב.
[And see what is written on this in the explanation of the verse "Eileh Masei" (These are the journeys), regarding the 42 journeys.]	[וְעַמ״שׁ מִזֶּה עַל פּ׳ אֵלֶּה מַסְעֵי בְּעִנְיַן מ״ב מַסְעוֹת].
And therefore, it is established to recite in Krias Shema during bedtime (Krias Shema al HaMitah) in order to elevate the soul through this Name.	וְלָכֵן מְיוּסָד לוֹמַר בִּקְרִיאַת שְׁמַע עַל הַמִּטָּה לְהַעֲלוֹת הַנְּשָׁמָה עַל־יְדֵי שֵׁם זָה.

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And therefore it has seven times six words—"With two he covers," etc., "and with two he flies," flies away from the vessel to ascend and withdraw upward.	וְלֶבֵן יֵשׁ בּוֹ ז׳ פְּעָמִים שֵׁשׁ שֵׁשׁ חֵבוֹת בִּשְׁתַּיִם יְכַסֶּה כו׳ וּבִשְׁתַּיִם יְעוֹפֵף יְעוֹפֵף מָן הַכְּלִי לַעֲלוֹת וּלְהִסְתַּלֵּק לְמַעְלָה.
And this is the concept of "Gevurah within Chesed," etc. And this is the idea of "they exchanged their places"—that the light resides in a different vessel.	ְוְהוּא עִנְיַן גְּבוּרָה שֶׁבַּחֶסֶד כו׳ וְזֶהוּ עִנְיַן דַּאֲחֲלִיפוּ דּוּכְתַיִיהוּ שֶׁשׁוֹרָה הָאוֹר בִּכְלִי אַחֵר.
For the first paragraph is Chesed, as it is stated therein "And you shall love," etc., and it is the level of the vessel of Chesed. But the light is Gevurah, a withdrawal upward—and this is the Name of 42.	כִּי פָּרָשָׁה רִאשׁוֹנָה הִיא חֶסֶד שֶׁנֶּאֲמֵר בָּהּ וְאָהַבְתָּ כו׳ וְהִיא בְּחִינַת כְּלִי הַחֶסֶד אֲבָל הָאוֹר הוּא גְּבוּרָה וְהִסְתַלְּקוּת לְמַעְלָה וְזֶהוּ שֵׁם מ״ב.
And through this is understood that the kavanah (intent) specifically in Krias Shema is with this Name—because the intention is the inward [aspect, the level of light], meaning the innermost purpose, the end goal, upon which the entire concept revolves.	וּבְזֶה יוּבַן שֶׁהַכַּוָנָה דַּןקָא שֶׁבְּקְרִיאַת שְׁמֵע הִיא בַּשֵּׁם זָה. לְפִי שֶׁהַכַּוָּנָה הִיא פְּנִימִית [בְּחִינַת אוֹר] דְּהַיְנוּ הַמְּכוּוָן הַתַּכְלִית שָׁעַל יְסוֹד זָה סוֹבֵב וְהוֹלֵךְ כָּל הָעִנְיָן
And the entire concept is in the aspect of externality, etc. Therefore, the body of the paragraph—which is the concept—is "And you shall love," etc., the vessel of Chesed, as above.	ְרֶכֶל הָעִנְיָן הוּא בִּבְחָינַת חָיצוֹנִיּוּת כו' לָכֵן גּוּף הַפֶּרָשָׁה שָׁהוּא הָעִנְיָן הוּא בְּןאָהַבְתָּ כו' כְּלִי הַחֶּסֶד בַּנַּ״ל
(Meaning, the externality and vessel of "And you shall love with all your might" is the level of Chesed—that is, in that it is love, and love is generally the level of Chesed.	ר״ל כִּי הֲרֵי הַחִיצוֹנִיּוּת וְהַכְּלִי דְּוְאָהַבְתַּ בְּכָל מְאֹדֶךּ) הִיא בְּחִינַת חֶסֶד דְּהַיְנוּ מֵה שֶׁהִיא בְּחִינַת אַהַבָּה (וְאַהֲבָה הִיא בְּחִינַת חֶסֶד דֶּרֶךְ כְּלָל
But its inner dimension—which is the intention of the love—is the level of the light of Gevurah, which is to depart and separate from the wick, etc. And see in Tanya, chapter 50.	אֲבָל פְּנִימִיּוּתָהּ שֶׁהוּא הַמְּכוּוָן מֵאַהַבָּה הוּא בְּחִינַת אוֹר הַגְּבוּרָה שֶׁהוּא לִהְיוֹת הָסְתַלְקוּת וּלְהָפָּרֵד מִן הַפְּתִילָה כו׳ וְעַיֵּן בְּסֵכֶּר שֶׁל בֵּינוֹנִים כֶּרֶק נ׳.
And this is [the meaning of] "He crouched, he lay down like a lion," and our Sages said (end of the first chapter of Berachos, 12b), that they wanted to establish Parshas Balak in Krias Shema because it says there: "He lay down," etc.	וְזֶהוּ כָּרַע שָׁכַב כַּאֲרִי וְכָלָבִיא וְאָמְרוּ רַבּוֹתֵינוּ זְכְרוֹנָם לְבָרָכָה סוֹף פֶּרֶק קַמָּא דְּבְרָכוֹת (דַּף י״ב ע״ב) שֶׁבִּקְשׁוּ לִקְבּוֹעַ פָּרָשַׁת בָּלָק בְּקְרִיאַת שְׁמַע מִשׁוּם דְּכָתִיב בָּה הִיא קָרָא.
And in the Yalkut: "They stand like lions snatching Krias Shema." And the idea is that the level of a lion is also like the above—that the light of Gevurah is within the vessel of Chesed.	וּבְיַאלְקוּט עוֹמְדִין כָּאֲרָיוֹת חוֹטְפִין קְרִיאַת שְׁמַע. וְהַהִּיא כִּי בְּחִינַת אֲרִיֵה הוּא גַּם־כֵּן עַל־דֶּרֶךְ הַנַּ״ל דְאוֹר הַגְּבוּרָה בִּכְלִי הַחֶּסֶד.

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As the Ramaz writes on Parshas Tzav (27b–28a) regarding the fire on the altar that was in the form of a lion—for "אריה" (lion) equals Gevurah—and it is written, "The face of a lion to the right," etc., see there.	כְּמוֹ שֶׁכָּתַב הָרְמַ״ז פּ׳ צַוּ (דַּף כ״ז כ״ח) בְּעִנְיַן הָאֵשׁ שֶׁעַל גַּבֵּי הַמִּזְבַּחַ שֶׁהָיְתָה בְּצוּרַת אֲרִיֵה שֶׁאֲרִיֵה גִּימַטְרִיָּא גְבוּרָה וּכְתִיב פְּנֵי אֲרִיֵה אֶל הַיָּמִין כו׳ ע״שׁ.
And this is [the meaning of] "They stand like lions"—specifically, that in Krias Shema there should be the level of "And you shall love" "with all your might," etc.	וְזֶהוּ עוֹמְדִים כָּאֲרָיוֹת דַּוְקָא שֶׁיִּהְיֶה בִּקְרִיאַת שְׁמַע בְּחִינַת וְאָהַבְתָּ כו׳ בְּכָל מְאֹדֶךּ כו׳.
(κ)	
And all of this refers to the first paragraph, which is the level of <i>ratzoh</i> (yearning upward). But the second paragraph is the level of <i>shuv</i> (return)—to specifically draw lights into vessels. Therefore, it does not say "with all your might."	ג וְכָל זֶה בְּפָרָשָׁה רָאשׁוֹנָה שֶׁהִיא בְּחִינַת רָצוֹא אֲבָל פָּרָשָׁה שְׁנִיָּה הִיא בְּחִינַת שׁוּב לְהְיוֹת דַּוְקָא הַמְשָׁכַת אוֹרוֹת בִּכְלִים וְלָכֵן לֹא נֶאֱמֵר בְּכָל מְאֹדְכֶם.
And in this it is the opposite: the vessel is <i>gevurah</i> —"Beware for yourselves," etc., "Then the wrath shall blaze," etc.	וּבָזֶה הוּא לְהֵיפֶּךְ שֶׁהַכְּלִי הוּא גְּבוּרָה הִשָּׁמְרוּ לָכֶם כו׳ וְחָרָה אַף כו׳.
However, the inner dimension is the Name 72) ע"ב), which is in <i>chesed</i> (kindness)—[<i>chesed</i> = gematria 72]—for <i>chesed</i> is divided into 72 levels: "they are seventy-two bridges."	אֲכָל הַפְּנִימִיּוּת הוּא בְּשֵׁם ע״ב שֶׁהוּא בַּחֶסֶד [חֶסֶד גִּימַטְרִיָּא ע״ב] שֶׁהַחֶּסֶד נֶחְלֶק לְע״ב בְּחִינַת הֵם ע״ב גְּשָׁרִים.
And the concept of a <i>bridge</i> is like, for example, when people build a bridge across water consisting of many chambers, so that the water passes through it in divided sections through each chamber—and not all at once, but with distinction between one water flow and the next, etc.	וְעָנְיֵן גָּשֶׁר הוּא כְּמוֹ שֶׁעוֹשִּׂין עַד״מ עַל־פִּי הַמַּיִם גָּשֶּׁר בָּנוּי חֲדָרִים רַבִּים לִהְיוֹת הַמֵּיִם עוֹבְרִים בּוֹ בְּהָתְחַלְּקוּת בְּכָל חֶדֶר כו׳ וְלֹא יַעַבְרוּ בְּבַת אַחַת כִּי אָם שֶׁיְהֵא הֶבְדֵּל בֵּין מֵיִם לְמֵיִם כו׳.
So too, metaphorically, there are seventy-two bridges—that is, seventy-two types of differentiation in kindnesses, between one <i>chesed</i> and another, for there are many details, and they are all hinted at in the kindness of the first day: <i>chesed</i> , light (which was created on it)— <i>chesed</i> , water— <i>chesed</i> , the color white— <i>chesed</i> , etc., and many such details below.	פָּךְּ עַד״מ יֵשׁ ע״ב גְּשָׁרִים שֶׁהֵם ע״ב מִינֵי הַבְדָּלוֹת בַּחֲסָדִים בֵּין חֶסֶד לְחֶסֶד שֶׁכַּמָּה עִנְיָנִים יֵשׁ וְכוּלֶּם מְרוּמָזִים בַּחֶסֶד יוֹם רִאשׁוֹן חֶסֶד. וְאוֹר (שֶׁנִּבְרָא בּוֹ) חֶסֶד. וּמֵיִם חֶסֶד. גָּנֶן לָבָן חֶסֶד כו׳ וְכֵיוֹצֵא בָּאֵלוּ הַרְבֵּה פְּרָטִים לְמַטָּה.
And similarly above—the song of the angels and the tzaddikim, who sit and delight in the radiance, etc., in the upper and lower Gan Eden, etc., and 310 worlds, etc.	וְכֵן לְמַעְלָה הַשִּׁיר שֶׁל מַלְאָכִים וְצַדִּיקִים יוֹשְׁבִּין וְנֶהֶנִין מִזְּיו כו׳ בְּגַן־עֵדֶן עֶלְיוֹן וְתַחָתּוֹן כ׳ו וְש״י .עוֹלָמוֹת כו׳.
And similarly there are many details without number—but they are all generally included in the level of 72) ע"ב().	וְכִיּוֹצֵא יֵשׁ הַרְבֵּה פְּרָטִים עַד אֵין מִסְכָּר רַק שֶׁכִּלְּם נִכְלָלִים דֶּרֶךְ כְּלָל בְּע״ב בְּחִינָה.

Alter Rebbe Likkutei Torah Parshas Va'eschanan וְאָהַבְּהָ אֵת ה׳ אֱלֹקֶיךְּ כו׳

[And see in the Tosefta appended to Zohar III (Beshalach 54a) on the verse "And the angel journeyed," etc., regarding "and closed waters beneath the feminine"—in seventy-two letters—and this is explained elsewhere.]	ְעַיֵּן בַּתּוֹסֶפָתָּא שֶׁבְּזַח״ב (בְּשַלַּח ד״נ) עַל פ׳ וַיּפַע] מַלְאַךּ כו׳ גַּבֵּי וּמַיִין סָתִימִין תְּחוֹת נוּקְבֵי בְּשִׁבְעִין הַתִּרִי אֹתִיוֹת וּמְבֹאָר בִּמְקוֹם אַחֵר.
But with one simple chesed, the worlds could not exist at all—only through contractions and gradated evolutions of levels—such that Gan Eden above is one way, and Gan Eden below another.	אֲבָל בְּחֶסֶד אֶחָד פָּשׁוּט לֹא הָיוּ יְכוֹלִים הָעוֹלָמוֹת לִהְיוֹת כְּלֶל רַק דֶּרֶךְ צִמְצוּמִים וְהִשְׁתַּלְשְׁלוּת הַמַּדְרֵגוֹת בְּגַן־עֵדֶן הָעֶלְיוֹן כָּךְ וּבְגַן־עֵדֶן הַתַּחָתּוֹן כָּךְ
And to have light and water, etc.—therefore the Name 72) in the three verses "And he traveled," "And he came," "And he stretched"—each name has three letters totaling 216, which is the gematria of <i>gevurah</i> .	וְלִהְיוֹת אוֹר וּמַיִם כו׳ לָכֵן שֵׁם ע״ב שֶׁבְּגִ׳ פְּסוּקִים וַיִּפַע וַיָּבֹא וַיֵּט יֵשׁ בְּכָל שֵׁם ג׳ אוֹתִיוֹת גִּימַטְרִיָּא רי״ו שֶׁהוּא בְּגִימַטְרִיָּא גְבוּרָה.
For the descent of chesed is in the mode of gevuros and contractions—like the <i>gevuros geshamim</i> (powers of rain), as we mention rain in the blessing "You are mighty," because rain descends with <i>gevurah</i> ,	שֶׁיְרִידַת הַחֶּסֶד הוּא בִּבְחִינַת גָבוּרוֹת וּצִמְצוּמִים כְּמוֹ גָבוּרוֹת גְשָׁמִים שֶׁמַּזְכִּירִין הַגֶּשֶׁם בְּאַתָּה גִּבּוֹר לְפִי שָׁהַמָּטֶר יוֹרֵד בִּגְבוּרָה.
even though the rain waters the earth and makes it grow, and gives seed to the sower and bread to the eater, etc.—nonetheless, its <i>gevurah</i> lies in that it descends drop by drop.	אַף־עַל־פִּי שֶׁהַגָּשֶׁם הוּא מְרוַה אֶת הָאָרֶץ וּמוֹלִידָה וּמַצְמִיחָה וְנוֹתֵן זָרע לַזּוֹרֵעַ וְלֶחֶם לָאוֹכֵל כו׳ אֶלָּא שָׁגְבוּרָתוֹ הִיא בְּמֵה שֶׁהוּא יוֹרֵד טִפִּין טִפִּין.
For it must be divided into many drops so that it should not flood and create a deluge—"He did not create it for chaos…"	שֶׁצָּרִידְּ לִהְיוֹת בְּהִתְחַלְּקוּת לִטְפִין רַבִּים שֶׁלֹא יִשְׁטוֹף וְיִצֲשֶׂה מַבּוּל וְלֹא לַתּהוּ בְרָאָה כו׳.
"but formed it to be settled"—meaning, in vessels. And this is only possible in the mode of <i>gevuros</i> , so that the vessels will be capable of receiving, etc.	וְלַשֶּׁבֶת יְצָרָה בִּרָחִינַת כֵּלִים הוּא דַּוְקָא בִּרְחִינַת גְבוּרוֹת כְּדֵי שֶׁיְּהֵא יְכוֹלֶת בַּכְּלִי לְקַבֵּל כו׳,
And behold, the drawing down of this light into the vessel of the second paragraph of Krias Shema is in what is written therein: "with all your soul"—that is, to be in the state of "and you shall not desecrate," etc.—not to create a void or interruption to the resting of the Infinite Light that one drew upon his soul in the first paragraph of Krias Shema, in the level of "with all your might," with self-sacrifice, etc.	וְהָנֵּה הַמְשֶׁכַת אוֹר זֶה בַּכֵּלִי דְּפָרְשֶׁה שְׁנִיָּה דְּקְרִיאַת שְׁמֵע הִיא בְּמֵה שֶׁנֶּאֱמַר בָּה בְּכָל נַפְשְׁכֶם דְּהַיְנוּ לִהְיוֹת בִּבְחִינַת וְלֹא תְחַלְּלוּ כו׳ שֶׁלֹא לַעֲשׁוֹת חָלֶל וְהַפְּסֵק לְהַשְׁרָאַת אוֹר אֵין־סוֹף שֶׁהִמְשִׁיךְ עַל נַפְשׁוֹ בְּפָּרָשָׁה רָאשׁוֹנָה דְּקְרִיאַת שְׁמֵע בִּבְחִינַת וּבְכָל מָאֹדֶךְ בְּמְסִירַת נֶפֶשׁ כו׳

Through this, he drew upon himself the Infinite Light itself, in the level of the Name צ"ב: "And I shall give the rain of your שַעל יִדי זָה נַמְשׁךְ בּוֹ אוֹר אין־סוֹף ממשׁ בּבְחינת land"—"rain" being מ"ד (mayin d'churin, masculine waters), שֶׁם ע״ב וְנַתַהָּי מָטַר אַרְצָכֶם מָטַר מ״ד אַרְצָכֵם "your land" being מ"ב (mayin nukvin, feminine waters). [And see רַיאַת שָׁמַע פַּרֵק כ״ד שַעַר קריאַת שָׁמַע פַּרֵק כ״ד [דָמ״נ [וְעַיֵּן בִּפָּעֵ״ח שַׁעַר קריאַת דָּמ״נ [וְעַיֵּן בִּפָּעַ״ח in Pri Etz Chaim, Gate of Krias Shema, Chapter 24.] And this is "[And I] shall give"—and not "And Hashem gave." וֹזֶהוּ וְנָתַתִּי וְלֹא וְנָתַן ה' וּמַהוּ וְנָתַתִּי אַף שֶׁהוּא Why does it say "I shall give," even though it is a statement of מַאֲמַר משה רַבֵּנוּ עָלָיו הַשָּׁלוֹם שֶׁהַשְּׁכִינָה הָיִתָה Moshe Rabbeinu, and the Shechinah was speaking through his מְדַבֶּרָת מִתּוֹדְ גְרוֹנוֹ אַף־עַל־פִּי־כֵן הֲרֵי לֹא נָאֱמַר כֵּן throat? Nevertheless, it is not said like this elsewhere. בָּמַקוֹם אַחֵר. Only because here the subject is the drawing down of the Name ַרַק לָפִי שַׁבָּכַאן הוּא עָנִיַן הַמְשַׁכַת שֵׁם ע״ב שֵׁהִיא ע"ב, which is the drawing of the Infinite Light itself into vessels. הַמִשַׁכַת אוֹר אֵין־סוֹף מַמַשׁ בַּכֵּלִים. And any person can recite this paragraph upon himself—since in וְאַף כַּל אַדַם יַכוֹל לְהִיוֹת אוֹמֵר פַּרַשַׁה זוֹ עַל עַצְמוֹ מַאַחַר שֶׁהָיָה בְּפָרָשָׁה רָאשׁוֹנָה בִּמְסִירַת נֶפֶשׁ כו׳ the first paragraph he was in a state of self-sacrifice, etc., and self-integration into the Infinite Light itself. וָהָתְכַלְּלוּת בָּאוֹר אֵין־סוֹף מַמָּשׁ. Therefore, he draws down the Infinite Light itself into his soul, to be in the state of "with all your soul," "and you shall not הָרֵי מַמִשִׁיךְ אוֹר אֵין־סוֹף מַמֵּשׁ בְּנַפְשׁוֹ לְהִיוֹת בְּכַל desecrate," etc.—and this is the drawing of the Name ע"ב" "And נַפִּשָׁכֵם וָלֹא תִחַלְּלוּ כו׳ וַלְהִיוֹת הַמִשַּׁכַת שֵׁם ע״ב My words that I have placed in your mouth"—truly My words in יוּדְבָרֵי אֲשֶׁר שָׂמַתִּי בְּפִיךְ וּדְבָרֵי מַמָּשׁ בְּפִיךְ כו׳. your mouth, etc. And the matter of the three verses: "And he traveled," "And he וְעָנָיֵן שָׁלֹשַה פָּסוּקִים וַיָּסַע וַיַּבֹא וַיֵּט יַשַׁר וְהַפוּךְ came," "And he stretched"—[the progression is] straight, וַיַשַׁר שֶצַּרִיךְ לָהִיוֹת תִּחָלֵה מִמַּעְלַה לְמַטַה וַאַחַר כַּךְ reversed, and straight again. For first it must go from above to מִמַּטָה לְמַעְלָה וְאַחַר כָּךְ חוֹזֵר לִהְיוֹת מִמַּעְלָה לְמַטָּה below, then from below to above, and afterward return again to וָהֶם שָׁלוֹשָה קוִים כו׳. go from above to below. These are the three lines, etc.

NOTE Summary:

This profound discourse by the Alter Rebbe explores the mystical and existential structure of the daily declaration of Shema Yisrael, dissecting its two main sections to reveal a dual-unity: a fusion of opposites rooted in Divine light and human devotion. The first paragraph, "יְאַהָּבְּתָּ אֵת הּוֹיי," represents Yichuda Ila'ah (Higher Unity)—the drawing down of the Infinite Light (סוף into Chochmah and Binah of Atzilus. This section emphasizes ratzoh, the soul's yearning to transcend, expressed through mesirus nefesh (self-sacrifice) "בְּכָל מְאֹדֶךְ" to exit the constraints of vessels and finitude.

Paradoxically, the light that descends into this vessel of *Chesed* (the expression of love) is actually sourced in *Gevurah* (strictness/withdrawal). This tension—light of *Gevurah* in a vessel of *Chesed*—is encapsulated in the Name of 42 (שם מ"ב), known as the force of elevation and

withdrawal. The phrase "אֵלוֹ דְּבְרֵי אֱלֹקִים חַיִּים" underscores how opposites (chesed and gevurah) are unified in Divine reality, because all differences are nullified in the face of Ein Sof.

In contrast, the second paragraph, "וְהָיָה אָם שָׁמֹעַ הַּשְׁמְעוּ," corresponds to Yichuda Tata'ah (Lower Unity)—the descent of light into Beriah, Yetzirah, and Asiyah, expressing shuv, the return to grounded living. It lacks "בְּכֶל מְאֹדֶכֶם" because it is about drawing Infinite Light into vessels. The Name 72), associated with chesed, is its inner engine, despite its outer form appearing as gevurah. Just as rain must descend drop by drop—not in a deluge—to fertilize the earth, so too the Infinite must descend via structured gevurah to be received.

The three verses—"וְיָפֵע וַיְבֹא וַיֵּט"—represent the three lines (right, left, and center), charting the soul's journey: from above to below, then ascending, then returning in balanced integration. All of this channels into the declaration "הְנִיי אֶהָד," not merely as a statement of monotheism, but as a collapse of opposites: chesed and gevurah, ratzoh and shuv, light and vessel—all one.

Practical Takeaway:

Shema is not just a declaration of faith but a transformative act. In the first paragraph, one reaches upward with love and surrender, aspiring to nullify ego and draw down the Infinite through mesirus nefesh. But this must be followed by the second paragraph, where one brings that light into structured living—mitzvos, speech, and thought—with discipline, consistency, and integration. True unity comes from harmonizing intensity with containment, passion with order, infinite light with finite expression.

Chassidic Story:

The Rebbe's Fire at Maariv

The Alter Rebbe once led Maariv with exceptional intensity during the recitation of Shema. Afterward, a chassid asked him why he trembled so during "בְּכָל מְאֹדֶּךְ." The Alter Rebbe answered: "When a Jew recites those words with sincerity, the heavens open. But one must be ready not just to rise upward, but to draw it all back down." He explained that the Baal Shem Tov used to say: "True divine service is not only to burn but to bring the fire into your house." That night, the Alter Rebbe davened with such dveikus that he later secluded himself to "draw the fire into vessels."

(Source: Beis Rebbe, Vol. 1, p. 29; Maamarei Admur Hazaken – Inyanei Krias Shema)

TPX – Therapeutic-Psychological Integration

Theme: Shema and the Integration of Infinite Light into the Vessel of the Self

This discourse by the Alter Rebbe explores the mystical architecture of the *Shema Yisrael* declaration through the Kabbalistic lenses of *Yichuda Ila'ah* (Higher Unity) and *Yichuda Tata'ah* (Lower Unity). At its core, it presents a spiritual-psychological model for understanding two essential modes of consciousness: **ratzoh**—the soul's yearning to dissolve into transcendence, and **shuv**—its imperative to return to grounded, embodied living.

In psychological terms, *ratzoh* is that intense moment of inspiration, passion, and longing—when a person touches something bigger than themselves and wants to rise above all boundaries. The first paragraph of Shema represents this peak experience. It speaks to the power of self-transcendence, to the willingness to surrender ego ("בְּכָל מְאֹדֶר") and align with a higher will. This is the therapeutic moment of awakening—when a person realizes they are more than their limiting beliefs, wounds, or patterns. It is the flash of clarity that says: *I want more. I want truth. I want G-d.*

But this moment is fragile. If not grounded, it burns out. The light must enter a vessel. The second paragraph of Shema reflects this movement into *shuv*. It speaks of integration, commitment, and responsibility: "Listen... if you obey the mitzvos..." This is not the fiery inspiration, but the quiet, day-after consistency. The light of the Infinite (*Or Ein Sof*) must be drawn down in measured form—like rain falling drop by drop, not in a flood. If it floods, it becomes chaos. If it's channeled, it nourishes life.

The brilliance of this model is that it affirms both polarities. True spiritual and psychological healing requires both: the radical passion to transcend, and the disciplined structure to hold and contain. This is where many seekers struggle—they want the ecstasy but not the integration. Yet without integration, ecstasy fades. The soul's cry must become the soul's practice.

The discourse also highlights how even opposing forces (*chesed* and *gevurah*) are unified in the Infinite. What appears as contradiction—love vs. restraint, light vs. contraction—is merely the play of Divine will. In therapeutic terms, this is the capacity to hold ambivalence: to love and grieve, to be strong and soft, to have desire and boundaries. The vessels of our psyche must be shaped through *gevurah* to contain the *chesed* of healing.

Story:

A Holocaust survivor once came to a therapist in Brooklyn, angry at G-d, carrying lifelong guilt that he survived while others didn't. He shared how every night in Auschwitz he would whisper Shema under his breath, not knowing if he'd live till morning. "But I never felt closer to G-d," he said. "And now... I go to shul, I say the same Shema... and I feel nothing. Just coldness." The therapist, a spiritual man, gently asked: "What did you do after Shema back then?" The man

replied, "I held on to it with everything I had." "And now?" he paused. "Now I say it and move on."

They worked for months—not just on his trauma, but on reclaiming *Shema* as a lived integration, not a memory. He began to add morning blessings. Then tefillin. Then a weekly Torah class. "It's not the fire I had," he told his rabbi one day, "but I think the fire is hiding inside the structure now."

(Source: Therapy notes shared anonymously in *Mishpacha Magazine*, "The Hidden Fire," April 2016) **END NOTE**