

Sichas Nun Alef Parshas Ki Savo

Introduction

This discourse by the Lubavitcher Rebbe (delivered in Elul, 5751 / 1991) focuses on the mitzvah of *Bikkurim* (first fruits) as a central metaphor for the essence of the Jewish people and their relationship with Hashem. Through detailed analysis of the verses, Rashi's commentary, and Chazal's teachings, the Rebbe develops a sweeping vision: the Jew is himself the "first fruits," inherently bound to Hashem, preceding even the Torah, and able to draw down redemption. The discourse intertwines *Bikkurim*, *Ani L'Dodi V'Dodi Li*, the avodah of Elul, and the urgency of the Geulah.

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From the talks of Shabbos Parshas Tavo, 21 Elul 5751 – translation from Yiddish.

In continuation to the command in our portion regarding the mitzvah of first fruits (and the confession of tithes) upon the arrival into the land (with which Moshe completed the explanation of the Torah and renewed all the commandments that Hashem had commanded him, which he began in the eleventh month on the first of the month... in the land of Moav).

Moshe returns to speak about the general fulfillment of all the Torah and all the mitzvos, and about the covenant between Hashem and the Jewish people: "This day Hashem your G-d commands you to perform these statutes and judgments, and you shall keep and do them with all your heart and with all your soul..."

And afterwards: "Keep the entire commandment that I command you today, and it shall be on the day you pass the Jordan into the land... and you shall set up large stones... and write upon them all the words of this Torah..."

Likewise: "Be attentive and hear, Israel: This day you have become a people to Hashem your G-d, and you shall hearken to the voice of Hashem your G-d and perform His commandments..." And afterwards, in continuation of the portion, it speaks at length about the words of the covenant that Hashem commanded Moshe to seal with the Jewish people in the land of Moay, besides the covenant made at Chorey.

מִשִּׁיחוֹת שַׁבָּת־פָּרָשַׁת חָבוֹא, כ"א אֱלוּל ה'תנש"א – – חַרִגוּם מֵאִירִית

א. בְּהֶמְשַׁךְּ לַצְוּוּי בְּפָרָשָׁתֵנוּי עַל מִצְוַת בְּכּוּרִים (וּוְדּוּי מַצְשֵׂרִי) בַּבִּיאָה לָאָרֶץ (שֶׁבָּזָה הִשְׁלִים מֹשֶׁה לְבָאֵר אֶת הַתּוֹרָה וּלְחַדַּשׁ כָּל הַמִּצְוֹת אֲשֶׁר צִוָּה אוֹתוֹ ה' כוּ"" מַה שֶׁהִתְחִיל בְּעַשְׁתֵּי עָשֶׂר חֹדֶשׁ בְּאֶחָד ("לַחֹדֶשׁ גּוֹ' בְּעֵבֶר הַיַּרְדַּבֵּן בְּאָרֶץ מוֹאָב

חוֹזֵר משֶׁה לְדַבֵּר עַל כְּלָלוּת קִיּוּם כָּל הַתּוֹרָה וְכָל –
הַמִּצְוּוֹת וְעַל הַבְּרִית שֶׁבֵּין הַקְּדוֹש־בָּרוּדְ־הוּא
לִבְנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל (כִּי כְּבָר הַשְׁלַמְתִּי לְּדְּ הַכֵּל בְּסֵכֶּר מִשְׁנֵה תּוֹרָה): הַיּוֹם הַזָּה ה' אֱלֹקֵידְ מְצַוּדְ לַעֲשׁוֹת אֶת הַחָקִים הָאֵלֶּה וְאֶת הַמִּשְׁפָּטִים וְשָׁמַרְתָּ וְעָשִׂיתָ אוֹתָם הַהָלַל לְבַבָּדְ וּבָכַל נַפִּשֶׁדּ וְגוֹ.

וְאַחַר־כָּךְ – "שָׁמֹר אֶת כָּל הַמִּצְוָה אֲשֶׁר אָנֹכִי מְצֵוּה אֶתְכֶם הַיּוֹם, וְהָיָה בַּיוֹם אֲשֶׁר תַּעַבְרוּ אֶת הַיַּרְדֵּן אֶל הָאָרֶץ גּוֹ' וַהַקִּמֹתָ לְךָּ אֲבָנִים גְדֹלוֹת גּוֹ' וְכָתַבְתָּ עֲלֵיהֶן "אֶת כָּל דִּבְרֵי הַתּוֹרָה הַזֹּאת וְגוֹ".

וְכֵן – "הַסְכַּת וּשְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל, הַיּוֹם הַגָּה נִהְיֵיתָ לְעָם לַה' אֱלֹקֶיךְ, וְשָׁמַעְתָּ בְּקוֹל ה' אֱלֹקֶיךְ וְעָשִׁיתָ אֶת מִצְוֹתִיו גּוֹ'", וְאַחַר־כָּךְ בְּהָמְשֵׁךְ הַכָּּרְשָׁה – מְדַבֵּר בַּאֲרָכָה אוֹדוֹת דִּבְרֵי הַבְּרִית אֲשֶׁר צִוָּה ה' אֶת מֹשֶׁה לָכְרֹת אֶת בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּאֶרֶץ מוֹאָב, מִלְבַד הַבְּרִית אֱשֶׁר כַּרָת אתַם בָּחֹרָב.

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Until the very conclusion of the portion: "And you shall keep the words of this covenant and do them in order that you will succeed in all that you do." This content continues also in the following portions (Nitzavim, Vayeilech, Haazinu, V'zos Habracha), where it speaks not of particular mitzvos but of the covenant on the entirety of the Torah and mitzvos and the general matters connected to it.

Since the command and the covenant regarding the general Torah and mitzvos comes in direct continuation immediately after the mitzvah of first fruits, one may say there is a connection in their inner content (as is known the precision in all matters of Torah, even in the order of the Torah).

Especially according to Rashi's explanation, that the verse "This day Hashem your G-d commands you..." and "you shall keep and perform them" is a blessing that comes as a result of the fulfillment of the mitzvah of first fruits, as the heavenly voice blesses him: "You have brought first fruits today; next year you shall repeat."

And further: The covenant on the entirety of the Torah and mitzvos is stated in that same portion together with the mitzvah of first fruits, and the beginning of the portion is with this matter (first fruits) – for the beginning (of every matter, even in human speech, and how much more so in holiness and Torah) is an introduction and has a connection to the continuation of the matter

And it is necessary to understand: What is the connection between the mitzvah of first fruits and the covenant on the acceptance of the Torah and mitzvos – the entire Torah and mitzvos? Seemingly, first fruits is one specific mitzvah among all the mitzvos of the Torah, and it is tied with conditions and limitations: in time, in place, in person, and in species – specifically in the Land of Israel, at the time when the Temple stood; specifically from the seven species with which the Land of Israel is praised and from the choicest of them; specifically one who owns land in the Land of Israel, and land that is of

עַד לְסִיוּם הַפֶּרָשָׁה מַמָּשׁ: "וּשְׁמַרְתֶּם אֶת דִּבְרֵי הַבְּרִית הַזֹּאת וַעֲשִׁיתָם אֹתָם לְמַעַן תַּשְׂכִּילוּ אֵת כָּל אֲשֶׁר תַּעֲשׂוּן". [וְתוֹכֶן זֶה נִמְשֶׁךּ גַּם בַּפָּרָשִׁיּוֹת שֶׁלְאַחָרֵי זֶה (נִצְבִים, וַיֵּלֶךּ, הַאָזִינוּ וּוְזֹאת הַבְּּרָכָה), שֶׁשֶּׁם מְדַבֵּר (לֹא עַל מִצְווֹת פְּרָטִיּוֹת, אֶלָּא) עַל הַבְּרִית עַל בְּלָלוּת הַתּוֹרָה וְהַמִּצְווֹת וְעִנִינִים בְּלָלִיים הַבְּרִית בָּל בְּלָלוּת הַתּוֹרָה וְהַמִּצְווֹת וְעִנִינִים בְּלָלִיים.

וְכֵינָן שֶׁהַצִּוּוּי וְהַבְּּרִית עַל כְּלֶלוּת הַתּוֹרָה וּמִצְוֹת בָּא בְּהֶמְשֵׁךְ אֶחָד מִיָּד לְאַחֲרֵי מִצְוַת בְּכּוּרִים, יֵשׁ לוֹמֵר שֶׁיֵשְׁנָה בֵּינֵיהֶם שַׁיָּכוּת בְּתוֹכֶן עִנְיָנָם (כַּיָּדוּעַ הַדִּיּוּק בִּכָל עִנְיָנֵי תּוֹרָה, וְגַם בְּסֵדֶר הַתּוֹרָה.

וּבִפְּרָט עַל־פִּי פֵּרוּשׁ רַשִּׁ"י, שֶׁ" הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה ה' אֱלֹקֶיךְּ מְצֵוּךְ גּוֹ' וְשָׁמַרְתָּ וְעָשִּׁיתָ אוֹתָם" הִיא בְּרָכָה שֶׁבָּאָה בִּגְלַל קִיּוּם מִצְוַת בִּכּוּרִים הָאֲמוּרָה לִפְנֵי זֶה (בַּת קוֹל מְבָרְכָתוֹ "הֵבֵאתָ בִּכּוּרִים הַיּוֹם, תִּשְׁנֶה לְשָׁנָה ("הַבָּאָה).

וִיתַרָה מִזָּה: הַבְּרִית עַל כְּלֶלוּת הַתּוֹרָה־ וּמְצְוֹת נָאֶמְרָה בְּאוֹתָה בְּרָשָׁה בְּיַחַד עִם מִצְוַת בְּכּוּרִים, וְהַתְּחָלֵת הַפָּרָשָׁה הִיא בְּעִנְיָן זֶה (בִּכּוּרִים) – שֶׁהַהַתְחָלָה (שֶׁל כָּל דָּבָר, אֲפִלוּ בִּלְשׁוֹן בְּנֵי אָדָם, וְעַל־אַחַת־כַּמָּה וְכַמָּה בִּקְדֵשָׁה וְתוֹרָה) הִיא הַקְדָּמָה וְיֵשׁ לָה שַׁיָּכוּת לְהַמְשֵׁךְ הָעִנְיָן

ןְצָרִיךְ לְּהָבִין מַהִּי הַשַּׁיֶכוּת בֵּין מִצְוַת בְּפוּרִים וְהַבְּּרִית עַל קַבָּלַת הַתּוֹרָה וּמִצְוֹוֹת – כָּל הַתּוֹרָה וּמִצְוֹוֹת. לְכְאוֹרָה בִּפּוּרִים הִיא מִצְוָה פְּרָטִית אַחַת בֵּין כָּל מִצְוֹת הַתּוֹרָה, וְהִיא קְשׁוּרָה עִם תְּנָאִים וְהַגְּבָּלוֹת בִּזְמֵן בְּמָקוֹם בְּאִישׁ וּבְמִין – דַּוְקָא בְּאֶרֶץ יִשְׂרָאֵל בִּזְמֵן שָׁנִּשְׁתַּבְּחָה בָּהָן אֶרֶץ יִשְׂרָאֵל וּמִן הַמִּבְחָר שֶׁבָּהָם; דַּוְקָא מִי שָׁיֵשׁ לוֹ קַרְקֵע בְּאֶרֶץ יִשְׂרָאֵל, וְקַרְקֵע מְשֵׁבַּחַת; אֵין קוֹרִין מִקְרָא בְּפּוּרִים אֶלָּא בִּזְמֵן שִׂמְחָה הַמַצְצֵרֶת וַעַּד הָחָג; וְעוֹד.

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quality; one does not recite the reading of the first fruits except at a time of joy, from Shavuos until Sukkos; and more.

What is the connection of this with "This day Hashem your G-d commands you..." – which refers to all the mitzvos, with which the Jewish people are obligated at all times and in all places, as Rashi explains on the verse: "Every day they should be in your eyes as new, as if on that very day you were commanded regarding them."

Also, it is necessary to understand regarding the name of the portion, Tavo: For many times regarding the names of the portions, the name of a matter expresses the content of the matter called by that name. And according to this, it requires explanation in our portion: Tavo means "coming" (the entry of the Jewish people into the Land of Israel).

And seemingly this is only the introduction and preparation for the fulfillment of the mitzvah of first fruits (and the other mitzvos), which must be fulfilled only after "you come into the land..." And nevertheless the entire portion – beginning with the mitzvah of first fruits, until also the covenant on the generality of all the mitzvos in our portion – is called by the name Tavo, which is only an introduction and preparation for the fulfillment of the mitzvos in the land!

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And this will be understood by first prefacing the novelty of the mitzvah of first fruits compared to other ways of giving praise and thanks to Hashem.

The content of bringing first fruits and the declaration of first fruits is the recognition that from Him, blessed be He, comes to us all the blessings in the world: with the blessing of Hashem, the Jew's field yields produce and fruits. Therefore, he gives to Hashem from the very first of all the fruit of the ground, from the earliest and choicest fruits of the field, and he acknowledges Hashem (and is not ungrateful) for the fruits with which Hashem blessed him and for all His kindnesses (the kindnesses of the Omnipresent) – "And you shall answer and say before Hashem

מַהִי הַשַּׁיָּכוּת שֶׁל זֶה עִם "הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה ה' אֱלֹקֶיךְ מְצַוּךְ גּוֹ" – שֶׁקָאֵי עַל כָּל הַמִּצְוֹת, שֶׁבָּהֶן מְחַיָּבִים בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּכָל זְמַן וּבְכָל מָקוֹם, כְּפֵרוּשׁ רַשִּׁ"י עַל־הַפָּסוּק: "בְּכָל יוֹם יִהְיוּ בְּעֵינֶיךְ חֲדָשִׁים כְּאִלוּ בּוֹ ב"בֵּיוֹם נִצְטַוֵּיתָ עֲלֵיהֶם.

גַם צָרִיךְ לְהָבִין בְּנוֹגֵעַ לְשֵׁם הַפָּרָשָׁה "תָּבוֹא": דְּבֵּר פְּעָמִים רַבּוֹת בְּנוֹגֵעַ לִשְׁמוֹת הַפָּרָשִׁיוֹת, שֶׁשְׁמוֹ שֶׁל דָּבָר מְבַטֵּא אֶת תְּכֶן הַדָּבָר שָׁנִּקְרָא בְּשֵׁם זָה. רְעַל־פִּי־זֶה צְרִיכִים הַסְבָּרָה בְּפָרָשָׁתַנוּ: "תָּבוֹא" – (פֵּרוּשׁוֹ כְּנִיסָה (שֶׁל בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל לְאֶרֶץ יִשְׂרָאֵל.

וְלִכְאוֹרָה הֲרֵי זוֹ רַק הַקְדָּמָה וַהַּכָנָה לְקִיּוּם מִצְוַת בָּפּוּרִים (וּשְׁאָר הַמִּצְוֹוֹת) שֶׁצְרִיכִים לְקֵיֵם לְאַחֲרֵי שֶׁתָּבוֹא אֶל הָאָרֶץ גּוֹ'. וְאַף־עַל־פִּי־כֵן נִקְרַאת כָּל הַפָּרָשָׁה – הָחֵל מֵעֶצֶם מִצְוַת בִּפּוּרִים, עַד גַּם הַבְּרִית עַל כְּלָלוּת כָּל הַמִּצְוֹת שֶׁבְּפָרְשָׁתֵנוּ – בַּשֵׁם "תָּבוֹא", שֶׁהוּא אַךּ וְרַק הָכָנָה וְהַקְדָּמָה לְקִיּוּם הַמִּצְוֹוֹת בָּאָרֶץ!

וְיוּכָן זֶה בְּהַקְדִּים הַחִדוּשׁ בְּמִצְוַתבְּכּוּרִים לְגַבֵּי שְׁאָר הַאֱפָנִים בִּנְתִינַת שֶׁבַח וְהוֹדָאֵה לַה'.

הַתּכֶן דַּהֲבָאֵת בִּכּוּרִים וּמִקְרָא בְּכּוּרִים הוּא הַהַכָּרָה שֵׁמִאְתּוֹ יִתְבָּרֵה הוּא יַגִּיעַ לְנוּ כָּל הַבְּרָכוֹת בָּעוֹלָם;
בִּרְכַּת הַקָּדוֹשׁ־בָּרוּךְ־הוּא מְבִיאָה לִיהוּדִי אֶת שֶׁפַע
הַתְּבוּאוֹת וְהַפֵּרוֹת בְּשָׁדֵהוּ, וְלָכֵן הַרֵי־הוּא נוֹתֵן לַה'
מֵרֵאשִׁית כָּל פְּרִי הָאֲדָמָה, מֵהַפֵּרוֹת הָרִאשׁוֹנִים
וְהַמְּבְחָרִים שֶׁל הַשְּׂדָה, וּמוֹדֶה לַה' (וְאֵינוֹ כְּפוּי טוֹבָה)
עֲבוּר הַפֵּרוֹת שֶׁבָּהֶם בַּרַךְ אוֹתוֹ ה' וַעֲבוּר כָּל חֲסָדִיו
וְסָבִיו יִתְבָּרַךְ עָלֵינוּ וְעַל כָּל עַם יִשְׂרָאֵל דֶּרֶךְ
יְפַבּּרלֹל
בּלֹל

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your G-d," recounting His kindnesses upon us and upon all Israel in general.

The feeling of gratitude to Hashem for His kindnesses, and the expression of thanks and giving of praise to Hashem for this, is a general matter in the life of a Jew, beginning immediately upon awakening from his sleep with the recognition and declaration "I thank You before You... that You have restored my soul within me." This is the foundation, the first gate to his service of Hashem, which continues in the blessings and prayers (such as "We will thank You... for our lives which are given into Your hand... and for Your miracles and goodness at all times, evening, morning, and afternoon"), and in the various blessings of enjoyment that a Jew recites, thanking Hashem throughout the day and every day, for every good and benefit he enjoys – and primarily the Grace after Meals (which is from the Torah) – "Who sustains the entire world with His goodness, with grace, kindness, and mercy..."

And furthermore: Even among the nations of the world, who believe and recognize that Hashem is the Creator of the world and its Ruler – there exists the practice of thanking Hashem for their sustenance and the like.

And this matter is emphasized even more according to the well-known teaching of the Baal Shem Tov (elaborated in detail by the Alter Rebbe), that the creation of the entire world is renewed every day and every moment. This is an unlimited kindness from Hashem, the Creator of the world, for every creature – which brings the creature to a deeper recognition and feeling that he and all that surrounds him are entirely dependent on Hashem's constant kindness.

הָרְגַּשׁ הַהּוֹדָאָה לַה' עַל חֲסָדִיו וַאֲמִירַת הַתּוֹדָה וּנְתִינַת שָׁבַח וְהוֹדָאָה לַה' עַל זֶה, הוּא עִנְיָן כְּלָלִי בְּחַיֵּי הַיְּאָה לַה' עַל זֶה, הוּא עִנְיָן כְּלָלִי בְּחַיֵּי הַיְּבָרָה הַיְּאָנָעוֹר מִשְׁנָתוֹ עַל־יְדֵי הַכָּרָה וְבְּאָהָר מִיֹנְה אֲנִי לְפָנֶיךְ .. שֶׁהָחֲזַרְתָּ בִּי נִשְׁמַתִּי". וְזֶבּיְהוּ הַיְּשֵׁם שֶׁלּוֹ, וְזֶבּיְהוּ הַבְּרָר וֹלְבָּרְרֹוֹת הַשַּׁם שֶׁלּוֹ, שְׁנִמְשְׁ בַּבְּרְכוֹת וְהַתְּפְלּוֹת (עַל־דֶּרֶךְ "נוֹדֶה לְּךְ .. עַל שַּנִּמְשְׁךְ בַּבְּרְכוֹת וְהַתְּפְלּוֹת (עַל־דֶּרְךְ "נוֹדֶה לְּךְ .. עַל שַּבְּכָל עֵת עֶרֶב וְבֹקר וְצְהָרִים"), וּבְּבְרְכוֹת הַנְּהָהִין שְׁיָבוֹן הַשְׁרִים בְּנִקְר וְצְהָרִים יְּבָרְכוֹת שְׁיָהוּדִי מְבָרֵךְ וּמוֹדֶה לַה' בְּמָשֶׁךְ כָּל הַשְׁרִבוֹת שְׁיָהוּדִי מְבָרֵךְ וּמוֹדֶה לַה' בְּמָשֶׁךְ כָּל הַיּוֹם, וְבְבִּרְכוֹת הַעָּבְרָ וֹם (שֶׁהִיא מִן הַתּוֹרָה) — "הַזָּוֹ – וְעִקָּר הַנְתָּ הַמִּוֹן (שְׁהִיא מִן הַתּוֹרָה) — "הַזָּוֹ בַּטוֹבוֹ בְּחֵן וּבְחֶסֶר וּבְרָחְהִים כוּ בּיִנִם בְּלוֹ בְּחֵוֹן וּבְחֶסֶר וּבְּרָחְה) — "הַזָּוֹ מִיתוֹרָה) — "הַזָּוֹ בַּחֹלִם כַּלוֹ בְּחִלּה בְּלוֹ בְּחֵן וּבְּחָקִים וּבְּחָקִים כּוֹּי בְּחָלִם בְּלוֹ בְּחֹלֵה בְּחָן וּבְחָקִים בּלִּרְ בְּחָלֵם בְּלוֹ בְּחֵלֵּה בְּחָלוֹ בְּחָלֵם בְלוֹיך בְּחָתִים כוּ

וִיתֵרָה מִנָּה: אֲפִלּוּ בֵּין אַמּוֹת הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁמַּאֲמִינִים וּמַכִּירִים שֶׁהַקָּדוֹשׁ־בָּרוּף־הוּא הוּא בּוֹרֵא הָעוֹלָם וּמַנְהִיגוֹ – יֵשְׁנָה הַהַנְהָגָה וְהוֹדָאָה לַה' עַל כַּלְכָּלְתָם וְכַיּוֹצֵא־בָּזָה.

וְדָבָר זֶה מִדְגָּשׁ עוֹד יוֹתֵר עַל־פִּי תוֹרַת הַבַּעַל־שַׁם־טוֹב הַיְדוּעָה (נִתְבָּאֲרָה בִּפְרָטִיוּת עַל־יְדֵי אַדְמוֹ"ר הַזָּקֵן), שֶׁבְּרִיאַת כָּל הָעוֹלֶם מִתְחַדֶּשֶׁת בְּכָל יוֹם וָיוֹם וּבְכָל רָגַע וָרָגַע. שֶׁנָהוּ חֶסֶד בִּלְתִּי מִגְּבָּל מֵהַקְּדוֹשׁ־בָּרוּדְּ־הוּא בּוֹרֵא הָעוֹלֶם לְכָל נִבְרָא — שָׁמַשְׁפִּיעַ עַל הַנִּבְרָא וּמְבִיאוֹ לְהַכָּרָה וּלְהָרְגִשׁ עֲמֻקִּים יוֹתֵר, שֶׁהוּא וְכָל הַפּוֹבֵב אוֹתוֹ תָּלוּי לְגַמְרֵי בַּחֶסֶד הַתָּמִידִי דְּהַקָּדוֹשׁ־בָּרוּדְ־הוּא.

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But in the mitzvah of first fruits we find a novelty – a deeper and more comprehensive expression of recognition and gratitude to Hashem: the Jew expresses his feelings of gratitude to Hashem for His kindnesses not only in speech, but he expresses it in a stronger manner – in action: he takes from the very first of all the fruit of the ground and brings it to the Temple, "You shall bring it to the house of Hashem your G-d," to the place that Hashem will choose to cause His Name to dwell there, and he sets it down before Hashem, "And you shall place it before Hashem your G-d."

And this expresses the full recognition that "to Hashem is the earth and its fullness," that everything belongs to Hashem: the Jew does not suffice with the recognition that all his possessions come to him through the kindnesses and blessing of Hashem – rather, he shows, by bringing the first fruits, that even after receiving the abundance of the fruits, the fruits (and all his possessions) still belong to Hashem (since "to Hashem is the earth and its fullness").

Therefore he brings the first of all the fruit of the ground (the earliest and choicest) "before Hashem your G-d"; this remains in the possession of Hashem. "Before Hashem your G-d" – he says this in a loud voice ("And you shall answer" – a term of raising the voice) and with joy, and his thought and intention is in this.

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And it can be explained: Our Sages say that the Jewish people are called "first fruits," as it is written, "Like the first fruit on the fig tree in its beginning I saw your fathers," and "Israel is holy to Hashem, the first of His produce." Just as first fruits (from the word "firstborn") are the first of the fruit of the earth, and the first fruits preceded everything – so too the Jewish people are the "first" of the world – before and higher than all that was created, for the thought of Israel preceded everything. And as our Sages said on the verse "In the beginning G-d created the heavens and the earth" – the world was created for the sake of Israel, who are called "the first of His produce."

אֲבָל בְּמִצְוַת בִּפּוּרִים מָצִינוּ חִדּוּשׁ – בִּטוּי עָמֹק וְכוֹלֵל יוֹתֵר שֶׁל הַכָּרָה וְהוֹדָאָה לַה': הַיְהוּדִי מְבַטֵּא אֶת רִגְשֵׁי תוֹדָתוֹ לַה' עֲבוּר חֲסָדִיו לֹא רַק בְּדְבּוּר, אֶלֶּא מְבַטֵּא זֹאת בְּאוֹפֶן חָזָק יוֹתֵר – בְּמֵצְשִׁים: הוּא לוֹקַחַ מֵּרִאשִׁית כָּל פְּרִי הָאֲדָמָה, וּמֵבִיא זֹאת לְבֵית הַמִּקְדָּשׁ, "תָבִיא בִית ה' אֱלֹקֶיךּ", אֶל הַמָּקוֹם אֲשֶׁר יִבְחַר ה' אֱלֹקֶיךּ לְשַׁבֵּן שְׁמוֹ שָׁם, וּמַנִּיחַ לִּכְנֵי ה', "וְהִנַּחְתוֹ לִפְנֵי ..", אֱלֹקֶיךּ ..", ה' אֱלֹקֶיךּ

וְדָבָר זֶה מְבַטֵא אֶת הַהַּכָּרָה הַמְלֵאָה שָׁ"לַה' הָאֶרֶץ וּמְלוֹאָה", שֶׁהַכּלׁ שַׁיָּה לַהַקְּדוֹשׁ־בָּרוּדְ־הוּא: הַיְּהוּדִי אֵינוֹ מִסְתַּפֵּק בַּהַכָּרָה שֶׁכָּל רְכוּשׁוֹ בָּא לוֹ בְּחַסְדֵי ה' אֵינוֹ מִסְתַּפֵּק בַּהַכָּרָה שֶׁכָּל רְכוּשׁוֹ בָּא לוֹ בְּחַסְדֵי ה' וּבְרְכָּתוֹ יִתְבָּבְת הַבְּכּוּרִים שְׁכָּל הוּא מַרְאָה בַּהַבָּאַת הַבִּכּוּרִים שָׁנִב לְאָחַר קַבְּלַת שֶׁכָּע הַפֵּרוֹת שַׁיָכִים הַפֵּרוֹת (וְכָל עָבָיוֹ) עֲדַיִן לַהַקְּדוֹשׁ־בָּרוּדְ־הוּא (כִּיוָן שֶׁ"לַה' הָאָרֶץ וְנַסְיוֹן שָׁ"לַה' הָאָרֶץ ...

וְלָכֵן הֲבִי־הוּא מֵבִיא אֶת "רֵאשִׁית כָּל פְּרִי הָאֲדָמָה" (הָרִאשׁוֹנִים וְהַמּוּבְחָרִים) "לִפְנֵי ה' אֱלֹקֶיךּ", זֶה נִשְׁאַר בִּרְשׁוּת הַקָּדוֹשׁ־בָּרוּדְּ־הוּא. "לִפְנֵי ה' אֱלֹקֶיךְּ", שָׁאוֹמֵר זֹאת בְּקוֹל רָם ("וְעָנִיתָ" לְשׁוֹן הָרָמַת קוֹל) וּבִשׂמַחָה, וּמִחֵשׁבִתּוֹ וְכַוָּנַתוֹ בַּזֵה.

ְוְיֵשׁ לּוֹמֵר הַבִּיאוּר בָּזֶה:חֲכָמֵינוּדַיֵ"ל אוֹמְרִים שֶׁבְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל נִקְרָאִים "בִּכּוּרִים", כְּמוֹ־שֶׁבָּתוּב "כִּבִּכּוּּרִה בִּתְאֵנָה בְּרֵאשִׁית הְבוּאָתָה", כִּיוָן שֶׁכְּשֵׁם שֶׁ"בִּכּוּרִים" (מִלְשׁוֹן "בְּכוֹר") הֵם רֵאשִׁית פְּרִי הָאְדָמָה, וְקָדְמוּ בִּכּוּרִים לַכּל – כָּךְ בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל הֵם "מַחֲשַׁבְתָּן שֶׁל יִשְׂרָאֵל קָדְמָה לְכָל דָּבָר". "מַחֲשַׁבְתָּן שֶׁל יִשְׂרָאֵל קָדְמָה לְכָל דָּבָר". הַלְאִבִים אֵת הַשָּׁמִים וְאֵת הָאֶרֶץ", שֶׁהָעוֹלָם נִבְרָא אֱלֹקִים אֵת הַשָּׁמִים וְאֵת הָאֶרֶץ", שֶׁהָעוֹלָם נִבְרָא הַבִּיִל יִשְׂרָאָל שָׁנָקרָאוּ "רָאשִׁית תִּבּוּאַתָּה.

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And this applies not only to the collective souls of Israel above or the Jewish people as a whole below, but to each and every individual Jew, men, women, and children, as our Sages said: "Each and every person is obligated to say: for my sake the world was created."

Just as the first fruits must be brought to Jerusalem and placed in the Temple, "before Hashem your G-d" – so too it is regarding the Jewish people: being the "first fruits" of the world, the true place of the Jewish people, of every single Jew, is "before Hashem your G-d," in the Temple. For the essential and true being of a Jew (even as a soul in a body below) is his Divine soul, which is "literally a part of G-d above," until in the known expression – "Israel and the Holy One Blessed be He are entirely one."

Therefore, every single Jew, in whatever situation he is found, is bound and connected with Hashem. He therefore needs to be (also openly) "before Hashem your G-d." "Before" – both in its simple sense: before, close to Hashem, and in its inner sense: from the word "innerness" – in the inwardness of Hashem your G-d, "Israel and the Holy One Blessed be He are entirely one."

For although the whole world was created by Hashem, the world was created only as a means for Israel, who are called "first," and therefore its root does not reach into the inwardness ("before") of the will and intent of Hashem your G-d. By contrast, Israel are the "first fruits" ("first") – the purpose is in them themselves, and all other things were created for the sake of Israel, since "Israel and the Holy One Blessed be He are entirely one," and therefore they are connected with the "before" (the inwardness of) Hashem your G-d.

וְזֶה מִתְיַחֵס לֹא רַק לְכְלֶלוּת נִשְׁמוֹת יִשְׂרָאֵל לְמַעְלָה אוֹ כְּלֶלוּת עַם יִשְׂרָאֵל לְמַטָּה, אֶלֶּא לְכֶל־אָחָד וְאָחָד פְּרָטִי מִישְׂרָאֵל לְמַטָּה, אֲנָשִׁים נָשִׁים וְטַף, כְּמַאֲמַר־חֲכָמֵינוּ־זַ"ל: "כָּל אֶחָד וְאֶחָד חַיָּב לוֹמַר בּשַׁבִילִי נִבְרָא הַעוֹלֵם.

ּכְּשֵׁם שֶׁאֶת הַבִּכּוּרִים בְּפַשְׁטוּת צְרִיכִים לְהָבִיא לִירוּשָׁלַיִם וּלְהַנִּיחַ בְּבֵית הַמִּקְדָּשׁ, "לִפְנֵי ה' אֱלֹקֶיךּ" — כֵּן הוּא בְּנוֹגַעַ לִבְנִי־יִשְׂרָאֵל: בִּהְיוֹתָם "הַבִּכּוּרִים" שָׁל הָעוֹלֶם, הֲרִי "הַמָּקוֹם" הָאֲמִתִּי דִּבְנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל, דְּכָל־אֶחָד וְאֶחָד מִיִּשְׂרָאֵל, הוּא "לִפְנִי ה' אֱלֹקֶיךּ", בְּבִית הַמִּקְדָּשׁ. כִּינְוֹ שֶׁהַמְצִיאוּת הָעִקּרִית וְהָאֲמִתִּית שָׁל יְהוּדִי (גַּם כִּנְשָׁמָה בְּגוּף לְמַטָּה) הִיא הַנָּפֶשׁ הַאֶלֹקִית שָׁלוֹ, שֶׁהִיא "חַלֶּק אֱלוֹקַה מִמַּעַל מַמְּשׁ", עַד בַּלְשׁוֹן הַיָּדוּעַ – "יִשְׂרָאֵל וְקָדְשָׁא־בְּרִידְ־הוּא כּלָּא הַחָּד

וְלָכֵן, כָּל־אָחָד וְאָחָד מִיִּשְׂרָאֵל, בְּכָל מַצָּב שֶׁנִּמְצָּא, קְשׁוּר וּמְחַבָּר עִם הַקָּדוֹשׁ־בָּרוּדְ־הוּא, וְלָכֵן צָרִידְ הוּא לְהִמְּצֵא (גַּם בְּגָלוּי) "לִפְנֵי ה' אֱלֹקֶידְ". "לִפְנֵי" – הֵן בְּפַרוּשׁוֹ הַפָּשׁוּט: לִפְנֵי בִּסְמִיכוּת לַהַקָּדוֹשׁ־בָּרוּדְ־הוּא, וְהֵן בְּפַרוּשׁוֹ הַפְּנִימִי: מִלְשׁוֹן "פְנִימִיוּת" – בִּפְנִימִיּוּת ווה' אֵלֹקִידְ", "יִשְׂרַאֵל וְקַדְשַׁא־בִּרִיִדְ־הוּא כּלָּא חַדּר.

בֵּיוָן שֶׁהָגַם שֶׁכָּל הָעוֹלֶם נִבְרָא עַל־יְדֵי הַקְּדוֹשׁ־בָּרוּדְ־הוּא, אַדְּ הָעוֹלֶם נִבְרָא רַק כְּאָמְצָעִי בִּשְׁבִילֹ יִשְׂרָאֵל שֶׁנִּקְרָאוּ "רֵאשִׁית", וּבְמֵילָא אֵין שְׁרָשׁוֹ וְאֵין הוּא מַגִּיעַ בִּפְנִימִיּוֹת ("לְפְנֵי") הָרְצוֹן הַכַּוָנָה דַּהָנָיָ אֱלֹקֶידְ; מַה־שָׁאֵין־כֵּן יִשְׂרָאֵל הָם "בִּכּוּרִים" ("רֵאשִׁית") – הַתַּכְלִית הִיא בָּהֶם גּוּפָא, וְכָל שְׁאָר הַדְּבָרִים נִבְרְאוּ בִּשְׁבִיל יִשְׂרָאֵל, כֵּיוָן שֶׁ"יִשְׂרָאֵל וְקָדְשָׁא־בְּרִידְ־הוּא כּלָּא חַד", וְלָכֵן הַקְּיִיתִּיוּת דַּם הַם עִם "לִפְנֵי" (הַפְּנִימִיּוּת דַּ) "הָוָיָ אֱלֹקִידְּ".

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And as "Hashem" (from the term "sustains") becomes "your G-d" (singular, not plural), your strength and your life – since every single Jew, even as a soul in a body below (deriving sustenance from Hashem as He is clothed in "your G-d," your strength and your life) – is on the level of "first fruits." As mentioned above, every single person must say, "For my sake the world was created." And there is no distinction in this between one Jew and another; rather, every single Jew – even one on a low level outwardly – must say: "For my sake the world was created."

And from this it is also understood that this – that a Jew is "before Hashem your G-d" – must permeate the entire life of the Jew in general, and also in detail. A Jew must feel that every detail of his life is a matter of "first fruits" to Hashem: not only when he is engaged in G-dly matters, learning Torah and fulfilling mitzvos, but even when he is involved in mundane matters of livelihood and the like – since these are the permissible matters of a Jew, they too belong to the concept of first fruits, and therefore they must be permeated with the greatest loftiness, holiness, and exaltedness, fitting for something that is "before Hashem your G-d."

And even when it is a matter of one single thought, word, or action, which seems insignificant compared to his other thoughts, words, and deeds – since it is the thought, word, or deed of a Jew, this too is part of the "first fruits" which belong in the Temple, "before Hashem your G-d"!

וּכְפִי שֶׁ"הָנָיָ" (מִלְשׁוֹן "מְהַנֵּה") נַצְשָׂה "אֱלֹקֵיךּ"
(לְשׁוֹן יָחִיד, לֹא "אֱלֹקֵיכֶם"), "כֹּחֲדְּ וְחַיּוּתֶדּ" – כֵּיוָן
שֶׁכָּל־אֶחָד וְאֶחָד מִיִּשְׂרָאֵל – גַּם כְּפִי שֻׁנִּמְצָא כִּנְשָׁמָה
בְּגוּף לְמֵטָּה (שֶׁנְתְהַנֵּה מִשָּׁם הְנָיָ' כְּפִי שֻׁנִּמְצָא כִּנְשָׁמָה
בֶּ"אֱלֹקֵיךּ", "כֹּחֲדְּ וְחַיּוּתֶדְּ") – הוּא בְּדַרְגַּת
"בִּכּוּרִים", כַּנִּוְכָּר־לְעֵיל שֶׁכֶּל אֶחָד וְאֶחָד חַיָּב לוֹמֵר
"בִּשְׁבִילִי נִבְרָא הָעוֹלָם". וְאֵין מְחַלְּקִים בָּזֶה בֵּין יְהוּדִי אֶחָד לְאָחַד מַבְּשׁ – אֲפִלּוֹ כָזָה
שֶׁנִמְצָא בְּדַרְגָּא נְמוּכָה (בְּחִיצוֹנִיּוּת) – חַיָּב לוֹמַר
.""בִּשְׁבִילִי נִבְרָא הָעוֹלְם

וּמָזֶּה מוּכָן גַּם, שֶׁזֶּה שֶׁיְּהוּדִי הוּא "לְפְנֵי ה' אֱלֹקֵיךּ"
צְּרִידְ לַחְדּוֹר בְּכָל חַיֵּי הַיְּהוּדִי בִּכְלָל, וְגַם בִּפְּרָט.
יְהוּדִי צָרִידְ לְהַרְגִּישׁ שֶׁכָּל פְּרָט בְּחַיָּיו הוּא עִנְיָן שֶׁל "בְּכּוּרִים" לַהַקְּדוֹשׁ־בָּרוּדְּ־הוּא: לֹא רַק כַּצְשְׁר הוּא עוֹסֵק בְּעִנְיְנִים אֱלֹקִיִים, לְמוּד הַתּוֹרָה וְקִיּוּם הַמִּצְוֹוֹת, אֶלָּא צְּפִלוּ כַּאֲשֶׁר הוּא מִתְעַסֵּק בְּעִנְיְנֵי חוֹלִין דְּפַרְנָסָה עֻּלָּא צְפִלוּ כַּאֲשֶׁר הוּא מִתְעַסֵּק בְּעִנְיְנֵי חוֹלִין דְּפַרְנָסָה וְכַדּוֹמֶה – הָבִי נִּיוָן שֶׁהַם דְּבְרֵי הָרְשׁוּת שֶׁל יְהוּדִי, שַּיִּכִים הַם לְעִנְיֵן הַבִּכּוּרִים, וּבְמֵילָא צְרִיכִים הַם לְּהִיוֹת חֲדוּרִים בַּהַתְנַשְׂאוּת וְהַקְּדָּשָׁה הַמְּלֵאָה "לִפְנֵי ה' בְּמַרְיִם, וֹבְבֵּיִלִית בְּיוֹתֵר, כַּמַּתְאִים לְעִנְיָן שֶׁנַּעֲשָׂה "לִפְנֵי ה' לִפְנֵי ה'.

וַאָפִלּוּ כַּאֲשֶׁר מְדָבָּר אוֹדוֹת מַחֲשָׁבָה, דְּבּוּר אוֹ מַעֲשֶׂה אֶחָד וְיָחִיד, שֶׁנְרְאָה חֲסַר חֲשִׁיבוּת בְּיַחַס לִשְׁאָר מַחֲשְׁבוֹתִיו, דְּבּוּרִיו וּמַעֲשֶׁיו – הֲרֵי בִּהְיוֹתָם מַחֲשָׁבָה, דְבּוּר אוֹ מַעֲשֶׂה שֶׁל יְהוּדִי, הֲרֵי־זֶה חֵלֶק מִ"בִּכּוּרִים" !"שַׁשׁיַּכִים לְבֵית הַמִּקְדָּשׁ, "לְכָנֵי ה' אֱלֹקֵיךְ

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The explanation is, as mentioned above: since this is a part of the life of the Jew – for the Jew is "entirely one" with Hashem, and he is not a means to something else, but the intent and the purpose is in him himself – it is understood that so it is also with regard to the details of his life. Every detail that a Jew does, every thought, word, or action of his, and at every moment in time and point in place that he is found – even a single one that seems small in value – is part of the "first fruits" that stand "before Hashem your G-d" in the Temple, "The sanctuary, O L-rd, which Your hands have established."

And also at this very moment and in this very place (even if it is only temporary) he has the obligation to say: "For my sake the world was created" – since all matters were created for the service of the Jew (in thought, word, or action) at this specific time and place. As is known: "A man's steps are established by Hashem" (like "The sanctuary, O L-rd, which Your hands have established"). Until the Jew has the power and authority to effect change and renewal in time and place – "Israel sanctify the times" (i.e. they sanctify the festivals), and likewise concerning the sanctification of place (through building synagogues and the like).

וְהַהַּסְבָּרָה בָּזֶה הִיא, כַּנִּזְכָּר לְעֵיל: כֵּיוָן שֶׁזֶהוּ חֵלֶּק מֵחֵיֵּי הַיְּהוּדִי – שֶׁיְהוּדִי הוּא "כֹּלָא חַד" עם
הַקָּדוֹשׁ־בָּרוּדְ־הוּא, וְאֵין הוּא אֶמְצָעִי לְדָבָר אַחֵר,
הַקָּדוֹשׁ־בָּרוּדְ־הוּא, וְאֵין הוּא אֶמְצָעִי לְדָבָר אַחֵר,
שֶׁלֶּא הַכַּנְנָה וְהַתַּכְלִית הִיא בּוֹ גוּפָא – הֲרֵי מוּבָּן, שֶׁכֵּן
הוּא גַּם בְּנוֹגַעַ לִפְרָטֵי חַיָּיו, שֶׁכָּל פְּרָט שֶׁיְהוּדִי עוֹשֶׂה,
כָּל מַחֲשָׁבָה דְּבּוּר אוֹ מַעֲשָׂה שֶׁלוֹ, וּבְכָל רֻגַע בִּזְמֵן
וּנְקֵדָה בְּמָקוֹם שָׁבּוֹ הוּא נִמְצָא – אֲפִלּוּ אֶחָד וְיָחִיד
שְׁנִמְצָא ים "לִפְנִי ה' אֱלֹקִידְ" בְּבֵית הַמִּקְדָּשׁ, "מִקְדָּשׁ
"אָדֹנַרי כּוֹנְנוּ יִדִידְּ

וְגַם בְּרָגַע זֶה וּבְמֶּקוֹם זֶה (אֲפִלּוּ אִם זֶהוּ רַק דָּבֶר אֲרָעִי) יֵשׁ לוֹ אֶת הַחִּיּוּב לוֹמֵר "בִּשְׁבִילִי נִבְרָא (כָּל) הָעוֹלָם", כֵּיוָן שֶׁכָּל הָעִנְיָנִים נִבְרְאוּ בִּשְׁבִיל עֲבוֹדָתוּ שָׁל יְהוּדִי (בְּמַחֲשֶׁבָה, דְּבּוּר אוֹ מֵעֲשֶׂה) בִּזְמַן וּמָקוֹם מְסֵיָם זֶה דַּוְקָא, כַּיִּדוּעַ שֶׁ"מֵה' מִצְעֲדֵי גֶבֶר כּוֹנָנוּ" (עַל־דֶּרָךְ "מִקְדָּשׁ אֲדֹנָ־י כּוֹנְנוּ יָדֶיךְ"). [עַד שֶׁלִּיהוּדִי יֵשׁ אֶת הַכֹּחַ וְהַבַּעַל־הַבֵּיִתְיוּת לִפְעֹל שִׁנּוּי וְחִדּוּשׁ בַּזְּמַן וְהַמֶּקוֹם – "יִשְׂרָאֵל דְּקַדְשִׁינְהוּ לִזְמַנִּים" (=שֶׁמְּקַדְּשִׁים אֶת הַמּוֹעִדִים), וְעַל־דֶּרֶהְ־זֶה בְּנוֹגֵעַ לְקִדּוּשׁ הַמָּקוֹם [(עַל־יִדִי בִּנְיֵן בֵּית־הַכְּנֶסֶת וְכִיּוֹצֵא־בָּזָה

(7)

According to this, the innovation of the mitzvah of first fruits compared to other forms of thanks and praise to Hashem is understood: the inner idea in first fruits – that they reveal how the true being of the Jewish people is one with Hashem, and therefore all their details are "before Hashem your G-d" – is reflected in the actual fulfillment of the mitzvah of first fruits, by the Jewish people. It is not only thanks in speech, but also in action – when they bring the physical fruits "before Hashem your G-d," and they remain in the possession of Hashem; the physical fruits are transformed into holiness.

עַל־פִּי־זֶה מוּבָן הַחִדוּשׁ דְּמִצְוַת "בִּכּוּרִים" לְגַבֵּי שְׁאָר הָאֲפָנִים בְּהוֹדָאָה וְשָׁבַח לַהֹ': הָעִנְיָן הַפְּנִימִי
בְּ"בִּכּוּרִים", שֶׁמְגַלִּים אֵיךּ הַמְּצִיאוּת הָאֲמִתִּית
דְּבְנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל הִיא דָּבָר אֶחָד עִם הַקּדוֹשׁ־בָּרוּדְ־הוּא,
וְלָכֵן כָּל פְּרָטֵיהֶם – הֵם "לִפְנֵי ה' אֱלֹקֶידְּ" – מִשְׁתַּקֵף
בְּקיוּם מִצְוַת "בִּכּוּרִים" בְּפַשְׁטוּת (עַל־יְדֵי
בְּבִירִשְׁרָאֵל), שָׁאֵין זוֹ רַק הוֹדָאָה בְּדְבּוּר, אֶלָּא גַּם בְּמַעֲשֶׂה – שֶׁמְּבִיאִים אֶת הַפֵּרוֹת הַגַּשְׁמִיִּים "לִפְנֵי ה' אֱלֹקֶידְ" וְהֵם נִשְׁאָרִים בִּרְשׁוּתוֹ שֶׁל
הַקְדוֹשׁ־בָּרוּדְ־הוּא, הַפֵּרוֹת הַגַּשְׁמִיִּים נָהְפָּכִים

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And this penetrates into the being of the Jew who brings the first fruits – in his thought, speech, and action – that he (the Jew) becomes the "speaker" (the source) who speaks and sings the praise of Hashem – "And you shall answer and say before Hashem your G-d." And all those around – including the priest who is in those days, and even Hashem Himself, so to speak – stand and listen to his words.

This is not only in the sense of Creator and created being – that the created being thanks Hashem for the flow of life and kindness, but the Creator and the created remain two separate things, as mentioned above. Through fulfilling the mitzvah of first fruits, it is revealed below, in this lowest world, how the Jewish people (as souls in bodies) are the "first fruits" ("the beginning") of the whole world – for whose sake the entire world was created.

וְזֶה חוֹדֵר בִּמְצִיאוּתוֹ שֶׁל הַיְּהוּדִי הַמֵּבִיא אֶת הַבּּפוּרִים, בַּמַּחֲשֶׁבָה דְּבּוּר וּמַצֲשֶׂה שֶׁלוֹ – שֶׁהוּא (הַיְּהוּדִי) נַעֲשֶׂה "הָאוֹמֵר" (הַפָּקוֹר) שֶׁאוֹמֵר וּמְזַמֵּר אֶת שִׁבְחוֹ שֶׁל הַקָּקוֹר) שֶׁאוֹמֵר וּמְזַמֵּר אֶת שִׁבְחוֹ שֶׁל הַקָּקוֹש־בָּרוּדְ־הוּא – "וְעָנִיתָ וְאָמַרְתָּ לִפְנֵי ה' אֱלֹקִיךְ", וְכָל הַסּוֹבְבִים, כוֹלֵל הַכֹּהֵן אֲשֶׁר יִהְיָה בַּיָּמִים הָקָדוֹשׁ־בָּרוּדְ־הוּא בְּעַצְמוֹ כְּבַיָּכוֹל, עוֹמְדִים הָמָקּשִׁיבִים לִדְבַרֵיו

לֹא רַק פְּהַיַּחָס דְּבוֹרֵא וְנִבְרָא שֶׁהַנִּבְרָא מוֹדֶה לַה' עַל הַשְּׁפָעַת הַחֵּיוּת וְהַחֶּסֶד, אֲבֶל הַבּוֹרֵא וְהַנִּבְרָא נִשְׂאָרִים הַשְּׁפָּעַת הַחֵּיוּת וְהַחֶּסֶד, אֲבֶל הַבּוֹרֵא וְהַנִּבְרָא נִשְׁאָרִים שְׁנֵי דְּבָרִים נִפְּרָדִים, כַּנִּוְכֶּר־לְעֵיל. עַל־יְדֵי קִיּוּם מִצְוַת "בְּכּוּרִים", מְגַלִּים לְמַטָּה בָּעוֹלֶם־הַזָּה הַתַּחְתוֹן, אֵיךְ שֶׁבְּנִי־יִשְׂרָאֵל (בִּהְיוֹתֶם נְשָׁמוֹת בְּגוּפִים) הֵם "בְּכּוּרִים" ("רֵאשִׁית") דְּכָל הָעוֹלֶם, שֶׁבִּשְׁבִילָם נִבְרָא בָּל הָעוֹלֶם, שֶׁבִּשְׁבִילָם נִבְרָא . כַּל הָעוֹלֶם, בָּל הָעוֹלֶם.

(7)

From this is understood the general concept in the mitzvah of first fruits that connects it with the entirety of Torah and mitzvos: first fruits reveal the ultimate purpose of fulfilling the whole Torah and mitzvos – that for a Jew, even as he is a soul in a body in this physical world, it should be openly felt that he is the "first fruits" ("the beginning" of the whole world) – by being one with Hashem, "before Hashem your G-d," for "Israel and the Holy One, blessed be He, are entirely one."

מָזָה מוּכָן הָעִנְיָן הַכְּלָלִי בְּמִצְוַתִּבְּכּוּרִים שֶׁמְּקַשֵּׁר אוֹתָה עִם כְּלָלוּת הַתּוֹרָה וּמִצְווֹת: "בִּכּוּרִים" מְגַלִּים אֶת הַתַּכְלִית דְּקִיּוּם כָּל הַתּוֹרָה וּמִצְווֹת – שֶׁאֵצֶל יְהוּדִי, גַם כְּפִי שֶׁהוּא נִמְצָא נְשָׁמָה בְּגוּף בָּעוֹלְם־הַזֶּה הַגַּשְׁמִי, יִרְגַּשׁ בְּגָלוּי שֶׁהוּא "בִּכּוּרִים" ("רֵאשִׁית" שֶׁל כָּל הָעוֹלָם) – בִּהְיוֹתוֹ דָּבָר אֶחָד עִם הַקְּדוֹשׁ־בָּרוּדְ־הוּא, "לִפְנֵי ה' אֱלֹקִיךְ", "יִשְׂרָאֵל וְקַדְשָׁא־בְּרִיךְ־הוּא כֹּלָא "תַד

(1)

Furthermore, and in deeper measure: that the Jewish people are "first fruits" – "the thought of Israel preceded everything" – is even with regard to Torah. For although "Bereishis" – "two beginnings": for the Torah, which is called "the beginning of His way," and for Israel, who are called "the beginning of His produce." Two things preceded the world: Torah and Israel, and I do not know which preceded. But when it says, "Command the children of Israel, speak to the children of Israel," I say Israel preceded, since all the Torah are commands to Israel.

יְתֵרָה מִזָּה וּבְעֹמֶק יוֹתֵר: זָהשֶׁבְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל הֵם
"בְּכּוּרִים" – "מַחֲשַׁבְתָּן שֶׁל יִשְׂרָאֵל קּדְמָה לְכָל דָּבָר"
– הוּא אֲפִלּוּ לְגַבֵּי תּוֹרָה. כֵּיוָן שֶׁהָגַם שֶׁ"בְּבֵאשִׁית" –
ב' "רֵאשִׁית", בִּשְׁבִיל הַתּוֹרָה שֶׁנִּקְרֵאוּ "רֵאשִׁית תְּבוּאָתה".
דַּרְכּוֹ" וּבִשְׁבִיל יִשְׂרָאֵל שֶׁנִּקְרְאוּ "רֵאשִׁית תְּבוּאָתה".
שֵׁיזֶה מֵהֶם קוֹדֵם – אַךְּ כְּשֶׁהוּא אוֹמֵר "צֵו אֶת בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל יִשְׂרָאֵל" אוֹמֵר אֲנִי "יִשְׂרָאֵל יִשְׂרָאֵל .
"קַּדְמוּ", כֵּיוַן שֶׁכַּל הַתּוֹרָה הִיא צִּוּוּיִים לְיִשְׂרָאֵל ...".

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However, the meaning is not that Israel, being prior to Torah, has no connection to Torah, G-d forbid. This is clear from the very fact that the one word "Bereishis" includes two "beginnings": Torah and Israel. That is, although outwardly Torah and Israel are two things, in truth and in essence they are one thing: the Jewish people are bound with Torah ("for they are our life and the length of our days"), and Torah is bound with the Jewish people, for the whole Torah is commands to Israel.

The meaning of "Israel preceded Torah" is in the sense of cause and effect, so to speak: Torah was given for the sake of the Jewish people (commands to Israel). Therefore, saving a life overrides the entire Torah, and not the reverse. The fulfillment of Torah is not relevant without the Jewish people – they are needed to accept and observe the Torah ("an inheritance of the congregation of Jacob").

Whereas the existence of Israel is relevant even if a person transgresses Torah and mitzvos, G-d forbid – as our Sages said, "Even though he sinned, he is still Israel." Since the Jewish people are above Torah, this is revealed in the matter of teshuvah – that even one who transgressed the Torah can repent, since his soul reaches a place that is higher than Torah ("They asked Torah... They asked Hashem... He said: let him do teshuvah and he will be atoned for").

But since Torah comes together with Israel ("two beginnings"), except that in this itself – "Israel preceded" – it is understood that the very being of Israel is bound to Torah, since the Jewish people are in essence bound with Hashem, and therefore also with His wisdom and will (Torah, for "Torah and the Holy One, blessed be He, are one").

אָמָנָם אֵין הַפֵּרוּשׁ בָּזָה, שֶׁלְיִשְׂרָאֵל, כְּפִי שֶׁהֵם קּדְמוּ
וּלְמַעְלָה מִן הַתּוֹרָה, אֵין שׁוּם שַׁיָּכוּת עִם הַתּוֹרָה חַס
וְשֶׁלוֹם – כַּמּוּכָן מִזֶּה גּוּפָא שֶׁהַתֵּבָה הָאַחַת "בְּרֵאשִׁית"
כּוֹלֶלֶת ב' "רֵאשִׁית": תּוֹרָה וְיִשְׂרָאֵל. כְּלוֹמַר,
שָׁאַף־עַּל־פִּי שֶׁבְּגָלוּי תּוֹרָה וְיִשְׂרָאֵל הֵם שְׁנֵי דְבָרִים,
אָבָל כָּאֱמֶת וּבְעֶצֶם הַם דָּבָר אֶחָד: בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל
קְשׁוּרִים עִם תּוֹרָה ("כִּי הֵם חַיֵּינוּ וְאֹרֶךְ יָמֵינוּ"),
וְתוֹרָה קְשׁוּרָה עִם בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל – כָּל הַתּוֹרָה הִיא
."צִּוּוִים לְיִשְׂרָאֵל

וְהַפֵּרוּשׁ בָּזָה "שֶׁיִשְׂרָאֵל קָדְמוּ" לַתּוֹרָה הוּא עַל־דֶּרֶךְ סָבָּה וּמְסוּבָּב כְּבַיָּכוֹל: תּוֹרָה נִתְּנָה בִּשְׁבִיל בְּנִי־יִשְׂרָאֵל (צִוּוּיִים לְיִשְׂרָאֵל), וְלָכֵן פִּקוּחַ נָפֶשׁ דּוֹחֶה כָּל הַתּוֹרָה כַּלָּה, וְלֹא לְהֵפֶּךְ. קִיּוּם הַתּוֹרָה אֵינוֹ שַׁיָּדְ לְלֹא בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל שֶׁיְּקַבְּלוּ וִיקַיְמוּ בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל שֶׁיְקַבְּלוּ וִיקַיְמוּ ("שֶׁהִיא מוֹרָשָׁה קְהַלַּת יַצְקֹב.

אָבָל כֵּיוָן שֶׁהַתּוֹרָה בָּאָה בְּיַחַד עִם יִשְׂרָאֵל ("ב' רֵאשִׁית") – אֶלָּא שֶׁבָּזָה גּוּפָא – "יִשְׂרָאֵל קָדְמוּ" – הָרֵי מוּכָּן, שֻׁעַצֶם מְצִיאוּתָם שֶׁל יִשְׂרָאֵל קְשׁוּרָה לַתּוֹרָה, כֵּיוָן שֶׁבְּנִי־יִשְׂרָאֵל קְשׁוּרִים בְּעֶצֶם עִם הַקָּדוֹשׁ־בָּרוּדְ־הוּא, וְלָבֵן גַּם עִם – חָכְמָתוֹ וּרְצוֹנוֹ הַיִּתָא וְקָדְשָׁא־בִּרִידְ־הוּא כִּלָא חַד.

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Therefore, the very being of Israel itself (in that they are one with Hashem) brings the Jew to fulfill Torah in actuality and openly, as the Rambam rules that the inner will of a Jew (even in a state when his evil inclination overpowers him) is always to do the will of Hashem – to be part of Israel, to want to do all the mitzvos, and to distance from sins.

But in the usual way – this very matter (that Israel preceded Torah) is revealed in actuality through Torah. For according to the order of avodah in the usual way, at the outset (from "a man of upright ways"), a Jew must learn Torah and observe its mitzvos, and through this the superiority of the Jew is revealed. Yet, even without this, it is possible that the essence of the Jewish people, as they are above Torah, be revealed – as this is expressed in the avodah of teshuvah, as mentioned above.

And the explanation in this: concerning the wording "three bonds are bound one with another – Hashem, Torah, and Israel," the question is known: three things are bound through the intermediary of two bonds. What is the wording "three bonds"? One of the explanations: in addition to the bond of Israel with Hashem that is made through Torah, there is also a third bond between Israel and Hashem – inasmuch as Israel are higher than Torah, and on the contrary – they connect the Torah with Hashem (Who is above Torah).

That is to say, in Israel there are two levels: (a) the souls of Israel as they descend below into a body in this physical world, where they are an actual created entity, and because of the concealment and covering of the world, their bond with Hashem is not openly seen, and therefore they must reveal it through Torah – that even as it is below, Torah and Hashem are one; (b) and through this bond of Israel with Torah is revealed the essence of Israel, how Israel and Hashem are one, as they preceded and are higher than Torah.

וְלָכֵן מְצִיאוּתָם שֶׁל יִשְׂרָאֵל עַצְמָה (בָּהְיוֹתָם חַד עִם קַדְשָׁא־בְּרִיהּ־הוּא) מְבִיאָה אֶת הַיְּהוּדִי לְקִיּוּם הַתּוֹרָה בְּפֹעַל וּבְגָלוּי, כִּפְסַק־דִּין הָרַמְבַּ"ם שֶׁהָרָצוֹן הַפְּנִימִי דִּיהוּדִי (אֲפִלּוּ בְּמַצָּב שֶׁיֵצֶרוֹ תּוֹקְפוֹ) הוּא תָּמִיד לְקַיֵּם אֶת רְצוֹן ה' – רוֹצֶה לְהִיוֹת מִיִּשְׂרָאֵל וְרוֹצֶה הוּא "לַעֲשׂוֹת כָּל הַמִּצְוֹת וּלְהָתְרַחֵק מִן הָעֲבֵרוֹת.

אֶלָּא שֶׁעַל־דֶּרֶךְ הָרָגִיל – עִנְיָן זֶה גּוּפָא (שֶׁ"יִשְׂרָאֵל קָדְמוּ לַתּוֹרָה") מִתְגַּלֶּה בְּפֹעַל עַל־יְדֵי תּוֹרָה, כִּי לְפִי סֵדֶר הָעֲבוֹדָה עַל־דֶּרֶךְ הָרָגִיל לְכַתְּחִלֶּה (מִצַּד "אָדָם יָשֶׁר הוֹלֵף") צָרִיךְ יְהוּדִי לִלְמוֹד תּוֹרָה וּלְקַיֵּם מִצְווֹתִיהָ, וְעַל־יְדֵי־זֶה מִתְגַלֵּית מֵעְלָתוֹ שֶׁל יְהוּדִי. אֲבָל גַם לוּלֵא זָה – שַׁיָּךְ שֶׁיִּהְיָה גִּלּוִי הָעֶצֶם דְּבְנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל כְּפִי שֶׁהֵם לְמַעְלָה מִן הַתּוֹרָה (כְּפִי שֶׁזָּה מִתְבַּמֵא בַּצַבוֹדַת הַתְּשׁוֹבָה, כַּנִּוְכָּר לְעֵיל .

וְהַבָּאוּר בָּזָה: בְּנוֹגֵעַ לְהַלָּשׁוֹן "תְּלַת קְשָׁרִין אִנּוּן
מִתְקַשְׁרָן דָּא בְּּדָא" [שְׁלֹשָׁה קְשָׁרִים הֵם מִתְקַשְׁרִים זֶה
בָּזֶה], "קֵּדְשָׁא־בְּרִידְ־הוּא אוֹרַיְתָא וְיִשְׂרָאֵל", יְדוּעָה
הַשְׁאֵלָה: שְׁלֹשָׁה דְּבָרִים מִתְקַשְׁרִים בְּאֶמְצָעוּת שְׁנֵי
קְשָׁרִים. מַהוּ הַלָּשׁוֹן "תְּלַת קְשָׁרִין"? וְאַחַד הַבִּיאוּרִים
בָּזֶה: נוֹסֶף עַל הַקֶּשֶׁר דְּיִשְׂרָאֵל עִם קַדְשָׁא־בְּרִידְ־הוּא
שָׁנַעֲשָׂה עַל־יְדֵי אוֹרַיְתָא, יֵשׁנוֹ גַּם קֶשְׁיר שְׁלִישִׁי בֵּין
יִשְׂרָאֵל וּקַדְשָׁא־בְּרִידְ־הוּא – כְּפִי שֶׁיִּשְׂרָאֵל הֵם
לְמַעְלָה מֵאוֹרַיִּתא, וַאָּדְרַבָּה – הֵם מְחַבְּרִים אֶת הַתּוֹרָה
(עִּים קִדְשָׁא־בְּרִידְ־הוּא (שֶׁלְמַעְלָה מֵהַתּוֹרָה

פָּלוֹמֵר, בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל יֵשׁנָן שְׁתֵּי דַרְגּוֹת: (א) נִשְׁמוֹת
יִשְׂרָאֵל פְּפִי שֶׁהֵן יוֹרְדוֹת לְמַטָּה בְּגוּף בָּעוֹלָם הַגָּה
הַגַּשְׁמִי, שֶׁבּוֹ הֵן "יֵשׁ נִבְרָא מַמָּשׁ", וּבִגְלַל הַהָּעְלֵם
וְהַסְתֵּר דְּהָעוֹלָם, לֹא נִרְאָה בְּגַלוּי הַקֶּשֶׁר שֶׁלָּהָן עִם
קַדְשָׁא־בְּרִיהְ־הוּא, וְלָכֵן צְרִיכִים לְגַלוֹת זֹאת עַל־יִדִי
אוֹרַיְתָא שְׁנַם בִּהְיוֹתָה לְמַטָּה "אוֹרַיְתָא
וְקַדְשָׁא־בְּרִידְּ־הוּא כּלָּא חַד"; (ב) וְעַל־יִדִי־זָה (הַקֶּשֶׁר דְּיִשְׁרָאֵל עִם אוֹרַיְתָא) – מִתְגַלֶּה הָעֶצֶם דְּיִשְׂרָאֵל, כְּפִי שְׁהַם
שְׁ"יִשְׂרָאֵל וְקַדְשָׁא־בְּרִידְּ־הוּא כּלָּא חַד", כְּפִי שְׁהַם
הַּקְרֵמִּוּ וּלְמַעְלָה מִן הַתּוֹרָה

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And therefore the Jewish people have the power to influence and innovate in Torah, to the extent that they connect Torah with Hashem as He is above Torah (as mentioned above). And it may be said that since the Jewish people – even as they are below – are "first fruits," "before Hashem your G-d," therefore even below there is the essence of the Jewish people as they are above Torah. And this is revealed openly in the matter of teshuvah, as mentioned above.

And as is also understood from the saying of our Sages mentioned above, that "each and every one is obligated to say: for my sake the world was created." This includes (in the simple sense) every single Jew, even an unlearned one who has no revealed connection to Torah. And as hinted in the wording of our Sages: "even at the time when the world was created" — which was before the giving of the Torah and before the command to study Torah — he must say: "for my sake the world was created."

And it may be said that this is expressed in practice with regard to a child and infant in Israel (before he begins to speak and be connected to Torah learning openly), and likewise one small in knowledge who still has no revealed connection to Torah (not by his fault, G-d forbid, but like a child who was taken captive among idolaters). Since Hashem has placed him in this state and he is not guilty of it, then although he has no revealed connection to Torah, he is also on the level of "first fruits," belonging "before Hashem your G-d," above all matters of the world, even higher than Torah, and all matters were created for him.

וְלָכֵן יֵשׁ לְבְנֵי־יִשְּׂרָאֵל אֶת הַכּּחַ לְהַשְׁפִּיעַ וּלְחַדֵּשׁ
בַּתּוֹרָה, עַד שֶׁהָם מְחַבְּרִים אֶת הַתּוֹרָה
וּקִדְשָׁא־בְּרִיהִּיא שֶׁלְמַעְלָה מֵהַתּוֹרָה (כַּנִּזְכָּר לְעֵיל).
וְיֵשׁ לוֹמַר, שֶׁכֵּיוֹן שֶׁבְּנִי־יִשְׁרָאֵל – גַּם כְּפִי שֶׁהֵם
נְמְצָאִים לְמַטָּה – הֵם "בִּכּוּרִים", "לְפְנֵי ה' אֱלֹקִידְּ" –
הָרֵי גַּם לְמַטָּה יֵשׁנוֹ הָעָצֶם דְּבְנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל כְּפִי שֶׁהֵם
לְמַעְלָה מִן הַתּוֹרָה [וְעִנָּיָן זֶה מִתְבַּמֵּא בְּגָלוּי בְּעִנְיֵן
הַתִּשׁוּבָה, כַּנִּוּזְכַּר לְעֵיל

וְכַמּוּבָן גַּם מִמַּאֲמֵר חֲכָמֵינוּ־זַ"ל הַנִּזְכָּר לְעֵיל שֶׁכָּל אֶחָד וְאָחָד חַיָּב לוֹמֵר "בִּשְׁבִילִי נִבְרָא הָעוֹלְם", שֶׁנֶּה כּוֹלֵל (בְּפַשְׁטוּת) כָּל־אֶחָד וְאֶחָד מִיִּשְׂרָאֵל, אֲפִלּוּ עַם־הָאָרֶץ, שֶׁאֵין לוֹ שַׁיָּכוּת גְלוּיָה לַתּוֹרָה. וְכַמְּרוּמָז בִּלְשׁוֹן חֲכָמֵינוּ־זַ"ל: "אֲפִלּוּ בְּהַדַּרְבָּא דְּנִבְרָא הָעוֹלְם" – שֶׁהָיָתָה לִפְנֵי מַתַּן תּוֹרָה וְלִפְנֵי הַצִּוּוִי עַל לְמוּד ..."הַתּוֹרָה – חַיָּב לוֹמֵר "בִּשְׁבִילִי נִבְרָא הָעוֹלְם ...".

וְיֵשׁ לוֹמֵר שֶׁזֶּה מִתְבַּטָּא בְּנוֹגֵעַ לַפּעַל בְּנוֹגֵעַ לְתִינוֹק וְקָטָן בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל (קֹדֶם שֶׁמַּתְחִיל לְדַבֵּר וְשַׁיֶּהְ לְלִמּוּד הַתּוֹרָה בְּגָלוּי), וְעַל־דֶּרֶה־זֶה קָטָן בִּידִיעוֹת שֶׁצַדִין אֵין לוֹ שַׁיָּכוּת גְלוּיָה לַתּוֹרָה (שֶׁלֹא בְּאַשְׁמָתוֹ חַס וְשָׁלוֹם, אֶלֶא תִּינוֹק שֶׁנִּשְׁבָּה לְבֵין הָעוֹרְדֵי־כוֹכָבִים וּמַזְּלוֹת). כֵּיוָן שֶׁהַקְּדוֹשׁ־בָּרוּהְ־הוּא הָעֶמִידוֹ בְּמַצֶּב זֶה וְאֵין הוּא אָשֵׁם בְּכָהְ, אֲזֵי הְגַם שָׁאֵין לוֹ שַׁיָּכוּת גְלוּיָה לַתּוֹרָה, הְבִי גַּם הוּא בְּדַרְגַּת "בִּפּוּרִים", שֶׁשֵּׁיָּךְ "לְפְנֵי ה' אֱלֹקִיךְ", שֶׁקּדְמוּ וּלְמַעְלָה מִכָּל עִנְיָנֵי הָעוֹלָם, וַאֲפִלּוּ הָקִדמוּ לַתּוֹרָה, וְכָל הָעִנְיִנִים נִבְרָאוּ בִּשְׁבִילוֹ

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That is to say, in the service of Hashem in practice there are two modes: (a) In the usual manner, the bond of Israel with Hashem is made through Torah, and therefore Torah study is equivalent to them all, and there is a constant obligation upon every Jew to learn Torah at every available moment, since upon this depends his existence and being. (b) But when speaking about a person in a state – not by his fault – in which he still has no revealed connection to Torah, there is by him the matter of "first fruits," for whose sake everything was created. And on the contrary – this itself brings him to Torah, as mentioned above.

בְּלוֹמֵר, שֶׁבַּעֲבוֹדַת הַשֵּׁם בְּפֹעַל וֵשְׁנָם שְׁנֵי אֲפָנִים: (א)
עַל־דָּרֶך הָרָגִיל נַעֲשָׂה הַקָּשֶׁר דְּיִשְׂרָאֵל
וְקַדְשָׁא־בְּרִידְ־הּוּא עַל־יְדֵי אוֹרַיְתָא, וְלָכֵן "תַּלְמוּד
תּוֹרָה בְּנָגֶד בַּלָּם", וְיֵשׁ חִיּוּב תָּמִידִי עַל כָּל־אָחָד וְאָחָד
מִיּשְׂרָאֵל לִלְמוֹד תּוֹרָה בְּכָל רֻגַע פָנוּי, כִּיוָן שֻׁבָּזָה
תָּלוּי קִיּוּמוֹ ומְצִיאוּתוֹ. (ב) אֲבָל כַּאֲשֶׁר מְדַבָּר עַל
אָדָם שָׁנִּמְצָא בְּמַצָּב – שֶׁלֹּא בְּאַשְׁמָתוֹ – שָׁבּוֹ עֲדַיִן אֵין
לוֹ שַׁיָכוּת גְלוּיָה לַתּוֹרָה – אֶצְלוֹ נִמְצָא עִנְיַן
"הַבְּפוּוּרִים", שֶׁבִּשְׁבִילוֹ נִבְרָא הַכּּלֹ. וַאֲדְרַבָּה – זֶה
"הַבְּפוּוֹרִם", עִׁבְּשְׁבִּילוֹ נִבְרָא הַכּּלֹ. וַאֲדְרַבָּה – זֶה
גוּפַא מביא אוֹתוֹ לְתּוֹרָה, בַּנוֹפַר לְעִיל

(1)

It can be said that the general concept of the mitzvah of Bikkurim (the revelation of the greatness of Israel – as "first fruits" also in this physical world, even their precedence over the Torah) is also expressed in the passage of Mikra Bikkurim. The one bringing the first fruits declares: "And you shall answer and say before Hashem your G-d, An Aramean sought to destroy my father, and he went down to Egypt ... and Hashem took us out of Egypt ... and He gave us this land..." (Devarim 26:5–10). These events (Yaakov's descent to Egypt, the Exodus, and the entry into the Land) are collective matters tied with all Israel in every generation.

The content of the recitation is that despite "An Aramean sought to destroy my father" – Yaakov with Lavan, who pursued him and sought to uproot everything – and despite "he went down to Egypt and lived there with few," and later "others came upon us to consume us," this did not harm Yaakov and his sons. On the contrary: "He became there a great, mighty, and numerous nation," in both quantity and quality.

וְיֵשׁ לוֹמַר שֶׁהָעִנְיָן הַכְּלָלִי בְּמִצְוַתבְּכּוּרִים (הַגִּלוּי דְּמֵצְלֶתָם שֶׁל יִשְׂרָצֵל – בְּכּוּרִים" גַּם בָּעוֹלָם־הַיָּה הַגַּשְׁמִי, עַד מַצְלָתָם שֶׁקָדְמוּ לַתּוֹרָה) מִתְבַּטָּא גַּם בַּמִּקְרָא בִּכּוּרִים", הַפָּרָשָׁה שָׁמַבִיא הַבִּכּוּרִים אוֹמֵר: וְעָנִיתְ וְאָמֵרְתָּ לִפְנֵי ה' אֶצֱלֹקֶיךְ, אֲרַמִּי אֹבֵד אָבִי וַיֵּרֶד מִצְרַיְמָה גּוֹ' וַיּוֹצָאֵנוּ ה' מִמְּצְרַיִם גּוֹ' וַיִּתֶּן לָנוּ אֶת הָאֶרֶץ הַזֹּאת גּוֹ". שָׁאֵלוּ (יְרִידַת יַעֲקֹב לְמִצְרִיִם וְיצִיאַת מִצְרַיִם וְהַבְּנִיסָה לְאֶרֶץ יִשְׂרָאֵל) הָם עִנְיָנִים בּלֶלִיִּים הַקְשׁוּרִים עַם כַּל בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּכַל הָדּוֹרוֹת

תּכֶן הַקְרִיאָה הוּא, שֶׁמִּבְּלִי הַבֶּט עַל כָּךְ שֶׁאֲרַמִּי אֹבַד אָבִי", שֶׁיַּעַקֹב נִמְצָא אֵצֶל לָבָן, וְלְבָן בְּקֵשׁ לַעֲקֹר אָת אָבִל כְּנִוּ, וְלְבָן בְּקֵשׁ לַעֲקֹר אָת הַכּּל כְּשֶׁרְדַף אַחַרִי־זֶה (וְעוֹד אֲחַרִי־זֶה (וְעוֹד אֲחַרִים בָּאוּ עָלֵינוּ לְכַלוֹתֵינוּ") וַיֵּרֶד מִצְרַיְמָה וַיִּגָּר שָׁם בִּמְתֵי מְעָט" (בְּשִׁרְעִים נֶפֶשׁ") – שֶׁכָּל זָה הָיָה לְפְנֵי מַהַ תְּלָב לֹא פָּגַע בְּיַעֲקֹב מַתַּן תוֹרָה – הָרֵי לֹא זוּ בִּלְבַד שְׁיָּה לֹא פָּגַע בְּיַעֲקֹב וּבְנִיו חַס וְשָׁלוֹם, אֶלָּא אַדְרַבָּה: וַיְהִי שָׁם לְגוֹי גִּדוֹל עַצוּם וַרָב", הֶן בְּכַמּוּת וְהָן בָּאֵיכוּת

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Already in Yaakov's lifetime this was evident, as his bed was complete. When he worried otherwise, his sons reassured him: "Hear O Israel (our father), Hashem is our G-d, Hashem is One. Just as there is only One in your heart, so too in our hearts." At that moment Yaakov proclaimed: "Blessed be the Name of the glory of His kingdom forever." Even in Egypt they maintained perfect unity with Hashem, "before Hashem your G-d."

הָחֵל עוֹד בִּזְמֵן יַעֲקֹב, שֶׁזָּכָה שֶׁמִּטָתוֹ שְׁלֵמָה", עַד]
שֶׁכּּאֲשֶׁר הָיָה לְיַעֲקֹב חֲשָׁשׁ בָּזָה, אָמְרוּ לוֹ בָּנָיו: שְׁמַע
יִשְׂרָאֵל (יִשְׂרָאֵל סָבָא) ה' אֱלֹקֵינוּ ה' אֶחָד, כְּשֵׁם שָׁאֵין
בְּלִבְּךּ אֶלָּא אָחָד כָּךְ אֵין בְּלִבֵּנוּ אֶלָּא אָחָד, בְּאוֹתָה
שְׁעָה פָּתַח יַעֲקֹב אָבִינוּ וְאָמֵר בָּרוּךְ שֵׁם כְּבוֹד מַלְכוּתוֹ
לְעוֹלָם וְעָד". שֶׁגַּם בִּהְיוֹתָם בְּמִצְרַיִם, אֵין בְּלִבֵּנוּ אֶלָּא
אָחָד" – שְׁלֵמוּת הָאַחְדוּת עִם הַקָּדוֹשׁ־ בְּרוּדְ־הוּא,
["לפִני ה' אַלֹקִיךְ

And afterwards – despite "the Egyptians afflicted us" in the narrow straits and boundaries of the world – Hashem brought us out with a mighty hand, an outstretched arm, with awe, signs, and wonders, and brought us to this land flowing with milk and honey. This shows that Israel are the "first fruits" of the entire world, chosen before all else, even before Torah itself.

ְוְגַם לְאַחֲרִי־זָה – מִבְּלִי הַבֶּט עַל כָּךְ שָׁוַיַּרְעוּ אֹתָנוּ הַמִּצְרִים וְגוֹ'", בִּמְצָרִים וּגְבוּלִים דְעוֹלֶם, הָרֵי וַיּוֹצְאֵנוּ ה' מִמִּצְרִים בָּיָד חָזָקָה וּבִזְרֹעַ נְטוּיָה וּבְמֹרָא גָּדֹל וּבְאֹתוֹת וּבְמֹפְתִים", עַד וַיְבִאֵנוּ אֶל הַמְּקוֹם הַזֶּה וַיִּתָּן לָנוּ אֶת הָאָרֶץ הַזֹּאת אֶרֶץ זָבַת חָלָב וּדְבָשׁ" – שָׁהוּא בָּחַר בִּבְנִי־יִשְׂרָאֵל כְּבִכּוּרִים" דְּכָל הָעוֹלָם; וְלָכֵן מְבִיאִים בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל – מִדָּה כְּנֶגֶד מִדָּה רֵאשִׁית פְּרִי הַבָּאַדַמָּה אֲשִׁר נַתָּתָּה לִי ה' וְהָנֵּחָתוֹ לִפְנֵי ה' אֵלֹקִיךְּ.

This reveals that Israel – even before Matan Torah, before their revealed connection to Torah – were already in the level of "first fruits," preceding everything, even Torah itself. This is expressed in "He became there a great nation... and Hashem took us out... and brought us to this land flowing with milk and honey."

שָׁעִנְיָן זֶה מְגַלָּה אֵיךּ שֶׁבְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל – גַּם לְפְנֵי מַתַּן תּוֹרָה, לְפְנֵי שֶׁקְבְּלוּ שַׁיָּכוּת גְלוּיָה לַתּוֹרָה לְמַטָה – הֵם בְּדַרְגַּת בִּפּוּרִים", שֶׁקְדְמוּ לְכָל דָּבָר, אֲפִלּוּ לַתּוֹרָה, וְזָה מִתְגַלָּה עַל־יְדֵי־זֶה שָׁוַיְהִי שֶׁם לְגוֹי גָּדוֹל עָצוּם וְרָב", וְאַחַר־כָּךְ וַיּוֹצְאֵנוּ ה' מִמִּצְרַיִם בְּיָד חְזָקָה וּבִּזְרֹעַ וְטִיּיָה וּבְמֹרָא גָּדֹל וּבְאֹתוֹת וּבְמֹפְתִים", עַד וַיְבָאֵנוּ אֶל הַמָּקוֹם הַזָּה וַיִּתָּן לָנוּ אֶת הָאָרֶץ הַזֹּאת אֶרֶץ זָבַת חָלָב "וּדְבָשׁ."

(n)

According to this, the law of Bikkurim is also sweetened, that Bikkurim require a vessel, as it is written: "and you shall put it in a basket." And in this law itself: if he brought them in vessels of metal, as was the custom of the wealthy who would bring their first fruits in baskets of silver and of gold, the priest takes the Bikkurim and returns the vessel to its owner. But if he brought them in vessels of willow or peeled branches and the like, as was the custom of the poor, then the Bikkurim and the baskets belong to the priests.

עַל־פִי־זֶה יִמְתַּק גַּם הַדִּיןבְּבִפּוּרִים, שֶׁהַבִּפּוּרִים טְעוּנִין כְּלִי, כְּמוֹ שֶׁבָּתוּב "וְשַׂמְתָּ בַטֶּנָא", וּבָזֶה גּוּפָא הַדִּין הוּא, שֶׁהַבִיאָם בִּכְלִי מַתָּכוֹת כְּמִנְהַג הָעָשִׁירִים שֶׁמְבִיאִים בִּפּוּרִיהָם בִּקְלָתוֹת שֶׁל כָּסֶף וְשֶׁל זָהָב – נוֹטֵל הַכֹּהֵן הַבִּפּוּרִים וְחוֹזֵר הַכְּלִי לִבְעָלָיו, וְאָם הַבִיאָם בִּכְלִי עַרָבָה וְחֵלֶף וְכִיּוֹצֵא בָּהָן, כְּמִנְהַג הַבִּיאָם, הַרֵי הַבִּפּוּרִים וְהַפַּלִים לַכֹּהָנִים.

Sichas Nun Alef Parshas Ki Savo

The completeness of the revelation of Israel's greatness as Bikkurim is that even as they are found in a vessel – a soul in the vessel of the body (a limitation), even in a poor vessel (there is no poor except in knowledge of G-d) – it is recognized there that they are Bikkurim. And more: Bikkurim require a vessel – they come before Hashem your G-d specifically through a vessel. Until specifically a vessel made from the simplest things (of this lowest world, lower than which there is none) becomes united with the Bikkurim, in such a way that "the Bikkurim and the baskets belong to the priests." Even the vessel itself becomes on the level of "before Hashem your G-d."

More than this: by this it is effected that there will be "and you shall put it in a basket" – basket (מנא) is an acronym for Taamim, Nekudot, Otiyot (cantillation marks, vowels, letters). That there should be the completeness of Torah, in addition to the letters and vowels – also the cantillation. And in such a way of "and you shall put" the Bikkurim, that the Jew places them inwardly in the Taamim, Nekudot, Otiyot of Torah.

שָׁלֵמוּת הַגִּלוּי דְּמַעְלָתָן שֶׁל יִשְׂרָאֵל בִּבְחִינַת בִּכּוּרִים הִיא בָּזָה, שֻׁגַּם כְּפִי שֶׁהֵם נִמְצָאִים בִּכְלִי, נְשֶׁמָה בִּכְלִי הַגּוּף (מִגְבָּל), עַד אֲפִלּוּ בִּכְלִי עָנִי (אֵין עָנִי אֶלָּא בְּדַעַת יי), נָכָּר שֶׁם שֶׁהֵם בִּכּוּרִים. וְאַדְרַבָּה: הַבִּכּוּרִים טְעוּנִין כְּלִי – בָּאִים לְכְנֵי ה' אֱלֹקֶיף דַּוְקָא עַל יְדֵי כְּלִי.

עַד שֶׁדַּוְקָא כְּלִי שֶׁעָשׁוּי מִדְּבָרִים הָכִי פְשֵׁטִים (מֵעוֹלָם הַגָּה הַתַּחְתּוֹן שָׁצִין תַּחְתּוֹן לְמַטָּה מִמֶּנוּ) מִתְאַחֵד עִם הַבִּכּוּרִים, בְּאֹפֶן שֶׁהַבִּכּוּרִים וְהַסַּלִּים לַכֹּהְנִים, שֶׁגַם הַכְּלִי עַצְמוֹ נַעֲשָׂה בְּדַרְגַּת לִפְנֵי ה' אֱלֹקִיךְּ .הַכְּלִי עַצְמוֹ נַעֲשָׂה בְּדַרְגַּת לִפְנֵי ה' אֱלֹקִיךְ

וִיתֵרָה מִזֶּה: עַל־יְדֵי זֶה נִפְעָל שֻׁיִּהְיֶה "וְשַׂמְתָּ בַטֶּנָא", טנא רָאשׁי תֵבוֹת טְעָמִים נְקֵדוֹת אוֹתִּיוֹת – שֻׁתִּהְיֶה הַשְּׁלֵמוּת דְּתוֹרָה, נוֹסָף עַל אוֹתִיוֹת וּנְקֻדוֹת הַתּוֹרָה – גַם טַצְמֵי הַתּוֹרָה, וּבְאֹפָן דִּ"וְשַׂמְתָּ" אֶת הַבִּכּוּרִים שָׁהַיְּהוּדִי "מַנִּיחַ" בִּפְנִימִיוּת בַּ(טְעָמִים נְקֻדוֹת אוֹתִיוֹת דְּ)תוֹרָה

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(9) According to the above it will be understood (more deeply) the connection of the mitzvah of Bikkurim with the continuation of the portion about the covenant concerning the totality of Torah and mitzvot. Beyond what was mentioned earlier (section 5), that Bikkurim reveal the content of all Torah and mitzvot: Bikkurim – the essential greatness of Israel (that they preceded the Torah) – this is the beginning and foundation of all Torah and mitzvot.

Since Israel and the Holy One, blessed be He, are one, Hashem (from the outset) makes a covenant with Israel that unites Him with Israel (like the union of the two parts of the covenant). In a revealed way below, this is expressed in practice and revealed by "you shall therefore keep the words of this covenant," as Israel accept upon themselves and fulfill the Torah and mitzvot.

עַל־פִּי הַנִּזְכָּר לְעֵיל תּוּבַן (בְּעֹמֶק יוֹתֵר) הַשַּׁיֶכוּת דְמִצְוַת בִּכּוּרִים עִם הֶמְשֶׁךְ הַפְּרָשֶׁה עַל הַבְּרִית עַל כְּלֶלוּת הַתּוֹרָה וּמִצְווֹת, נוֹסָף עַל הָאָמֵר לְעֵיל (סְעִיף ה), שֶׁבִּכּוּרִים מְגַלִּים אֶת הַתֹּכֶן דְּכָל הַתּוֹרָה וּמִצְווֹת: בִּכּוּרִים – הַמַּעֲלָה הָעַצְמִית דְּיִשְׂרָאֵל (שֶׁקְדְמוּ לַתּוֹרָה) ב הוּא הַהַתְּחָלָה וְהַיְּסוֹד דְּכָל הַתּוֹרָה וְהַמְּצְווֹת.

כִּיוָן שֶׁיִשְׂרָאֵל וְקַדְשָׁא־בְּרִיךְ־הוּא כָּלָא חַד, עוֹשֶׁה הַקָּדוֹשׁ־בָּרוּדְ־הוּא (לְכַתְּחָלָה) כְּרִיתַת בְּרִית עִם בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל שֶׁמְאַחֶדֶת אֶת הַקָּדוֹשׁ־בָּרוּדְ־הוּא עִם בְּנִי־יִשְׂרָאֵל (כְּאַחְדוּת דִּשְׁנֵי חֶלְקֵי הַבְּרִית), בְּאֹכֶן גָּלוּי גַּם לְמַשָּה, וְזֶה מִתְגַּלֶּה בְּפֹעַל וּבְגָלוּי עַל־יְדֵי ""וּשְׁמַרְתֵּם אֶת דְּבָרִי הַבְּרִית הַזֹּאת.

Sichas Nun Alef Parshas Ki Savo

"This day Hashem your G-d commands you to do these statutes and judgments, and you shall keep and do them with all your heart and all your soul." In such a way that it penetrates them completely, until it is seen openly in the world how "Hashem has made you today to be His treasured people ... and to set you high above all nations that He has made, for praise, fame, and glory."

בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל מְקַבְּלִים עַל עַצְמָם וּמְקַיְּמִים אֶת הַתּוֹרָה וּמְצְוֹוֹת שֶׁל הַקָּדוֹשׁ־בָּרוּדְ־הוּא, "הַיּוֹם הַנָּה ה' אֱלֹקִידְ מְצַוְּדְּ לַצְשׁוֹת אֶת הַחֻקִּים הָאֵלֶה וְאֶת הַמִּשְׁפָּטִים, וְשָׁמַרְתָּ וְעָשִׂיתָ אוֹתָם בְּכָל לְכָבְדְּ וּבְכָל נַפְשֶׁדְ", כָּדְ שֶׁרוֹאִים בְּגָלוּי בָּעוֹלָם אֵיךְ "וַה' הֶאֱמִירְדְּ הַיּוֹם לִהְיוֹת לוֹ לְעַם סְגֻלָּה ... וּלְתִּתְּדְ עֶלְיוֹן עַל כָּל הַגּוֹיִם ... ה'לְתִהְלֵּה וּלִשֵּׁם וּלְתִפְאַרֵת.

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With this will also be understood in more detail the connection of Bikkurim to Rashi's commentary on the verse: "This day Hashem your G-d commands you" – every day they should be in your eyes as new, as if on that very day you were commanded.

As stated earlier (section 3), since the purpose of Israel – in being Bikkurim – is within them themselves, and all is created for them, it is understood that every detail in a Jew's life, even one without revealed connection to Torah, has purpose in itself.

Every moment in time, every point in place, every thought, speech, or act has a new and complete purpose. On this applies the obligation: "For my sake the world was created." This includes that all matters of the world and all times are encompassed in that single moment.

From this it is understood: the power to make Torah and mitzvos each day be in your eyes as new, even if he did the same service yesterday, comes specifically from Israel (Bikkurim).

Since all matters of the world are not ends for themselves, but only means for Israel and Torah, it is possible that a day or moment continues the work of the previous or prepares for the next. But Israel have the power to make every day truly new.

A true renewal – like the creation every day and moment ex nihilo by Hashem Himself. Thus every new moment becomes a new beginning in service of Torah and mitzvos, encompassing all his service until its end. ּוּבָזֶה תּוּבָן גַּם – בִּפְרָטִיוּת יוֹתֵר – הַשַּׁיָכוּת דְּבִכּוּרִים-לִדְרָשֵׁת רַשִׁ"י עַל־הַכָּסוּק "הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה ה' אֱלֹקֶיךְ מְצַוְּךְ" – "בְּכָל יוֹם יִהְיוּ בְּצֵינֶיךְ חָדָשִׁים כְּאִלוּ בּוֹ בִּיּוֹם נִצְטַוֵּיתַ עַלֵיהָם.

דְבַּר לְעֵיל (סְעִיף־ג), שֶׁבֵיוָן שֶׁתַּכְלִית בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל – בִּהְיוֹתָם "בִּכּוּרִים" – הִיא בָּהֶם גּוּפָא, וְהַכּּל נִבְרָא עֲבוּרָם, וְלָכֵן מוּבָן שֶׁבֶּל פְּרָט בְּחַיֵּי יְהוּדִי – אֲפָלוּ בְּלִי שַׁיָּכוּת גְלוּיָה לַתּוֹרָה – יֵשׁ לוֹ תַּכְלִית בּוֹ עַצְמוֹ

כָּל רָגַע בִּזְמַן, כָּל נְקָדָּה בְּמָקוֹם, כָּל מַחֲשָׁבָה דְּבּוּר אוֹ מַצֲשֶׂה יָחִיד – יֵשׁ לוֹ תַּכְלִית בּוֹ עַצְמוֹ. עַל־זֶה חָל הַחִיוּב לוֹמַר "בִּשְׁבִילִי נִבְרָא הָעוֹלָם", דְּהַיְנוּ, שֶׁכָּל עִנְיָנֵי הָעוֹלָם, כָּל הָרְגָעִים בִּזְמַן וְכוּ' נִכְלָלִים בְּרָגַע אחד

מָזֶה מּוּבָן, שֶׁהַכֹּחַ לְפְעֹל שֶׁבְּכָל יוֹם יִהְיוּ (תּוֹרָה וּמְצְווֹת) בְּעֵינֶיךְ חֲדָשִׁים, אַף־עַל־פִּי שֶׁעָשָׂה הָעֲבוֹדָה וּמָצְווֹת) בְּעֵינֶיךְ חֲדָשִׁים, אַף־עַל־פִּי שֶׁעָשָׂה הָעֲבוֹדָה.

כִּיוָן שֶׁכָּל עִנְיָנֵי הָעוֹלָם – אֵין הֵם תַּכְלִית לְעַצְמָם, אֶלָּא אֶמְצָעִי לְדָבָר אַחֵר (בִּשְׁבִיל יִשְׂרָאֵל וּבִשְׁבִיל הַתּוֹרָה) – יִתָּכֵן שֶׁיוֹם אוֹ רָגַע יִהְיֶה הָמְשֵׁךְ לַעֲבוֹדַת יוֹם שֶׁלְפָנֵי, אוֹ הָכָנָה לְיוֹם שֶׁלְאַחֲבִי. דַּוְקָא לִבְנִי־יִשְׂרָאֵל יֵשׁ אֶת הַכֹּחַ לַחֲדֵשׁ בְּכָל יוֹם. לִבְנִי־יִשְׂרָאֵל יֵשׁ אֶת הַכֹּחַ לַחֲדֵשׁ בְּכָל יוֹם.

חָדוּשׁ אֲמִתִּי – כְּמוֹ בְּכָל יוֹם וָרָגַע בַּהְוָיָה יֵשׁ מֵאַיִן עַל־יְדֵי הַקָּדוֹש־בָּרוּף־הוּא עַצְמוֹ. וּבְכָל יוֹם וָרָגַע נַעֲשֵׂית הַתְּחָלָה חֲדָשָׁה בַּעֲבוֹדַת הַתּוֹרָה וּמִצְווֹת שַׁכּוֹלֵל בָּתוֹכוֹ אֵת כַּל הַעֲבוֹדַה.

Sichas Nun Alef Parshas Ki Savo

Similarly, only Israel have the power to bring renewal even in Torah itself (since they preceded it), until it effects renewal in the learner himself – that he becomes a truly new person through his Torah study. Every day and moment – in a new manner.

בְּדָמְיוֹן, דַּוְקָא בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל יֵשׁ בְּכֹחָם לְחַדֵּשׁ בַּתּוֹרָה עַצְמָה (בְּשָׁהֵם קּוֹדְמִים לָה), עַד לַחִדּוּשׁ בְּלוֹמֵד הַתּוֹרָה עַצְמוֹ, שָׁנַּעֲשֶׂה כְּאָדָם חָדָשׁ מַמֶּשׁ (עַל־יְדֵי לִמּוּד הַתּוֹרָה שָׁלוֹ). וּבְכָל יוֹם וָרָגַע – בְּאֹפֶן חָדָשׁ.

(۲۸)

With this will also be understood the explanation of the name of the portion "Tavo." Although "when you come (into the land)" is a preparation for fulfilling the mitzvos upon entering Eretz Yisrael, yet as an act and order of service of the Jewish people, in the word "Tavo" itself there is a purpose of its own.

That is, in this detail is included all aspects of service – not only as preparation for what comes after. This is also the meaning of the word "Tavo" itself: even at the beginning of a Jew's service, when he has only reached "Tavo," before mitzvah performance, he must enter it inwardly.

Knowing that in the "Tavo" itself is expressed the purpose of his service at that moment, which includes and grants the strength for the later service – "you shall inherit it and dwell in it," the mitzvah of Bikkurim and its declaration, until the covenant in the continuation of the portion.

Furthermore, the name of the portion "Tavo" hints that the "coming" is in a sure way – it is not speaking of a command to enter, but that it will certainly be. "And it shall be when you come" means with certainty, even immediately fulfilled, until the mitzvah of Bikkurim is performed at once.

וּכָזֶה יוּכָן גַּם הַבַּאוּר בְּשֵׁםהַפָּרְשָׁה "תָּבוֹא": אַף־עַל־פִּי שָׁ"תָּבוֹא (אֶל הָאָרֶץ)" הוּא הַכָּנָה וְהַקְדָּמָה לְקִיּוּם הַמִּצְווֹת בַּכְּנִיסָה לְאֶרֶץ יִשְׂרָאֵל – אֲבָל בִּהְיוֹתָה פְּעָלָה וְסַדֶר עֲבוֹדָה דִּבְנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל, יֵשׁ בָּזֶה ("תָּבוֹא") גוּפַא תַּכִלִית לְעַצָּמוֹ

נוֹסֶף לָזֶה שֶׁזוֹ הִיא הַקְדָּמֶה לְאַחַר־זֶה) שֶׁכּוֹלֵל בִּפְרָט) זֶה אֶת כָּל עִנְיָנֵי הָעֲבוֹדָה. וְזֶהוּ גַּם הַתּכֶן דִּתֵּבַת "תָּבוֹא" עַצְמָה: גַּם בְּהַתְחָלַת עֲבוֹדָתוֹ שֶׁל יְהוּדִי, כַּאֲשֶׁר הוּא אוֹחֵז רַק כַּ"תָּבוֹא" – עוֹד קֹדֶם קִיּוּם מִצְוָה – צָרִיךְ הוּא לְהִכָּנֵס בָּזֶה בִּפְנִימִיוּת

בְּיוֹדְעוֹ שֶׁבַּ"תָּבוֹא" גּוּפָא מִתְבַּטֵּאת תַּכְלִית עֲבוֹדָתוֹ בָּרֶגַע הַזָּה, שֶׁכּוֹלֶלֶת וְנוֹתֶנֶת רַק אֶת הַכֹּחַ לַעֲשׁוֹת אֶת הָעֲבוֹדָה שֶׁלְאַחַר־זָה: "וִיִרְשְׁתָּה וְיָשַׁבְתָּ בָּהּ", וּמִצְוַת הֲבָאַת בִּכּוּרִים וּמִקְרָא בִּכּוּרִים, עַד כְּלֶלוּת קִיּוּם הַבָּרִית בָּהָמִשֶׁך הַפָּרִשַׁה.

וּלְהוֹסִיף, שֶׁשֵׁם הַפָּרָשָׁה "תָּבוֹא" מְרַמֵּז שֶׁהַ"תָּבוֹא"
הוּא בְּוַדָּאוּת (אֵין הַמְּדֻבָּר עַל הַצִּוּוּי לְהַכָּנֵס לְאֶרֶץ
יִשְׂרָאֵל) – וְהַ"כִּי" מְבַטֵּא אֶת הַסֵּדֶר שֶׁבּוֹ זֶה יִהְיֶה –
שְׁנָּה דָּבָר וַדָּאי שֶׁיּהְיָה "תָבוֹא אֶל הָאָרֶץ וִירִשְׁתָּה
וְיָשְׁרָתָּ בָּהּ", וּבְאֹפֶן דִּ"וְהָיָה כִּי תָבוֹא" – אֵין "וְהָיָה"
אַלָּא מִיַּדִי, עַד שְׁמִּיֵּד מְקַיִּמִים מְצְוַת בְּכּוּרִים

(יב)

Concerning the above, there is a special connection with the month of Elul – the time of soul-accounting for the year past and preparation for the coming year. Elul, acronym of "Ani leDodi veDodi li," is a time when every Jew feels close to Hashem, a closeness bound with love, as stressed in the expression "Dodi."

ַלְעִנְיָן הַנִּזְכֶּר־לְעֵיל יֵשׁ שַׁיָּכוּתמִיּוּחֶדֶת עִם חֹדֶשׁ אֱלוּל .

— הַזְּמֵן שֶׁל חָשְׁבּוֹן הַנָּפֶשׁ עַל הַשְּׁנָה שֶׁעָבְרָה וְשֶׁל
הַהְּכָנָה לַשָּׁנָה הַבָּאָה: "חֹדֶשׁ אֱלוּל" – רָאשֵׁי־תֵבוֹת
"אֲנִי לְדוֹדִי וְדוֹדִי לִי" – הוּא זְמֵן שֶׁכָּל־אֶחָד מִיִּשְׂרָאֵל
מַרְגִישׁ קָרוֹב לַה' וְקִרְבָה הַקְּשׁוּרָה בְּאַהַבָה, כַּמּוּדְגָשׁ
."בְּ"דּוֹדִי

Sichas Nun Alef Parshas Ki Savo

As in the well-known parable of the Alter Rebbe: In Elul, the King is in the field, and then all who wish may approach Him. He receives them with a pleasant countenance and a smiling face, and each can request whatever he needs.

This emphasizes even more the theme of Bikkurim – the union of Israel with Hashem through closeness and love, regardless of one's revealed state. It is not conditioned on Torah knowledge or mitzvah observance – whoever wishes may approach, and Hashem receives all graciously.

This expresses the essential greatness of Israel – as "Reishis tevuasoh" of Hashem – bound with Him in deep love, regardless of external standing. This is especially stressed since "Ani leDodi" begins with Ani – the essence of the Jew, who from his own being connects with Dodi.

As it is written: "As water reflects face to face, so the heart of man to man." When the lower heart longs in love for the Higher Man – "Ani leDodi" – this brings the response "Dodi li," Hashem's love to Israel.

This power in the Jew (as he is in the state of Ani) to act and even to arouse the "Dodi li" expresses his being Bikkurim, standing before Hashem. To avoid "bread of shame," this is revealed through his service in the world below that conceals G-dliness.

וְכַמָּשָׁל הַיָּדוּעַ שֶׁל אַדְמוֹ"ר הַזָּקֵן: שֶׁבֶּחֹדֶשׁ אֱלוּל הַקְּדוֹשׁ־בָּרוּדְ־הוּא הוּא "בְּמֶלֶדְ בַּשָּׁדָה", וְאָז רַשְּׁאִין (וּיכוֹלִים) כָּל מִי שֶׁרוֹצֶה לְהַקְבִּיל פָּנָיו, וְהוּא מְקַבֵּל אֶת כַּלֶּם בְּסַבֶּר פָּנִים יָפוֹת וּמַרְאָה פָּנִים שׁוֹחֲקוֹת לְכַלֶּם, וְכָל אֶחָד יָכוֹל לְבַקֵשׁ מִמֶּנוּ כָּל מַה שֶׁצָּרִידְ לַכַלֶּם, וְכָל אֶחָד יָכוֹל לְבַקֵשׁ מִמֶּנוּ כָּל מַה שֶׁצָּרִידְ.

וּבָזֶה מֻדְגָּשׁ עוֹד יוֹתֵר תּוֹכֶן "בָּכּוּרִים" – הִתְאַחֲדוּת יִשְׂרָאֵל עִם הַקָּדוֹשׁ־בָּרוּדְ־הוּא וִמְתּוֹדְ קִרְבָה וְאַהֲבָה ("דּוֹדִי") מִצַּד יְקָרֶם שֶׁל יִשְׂרָאֵל אֵצֶל ה', וְנוֹסָף לָזֶה – אֵין בָּזֶה תְּנָאִים, שֶׁיֵּשׁ לִהְיוֹת תַּלְמִיד חָכָם אוֹ לוֹמֵד תּוֹרָה וִמְלַיֵּם מִצְווֹת, אֶלָּא כָּל מִי שֶׁרוֹצֶה יָכוֹל לְקַבֵּל תְּתֹרָה וִמְקַיֵּם מִצְווֹת, אֶלָּא כָּל מִי שֶׁרוֹצֶה יָכוֹל לְקַבֵּל ...

ןְעִנְיֶן זֶה מַדְגִּישׁ אֶת הַמַּצְלָה הָעַצְמִית דִּיִשְׂרָאֵל –
בָּהְיוֹתָם "רֵאשִׁית תְּבוּאָתוֹ" שֶׁל ה', מְאֻחָדִים עִמּוֹ
בְּאַהַבָּה עֲמִיקָה בְּלִי הַבֵּט עַל מַעֲמָדָם וּמַצְּבָם בְּגָלוּי.
וְזֶה נִמְצָא בְּהַדְגָּשָׁה יְתַרָה שֶׁ"אֲנִי לְדוֹדִי וְדוֹדִי לִי"
מַתְחִיל בְּ"אֲנִי" – מַהוּתוֹ שֶׁל יְהוּדִי, בְּכָל מַצְּב שֶׁהוּא
– הוּא מִתְקַשֵּׁר מַעַצְמוֹ ("אִתְעָרוּתָא דִלְתַתָּא") עִם
– הוּא מִתְקַשֵּׁר מַעַצְמוֹ ("אִתְעָרוּתָא דִלְתַתָּא") עִם
.""דוֹדִי" (ה'), וְזֶה דַּוְקָא מֵבִיא אַחַר־כַּךְ גַּם "וְדוֹדִי לִי

וּכְמוֹ־שֶׁכָּתוּב "כַּמַּיִם הַפָּנִים לַפָּנִים כֵּן לֵב הָאָדָם לָאָדָם": עַל־יְדֵי שֶׁלֵב הָאָדָם הַתַּחְתוֹן מִשְׁתוֹקֵק בָּאַהָבָה לָאָדָם הָעֶלְיוֹן – "אֲנִי לְדוֹדִי", הַרֵי זֶה מֵבִיא אַחַר־כָּךְ "וְדוֹדִי לִי" – לֵב הָאָדָם הָעֶלְיוֹן לָאָדָם הַתַּחְתּוֹן.

ְוְגֵשׁ לוֹמַר, שֶׁזֶּה שֶׁיֵשׁ בְּכֹחוֹ שֶׁל יְהוּדִי (כְּפִי שֶׁהוּאׁ בְּמַעֲמָד "אָנִי") לִפְעֹל זֹאת (וְעַד גַּם לְעוֹרֵר "וְדוֹדִי לִי") – מְבַטֵּא אֶת כֹּחוֹ בִּהְיוֹתוֹ "בִּכּוּרִים" שֶׁנִּמְצָאִים "לִפְנֵי ה' אֱלֹקִיךְּ", "יִשְׂרָאֵל וְקֵדְשָׁא־בְּרִידְ־הוּא כֵּלָא חַד"; וּכְדֵי שֶׁלֹא יִהְיֶה "נַהַמָּא דְכִסּוּפָא" – הֲרֵי־זֶה בָּא בְּגִלוּי עַל־יְדֵי עֲבוֹדָתוֹ ("אָנִי") לְמַטָּה בְּעוֹלָם המסתיר.

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Until this brings completeness in Torah observance – alluded to in the five acronyms of Elul: Torah, Avodah, Gemilus Chasadim, Teshuvah, and Geulah. As hinted in the word "Lev" (gematria 32), corresponding to the 22 letters of Torah drawn through the 10 powers of the soul, uniting Israel, Torah, and Hashem as one.

עַד שֶׁזֶּה מֵבִיא גַּם שְׁלֵמוּת בְּקִיּוּם הַתּוֹרָה – בַּמְרֵמְּז בַּחֲמֵשֶׁת רָאשֵׁי־תֵבוֹת "אֱלוּלּ" – תּוֹרָה, עֲבוֹדָה, גְּמִילוּת חֲסָדִים, תְּשׁוּבָה, גְּאֻלָּה. כַּמְרֻמָּז בַּמִּלָּה "לֵב" (מְקוֹם אַהָבַת "דוֹדִי") – שֶׁהִיא בְּגִימַטְרָיָּא לֹ"ב, בִּצֵרוּף י' – כְּנֶגֶד כ"ב אוֹתִיּוֹת הַתּוֹרָה הַנִּמְשָׁכוֹת עַל־יְדֵי י' כֹּחוֹת הַנֶּפֶשׁ, וְעַל־יְדֵי זֶה נַעֲשֶׂה "לֵב" – "יִשְׂרָאֵל אוֹרַיְתָא וְקָדָשָׁא־בְּרִידְ־הוּא כַּלָּא חַד", ה'שְׁלַמוּת הַגִּלוּי דְּ"אָנִי לְדוֹדִי וְדוֹדִי לִי

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And from this there is the instruction for actual practice – regarding the soul-accounting that every person must conduct in the month of Elul, on the work of the year that has passed, in order to complete what is lacking or what was not done in wholeness; and also to arrange the proper preparations for the service of the coming year:

Considering that each and every Jew is "first-fruits" whom they need to bring before Hashem your G-d in the Beis HaMikdash, and this must permeate his entire life, also in his mundane matters – not only on Shabbos and festivals, not only in Elul and Tishrei (which is filled with festivals128), but throughout the entire year – it is understood how much he must be careful in everything he does.

Even when speaking about a single thought, speech, or deed that seems of little importance compared to his other thoughts, words, or deeds – when he contemplates this properly, that also this thought, speech, or deed is part of "first-fruits" that are brought to the Beis HaMikdash, before Hashem your G-d – and the Kohen that will be in those days supervises every one of his movements – certainly he will strive and strengthen himself that even the smallest thing, every single detail in his conduct, he will do with full attention and care.

וּמִזֶּה יֶשְנוֹ הַלְמוּד לְפְעַל - בְּנוֹגַעַלְחָשְׁבּוֹן הַנָּפָשׁ שֶׁכֶּל אֶחָד צָרִיךְ לַעַרֹךְ בְּחֹדֵשׁ אֱלוּל עַל הָעֲבוֹדָה דְשָׁנָה שֶׁעָבְרָה, עַל מְנָת לְהַשְׁלִים אֶת הָחָסֵר אוֹ אֶת מַה שָׁלֹא נַעֲשָׂה בִּשְׁלֵמוּת; וְגַם לַעֲרֹךְ אֶת הַהַכָנוֹת הַמַּתְאִימוֹת יַלָעבוֹדַת הַשָּׁנָה הַבָּאָה:

בְּהָתְחַשֵׁב בְּכֶךּ שֶׁכָּל־אֶחָד וְאֶחָד מִישְׂרָאֵל הוּא
בִּכּוּרִים" שָׁאוֹתָם צְּרִיכִים לְהָבִיא לְפְנֵי הָוָיֶ אֱלֹקִיךְּ"
בְּבֵית הַמִּקְדָּשׁ, וְזֶה צָּרִיךְ לַחְדּר בְּכֶל חַיָּיו, גַּם בְּעִנְיְנֵי
הַחֹל שֶׁלוֹ – לֹא רַק בִּימֵי הַשַּׁבָּת וְהַיָּמִים־טוֹבִים, לֹא
רַק בְּחֹדֶשׁ אֱלוּל וְחֹדֶשׁ תִּשְׁרֵי (הַמְרְבָּה
בְּמוֹעֲדוֹת128), אֶלָּא בְּמֶשֶׁךְ כָּל הַשָּׁנָה – מוּבָן עַד
בַּמַה צַּרִיךְ הוּא לְהְזָּהֵר בָּכֵל מַה שֵׁהוּא עוֹשֵׂה

אָפָלּוּ כַּאֲשֶׁר מְדַבֶּר אוֹדוֹת מַחֲשָׁבָה, דְּבּוּר אוֹ מַעֲשֶׂה יְּיִרִי, שֻׁנְּרָאָה פְּחוּת עֵרֶהְ בְּהַשְׁוָאָה לֹלִשְׁאָר מִתְבּוֹנֵן מַחְשְׁבוֹתִיו, דְּבּוּרָיו אוֹ מַעֲשֶׂיו – אֲבָל כַּאֲשֶׁר מִתְבּוֹנֵן בָּזֶה כָּרָאוּי, שֻׁגַּם מַחֲשָׁבָה, דְּבּוּר אוֹ מַעֲשֶׂה זָה הוּא חֵלֶק מִבְּכּוּרִים" שֶׁמּוּבָאִים לְבֵית הַמִּקְדָּשׁ, לְפְנֵי ה' הֵלֶק מִבְּכּוֹרְים" שֶׁמּוּבָאים לְבֵית הַמִּקְדָּשׁ, לְפְנֵי ה' אֱלֹקִיךְ – וְהַכּּהֵן אֲשֶׁר יִהְיֶה בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם מֵשְׁגִּיחַ עַל בָּל תְּנוּעָה שָׁלּוֹ עָּל דָּבָר הֲכִי קָנִי, כַּלְ פְּרָט בּוֹדֵד בְּהַנְהָגָתוֹ, יַעֲשֶׂה בִּמְלוֹא תְּשׁוּמַת הַלֵּלוֹא מְשׁוּמַת הַלֵּב וְהַזְהִירוּת

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And if this is so for the entire year, then how much more must there be stronger responsibility and carefulness – together with the merit – as we stand in the month of Elul, the month of accounting for the entire year that has passed, and the month of preparation for the entire coming year; especially in the last twelve days of Elul which correspond to the twelve months, a day for each month129, it is even more understood how much one must treasure every moment of the day (as it corresponds to an entire month), in making the proper soul-accounting and preparation for the coming year!

And especially that in addition to the month of special merit of Elul – this is in the year 5751, the acronym "It will be a year of wonders I will show you," and preparation for the year 5752, the acronym "It will be a year of wonders in everything." And one may add: with the quality of binah in comparison to chochmah (seeing, I will show you), and the connection of the two together – "understand with wisdom and be wise with understanding," as explained in many places 130.

And in addition to one's own service in all the above, one must also see to influence other Jews around him that they too should do their service in wholeness in the month of Elul, and in the days of Selichos, and afterwards also in the month of Tishrei.

And moreover, the main thing – to again arouse the effort to provide the needs of the festival for all who are in need of it, and before that – the needs of Rosh HaShanah ("Eat rich foods, drink sweet drinks, and send portions to those who have nothing prepared"131), and likewise in the intervening days and throughout the entire month of Tishrei.

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In all the above there is also a special lesson regarding the redemption, which must come immediately, literally at once (according to all the signs): the completeness of "You shall come into the land" (and the fulfillment of the mitzvah of bringing the first-fruits in the literal sense) will be in the true and complete redemption, as it was "in the days of your going out from the

וְאָם כֵּן הוּא בְּכָל יְמֵי הַשָּׁנָה, הָרֵי עַלֹּר אַחַת־כַּמָּה וְכַמָּה שֶׁצְרִיכָה לְהִיוֹת בְּתֹקֵף יוֹתֵר הָאַחָרִיוּת וְהַזְּהִירוּת - בְּיַחַד עִם הַזְכוּת בְּעָמְדֵנוּ בְּחֹדֶשׁ אֱלוּל, חֹדֶשׁ הַחָּשְׁבּוֹן דְּכָל הַשָּׁנָה שֶׁעָבְרָה, וְחֹדֶשׁ הַהְּכָנָה לְכָל הַשָּׁנָה הַבָּצָּה, וּבִפְּרָט בִּשְׁנִים־עָשֶׂר הַיָּמִים הָאַחֲרוֹנִים דְּחֹדֶשׁ אֱלוּל שֶׁהֵם כְּנֶגֶד י"ב הָחֶדְשִׁים, יוֹם לַחֹדֶשׁ219 מוּבָן עוֹד יוֹתֵר, עַד כַּמָּה צְרִיכִים לְיַקֵר כָּל רָגַע בַּיּוֹם (בִּהְיוֹתוֹ כְּנֶגֶד חֹדֶשׁ שָׁלַם), בַּצְשִׂיַת חָשְׁבּוֹן הַנֶּפֶשׁ !הַמַּתְאִים וְהַהַכַּנַה לַשְׁנַה הַבָּאַה

וּבִפְּרָט שֶׁנּוֹסָף עַל חֹדֶשׁ הַסְגְלָּה דָּאֶלוּל – הְרֵי זֶה בִּשְׁנַת תשנ"א, רָאשֵׁי־תֵבוֹת הָיָה תְהֵא שְׁנַת נִפְלָאוֹת אַרְאָנּוּ, וַהְכָנָה לִשְׁנַת תשנ"ב, רָאשֵׁי תֵבוֹת הְהָא שְׁנַת נִפְלָאוֹת בַּכֹּל. וְיֵשׁ לְהוֹסִיף בִּינָה – עִם מַעֲלַת הַבִּינָה לְגַבֵּי חָכְמָה (רְאִיָּה, אַרְאָנוּ), וְחִבּוּר שְׁנֵיהֶם יַחַד הָבֵן בִּחָכְמָה וַחָכַם בְּבִינָה, כַּמְבֹאָר בְּכַמֶּה־מְקֹמֹמוֹת130.

וְנוֹסֶף עַל עֲבוֹדַת עַצְמוֹ בְּכֶל הַנּוְכֶּר לְעֵיל, צְרִיכִים לְדָאג גַּם לְהַשְּׁפִיעַ עַל יְהוּדִים אֲחֵרִים שֶׁמְּסְבִיבוֹ שֶׁגַּם הַם יַצֲשׂוּ אֶת עֲבוֹדָתָם בִּשְׁלֵמוּת בְּחֹדֶשׁ אֱלוּל, וּבִימֵי הַסְלִיחוֹת, וְאַחַר־כָּף גַּם בְּחֹדֵשׁ תִּשְׁרֵי.

וְעוֹד וְעָקָר – לְעוֹבֵר שׁוּב אוֹדוֹת הַהִּשְׁתַּדְּלוּת לְסַפֵּק אֶת צָּרְכֵי הַחַג לְכָל הַזְקוּקִים לָזֶה, וְלִפְנֵי זֶה – הַצְרָכִי הַחָג לְכָל הַזְקוּקִים לָזֶה, וְלִפְנֵי זֶה – הַצְּרָכִים דְּרֹאשׁ הַשְּׁנָה (אִכְלוּ מַשְׁמַנִּים וּשְׁתוּ מַמְתַקִים וְשִׁלְחוּ מָנוֹת לְאֵין נָכוֹן לוֹ"131), וְעַל־דֶּבֶרְ זֶה בַּיָּמִים לַשִּׁלְחוּ מָנוֹת לְאֵין נָכוֹן לוֹ"131), וְעַל־דֶּבֶרְ זֶה בַּיָּמִים לַשֵּׁרְ יַבְּמִשׁךְ כַּל חֹדֵשׁ תִּשְׁרֵי

בְּכֶל הַבִּזְכֶּר לְעֵיל נוֹסֶף לְמוּד מִיחָד בְּנוֹגַעַ לְהַגְּאֶלָה, שֶׁצְרִיכָה לָבוֹא תַּכֶף וּמִיָּד מִמְּשׁ (עַל־פִּי כָּל הַסִּימָנִים): שֶׁצְרִיכָה דְּתָבוֹא אֶל הָאָרָץ" (וְקִיּוּם מִצְוַת בְּכּוּרִים הַשְׁלֵמוּת דְּתָבוֹא אֶל הָאָרָץ" (וְקִיּוּם מִצְוַת בְּכּוּרִים בְּפִשְׁטוּת) תִּהְיָיָה בַּגְּאֶלָה הָאֲמִתִּי וְהַשְׁלֵמָה, כְּפִי שְׁהָיָה כִּימִי צֵאתְךְ מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם"132, כַּמְדְבָּר

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land of Egypt" (Michah 7:15), as spoken of in the section of the first-fruits.

Since this is the most essential matter that the time itself has caused – for according to all the signs, the redemption should have come already long ago – it is understood that the "And you shall answer and you shall say before Hashem your G-d," and particularly in the month of Elul, when anyone who wants is permitted to greet His presence, and He receives them all with a pleasant countenance and shows a smiling face to all – there must be especially the request (aloud) "Until when?!" ... that the redemption should already come in actual reality!

And since the "And you shall answer and you shall say" comes from a Jew who is "first-fruits" to Hashem, completely one with the Holy One, blessed be He, and the "And you shall answer and you shall say" is stated "before Hashem your G-d" (which also means "before" – in His innermost, as explained above) – it is understood that the "And you shall answer and you shall say" has the power to bring the redemption in actuality [just as the "And we cried out to Hashem" (Devarim 26:7) in the exile of Egypt, "and Hashem heard our voice... and He took us out with a strong hand... and He brought us... and He gave us this land"], until even more – that "before they call I will answer" (Yeshayahu 65:24): since there exists the reality of the one who calls (the Jew), and he is in the state of "they will call," the Holy One, blessed be He, does not wait until the call will actually be uttered, but rather "before they call I will answer."

To exile, and not with our will do we go out from the exile, but with the will of Hashem etc." – this speaks as if a Jew is with a personal will ("our will," which is separate, G-d forbid, from the will of Hashem) in this physical world in weekday deeds and so forth;

בֵּיוָן שֶׁזֶּהוּ הָעִנְיָן הָכִי עָקָרִי שֶׁהַזְּמֵן גְּרָמָא - כִּי עַל־פִּי כָּל הַסִימָנִים הָיְתָה הַגְּאָלָה צְרִיכָה לָבוֹא כְּבָר לְפְנֵי זְמֵן רַב – מוּבָן שֻׁהַוְעָנִיתָ וְאָמֵרְתָּ לִפְנֵי ה' אֱלֹקִיףּ", וּבִפְרָט בְּחֹדֶשׁ אֱלוּל כַּאֲשֶׁר רַשָּׁאִין כָּל מִי שֶׁרוֹצָה לְהַקְבִּיל פָּנָיו וְהוּא מְקַבֵּל אֶת כַּלָם בְּסֵבֶר פָּנִים יָפוֹת וּמַרְאֶה פָּנִים שׁוֹחֲקוֹת לְכָלָם" – צְרִיכָה לְהִיוֹת בִּמְיָחָד בַּקָשָׁה (בְּקוֹל רָם) עַד מָתַי"?!... שֶׁתָּבוֹא כְּבָר הַגְּאָלָה !בְּפֹעַל מַמְשׁ

לַגָּלוּת וְלֹא בִּרְצוֹנֵנוּ נַצֵא מֵהַגָּלוּת, אֶלָּא בִּרְצוֹן ה' כו" הַרֵי זֶה מְדְבָּר כְּפִי שֶׁיָהוּדִי נִמְצָא עִם רָצוֹן כְּרָטִי (רְצוֹנֵנוּ", שֶׁהוּא נִפְרָד חַס וְשָׁלוֹם מַרְצוֹן ה') בָּעוֹלָם ;'הַגָּה הַגַּשְׁמִי בְּעָבִדִּין דְחל [=מַצְשֵׂי חָלִין] וְכוּ

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But as a Jew is one with the Holy One, blessed be He, and especially in the month of Elul (when there is the state of "I am to my Beloved and my Beloved is to me") he does not have his private will, but in the language of the Mishnah – "Make His will like your will so that He will make your will like His will" – the will of Hashem is the will of the Jew, and the will of the Jew is the will of Hashem.

He has the power to cause that the Holy One, blessed be He, cancel the exile and bring the redemption immediately in actuality! The matter of exile is not relevant to the Jewish people at all. Since the place of the Jew is – at the table of his Father, before Hashem your G-d in the Beis HaMikdash.

And this that Hashem made exile was only in order to arouse the service of the Jew, to reveal in the world how he is "first-fruits" to Hashem, and how Israel and the Holy One, blessed be He, are completely one, and through this to nullify immediately the exile, and to bring out all the good and lofty matters that are in exile, until to make from "exile" (galus) "redemption" (geulah) – through revealing the alef of the Master of the world – the supernal intention – in exile, the advantage of teshuvah that comes through the descent in exile.

And although "I will sin and I will return" etc. – they do not give him the chance to do teshuvah – still, the Holy One, blessed be He, sent the Jewish people into exile (not with our will did we go into exile, as mentioned above), but this came through "an awesome plot against mankind," only in order to elevate the Jewish people higher.

And therefore, through the "And you shall answer and you shall say" of the Jew, he has the power to nullify the concealment and the temporary descent of exile, and to bring in the alef – the Master of the world – to reveal within this – the true and complete redemption.

And may it be the will, that through the "And you shall answer and you shall say" of the Jew, who asks and cries to the Holy One, blessed be He: Please have mercy and already take out the אָבָל כְּפִי שֶׁיְהוּדִי הוּא חַד" עִם קְדְשָׁא־בְּרִידְ־הוּא,
וּבִפְרָט בְּחֹדֶשׁ אֱלוּל (שֻׁאָז יֵשׁ מַצָב דַּאֲנִי לְדוֹדִי וְדוֹדִי
לִי") אֵין לוֹ אֶת רְצוֹנוֹ הַפְּרָטִי, אֶלֶּא בִּלְשׁוֹן
הַמִּשְׁנָה136 – עֲשֵׂה רְצוֹנוֹ כִּרְצוֹנְךְּ כְּדֵי שֶׁיַעֲשֶׂה
רְצוֹנוֹ שֶׁל הַקְּדוֹשׁ־בָּרוּדְ־הוּא הוּא
רְצוֹנוֹ שֶׁל יְהוּדִי, וּרְצוֹנוֹ שֶׁל יְהוּדִי הוּא רְצוֹנוֹ שֶׁל
הַקְּדוֹשׁ־בַּרוּדְ־הוּא

יֵשׁ בְּכֹחוֹ שֶׁל יְהוּדִי לְ(פְעַל שֶׁהַקְּדוֹשׁ־בָּרוּדְּ־הוּא יְבַטֵל אֶת הַגָּלוּת וְנָבִיא אֶת הַגְּאָלָה הֵּכֶף וּמִיָּד מֵמְשׁ! עִנְיֵן הַגָּלוּת הַבִי אֵינוֹ שַׁיָּדְ לְבְנִי־יִשְׂרָאֵל כְּלָל וּכְלָל. כִּיוָן שָׁמְקוֹמוֹ שֶׁל יְהוּדִי הוּא – סְמוּדְ עַל שֶׁלְחַן אָבִיו 137, לִפְנֵי ה' אֱלֹקִידְ" בְּבִית הַמִּקְדָּשׁ.

ן זֶה שֶׁהַקֶּדוֹשׁ־בֶּרוּף־הוּא עֲשֶׂה גָּלוּת הוּא בִּכְדֵי לְעוֹרֵר אֶת עֲבוֹדַת הַיְהוּדִי לְגַלּוֹת בָּעוֹלֶם אֵיךְ שֶׁהוּא בִּכּוּרִים" לָה', וְאֵיךְ יִשְׂרָאֵל וְקָדְשָׁא־בְּרִיךְ הוּא כּּלָא חַד", לַה', וְאֵיךְ יִשְּׂרָאֵל וְקָדְשָׁא־בְּרִיךְ הוּא כּּלָא חַד", וְעַל־יְדֵי־זָה לְבַטֵל מִיָּד אֶת הַגָּלוּת, וּלְהוֹצִיא אֶת כָּל הָעְנְיָנִים הַטוֹבִים וְהַנַּצְלִים שֶׁנִּמְצָאִים בַּגָּלוּת, עַד לַעֲשׂוֹת מִגּלָה" (עַל־יְדֵי גִּלוּי הָאַלֶף לַצְשׁוֹת מִגלָה" שְׁהָהָל עוֹלָם – הַכַּוּנָה הָעֶלְיוֹנָה - בַּגָּלוּת 138), הַמַּעְלָה דְתִשׁוּבָה שֶׁבָּאָה עַל־יְדֵי הַיְרִידָה בַּגָּלוּת . הַבָּלוּת הַבְּלֵיוֹת הַבְּיִלְיוֹנָה בְּגָּלוּת בַּגָּלוּת .

וְאַף־עַל־פִי שֶׁאֶחָטָא וְאָשׁוּב כו' אֵין מַסְפִּיקִין בְּיָדוֹ לַצְשׁוֹת תְּשׁוּבָה "139 – אֲבֶל הַקָּדוֹשׁ־בָּרוּדְ־הוּא שָׁלַח אֶת בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל לַגָּלוּת (לֹא בִּרְצוֹנֵנוּ הָלַכְנוּ לַגָּלוּת" כַּנִּוְפָר לְעֵיל) – אֶלָא זֶה בָּא עַל־יְדֵי־זֶה שָׁנוֹרָא עֲלִילָה עַל בְּנֵי אָדָם"140 רַק בִּכְדֵי לְהַעֲלוֹת אֶת בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל לְמַעְלֵה יוֹתֵר;

וּבְמֵילָא, עַל־יְדֵי וְעָנִיתָ וְאָמַרְתָּ" דִּיהוּדִי יֵשׁ בְּכֹחוֹ לְבַטֵל אֶת הַהָּעְלֵם וְהַיְרִידָה לְפִי שָׁעָה דְּגָלוּת, וּלְהַכְנִיס אֶת הָאֵלֶ"ף – אַלוּפּוֹ שֶׁל עוֹלָם, לְגַלוֹת בָּזֶה – אֶת הַגָּאֵלֵה הָאֵמְתִּית וְהַשְׁלֵמָה.

וִיהִי רָצוֹן, שֶׁעַל־יְדֵי הַוּעָנִיתָ וְאָמַרְתָּ" דִיהוּדִי, שֶׁמְבַקֵשׁ וְצוֹעֵק לְהַקָּדוֹשׁ־בָּרוּדְ־הוּא: אָנָּא רַחֵם וְהוֹצֵא כְּבָר אֶת בְּנִי־יִשְׂרָאֵל מֵהַגָּלוּת, וְהָבֵא כְּבָר אֶת הַגְּאָלָה - הָאֲמִתִּית וְהַשְּׁלֵמָה עַל־ יְדֵי מְשִׁיחַ צִּדְקֵנוּ

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Jewish people from the exile, and already bring the true and complete redemption through our righteous Moshiach –

And may it be the will of Hashem that this effect its action, and bring the redemption immediately, literally at once, and all the Jewish people and each and every one of Israel will go – "You shall come into the land that Hashem your G-d gives you as an inheritance, and you shall possess it and dwell in it, and you shall take from the first of all the fruit of the ground..." And you shall answer and you shall say – that it will be immediately, literally at once.

וִיהִי רָצוֹן מַהַשֵּׁם שֶׁזֶה יִפְעַל אֶת פְּעָלָתוֹ, וְיָבִיא אֶת הַגְּאָלָה תַּכֶף וִּמִיָּד מַמָּשׁ, וְכָל בְּנֵי־ יִשְׂרָאֵל וְכָל־אָחָד וְאֶחָד מִיִשְׂרָאֵל הּוֹלְכִים – תָּבוֹא אֶל הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר ה' אֱלֹקִידְּ נוֹתֵו לְדְּ נַחֲלָה וִירְשְׁתָּה וְיָשַׁבְתָּ בָּה, וְלָקַחְתָּ מֵבאשִׁית כָּל פְּרִי הָאָדָמָה גּוֹ"", וְעָנִיתָ וְאָמַרְתָּ" – מֵבאשִׁיתֵּנָה תַּכַף וִּמְיֵּד מַמֵּשׁ.

NOTE Summary

The discourse begins by establishing that *Bikkurim* represents the overall purpose of Torah and mitzvos: that a Jew, as a soul in a body within this world, feels and reveals that he is "first fruits"—bound to Hashem in oneness. This bond is eternal and essential, reflecting the truth that Israel and Hashem are "all one."

From there, the Rebbe analyzes the text of *Mikra Bikkurim*, showing that the declaration encompasses the whole history of the Jewish people: descent to Egypt, exile, oppression, and redemption. Even before Matan Torah, the Jewish people already embodied the level of *Bikkurim*. This is further emphasized by Yaakov Avinu and his children, whose proclamation of Shema revealed their complete unity with Hashem.

The discussion extends to the halachos of *Bikkurim*, such as the vessels in which they are brought—whether golden baskets of the wealthy or simple wicker of the poor. Here the Rebbe reveals the deeper truth: the Jew is a "first fruit" even as a soul in a simple vessel, even when clothed in the limitations of body, world, and even poverty of daas. Through Torah—letters, vowels, and musical notes—the inner oneness is expressed in the fullness of *Bikkurim*.

The Rebbe then connects *Bikkurim* to the covenant of the parsha, where Israel and Hashem unite in an eternal bond. This leads to a re-reading of Rashi's comment on "Today Hashem commands you," that every day Torah and mitzvos must feel as brand new. A Jew, as *Bikkurim*, reveals the ultimate purpose of each detail, time, and moment: every thought, word, and deed is itself an end and a creation, not only a means. Thus, each day must be experienced as a new beginning.

From this flows the deeper meaning of "Ki Savo"—that even the entry itself is a purpose and fulfillment, not just a preparation. Entering, even before performing, is itself avodah.

The Rebbe then turns to Elul: *Ani L'Dodi V'Dodi Li*. Elul is the time when the King is in the field, accessible to every Jew without condition. This expresses the essence of *Bikkurim*: the Jew's essential love and closeness to Hashem, unconditional and independent of revealed status. The avodah of Elul, the cheshbon hanefesh of the past year, and preparation for the coming year, highlights the Jew's essence as *Bikkurim*. Each moment is precious, especially the final 12 days of Elul, corresponding to the 12 months.

Finally, the Rebbe applies all this to Geulah. Just as *Bikkurim* concludes with entering the land and settling it, so too the ultimate completion of *Bikkurim* is the true and complete redemption through Moshiach. The cry of the Jew, "And you

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shall answer and say," must be raised with urgency: *Ad Masai*?! Demanding redemption reveals the essential unity of Jew and Hashem, capable of drawing down Geulah even before the words leave our lips—*terem yikra'u vaAni e'eneh*.

Practical Takeaway

Every Jew is *Bikkurim*: inherently first, inherently one with Hashem, and infinitely precious regardless of outward circumstance. In Elul, each of us must perform a true cheshbon hanefesh, recognizing that every single thought, word, or action carries ultimate purpose. With this awareness, we must elevate each moment into *Bikkurim*—dedicated to Hashem with our fullest care and joy. Above all, we must cry out and demand Geulah, internalizing that the power to bring redemption lies within the Jew's declaration, as Hashem responds instantly to our call.

Chassidic Story

In the final years of his leadership, the Rebbe would often conclude farbrengens in Elul with heartfelt urgency, declaring that all preparations had been completed and Moshiach must come now. On one such occasion (Elul 5751), the Rebbe urged Chassidim to cry out "Ad Masai" with a full voice and to live with the awareness that we are *Bikkurim*, chosen and united with Hashem beyond condition. Those present recall how the Rebbe's words electrified the room—his cry was not only instruction but embodiment: he lived the oneness of Jew and Hashem in every breath. This story reflects the discourse itself: that a Jew's declaration, especially in Elul, carries the power to bring Geulah immediately.

TPX (Therapeutic-Psychological Integration)

This discourse can be reframed as a deep psychological map of the self. At its core, the mitzvah of *Bikkurim*—the offering of the first fruits—symbolizes not just an agricultural ritual but the human experience of identifying one's essence and bringing it forward.

1. Identity as "First Fruits."

The Rebbe explains that every Jew is, in truth, *Bikkurim*—not defined by their external circumstances but by an unshakable core identity that precedes even Torah and mitzvos. Psychologically, this means that a person's worth is not dependent on performance, achievement, or learnedness. Even one who has never yet studied or observed openly carries an essential self that is whole and connected. This is profoundly healing for those who struggle with feelings of inadequacy or shame: their core self is already "first fruits," inherently precious and worthy.

2 Life's Vessels

The halachah that *Bikkurim* must be brought in vessels—golden baskets for the wealthy, wicker for the poor—becomes a metaphor for the human body, circumstances, and psyche. Some live in "golden vessels," with mental clarity, privilege, or ease. Others struggle with "wicker baskets," the rough edges of poverty, trauma, or limitation. Yet the essence remains unchanged: what matters is not the vessel but the fruit within. Therapy often seeks to remind the client that even when life feels like a "wicker basket," their essence is not diminished.

3. Every Moment as an End in Itself.

The Rebbe emphasizes that each detail—every thought, word, or act—is not just a means but an end. This mirrors a powerful therapeutic insight: a single small step, a moment of awareness, or an act of kindness carries infinite

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significance. For someone who feels overwhelmed by past failures or anxious about the future, this teaching reframes the present moment as complete in itself, containing purpose and meaning right now.

4. Renewal and Neuroplasticity.

Rashi's teaching—"Each day let the mitzvos be new in your eyes"—becomes a psychological model for resilience and neuroplasticity. Just as the world is renewed every moment, a person can begin again at any point. Instead of being trapped by the weight of repetition or old patterns, life can be lived as continual renewal. Every day, every moment, is a new opportunity to start fresh, to create new neural pathways and habits.

5. Elul and the "King in the Field."

The Alter Rebbe's mashal of "the King in the field" resonates psychologically as an image of accessibility and unconditional acceptance. Hashem is not distant in a palace, demanding perfection before approach. He is present, available, approachable. Psychologically, this models the secure base in attachment theory: the ability to turn to a loving presence without fear of rejection. In therapeutic terms, it validates the possibility of finding acceptance and love even when one feels unworthy.

6. Trauma and Redemption.

The discourse culminates in the cry for Geulah, not as a passive hope but as an urgent demand: *Ad Masai?!* Psychologically, this parallels the move from resignation to agency. In trauma recovery, one learns not to silently endure exile but to voice the demand for liberation. The act of "answering and saying before Hashem" reflects reclaiming one's voice, naming the pain, and insisting on change. Redemption, in therapy, is when the hidden self is revealed and the person steps into life fully alive and free.

Story

A young woman, raised in a harsh and neglectful environment, once told her therapist: "I feel like I came into the world already broken. Everyone else is golden, and I'm just scraps." The therapist paused, and then asked her to imagine bringing a rough wicker basket filled with fresh fruit to someone who loved her. "Would they care about the basket," he asked, "or the fruit inside?" She smiled for the first time in weeks. Slowly she came to see that her essence was not defined by the vessel of her past or the scars she carried. She began to believe that she, too, was "first fruits"—worthy, whole, and deeply loved.

END NOTE