

### תפארת ישראל The Splendor of Israel Chapter 10

#### קְנְיַן הַנְּצְחִיוּת אֵינָה רַק בְּיִרְאַת שָׁמַיִם The acquisition of eternity is not only through fear of Heaven

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Just as people would ask, through which path can a person merit spiritual success through physical commandments,	כְּמוֹ שֶׁהָיוּ שׁוֹאֲלִים בְּנֵי אָדָם בְּאֵיזֶה צַד יִזְכֶּה הָאָדָם לַהַצְלָחָה הָרוּחָנִית עַל־יְדֵי מִצְוֹת הַגַּשְׁמִיּוֹת,
so too they would ask about Torah study in its commandments and its details,	בָּךְ הֵם שׁוֹאֲלִים עַל לְמוּד הַתּוֹרָה בְּמִצְוֹתֶיהָ וְדִקְדּוּקֶיהָ,
and about the damage caused by the ox and the pit, and similar cases,	וּבְנֵזֶק הַשׁוֹר וְהַבּוֹר, וְכַיּוֹצֵא בָּזֶה,
for it appeared in their opinion,	שֶׁהָיָה נְרְאֶה בְּדַעְתָּם,
that one would succeed more by attaining understanding in foundational principles,	תֹר יַצְלִיחַ כַּאֲשֶׁר יַשִּׂיג בְּעִנְיַן הַיְסוֹדוֹת,
and in the essence of the celestial spheres,	וּבְמַהוּת הַגַּלְגַלִים,
and in the separate intellects.	וּבַשְׂכָלִים הַגִּפְרָדִים.
Therefore, their opinion was that man's success lies in attaining these things.	לְכָךְ דַּעְתָּם כִּי הַצְּלָחַת הָאָדָם בְּהַשָּׁגַת הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֹּוּ
And their view regarding the endurance of the soul is:	וָדַעְהָם בְּהַשְׁאָרַת הַנֶּפֶשׁ,
that what remains is the intellect that a person acquired in his lifetime,	שָׁנִשְׁאָר הַשָּׂכֶל אֲשֶׁר קָנָה הָאָדָם בְּחַיָּיוּ,
and this is what remains after death.	ָן זֶהוּ שֶׁנִּשְאָר אַחַר הַמְּנֶת.
And you should know, that in addition to the fact that this is complete heresy, as will be explained,	ַּיִּבָּר יַשְהִיא כְּפִירָה גְמוּרָה, וְאַתָּה דַּע, כִּי נוֹסָף עַל דָּבָר שֶׁהִיא כְּפִירָה גְמוּרָה, ,כְּמוֹ שֶׁיִּתְבָּאֵר
it is something that the intellect cannot grasp at all, and it is contrary to human reason.	הוא דָּבֶר שֶׁלֹא יִסְכּּל הַדַּעַת כְּלָל, וְהוּא כְּנֶגֶד שֵׂכֶל הָאָדָם.
And this is because they say that the recipient of the intelligibles is the imaginative faculty in the soul,	וְזֶה כִּי הֵם אוֹמְרִים, כִּי הַמְקַבֵּל הַמֶּשְׂכָּלוֹת הוּא הָכָנָה בַּנָּפָשׁ הַמְדַמָּה,
and it is that which receives the intelligibles.	ָוְהוּא מְקַבֵּל הַמֶּשְׂכָּלוֹת.
And since this is only a preparation and nothing more,	וֹמֵאַחַר שֶׁאֵין כָּאן רַק הָכָנָה בִּלְבַד,
if we then say that the endurance [after death] is due to the form (i.e., the intellect) which was acquired,	אָם־כֵּן אָם נֹאמַר כִּי הַהִּשְּׁאֲרוּת הוּא מִצֵד הַשֶּׂבֶל שֶׁקָנָה,
then there will be no endurance for the person himself.	ַלֹא יָהְיֶה הִשָּׁאֲרוּת לָאָדֶם עַצְמוֹ.
For there is no doubt that when the intelligibles are present in the person,	ָשֶׁאֵין סָפַק, כִּי כַּאֲשֶׁר יִמָּצֵא בָּאָדָם הַמַּשְׂכָּלוֹת,

and in the presence of the intelligibles the preparation is not present,	וּבִמְצִיאוּת הַמֶּשְׂכָּלוֹת לֹא תִּמְצֵא הַהַּכָנָה,
and if so, then there will be no endurance for the person himself.	וְאָם כֵּן לֹא תִּמָּצֵא הַהִּשְּׁאֲרוּת לָאָדָם עַצְמוֹ.
And if they will say, "What of it? In the end, there will be endurance for the intellect that the person acquired,"	וְאָם יֹאמְרוּ: מַה בְּּכָדְ? סוֹף סוֹף יִהְיֶה הִשָּׁאֲרוּת לַשֵּׁכֶל שֶׁקָנָה הָאָדָם,
then we must also say that the person is considered to have remained in this world	אָם־כֵּן נֹאמַר גַּם־כֵּן שֶׁיִּהְיֶה הָאָדָם נֶחְשָׁב נִשְׁאָר בָּעוֹלָם הַזָּה,
just as his house and his other possessions have remained—	וַנְיָנוֹ נִשְׁאָר בִּיתוֹ וּשְׁאָר קִנְיָנוֹ,
and certainly his children and grandchildren.	וּמָכָּל שֶׁכֵּן בָּנָיו וּרָנֵי בָּנָיו.
So why should it be considered that the person has endured,	וְלָמָה יִהְיָה נָחְשָׁב שֶׁיֵשׁ הִשְּׁאֲרוּת לָאָדָם,
if what remains is something that is not the person's very essence?	פַאַשֶׁר נִשְׁאָר דָּבָר שֶׁאֵינוֹ עֶצֶם הָאָדָם?
For these intelligibles are not the essence of the person,	פָי אֵלוּ הַמַּשְׂכָּלוֹת אֵינָם עֶצֶם הָאָדָם,
and it would result that the person becomes divine—	וְיהָנֶה נַעֲשֶׂה הָאָדָם אֱלֹהִי,
that through his understanding he acquires the intellect, and thereby he remains eternal.	ָשֶׁעַל־יְדֵי הַשָּׁגָתוֹ קוֹנֶה הַשָּׂכֶל, וְהוּא יִשָּׁאֵר נִצְחִי,
Is there any greater distortion than this?	הָיֵשׁ שְׁבּוּשׁ גָּדוֹל מִזֶּה?
And even more than this: that eternity would be acquired by happenstance—	, וְיוֹתֵר מִזֶּה, כִּי יִהְיֶה הַנִּצְחִיוּת נִקְנָה בְּמִקְרָה
for these intelligibles are acquired by a person by chance, as he happened to acquire them—	שֶׁהֲרֵי אֵלּוּ הַמֶּשְׂכָּלוֹת נִקְנִים לָאָדָם בְּמִקְרָה, כַּאֲשֶׁר קָנָה אוֹתָם,
and this is something that is by chance,	הָדָבָר זָה בְּמָקְרָה,
and it was possible for him to have been without any intelligibles.	ָוְאֶפְשָׁר הָיָה בְּלֹא מֵשְׂכָּלוֹת.
If so, then the acquisition of eternity would be by happenstance.	וְאָם־כֵּוֹ, קָנָיָן הַנִּצְחָי יִהְיָה בְּמִקְרָה.
And this is something upon which it has been agreed that it is not fitting	וְדָבָר זָה הָסְכִּימוּ עָלָיו, שֶׁאֵין רָאוּי
for existence to be the result of chance at all,	שָׁיִהְיֶה הַמְצִיאוּת מִקְרֵה קָרָה כְּלָל,
even for a temporary existence.	ָןאַף מְצִיאוּת שֶׁהוּא לְשָׁעָה.
So how could it be that the final success—which is eternal—	ָןאֵיף יִהְיֶה דָּבֶר זֶה, שֶׁיִהְיֶה הַהַּצְלֶחָה הָאַחַרוֹנָה,
would come through happenstance,	ָשֶׁהִיא נִצְחִית, נַעֲשֶׂה הַמִּקְרֶה,

to the point that something which is the core of everything would be by chance?	עַד שֶׁיִהְיָה דָּבָר שֶׁהוּא עִפֵּר הַכֹּל בְּמִקְרָה.
Is there a greater distortion than this?	?וְכִי יֵשׁ שְׁבּוּשׁ יוֹתֵר מָזֶה

But these words are not only to increase the wrath of Hashem through these matters,	אַף הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלוּ אֵינָם רַק לְהוֹסִיף עַל חֲרוֹן אַף ה׳ בָּדְבָרִים אֵלוּ,
which have no root of truth and no branch of uprightness.	אָשֶׁר אֵין לָהֶם שֹׁרֶשׁ אֱמֶת וַעֲנַף ישֶׁר.
And know that the best of their words is the heresy of resurrection of the dead,	וְתֵדַע כִּי הַטּוֹב שֶׁבְּדָבְרֵיהֶם הִיא הַכְּפִירָה בִּתְחִיַּת הָמֵתִים,
for according to their view, that the endurance is only for the intellect, there would be no death,	שֶׁלְדַעְתָּם שֶׁהַשָּׁאֲרוּת הוּא לַשֵּׁכֶל, לֹא יִהְיֶה כָּאן מִיתָה,
and there is no resurrection if there is no death.	וְאֵין כָּאן תְּחִיָּה כַּאֲשֶׁר אֵין כָּאן מִיתָה.
Therefore, my son, if sinners entice you with smooth-tongued words,	לְכָךְ בְּנִי, אָם יְפַתּוּךְ חַטָּאִים בְּדָבְרֵי חֲלַקְלַקּוּת לָשׁוֹן,
to flatter men of science, to give only them name and legacy—	לְהַחַנִיף לְבַעֲלֵי מַדָּע, לָתֵת לָהֶם לְבַד שֵׁם —וּשְׁאַרִית
do not desire it, and do not listen to them, to spill the blood of innocent and righteous souls.	אַל תּאֹבֶה וְאַל תִּשְׁמֵע לָהֶם, לְאַבֵּר דַּם נַפְּשׁוֹת נְקִיִּים וְצַדִּיקִים.
My son, do not eat the bread of falsehood, and do not crave their delicacies,	בָּנִי, אַל תִּלְחַם לֶחֶם כְּזָבִים, וְאֵל תִּתְאָו ,לְהַטְעָמוֹתֵיהֶם
for their lips drip honey as if it were milk and honey beneath their tongue—	כִּי נֹפֶת תִּטְפְּנָה שִּׂפְתוֹתֵיהֶם כְּאִלּוּ דְּבֵשׁ וְחָלֶב תַּחַת לְשׁוֹנָם.
but within them is the bitterness of death:	אָכֵן בְּתוֹכָם מַר הַמֶּוֶת—אָכֵן בְּתוֹכָם מַר הַמֶּוֶת
the heresy in the endurance of the soul, and in the resurrection of the dead,	הַכְּפִירָה בְּהִשָּׁאֲרוּת הַנָּפֶשׁ, וּבִתְחִיֵּת הַמֵּתִים,
and in the World to Come, and in the Torah.	בָּעוֹלֶם הַבָּא, וּבַתּוֹרָה.
Therefore, my son, distance yourself from the entrance of their homes,	,עַל־כֵּן בְּנִי, הַרְחֵק מִפֶּתַח בֵּיתָם
and do not enter their gates,	ָוְאֵל תָּבֹא בְּשַׁצְרֵיהֶם,
for they will strip from you the true faith.	כִּי יִפְרְקוּ מֵאִתְּךָ הָאֱמוּנָה הָאֲמִתִּית.
And according to their words, even if one acquires the intelligibles,	וּלְדִבְרֵיהֶם, אָם הָיָה קוֹנֶה הַמֵּשְׂכָּלוֹת,
and even if he performs acts that are not desirable to Hashem,	אָם יַצְשָׂה מַצְשִׂים הַבָּלְתִּי רְצוּיִם אֶל ה׳,

he would still acquire endurance—	ָהָיָה קוֹנֶה הָשָּׁאֲרוּת,
and through this they cast off the fear of Heaven.	וּבָזֶה פָּקְרוּ עַל יִרְאַת שָׁמַיִם.
And in order to uproot the root that produces gall and wormwood, they said in the second chapter of Shabbos (31a):	וּכְדֵי לַעֲקָר הַשֹּׁרֶשׁ פּוֹרָה רֹאשׁ וְלַעֲנָה, אֶמְרוּ בְּפֶּרֶק נשֵׁנִי דְשַׁבָּת (לא, א:
Reish Lakish said: What is the meaning of that which is written (Yeshayahu 33:6):	י (יָשַׁעְיָה ל״ג, ו׳); מַאי דְּכְתִיב (יִשַׁעְיָה ל״ג, ו׳):
"And it shall be the faith of your times, a store of salvation, wisdom and knowledge"?	"וְהָוָה אֱמוּנַת עֵתָיךָ חֹסֶן יְשׁוּעַת חָכְמַת וְדֵעַת"?
Faith'—this is the Order of Zera'im;	אֱמוּנַת' – זָה סֵדֶר זְרָעִים.
Your times'—this is the Order of Mo'ed;	עָתָּיִךְ' – זֶה סֵדֶר מוֹעֵד.
Store'—this is the Order of Nashim;	חֹסֶן' – זָה סֵדֶר נָשִׁים.
Salvation'—this is the Order of Nezikin;	יָשׁוּעַת' – זָה סֵדֶר נְזִיקִין.
Wisdom'—this is the Order of Kodashim;	ָחָכְמַת' – זֶה סֵדֶר קָדָשִׁים.
And knowledge'—this is the Order of Taharos.	ַוְדַעַת' – זָה סֵדֶר טָהָרוֹת.
And even so, "the fear of Hashem is His treasure."	וַאֲפָלּוּ הָכִי – "יִרְאַת ה׳ הִיא אוֹצְרוֹ".
It is like a parable of a man who said to his agent: Bring me a kor of wheat up to the attic.	מָשָׁל לְאָדָם אוֹמֵר לִשְׁלוּחוֹ: הַעֲלֵה לִי כּוּר חִטִּין לָעֲלִיָּה,
He brought it up for him. He said to him: Did you mix in a kab of preservative?	יָןהֶעֱלָה לוֹ. אָמַר לוֹ: עֵרַבְתָּ בָּהֶם קַב חָמֶט?
He said to him: No. He said to him: It would have been better had you not brought it up. Thus far [the parable].	אָמַר לוֹ: לָאו. אָמַר לוֹ: מוּטָב אָם לֹא הֶעֶלִיתָהּ. עַד כָּאן.
Behold, the sages of blessed memory divided all of existence into the six orders of the Mishnah.	הָנֵּה חֲכָמִים זִכְרוֹנָם לִבְרָכָה בְּשִׁשָּׁה סִדְרֵי מִשְׁנָה חַלְקוּ כָּל הַמְּצִיאוּת.
And even if it appears to a person that they are very trivial matters—it is not so.	ןאַף אָם נִרְאֶה לָאָדָם שֶׁהֵם דְּבָרִים קַלִּים מְאֹד – אֵין הַדָּבָר כָּדְּ.
Because existence in general is divided into these parts:	וּמִפְּנֵי שֶׁהַמְּצִיאוּת בִּכְלָל נָחֱלָק לַחֲלָקִים אֵלוּ:
One part—the existence of physical things;	הַחֶלֶק הָאֶחָד – הַמְּצִיאוּת אֲשֶׁר הֵם גַּשְׁמִיִּים.
The second—those that are both celestial and not celestial, as if they are a chariot.	הַשַּׁנִי – שֶׁהֵם בַּשָּׁמַיִם וּבְלֹא שֶׁמַיִם בְּיַחַד, כְּאָלוּ הֵם מֶרְכָּב.
The third—the existence that is not celestial.	הַשְּׁלִישִׁי – הַמְּצִיאוּת הַבִּלְתִּי שָׁמַיִם.
And each part is divided into two: one closer than the other to the separate gradation,	וְכָל חֵלֶק נֶחֲלָק לִשְׁנַיִם: הָאֶחָד קָרוֹב יוֹתֵר מִן הַשֵּׁנִי אֶל הַמַּדְרֵגָה הַנִּבְדֶּלֶת,
until in this way there are six parts.	עַד שָׁבָּזָה הֵם שִׁשָּׁה חֲלָקִים.

Therefore it says: 'Faith'—this is the Order of Zera'im.	וּלְפִיכָךְ אָמֵר: 'אֱמוּנַת' – זֶה סֵדֶר זְרָעִים.
And it is known that the Order of Zera'im is the order of the produce of the earth, and all that is related to them—	וְיָדוּעַ כִּי סֵדֶר זְרָעִים הֵם סֵדֶר צִמְחֵי הָאָרֶץ, וְכָל אֲשֶׁר שַׁיָּךְ לָהֶם,
and this is the first level. And it called this 'Faith' because they do not change their function:	וְזָהוּ הַמַּדְרֵגָה הָרִאשׁוֹנָה. וְקָרָא זָה 'אֱמוּנַת', מִפְּנֵי שָׁאֵין מְשַׁנִּים פָּעֲלָם,
for when one sows wheat into the earth, it grows what it is meant to grow,	וּכַאֲשֶׁר הוּא זוֹרֵעַ הָאָרֶץ חִטָּה – מְגַדֶּלֶת מֵה שֶׁרָאוּי לָה לְגַדֵּל,
and it does not change what was planted in the earth—	ָןאֵינָה מְשַׁנָּה מַה שֶׁנִּפְקַד בְּתוֹךְ הָאָרֶץ,
like a person who is trustworthy, and what others entrust to him he returns to its owners.	כְּמוֹ הָאָדָם שֶׁהוּא נָאֱמֶן, וּמַה שֶׁמַּפְקִידִים הַבְּּרִיּוֹת אַלָיו – הוּא מַחְזִיר לְבְעָלָיו.
The second part is the Order of Mo'ed, which is in the heavens.	הַחֶלֶק הַשַּׁנִי, סֵדֶר מוֹעֵד, שֶׁהוּא בַּשָּׁמִיִם.
For the sun and the moon, by which we count the festivals,	שֶׁהֶרֵי הַשֶּׁמֶשׁ וְהַיָּרַחַ, שֶׁעַל־יְדֵיהֶם אָנוּ מוֹנִים הַמּוֹעֲדִים,
they are the host of the heavens, and this is the second part.	הַם צָבָא הַשָּׁמֵיִם, וְזָהוּ הַחֵּלֶק הַשַּׁנִי.
And it is known that the earth and all that is upon it is more material than what is considered the heavens,	וְיָדוּעַ כִּי הָאָרֶץ וְכָל אֲשֶׁר בָּה יוֹתֵר חָמְרִית מִמַּה שֶׁנֶּחְשָׁב הַשָּׁמַיִם,
and this matter requires no explanation.	ַןדָבָר זֶה אֵין צָרִיךְ בֵּאוּר.
And the third part is the Order of Nashim.	וָהַחֵלֶק הַשְּׁלִישִׁי הוּא סֵדֶר נָשִׁים.
It is already known that man is considered heavenly with regard to his body,	וּפּבָר יָדוּעַ דָּבָר זֶה כִּי הָאָדָם הוּא בַּשְּׁמִי מִצֵּד גוּפּוֹ,
and not heavenly with regard to the Divine soul.	וּבְלְתִּי בַּשְׁמִי מִצַּד הַנְּשָׁמָה הָאֱלֹהִית.
And it is known that the woman is more material than the man.	וָיָדוּעַ כִּי הָאִשָּׁה יוֹתֵר חָמְרִית מִן הַזָּכָר.
Therefore it said: 'Choshen'—this is the Order of Nashim.	וּלְפִיכָךְ אָמַר: 'חֹסֶן' – זֶה סֵדֶר נָשִׁים.
And it said: 'Yeshuos'—this is the Order of Nezikin.	וְאָמַר: 'יְשׁוּעוֹת' – זֶה סֵדֶר נְזִיקִין.
And behold, the order that precedes this is the Order of Nashim—	ןָהְנֵה הַסֵּדֶר שֶׁלְּפְנֵי זָה הוּא סֵדֶר נָשִׁים,
pertaining solely to the material female.	לַנְּקֵבָה הַחָּמְרִית בִּּלְבַד.
Whereas the Order of Nezikin includes mankind in general,	וְאָלוּ סֵדֶר נְזִיקִין הוּא כּוֹלֵל הָאָדָם בִּכְלָלוֹ,
the primary one being the male.	ישֶׁהָעָקָר הוּא הַזָּכָר.
And there are many things that are relevant exclusively to males,	וָכַמָּה דְּבָרִים שֶׁאֵינָם שַׁיָכִים לְגַמְרֵי רַק לִּזְכָרִים,
such as judges and testimony.	כָּמוֹ דַּיָּנִים וְעֵדוּת.

And generally our sages, of blessed memory, said:	וּכְלָל אָמְרוּ רַבּוֹתֵינוּ זָכְרוֹנָם לְבְרָכָה (בְּבָא קַמָּא טו, (א:
"The man is the one who engages in commerce, not the woman."	הָאִישׁ הוּא בַּעַל מֵשָּׂא וּמַתָּן, וְלֹא הָאִשָּׁה.
Therefore, in the first chapter of Bava Kama (6a), it is necessary to emphasize	וְלָכֵן, צָרִיךְ בְּפֶּרֶק קַמָּא דְּבָבָא קַמָּא (שס), רַבּוּי
that the woman is liable in damages.	שָׁהָהָיֶה הָאִשָּׁה חַיָּבֶת בִּנְזִיקִין.
For they said: If a man who is involved in commerce is exempt,	אָיָן – אַיִן, אִישׁ דְּבַר מֵשָּׂא וּמַתָּן
then a woman, who is not involved in commerce, surely so.	אָשָׁה דְּלָאו בַּת מַשָּׂא וּמַתָּן – לֹא, קָא מַשְׁמַע לָן.
And even if the woman engages somewhat in commerce,	וְאָם הָאִשֶּׁה – בַּעֲלַת מֵשָּׂא וּמַתָּן בְּמִקְצָת,
it is null compared to the man, who is fully engaged in commerce.	הוא בָּטֵל אֵצֶל הָאִישׁ, שֶׁהוּא בַּעַל מַשָּׂא וּמַתָּן.
And it is known that male and female are two levels,	רוֹת פָי הַנְּקַבָּה וְהַזָּכָר $\psi-\psi$ נֵי מַדְרֵגוֹת,
and they are considered like the earth and the heavens,	וָהֵם נֶחְשָׁבִים כְּמוֹ הָאָרֶץ וְהַשָּׁמַיִם,
to one who understands this.	לָמִי שֶׁמֵּבִין אֶת זֶה.
And afterward, it said: "Chochmah" — this is the Order of Kodashim.	ָןאַחַר־כָּךְ אָמֵר: חָכְמַת – זֶה סֵדֶר קָדָשִׁים.
It is known that Kodashim is the service to Hashem, blessed be He.	ּיָדוּעַ כִּי הַקָּדָשִׁים הִיא הָעֲבוֹדָה אֶל הַשֵּׁם יִתְבָּרַדְ.
And it called this "wisdom" — which it did not call the earlier ones.	ָוְקָרָא זֶה חָכְמַת, מַה שֶׁלֹּא קָרָא הָרִאשׁוֹנִים.
For it is not appropriate to be called "wise" one who knows material matters,	כִּי אֵין רָאוּי שֶׁיִקֶּרֵא מִי שֶׁהוּא חָכָם וְיוֹדֵעַ בַּדְּבָרִים הָגַּשְׁמִיִּים,
just as one is not called a "wise man" if he is skilled in leather-working,	ּכְמוֹ שֶׁאֵין נִקְרָא חָכָם מִי שֶׁהוּא חָכָם בִּמְלֶאכֶת הָרַצְעָנוּת,
even though it too is a form of wisdom.	אַף שֶׁהִיא חָכְמָה גַּם־כֵּן.
Therefore, only the sage who delves into matters of sanctity — this is called wisdom.	וּלְכָךְ דַּוְקָא הָחָכָם הַמְעַיֵּן בְּעִנְיָן הַקְּדֵשָׁה, וְזֶה נִקְרָא חָכְמָה.
And that is what it meant when it said: "Chochmah" — the Order of Kodashim,	ָןזֶה שֶׁאָמֵר: חָכְמַת – סֵדֶר קָדָשִׁים,
for the entire Order of Kodashim deals with matters of sanctity,	ָשֶׁכָּל סֵדֶר קָדָשִׁים מְדַבְּרִים בְּעַנָיָן הַקְּדֵשָׁה,
and all sanctity is non-material,	ָןכָל קְדֵשָׁה בַּלְתִּי גַּשְׁמִית,
and this is what is called wisdom.	וְדָבָר זֶה נִקְרָא חָכְמָה.

And so it is true, for the things in Kodashim are matters of wisdom,	וְכֵן הוּא הָאֱמֶת, כִּי הַדְּבָרִים בַּקֶּדָשִׁים הֵם דְּבְרֵי חָכְמָה,
as they said (Bava Metzia 109b): "When it comes to the slaughter of Kodashim, pause and examine."	וּכִּי מָטֵית (בָּבָא מְצִיעָא ק"ט, ב): "כִּי מָטֵית לְשְׁחִיטַת קָדָשִׁים — תָּא וְאַקְשֵׁי".
And the Order of Taharos is called "Da'as" (knowledge).	וְסֵדֶר טָהֱרוֹת נִקְרָא 'דַּעַת'.
For we already said that something is not fitting to be called wisdom except according to its subject.	שֶׁכְּבֶר אָמַרְנוּ כִּי אֵין רָאוּי שֶׁיִקְּרֵא חָכְמָה רַק לְפִי מַה שֶׁהוּא נוֹשֵׂא הַחָכְמָה.
And so, Da'as is an even higher level — for Da'as is more abstract than Chochmah.	וְכֶךְ הַדַּעַת, שֶׁהוּא יוֹתֵר עוֹד בְּמַדְרֵגָה, שֶׁהַדַּעַת הוּא מַפְשָׁט לְגַמְרֵי יוֹתֵר מִן הַחָּכְמָה.
Therefore, they said in Berachos (33b): "Great is Da'as, for it was given between two letters of Hashem's Name,"	וְלָכֵן אָמְרוּ בְּמַסֶּכֶת בְּרָכוֹת (ל"ג, ב): "גְדוֹלָה דַּעָה "שֶׁנִּתְּנָה בֵּין שְׁנֵי אוֹתִיּוֹת שֶׁל שֵׁם,
as it says (Shmuel I 2:3): "For a G-d of knowledges is Hashem."	"שֶׁנֶאֱמַר (שְׁמוּאֵל־א׳ ב׳, ג׳): "כִּי אֵל דַעוֹת ה׳".
And their intention in this is: one who has the level of Da'as —	וָרָצוּ בָּזֶה: כִּי מִי שֶׁיֵּשׁ בּוֹ מַדְרֵגַת הַדַּעַת,
is one who has complete attachment to Hashem, blessed be He.	הוא שָׁיֵשׁ לוֹ דְּבֵקוּת לְגַמְרֵי אֶל הַשֵּׁם יִתְבָּרַך.
And this matter is known to one who knows the distinction between wisdom (Chochmah) and knowledge (Da'as),	וְדָבָר זֶה יָדוּעַ לְמִי שֶׁיּוֹדַעַ הֶפְרֵשׁ שֶׁיֵשׁ בֵּין הַחָּכְמָה וְהַדַּעַת,
and this is not the place [to elaborate].	וָאֵין כָּאן מָקוֹם זֶה.
Nevertheless, by the name that is fitting to be called the Order of Kodashim — "Chochmah" —	מָכָּל מָקוֹם, בְּשֵׁם שֶׁרָאוּי שֶׁיּהָיֶה נִקְרָא סֵדֶר קָדָשִׁים בּ'ִר 'חָכְמָה, '-
according to the level of sanctity and wisdom,	לְפִי מַדְרֵגַת הַקְּדֵשָׁה וְהַחָּכְמָה,
according to the level of sanctity and wisdom, in this specifically it is fitting to be called wisdom,	לְפִּי מַדְרֵגַת הַקְּדֵשָׁה וְהַחָכְמָה, בָּזֶה דַּוְקָא רָאוּי שֶׁיִּהְיֶה נִקְרָא חָכְמָה,
•	
in this specifically it is fitting to be called wisdom,	בָּזֶה דַּוְקָא רָאוּי שֶׁיִּהְיֶה נִקְרָא חָכְמָה,
in this specifically it is fitting to be called wisdom, not wisdom regarding something that is beneath it.  Likewise, it is fitting that it be called "Da'as" — knowledge —	בָּזֶה דַּוְקָא רָאוּי שֶׁיִהְיֶה נִקְרָא חָכְמָה, לֹא הַחָּכְמָה בְּדָבָר שֶׁהוּא לְמַטָּה מִמֶּנּוּ כָּךְ רָאוּי שֶׁיִּהְיֶה נִקְרָא 'דַּעַת' – הַיְדִיעָה בְּעִנְיַן
in this specifically it is fitting to be called wisdom, not wisdom regarding something that is beneath it.  Likewise, it is fitting that it be called "Da'as" — knowledge — the understanding of purity,	בָּזֶה דַּוְקָא רָאוּי שֶׁיִּהָיֶה נִקְרֵא חָכְמָה, לֹא הַחָכְמָה בְּדָבָר שֶׁהוּא לְמַטָּה מִמֶּנוּ כָּדְ רָאוּי שֶׁיִּהְיֶה נִקְרָא 'דַּעַת' – הַיְדִיעָה בְּעִנְיַן הַטָּחֲרָה,
in this specifically it is fitting to be called wisdom, not wisdom regarding something that is beneath it.  Likewise, it is fitting that it be called "Da'as" — knowledge — the understanding of purity, for purity is a level even higher in the scale.	בָּזֶה דַּוְקָא רָאוּי שֶׁיִּהָיֶה נִקְרֵא חָכְמָה, לֹא הַחָכְמָה בְּדָבָר שֶׁהוּא לְמַטָּה מִמֶּנוּ כָּדְ רָאוּי שֶׁיִּהְיֶה נִקְרָא 'דַּעַת' – הַיְדִיעָה בְּעִנְיַן הַטָּהָרָה שָׁהַפְּהָרָה הִיא עוֹד מַדְרֵגָה יוֹתֵר בַּהַשָּׁנָה.
in this specifically it is fitting to be called wisdom, not wisdom regarding something that is beneath it.  Likewise, it is fitting that it be called "Da'as" — knowledge — the understanding of purity, for purity is a level even higher in the scale.  And this was said in many places (Menaharin 38b): "What do you have to do with Aggados? Go to Nega'im and	פָּזֶה דַּוְקָא רָאוּי שֶׁיִּהָיֶה נִקְרָא חָכְמָה, לֹא הַחָכְמָה בְּדָבָר שֶׁהוּא לְמַטֶּה מִמֶּנּוּ כָּךְּ רָאוּי שֶׁיִּהְיֶה נִקְרָא 'דַּעַת' – הַיִּדִיעָה בְּעִנְיֵן הַטָּהָרָה שֶׁהַטָּהָרָה הִיא עוֹד מַדְרֵגָה יוֹתֵר בַּהַשָּׁנָה. (מָנָהָרְרִין לֹח, ב
in this specifically it is fitting to be called wisdom, not wisdom regarding something that is beneath it.  Likewise, it is fitting that it be called "Da'as" — knowledge — the understanding of purity, for purity is a level even higher in the scale.  And this was said in many places (Menaharin 38b): "What do you have to do with Aggados? Go to Nega'im and Ohalos."	פָּזֶה דַּןְקָא רָאוּי שֶׁיִהָּיֶה נִקְרָא חָכְמָה. לֹא הַחָּכְמָה בָּדָבָר שֶׁהוּא לְמַטָּה מִמֶּנּוּ כָּךְּ רָאוּי שֶׁיִּהְיֶה נִקְרָא 'דַּעַת' – הַיִּדִיעָה בְּעִנְיֵן הַטְּהָרָה שָׁהַטָּהָרָה הִיא עוֹד מַדְרֵגָה יוֹתֵר בַּהַשְׁנָה. (מֶנְהָרְרִין לֹח, ב מָה לְּךָּ אֵצֶל אַגָּדוֹת, כַּלֵּךְ אֵצֶל נְגָעִים וְאֹהָלוֹת"

And therefore, the knowledge in this in particular — is one who has acquired the level of Da'as,	וּלְכָד נָקָרָא הַיְדִיעָה בָּזֶה בִּפְרָט – הוּא שֶׁקָנָה מָדְרֵגַת הַדַּעַת,
not one who has acquired knowledge of something of a lower level than this.	יפון מיד טו פור לא מִי שֶׁקָנָה הַיְדִיעָה בְּדָבָר שֶׁהוּא בְּמַדְרֵגָה לְמַטָּה מָזֶּה.
And through this you shall know that these two things — Chochmah and Da'as —	וּבָזֶה תַּדַע, כִּי אֵלּוּ שְׁנֵי דְּבָרִים, שֶׁהֵם הַחָּכְמָה וְהַדַּעַת,
are also the beginning of the path.	גַם־כֵּן דֶּרֶהְ הָרָאשׁוֹן.
For Da'as is more abstractly intellectual,	פִי הַדַּעַת יוֹתֵר שָּׂכְלִי,
and this is known to one who understands these matters.	ּוְדָבָר זָה יָדוּעַ לְמִי שֶׁמֵבִין דְּבָרִים אֵלּוּ.
And behold, the verse rises from below upward, until the last two are Chochmah and Da'as, both of them abstract wisdom.	,וְהָבֵּה הַכָּתוּב עוֹלֶה מִלְמַטֶּה לְמַעְלָה עַד הַשְּׁנַיִם הָאַחַרוֹנִים – הֵם הַחָּכְמָה וְהַדַּעַת, שְׁנֵיהֶם חָכְמָה מַפְּשֶׁטֶת.
And according to this order are arranged the six orders [of the Mishnah],	וְעַל סֵדֶר זֶה מְיַפְּדִים שֵׁתֵּי סִדְרֵי,
which speak of all parts of existence.	שֶׁדִּבְּרוּ בְּכָל חַלְקֵי הַמְּצִיאוּת.
And it was said (Shabbos 31a): Even if one possesses all the wisdoms,	, וְאָמַר (שַׁבָּת ל״א, א): אַף כִּי יֵשׁ בְּיָדוֹ כָּל הַחָּכְמוֹת
the wisdoms themselves are not the essential aspect of the endurance and existence of the soul.	אֵין הַחָכְמוֹת בְּעַצְמֶן הֵם עֵקֶר בְּהִשָּׁאֲרוּת וְקִיּוּם הַנָּפֶשׁ
Even though they are a preparation to acquire a higher level,	אַף כִּי הֵם הֶכְשֵׁר לִקְנוֹת מַדְרֵגָה יוֹתֵר עֶלְיוֹנָה,
nevertheless, this is not the essence of eternal existence itself.	מָכָּל מָקוֹם אֵין זֶה עֶצֶם הַקִּיּוּם הַנִּצְחִי בְּעַצְמוֹ.
For the essence of existence is Hashem, blessed be He, alone,	ָכִי עֶצֶם הַקִּיוּם הוּא הַשֵּׁם יִתְבָּרַדְּ בִּלְבַד,
Who gives existence to all through cleaving to Him, blessed be He.	בּוֹ עַל־יְדֵי הַדְּבֵקוּת בּוֹ מַלְצִיאוּת לַכֹּל עַל־יְדֵי הַדְּבֵקוּת בּוֹ יִתְבָּרַדְּ
And this is what was said (ibid.): It is a parable for one who said to his agent:	וְזֶה שֶׁאָמֵר (שָׁם): שֶׁהוּא מָשֶׁל לְמִי שֶׁאָמֵר לִּשְׁלוּחוֹ:
Bring me wheat up to the attic to store it in the treasury.	הַעֲלֵה לִי חִטִּים לָעֲלִיָּה לָתֵת אוֹתָם בָּאוֹצֶר,
And he brought it up. He said to him: Did you mix into them a kab of preservative (ḥamtin),	וָהֶעֱלָה לוֹ. וְאָמֵר לוֹ: אָם עַרַבְהָּ שָׁם קַב חָמְטִין,
which is what sustains and preserves the grain? Good.	אַשֶּׁר הוא הַמַּעֲמִיד וּמְקַיֵּם אֶת הַתְּבוּאָה – מוּטָב.
And if not — it would have been better had you not brought it up.	ָוְאָם לָאו – מוּטָב שֶׁלֹּא הֶעֱלִיתָה.

And so too, one who does not have fear of Heaven —	וְכָדְ מִי שֶׁאֵין בּוֹ יִרְאַת שָׁמַיִם,
for it is through this that the existence in Him, blessed be He, is sustained.	קְבָּרַךְ וֹם הוּא הַקִּיּוּם בּוֹ יִתְבָּרַךְ.
And not love, as this matter is known to those who are insightful.	וְלֹא הָאַהָבָה, כַּאֲשֶׁר דָּבָר זֶה יָדוּעַ לַמַּשְׂכִּילִים.
For one who possesses fear of Heaven is completely attached to Him,	פִּי מִי שֶׁיֵשׁ בּוֹ יִרְאַת שֶׁמַיִם, הוּא דָּבֵק לְגַמְרֵי בּוֹ,
and it is not the same with love. Even though it is a form of attachment to Him,	ָוְלֹא כֵן הָאַהֲבָה, אַף כִּי הוּא הַדִּבּוּק בּוֹ יִתְבָּרַך,
one does not consider himself as though he has no existence —	אֵין מַחְשִׁיב עַצְמוֹ כָּאָלוּ אֵין לוֹ מְצִיאוּת,
rather, he connects to Him like two lovers who attach to each other.	רַק שֶׁהוּא מִתְחַבֵּר אֵלָיו, כְּמוֹ שְׁנֵי אוֹהַבִּים שֶׁמִתְחַבְּרִים זָה לָזָה.
But fear — because the one who fears another does not consider himself anything,	אֲבָל הַיִּרְאָה – מִפְּנֵי שֶׁהַיָּרֵא מֵאַחֵר אֵין מַחְשִׁיב עַצְמוֹ לְכָלוּם,
and nullifies his existence before the other.	וּמְרַטֵּל מְצִיאוּתוֹ אֵצֶל אַחֵר.
And when one nullifies his existence before Hashem, blessed be He,	ּוְכַאֲשֶׁר הוּא מְבַטֵּל מְצִיאוּתוֹ אֵצֶל הַשֵּׁם יִתְבָּרַדְ
it turns out that he has no existence of his own —	ָנִמְצָא שֶׁאֵין לוֹ מְצִיאוּת מִצַּד עַצְמוֹ,
only what he has from Hashem, blessed be He.	רָק מַה שֶׁיֵשׁ לוֹ מִן הַשֵּׁם יִתְבָּרַך.
And this is his true existence —	וָזֶהוּ קִיּוּמוֹ <u>בְּוַדַּ</u> אי,
for created beings have no existence except through Him, blessed be He.	ּכִּי אֵין לַנִּמְצָאִים שׁוּם קּיוּם אָם לֹא בּוֹ יִתְבָּרַך.
And one who possesses wisdom but does not possess fear of Heaven — he is worse.	וּמִי שֶׁיֵשׁ בּוֹ חָכְמָה, וְאֵין בּוֹ יִרְאַת שָׁמַיִם, הוּא יוֹתֵר רֵע.
For wisdom is a cause of loss, when one recognizes his Creator but does not fear Him.	שֶׁהַחָּכְמָה הִיא סִבָּה לְהֶפְסֵד כַּאֲשֶׁר מַכִּיר בּוֹרְאוֹ וְאֵינוֹ יָרֵא מִפָּנָיו.
And this matter is clarified in many places in the words of the Sages.	וְדָבָר זֶה מְבֹאָר בִּמְקוֹמוֹת הַרְבֵּה בְּדִבְרֵי חֲכָמִים.
And knowledge teaches that one who has wisdom but does not have fear of Heaven,	וְהַדַּעַת נוֹתֵן כִּי מִי שֶׁיֵשׁ בּוֹ חָכְמָה וְאֵין בּוֹ יִרְאַת שָׁמֵיִם,
behold, he is separated and distanced from Hashem,	ָהֲרִי יֵשׁ לוֹ הֶפְרֵשׁ וְהֶבְדֵּל מִן הַשֵּׁם יִתְבָּרָדְ,
when in fact he should be cleaving to Him, for cleaving is by way of wisdom.	אַחַר שֶׁרָאוּי לִהְיוֹת לוֹ דְבֵקוּת בּוֹ, שֶׁהָרֵי הַדְּבֵקוּת בּוֹ מִכֹּחַ הַחָּכְמָה.
But if he does not possess wisdom and follows his inclination,	אָבָל אָם אֵין בּוֹ חָכְמָה, וְהוֹלֵךְ אַחַר יִצְרוֹ,

behold, he is separated from Hashem because of the distance.	הָנֵּה הוּא נִפְרָד מִן הַשֵּׁם יִתְבָּרַהְ, כַּאֲשֶׁר יֵשׁ לוֹ רָחוּק מִן הַשֵּׁם יִתְבָּרַהְ.
But this one — who should, by virtue of wisdom, be close to Hashem,	אָבָל זֶה – שֶׁרָאוּי מִצַּד הַחָּכְמָה שֶׁיִּהְיֶה לוֹ קֵרוּב אֶל הַשֵּׁם יִתְבָּרַדְּ
and he turns away from Him — this is certainly worse.	ןָהוּא סָר מֵאָתּוֹ, וְדָבָר זָה בְּוַדָּאי יוֹתֵר רַע,
And there is no need to elaborate here.	ָוְאֵין לְהַאֲרִיךְ כָּאן בָּזֶה.
And it was also said there (Shabbos 31a): Rav Kahana said:	ָוְאָמֵר עוֹד שָׁם (שַׁבָּת ל״א, א): אָמֵר רַב כַּהְנָא:
One who has wisdom but does not have fear of Heaven —	מִי שֶׁיֵשׁ בּוֹ חָכְמָה וְאֵין בּוֹ יִרְאַת שֶׁמַיִם –
to what is he compared? To a treasurer to whom were given the inner keys,	לְמָה הוּא דּוֹמֶה? לְגִזְבֶּר שֶׁנִּמְסְרוּ בִּיָדוֹ מַפְתְּחוֹת הַפְּנִימִיּוֹת,
but the outer keys were not given to him.	ָןלֹא נִמְסָרוּ בְּּיָדוֹ מַפְּתָּחוֹת הַחִיצוֹנוֹת.
The explanation is: one who does not have fear of Heaven —	בֵיאוּר זֶה: כִּי מִי שֶׁאֵין בּוֹ יִרְאַת שָׁמֵיִם,
behold, he is separated and distanced from Hashem,	ּהָרֵי הוּא נִפְרָד וְנִבְדָּל מָן הַשֵּׁם יִתְבָּרַהְ.
and after he is separated from Him, what inner, exalted level can he acquire?	וְאַחַר שֶׁהוּא נִפְרָד וְנִבְדָּל מֵאָתּוֹ – מַה מַדְרֵגָה ?עֶלְיוֹנָה פְּנִימִית יִקְנֶה?
For wisdom is that by which one acquires inner, exalted levels,	ָשֶׁהַחָכְמָה יָקָנֶה עַל־יָדָה מַדְרֵגָה עֶלְיוֹנָה פְּנִימִית,
but if he is distant from Hashem, blessed be He — what can he acquire?	יְאַחַר שֶׁיֵשׁ לוֹ רַחוּק מִמֶּנוּ יִתְבָּרַךְ – מַה יִקְנֶה?
Therefore, he is compared to one who has the inner keys but not the outer keys,	וּלְכָךְ מְדַמֶּה אוֹתוֹ לְמִי שֶׁיֵשׁ בְּיָדוֹ מֵפְתְּחוֹת הַפְּנִימִיּוֹת, וְאֵין בְּיָדוֹ מַפְתְּחוֹת הַחִיצוֹנוֹת.
for one who lacks fear of Heaven — he is totally distanced from Hashem,	כִּי כַּאֲשֶׁר אֵין בּוֹ יִרְאַת שָׁמַיִם – הָרֵי הוּא מִתְרַחֵק מָן הַשֵּׁם יִתְבָּרַךְּ לְגַמְרֵי,
and has no beginning through which to enter.	וָאֵין לוֹ הַתְחָלֶה לְכָנֹס.
If so, why would he acquire an inner level that one attains through wisdom?	וְאָם־כֵּוְ, לָמָּה יִקְנֶה מַדְרֵגָה פְּנִימִית שֶׁקוֹנֶה הָאָדָם ?עַל־יְדֵי הַחָּכְמָה
Rabbi Yannai proclaimed: "Woe to the one who has no house, yet he makes a gate for the house" (Shabbos 31b).	מַכְרִין רַבִּי יַנָּאי: חֲבָל עַל דְּלֵית לֵיהּ בֵּיתָא, וְתַרְעָא (לְבֵיתָא עָבֵיד (שַׁבָּת ל״א, ב).
The explanation is: fear of Heaven makes for him a house with Hashem,	פַרוּש: כִּי יִרְאַת שָׁמַיִם עוֹשֶׂה לוֹ בַּיִת אֵצֶל הַשֵּׁם יִתְבָּרַדְּ,
for through fear he is with Hashem, and there is his house and dwelling.	שֶׁעַל־יְדֵי יִרְאָה הוּא עִם הַשֵּׁם יִתְבָּרַךּ, וְשָׁם בֵּיתוֹ וּמִשְׁכָּנוֹ.
For Hashem, blessed be He, is the place and house for all beings who cleave to Him, blessed be He.	פִּי הַשֵּׁם יִתְבָּרַדְּ הוּא מָקוֹם וּבַיִת לְכָל הַנִּמְצָאִים אֲשֶׁר הֵם דְּבֵקִים בּוֹ יִתְבָּרַדְּ

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And when one has no house at all, since He is the place of all,	וְכַאֲשֶׁר אֵין לוֹ בֵּית דִּירָה כְּלָל, אַחַר שֶׁהוּא יִתְבָּרַךְּ מָקוֹם הַכּלֹ
yet he makes a gate to the house — that is wisdom, which is called a gate —	וְהוּא עוֹשֶׂה שַׁעַר לַבַּיִת, וְזֶהוּ הַחָּכְמָה, שֶׁנִּקְרָא שַׁעַר,
for through wisdom a person is elevated to his place and level which he has with Hashem, blessed be He,	שֶׁעַל־יְדֵי הַחָּכְמָה מִתְעַלֶּה הָאָדָם אָל מְקוֹמוֹ וּמַדְרֵגָתוֹ אֲשֶׁר יֵשׁ לוֹ אֵצֶל הַשֵּׁם יִתְבָּרַדְּ,
which is his house.	אֲשֶׁר הוּא בֵּיתוֹ.
Therefore, he is like one who has no house, but makes a gate — which is the preparation of the house,	לְכָךְ הוּא דּוֹמֶה לְמִי שֶׁאֵין לוֹ בַּיִת, וְעוֹשֶׂה לוֹ שַׁעַר, שֶׁהוּא הָכְשֵׁר הַבַּיִת,
for what is the value of the preparation, when the essential house he does not have?	ּפִי לָפֶה לוֹ הַהֶּכְשֵׁר, אַחַר שֶׁעִקַּר הַבַּיִת אֵין לוֹ
Behold, they clarified with their wisdom that wisdom is merely a preparation,	הָרֵי בַּאֲרוּ בְּחָכְמָתָם שֶׁהַחָּכְמָה הוּא הֶכְשֵׁר בִּלְבַד,
and does not in itself acquire eternity.	וָאֵין קוֹנֶה בָּזֶה הַנִּצְחִיוּת בְּעַצְמוֹ.
But eternal existence is in fear of Heaven,	אֲבָל הַמְּצִיאוּת הַנִּצְחִי הוּא בְּיִרְאַת שָׁמַיִם,
as it is written (Yeshayahu 33:6): "Fear of Hashem is His treasure,"	וֹנְקָדְכְתִיב (יְשַׁעְיָה ל״ג, וֹ): "יִרְאַת ה׳ הִיא אוֹצָרוֹ",
for through fear of Heaven one cleaves to Him, blessed be He.	ּשֶׁעַל־יְדֵי יִרְאַת שָׁמֵיִם הוּא דָּבֵק בּוֹ יִתְבָּרַדְ.
And this is the true understanding of Torah knowledge,	ָן זֶהוּ אֲמָתַת דַּעַת הַתּוֹרָה,
and further explanation is unnecessary.	וְאֵין צָרִיךְ בֵּיאוּר יוֹתֵר.

#### **NOTE: Summary**

This discourse builds on a famous Talmudic statement by Rabbi Yannai (Shabbos 31b):

The analogy critiques someone who develops great intellectual accomplishments (represented by the gate) but lacks יַרְאַת שָׁמֵים (fear of Heaven, which builds the house — the foundation of divine closeness and eternal existence). Without the house, the gate has no value.

The discourse explains that:

- Chochmah (wisdom) serves only as a preparation or gateway for spiritual connection.
- Yir'as Shamayim (fear/awe of Heaven) is the actual bond and dwelling with Hashem.

<sup>&</sup>quot;חַבַל עַל דְּלֵית לֵיה בֵּיתַא, וְתַרְעַא לְבֵיתָא עַבִיד" –

<sup>&</sup>quot;Woe to the one who has no house, and yet makes a gate for that house."

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- Hashem is called the place of the universe, and one who fears Him finds their spiritual dwelling in Him.
- Wisdom without Yir'ah leads to distance and even greater damage, because such a person knows the Creator but remains separated from Him due to lacking reverence.
- Quoting Yeshayahu 33:6: "יְרָאֵת הֹי הִיא אוֹצְרוֹ" fear of God is His treasure the discourse concludes that eternal existence is achieved only through Yir'as Shamayim, not by intellect alone.

#### **Practical Takeaway**

- 1. Prioritize Yir'as Shamayim over Chochmah:
  - While Torah study and intellectual pursuits are sacred, they must be anchored in awe of G-d. A person can be brilliant in Torah and philosophy, yet spiritually empty if their study lacks humility and reverence.
- 2. Build the house before the gate:
  - Don't focus on creating "spiritual sophistication" (the gate) without ensuring you have the foundation Yir'as Shamayim (the house). That's the entry point to real connection.
- 3. Measure success in divine terms:
  - In a world that exalts knowledge, status, and academic mastery, this teaching shifts the lens: Do I fear Heaven? Do I feel Hashem's presence? That's the metric of real existence.
- 4. Yir'ah leads to D'veikus:
  - Fear of Hashem isn't about fear of punishment, but nullification of ego recognizing our nothingness and drawing near to the ultimate Being. This cleaving is the soul's eternal reality.

#### **Chassidic Story**

The Alter Rebbe (R' Shneur Zalman of Liadi) once traveled to raise funds and visited a wealthy man known for his scholarship. The man welcomed the Rebbe with a proud tone and began to display his vast Torah knowledge, expecting praise.

Instead, the Alter Rebbe responded gently but firmly:

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"You know much Torah... but tell me — do you tremble when you say a blessing? Do you feel the King's presence when you open a Gemara?"

The wealthy man was stunned. He admitted he had never thought in those terms.

The Alter Rebbe explained:

"Yir'as Shamayim is the vessel that holds the wine of Chochmah. Without it, the wine spills. Torah without Yir'ah is just a gate without a house."

The man was so moved he broke down in tears. From that day forward, he didn't just learn Torah — he lived it with reverence. **END NOTE**]