כֹּה תְבָרְכוּ אֶת בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל

Introduction

This discourse presents a deep and elevated interpretation of the Priestly Blessing, focusing on the dual flow of Divine blessing—from below to above through human effort, and from above to below as Divine grace. Authored by the Alter Rebbe, Rabbi Shneur Zalman of Liadi (1745–1812), founder of Chabad Chassidus and disciple of the Maggid of Mezritch, this teaching unveils the inner meaning of the words "ישראל ואני אברכם." It explores how human action—Torah study and prayer—awakens the Infinite Light beyond the chain of worlds and causes it to descend into our lives. The Alter Rebbe, known for his synthesis of intellectual depth and heartfelt piety, opens our eyes to the mystical architecture of blessing: its origin, its journey, and its resting place within our souls.

(8)

Thus shall you bless the children of Israel: say to them, "May Hashem bless you," etc., "May Hashem shine [His face upon you]," etc., "May Hashem lift up [His face toward you]," etc. Now, our Sages of blessed memory said (Berachos chapter 3, 20b): The ministering angels said before the Holy One, blessed is He, "It is written in the Torah that You do not show favor (Devarim 10:17), and yet You show favor to Israel, as it is written (Bamidbar 6:26), 'May Hashem lift His face to you [i.e., show favor]." He said to them, "Should I not show favor to Israel? I wrote for them in the Torah (Devarim 8:10), 'And you shall eat, and you shall be satisfied, and you shall bless Hashem your G-d,' and they are exacting with themselves to recite Birchas HaMazon even on as little as a kezayis (olive-sized amount)," etc. (And so it is also in Midrash Rabbah, Naso ch. 11).

כֹּה תְבָּרְכוּ אֶת בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אָמוֹר לְהֶם יְבָרֶכְךְּ ה' כו',
יָאֵר ה' כו', יִשָּׂא ה' כו'. הָנֵּה אָמְרוּ רַזַ"ל (פּ"ג דְּבְרָכוֹת
ד"כ ע"ב): אָמְרוּ מַלְאֲכֵי הַשָּׁרַת לִפְנֵי הַקָּבָ"ה כְּתִיב
בַּתּוֹרָה אֲשֶׁר לֹא יִשָּׂא פִנִים כו' וְאַתָּה נוֹשֵׂא פָנִים
לְיִשְׂרָאֵל דְּכְתִיב יִשָּׂא ה' פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךּ. אָמַר לָהֶם וַהְלֹא
אֶשָׂא פָנִים לְיִשְׂרָאֵל שֶׁכָּתַבְתִּי לָהֶם בַּתּוֹרָה וְאָכַלְתָּ
וְשֶׂבְעְתָּ וּבַרַכְתָּ אֶת ה' אֱלֹקִיךְ וְהֵם מְדַקְדְּקִים עַל עַצְמָם
(וְבֵן הוּא בְּרַבִּ"ה נְשֹׁא פכ"א

And one must understand this matter: that because of the meticulousness that they are exacting with themselves even for a kezayis, there is a lifting of the face [i.e., favor] Above. And also, to understand the sequence of these blessings—because on the surface they appear to have no order. However, one must first explain the matter of Birchas HaMazon and why the Torah requires satisfaction.

וְצָרִידְּ לְהָבִין עִנְיָן זֶה שֶׁבִּשְׁבִיל הַדְּקְדּוּק שֶׁמְּדַקְדְּקִים עַד כְּזַיִת יֵשׁ נְשִׂיאַת פָּנִים לְמַעְלָה. וְגַם לְהָבִין הִּמְשֶׁדְּ הַבְּּרָכוֹת הָאֵלֶּה דְּלִכְאוֹרָה אֵין לָהֶם סֵדֶר. אֲבָל הִנֵּה צָרִידְ לְהַקְדִּים בֵּיאור עִנְיָן בִּרְכַּת הַמָּזוֹן וְלָמָּה צָרִיכִין שָׁבִיעַה מן הַתּוֹרַה.

כֹה תְבָרְכוּ אֶת בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל

And the matter is, as it is written, "And you shall bless Hashem "אַת"—specifically the word "אַת"—which includes the entire alphabet from Alef to Tav. For behold, all things were created through letters, for with ten utterances the world was created, and the letters of those utterances are the vitality of all things, and their continued existence and formation from nothing into something is through the combination of letters and their transpositions and substitutions, etc.

ְהָעִנְיָן הוּא כִּי הָנֵּה כְּתִיב וּבֵרַכְתָּ אֶת ה' אֶת דַּיְקָא וְהֵן הָאוֹתִיּוֹת מֵא' וְעַד ת'. דְּהָנֵּה כָּל הַדְּבָרִים נִבְּרְאוּ בְּאוֹתִיּוֹת. שֶׁבְּעֲשֶׁרָה מַאֲמֶרוֹת נִבְרָא הָעוֹלֶם וְהָאוֹתִיּוֹת שָׁבְּעֲשֶׁרָה הֵן הַן חַיּוּת כָּל הַדְּבָרִים וְקִיּוּמֶם שְׁאַמָרוֹת הֵן הָן חַיּוּת כָּל הַדְּבָרִים וְקִיּוּמֶם וְהָאוֹתִיּוֹת וְחָלּוּפֵיהֶן וְהַתְּהַוּוּתְם מֵאַיִן לְיֵשׁ עַל יְדֵי צִירוּפֵי אוֹתִיּוֹת וְחְלּוּפֵיהֶן .'וּתְמוּרוֹת כו

And also, the soul of man is filled with letters. For "You blew into me"—and it is written (Bereishis 2:7), "And He blew into his nostrils the breath of life"—and this refers to His utterance, for "By the breath of His mouth all their hosts were made" (Tehillim 33:6). And His breath is what brings into being all through the level of letters. And these are the letters of the Ten Utterances.

וְגַם נֶפֶשׁ הָאָדָם הִיא מְלֵאָה אוֹתִיּוֹת כִּי אַתָּה נְפַחְתָּ בִּי וּכְתִיב וַיִּפַּח בְּאַפֵּיו נִשְׁמַת חַיִּים וְהַיְנוּ בְּרוּחַ פִּיו יִתְבָּרֵך כִּי וּבְרוּחַ פִּיו כָּל צְבָאָם וְרוּחַ פִּיו יִתְבָּרֵךְ הוּא הַמְהַנֶּה אֶת הַכֹּל עַל יְדֵי בְּחִינַת אוֹתִיּוֹת. וְהֵן הָאוֹתִיּוֹת שֶׁבַּעֲשַׂרָה מֵאָמֵרוֹת.

And it is written (Bereishis 2:20), "And the man called names to all the animals and to the birds of the heavens," meaning he called and drew down their names, which are combinations of the letters of the Utterances through which they were created, from concealment into revelation, to bring about a revelation of vitality from the breath of His mouth, in order to elevate them and bind them to their source.

וְהָנֵּה כְּתִיב וַיִּקְרָא הָאָדָם שֵׁמוֹת לְכָל הַבְּהֵמֶה וּלְעוֹף הַשָּׁמֵיִם כו' שָׁהוּא קָרָא וְהִמְשִׁיךְ שְׁמוֹתֵיהֶן שֶׁהֵם צִירוּפֵי אוֹתִיּוֹת שֶׁבַּמַּאָמֶרוֹת שֶׁבָּהֶן נִבְרְאוּ מֵהַהָעְלֵם אֶל הַגִּלוּי לִהְיוֹת בָּהֶן גִּלוּי הַחַיּוּת מֵרוּחַ פִּיו יִתְבָּרַךְ כְּדֵי לְהַעְּלוֹתָן וּלְקֵשְׁרָן בְּמְקוֹרָן.

For their elevation and binding to their source is through man, who is the head of all of the vegetative, animal, and inanimate levels [72"]. And he is the one who draws down the revelation of their vitality from the source of vitality—from the breath of His mouth. (See also regarding "And the man called names" in Bereishis Rabbah ch. 17 and beginning of Chukas.)

כִּי עַלִּיָּיתָן וְהִתְקַשְּׁרוּתָן בְּמְקוֹרֶן הוּא עַל יְדֵי הָאָדָם שְׁהוּא רֹאשׁ לְכָל בְּחִינַת דַּצַ"ח, וְהוּא הַמַּמְשִׁיךְ גִּלוּי שַׁיוּתָן מְמְקוֹר הַחַיּוּת מֵרוּחַ פִּיו יִתְבָּרֵךְ (וְעַיֵּן מֵעְנְיֵן מֵענְיַן מִיוּתְן מָמְקוֹר הַחַיּוּת בַּרַבָּ"ה בְּרֵאשִׁית פי"ז וְרֵישׁ פ' וַיִּקְרָא הָאָדָם שֵׁמוֹת בְּרַבָּ"ה בְּרֵאשִׁית פי"ז וְרֵישׁ פ' (חַקַּת.

כֹה תְבָרְכוּ אֶת בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל

And therefore, "By every utterance of Hashem shall man live" (Devarim 8:3), meaning: the utterance of Hashem that is within the food—these are the letters in it that came forth from the mouth of Hashem, which is His breath. (As explained in the commentary on the verse "And I will give you movers" regarding the matter that there are two aspects in the letters: one, the letters that came forth from the mouth of Hashem, and two, those that are still in their source—like the potential for speech in a person, and similarly, there are these two aspects in the letters of thought, etc. See there.)

ְוְלָכֵן עַל כָּל מוֹצָא פִי ה' יִחְיֶה הָאָדָם שֶׁמוֹצָא פִי ה'
שֶׁבַּמַּאֲכָל הֵן הָאוֹתִיּוֹת שֶׁבּוֹ שֶׁיָּצְאוּ מִפִּי ה', הוּא רוּחַ פִּיו
יִתְבָּרֵךְ (עַבּוּר מַה שֶׁכָּתוּב בְּבִיאוּר עַל פָּסוּק וְנָתַתִּי לְךְּ מַהְלְכִים מֵעִנְיֵן שֶׁיֵּשׁ ב' בְּחִינוֹת בָּאוֹתִיּוֹת הֵיינוּ א' הָאוֹתִיּוֹת שֶׁיִּצְאוּ מִפִּי ה', וְהַב' אוֹתָן שֶׁבְּמְקוֹרָן, כְּמוֹ עַל דֶּרֶךְ מָשָׁל כֹּחַ הַדְּבּוּר שֶׁבָּאָדָם כו', וְשֶׁבֵּן כֵּן יֵשׁ ב' (בְּחִינוֹת אֵלוֹ בְּאוֹתִיּוֹת הַמַּחֲשָׁבָה כו' ע"ש.

And therefore, "through it and through him" [man], the sparks come to their root and source in the level of Hashem's mouth itself—about which they said (Avos 5:1), "Could it not have been created with one utterance?"—that one utterance which includes all the ten utterances. And from that utterance, the specific utterances are drawn and divided. And through man, they return to that inclusive utterance. For he draws down to them the revelation from there.

וְאָם כֵּן מַה שֶׁכָּתוּב שֶׁבּוֹ וְעַל יָדוֹ יָבוֹאוּ לְשֶׁרְשֶׁן וּמְקוֹרָן בְּחִינַת פִּי ה' בְּעַצְמוֹ שֶׁעָלָיו אָמְרוּ וְהַלֹא בְּמַאֲמֶר אֶחָד יָכוֹל לְהִבָּרְאוֹת, הוּא הַמַּאֲמֶר הַכּּלֵל כָּל הָעֲשֶׂרָה מַאֲמָרוֹת, וּמִמֶּנוּ נִמְשְׁכוּ וְנִתְחַלְקוּ עֲשֶׂרָה מַאֲמֶרוֹת בְּּרָטִיּים, וְעַל יְדֵי הָאָדָם בָּאִים לַמַּאֲמֶר הַכֹּלֵל כִּי הוּא הַמַּמִשִׁיךְּ לָהֶם הַגִּלִּוּי מִשְׁם.

And this is the meaning of "וּבַרְכָּהָ אֲת"—to draw down the revelation from the root level of the letters, from the breath of His mouth, in order that through this, they be elevated and bound to their source. (See Zohar Vayigash 247b and 208a, and Parshas Terumah.)

ְוְזֶהוּ וּבַרְכָתָּ אֵת, דְּהַיְינוּ לְהַמְשִׁיךּ הַגִּלוּי מִשֶּׁרֶשׁ בְּחִינַת אוֹתִּיוֹת מֵרוּחַ פִּיו יִתְבָּרֵךְ כְּדֵי שֶׁעַל יְדֵי זֶה יִתְעַלוּ וְיִתְלֵשְׁרוּ בִּמְקוֹרָן (וְעַיֵּן בְּזֹהַר וַיִּגַשׁ דר"ז ע"ב וְדַף ר"ח (ע"א וּבִפַרִשַׁת תִּרוּמֵה).

(2)

But behold, this power for drawing down [Divine vitality], which depends on the person, is specifically through the person's battle with his animal soul. For behold, "bread" (לֶּהֶם) is from the root as in "then they fought at the gates" (Shoftim 5:8), which connotes war. And as it is stated (Zohar Balak 188b), "bread is eaten by the edge of the sword," and this is through prayer, for "the time of prayer is the time of battle."

אֲבֶל הָנֵּה כֹּחַ זָה לְהַמְשֶׁכָה זוֹ הַתְּלוּיָה בָּאָדָם הַיְנוּ עַל יְדֵי מִלְחֶמֶת הָאָדָם בְּנַפְשׁוֹ הַבֶּהָמִית. כִּי הַנֵּה לֶחֶם הוּא מִלְשׁוֹן "אָז לָחֲמוּ שְׁעַרִים" (שׁוֹפְטִים ה׳ ח׳), שֶׁפֵּרוּשׁוֹ הוּא לְשׁוֹן מִלְחָמָה, וּכְמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב (בְּזֹהֵר בָּלָק דקפ"ח ב') "נַהָמָא עַל פּוּם חַרְבָּא יֵיכוֹל", וְהַיְנוּ עַל יְדֵי הַתְּפִלָּה כִּי ""שעת צַלוֹתִא שׁעת קרבא.

And as it is written, "Let the exaltation of G-d be in their throats and a double-edged sword in their hands" (Tehillim 149:6). Therefore, it is written first: "To love Hashem your G-d and to serve Him with all your heart…" and afterwards: "And you shall gather in your grain…" Because first, there must be love.	וּכְמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב "רוֹמְמוּת קֵל בִּגְרוֹנָם וְחֶרֶב פִּיפִּיּוֹת בְּיָדָם", וְלָכֵן כָּתוּב תְּחִלָּה: "לְאַהֲבָה אֶת ה' אֱלֹקֵיכֶם וּלְעָבְדוֹ בְּכָל לְבַבְכֶם כוי", וְאַחַר כָּך: "וְאָסַפְתָּ דְגָנֶדּ כוי", כִּי מִתְּחִלָּה צָרִידְּ לִהְיוֹת לְאַהֲבָה.
And the meaning of "love" is from the term "ava" (to desire)—meaning: the person's will, longing, and request with all heart and soul should be that His Divinity and Unity be revealed in the world and the soul—just as it was before the creation of the world, when He alone existed.	וּפֵירוּשׁ "אַהְבָה" מִלְּשׁוֹן "אָבָה", דְּהַיְנוּ רָצוֹן. וְהַכַּוָּנָה שֶׁיִּהְיֶה רְצוֹן הָאָדָם וְחָפָצוֹ וּבַקְּשָׁתוֹ בְּכָל לֵב וָנֶפֶשׁ לִהְיוֹת גִּלּוִי אֱלֹקוּתוֹ וְיִחוּדוֹ יִתְבָּרֵךְ בָּעוֹלָם וְנֶפֶשׁ, וּכְמוֹ שֶׁהָיָה לְדָם בְּרִיאַת הָעוֹלָם שֶׁהָיָה הוּא לְבַדּוֹ.
That He would be, even in this lowly world, revealed—for there was not yet a world that conceals and obscures. And so too, it will be in the seventh millennium and likewise now: "Before Him, all is considered as naught," for "I, Hashem, have not changed" (Malachi 3:6).	שֶׁהוּא בִּמְקוֹם הָעוֹלָם הַזֶּה הַשָּׁפָל בִּבְחִינַת גִּלּוּי, כִּי לֹא הָיָה עֲדַיִן עוֹלָם הַמַּעֲלִים וּמֵסְתִּיר כו׳. וּכְמוֹ שֻׁיִּהְיֶה בָּאֶלֶף הַשְּׁבִיעִי כו׳. וְכָךְ הוּא מַמֶּשׁ גַּם עַתָּה: "קַמֵּיה דָּכוּלָּא כְּלָא חֲשִׁיב", כִּי "אֲנִי ה' לֹא שָׁנִיתִי" כְּתִיב
Only before us does the world conceal and obscure And this is [the meaning of the verse] "And you shall love Hashem your G-d"—that you should desire and yearn that Havayah, who was, is, and will be—who is the aspect of "unchanging," and that there is truly nothing else besides Him—should be "your G-d," in actual revelation, in the soul and in the world.	רַק שֶׁלְפָנֵינוּ הָעוֹלֶם מַסְתִּיר וּמַצֵּלִים כו׳. וְזֶהוּ "וְאָהַבְתָּ אֵת ה' אֱלֹקֶיךְּ" שֶׁתִּתְאַנֶּה וְתַחָפֹּץ שֶׁהוי׳ שֶׁהָיָה הוֹנֶה וְיִהְיֶה בִּבְחִינַת "לֹא שָׁנִיתִי", וְאֵין עוֹד מִלְּבַדּוֹ מַמָּשׁ—הוּא יִהְיֶה "אֱלֹקֶיךְּ" בִּבְחִינַת גִּלוּי מַמָּשׁ בַּנֶּפֶשׁ וּבָעוֹלֶם.
That the world will no longer conceal Rather, just as Above, "before Him all is as naught," and "there is nothing else besides Him"—so too will it be revealed below, with no concealment or hiding at all from the powers of the animal soul, which obscure and hide this revelation.	שֶׁלֹא יִהְיֶה הָעוֹלֶם מַעֲלִים כו׳, אֶלָּא כְּמוֹ שֶׁלְמַעְלָה: "כּוּלָּא קַמֵּיהּ כְּלָא כו׳", ןְ"אֵין עוֹד מִלְבַדּוֹ" כו׳—כָּךְ יִהְיֶה לְמַשָּה בְּגִלּוּי בְּלִי שׁוּם הָסְתֵּר פָּנִים וְהָעְלֵם מִכּּחוֹת הַנָּפָשׁ הַבָּהָמִית הַמַּסְתִּירִים וּמַעֲלִימִים גִּלּוּי זָה.
[These powers] are drawn after the physicality of this world and its coarse materialism, which appears to the eyes of flesh as something existent and independent. But—"and to serve Him with all your heart"—with both your hearts, etc.	הַנִּמְשָׁכִים אַחַר גַּשְׁמִיּוּת עוֹלָם הַזֶּה וַחֲמִרִיּוּתוֹ שֶׁנַּרְאָה לְעֵינֵי בָשָׂר לְיֵּשׁ וְדָבָר בִּפְנֵי עַצְמוֹ. רַק "וּלְעָבְדוֹ בְּכָל לְבַבְכֶם" בִּשְׁנֵי יְצָרֶיךָ כו'.

פֹה תְבָּרְכוּ אֶת בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל corth and its head

And therefore, prayer is a ladder set upon the earth and its head reaches the heavens. For one must begin from the very lowest—starting with Birchot HaShachar: "Who gives sight to the blind," "Who straightens the bent," etc.	וְלָכֵן הַתְּפִלֶּה הִיא סֵלָּם מֻצָּב אַרְצָה וְרֹאשׁוֹ מַגִּיעַ הַשָּׁמָיְמָה, שָׁצָּרִידְּ לְהַתְחִיל מִמֵּטָּה מַטָּה תְּחָלָּה בִּרְכוֹת הַשֵּׁחַר: "פּוֹקֵחַ עִוְרִים", "זוֹקֵף כְּפוּפִים" כו'.
For the entire prayer is an aspect of "blessings": "Blessed are You…"—they are drawn-down revelations of G-dliness into the world and the soul, to be in the state of "You"—as if it is direct, face-to-face.	שֶׁכֶּל הַתְּפִלָּה הִיא בְּחִינַת בְּרָכוֹת: "בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה" כו׳, שֶׁהֵן הַמְשָׁכוֹת גִּלּוּי אֱלֹקוּת בָּעוֹלָם וּבַנָּפֶשׁ לִהְיוֹת בִּבְחִינַת "אַתָּה", כְּאִלּוּ הוּא לְנֹכַח כו
And it must be in an order, from below to above—beginning with the lowest levels, until one reaches the fulfillment of "And you shall love [Hashem]" to the point of literally giving one's soul into the Oneness—"with all your heart," etc.	וְצָרִידְּ לְהָיוֹת כְּסֵדֶר מִמַּטָּה לְמַעְלָה, תְּחִלֶּה מִמַּדְרֵגוֹת הַתַּחָתּוֹנוֹת עַד שָׁיָבוֹא לְקִיּוּם "וְאָהַבְתָּ" לִמְסוֹר נַפְשׁוֹ בָּבֶל לְבָבְדְּ" כו'. 'וְאָהַבְתַּ בְּכֵל לְבָבְדְּ" כו'.
(See what is written on this in the maamar "Yonasi b'chagvei hasela.") For behold, from the root of the Divine soul in the place from which it was hewn, it naturally rises and is absorbed in its Emanator, blessed be He.	ְעַיֵּן מַה שֶּׁכֶּתוּב מָזֶּה בְּדִ"ה "יוֹנָתִי בְּחַגְנֵי הַסֶּלַע"). כִּי הָנֵּה מִצַּד שֹׁרֶשׁ נַפְשׁוֹ הָאֱלֹקִית בִּמְקוֹר חַצְבָּה—הָרֵי הִיא בְּטִבְעָה עוֹלָה וְנִכְלֶלֶת בְּמַצְצִילָה יִתְבָּרֵךְ.
And the soul itself does not need repair; only because of the animalistic faculties clothed in this world—whose vitality comes from the vital force of foods that come from kelipas noga, and by them man lives his physical and animal life—he becomes bound below.	וְהַנְּשָׁמָה אֵינָה צְרִיכָה תִּקּוּן לְעַצְמָה. רַק מִצֵּד כֹּחוֹת הַנָּפָשׁ הַבָּהֲמִית הַמְּלוּבָּשִׁים בָּעוֹלֶם הַזָּה שָׁכָּל חַיּוּתָם הוּא מִצֵּד כֹּחוֹת הַחִּיּוּנִית שָׁל הַמַּאֲכָלִים שֶׁבְּנוֹגַה, שֶׁבָּהֶם מְחֵיֶּה הָאָדָם חַיֵּי גוּפּוֹ וְנַפְשׁוֹ הַבָּהֶמִית—הַרֵי הוּא מְקַשָּׁר לְמַטָּה
And he needs to elevate and bind his soul to Hashem until the subduing of the sitra achra and its transformation and "to serve Him with all your heart," with both hearts.	וְצָרִידְּ לְהַעֲלוֹת וּלְקַשֵּׁר נַפְּשׁוֹ בַּה' עַד דְּאָתְכַּפְיָא סִטְרָא אָחָרָא וְאִתְהַפְּכָא כו'. וְ"לְעָבְדוֹ בְּכָל לְבַבְכֶם" בִּשְׁנֵי לָבָבוֹת כו'.
Therefore, it is necessary to begin from below to above in prayer, which is a ladder set upon the earth and its head reaches the heavens—until it reaches the "One."	לְכָךּ צָרִידּ לְהַתְחִיל מִמַּטָּה לְמַעְלָה בַּתְּפִלָּה, וְהִיא סֵלָם מֵצָב אַרְצָה וְרֹאשׁוֹ מַגִּיעַ הַשָּׁמָיְמָה, עַד שֶׁמַּגִּיעַ לְאֶחָד.
And through this, "the angels of G-d ascend and descend upon it"—upon man. For man is the root of everything.	ְוַעַל יְדֵי זֶה "מַלְאֲכֵי אֱלֹקִים עֹלִים וְיוֹרְדִים בּוֹ"—בָּאָדָם. כִּי הָאָדָם הוּא שֹׁרֶשׁ הַכּּל.
And as it is written: "The face of a lion to the right the face of an ox to the left and the face of the man" (Yechezkel 1:10)—their general essence is "man," who encompasses all four creatures.	וּכְמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב: "וּפְנֵי אַרְיֵה אֶל הַיָּמִין וּפְנֵי שוֹר מֵהַשְּׂמֹאל כו׳, וּדְמוּת פְּנֵיהֶם פְּנֵי אָדָם" כו׳—שֶׁכְּלָלוּתָם הוּא בְּחִינַת אָדָם, שָׁהוּא הַכּּלֵל כָּל הַד׳ חַיּוֹת.

And all of them are elevated through the elevation of man's soul in its cleaving to the living G-d—to love Hashem, etc.	ְןכוּלָם מָתְעַלִּים בְּהִתְעַלוּת נֶפֶשׁ הָאָדָם בְּדְבֵקוּתָהּ באלֹקִים חַיִּים לְאַהֲבָה אֶת ה' כו'.
And afterwards it is written, "And you shall gather in your grain"—to gather the vitality in the [creations of] Domem, Tzomeach, and Chai, which were scattered and cast under the dominion of kelipas noga, and now are gathered and included in the level of Adam.	וְאַחַר כָּךְ כְּתִיב "וְאָסַפְתָּ דְגָנֶךְּ" לְלַקֵט הַחַיּוּת שֶׁבְּדַצַ"ח שֶׁיִּתְקַבְּצוּ וְיִתְאַסְפוּ מִמֵּה שֶׁהָיוּ פְזוּרִים וּנְדָחִים תַּחַת מֶמְשֶׁלֶת נוֹגַה, וְיוּכְלְלוּ בִּבְחִינַת אָדָם.
But before prayer, it is forbidden to eat—for then man too is still bound below, and how can he elevate others?	מַה שָּׁאֵין כֵּן קֹדֶם הַתְּפִּלָּה אָסוּר לֶאֱכוֹל, כִּי גַּם הָאָדָם צְדַיִן אָז מְקַשָּׁר לְמַטָּה, וְאֵיךּ יוּכַל לְקַשֵּׁט אֲחַרִים.
Therefore, one must first adorn himself and be in the state of Adam (אָּדָם), which is the numerical value of 45, the level of bitul (self-nullification).	וְלָכֵן צָרִידְּ מִתְּחָלָּה לְקַשֵּׁט אֶת עַצְמוֹ, וְלִהְיוֹת בִּבְחִינַת אָדָם—בְּגִימַטְרָיָּא מ״ה, בְּחִינַת בִּטוּל.
And through this, afterwards, he can repair the [creations of] Domem, Tzomeach, and Chai, etc.	יְעַל יְדֵי זֶה אַחַר כָּךְ יוּכַל לְתַקֵן הַדַּצַ"ח כו'.
And it can also be said: that the souls of Israel arose in [Divine] thought—meaning, they were drawn from the letters of thought—and their elevation is to go higher and higher, as explained on the verse "And I will set your stones with kadkod."	וְעוֹד יֵשׁ לוֹמֵר: כִּי נִשְׁמוֹת יִשְּׂרָאֵל עָלוּ בַמַּחֲשָׁבָה, הַיְנוּ שָׁנִּמְשָׁכוּ מֵאוֹתִיּוֹת הַמַּחֲשָׁבָה, וְעֵלְיָּתָן הִיא לְהַגְּבִּיהַ לְמַעְלָה יוֹתֵר כְּנִזְכָּר עַל פָּסוּק "וְשַׂמְתִּי כַּדְכֹד".
And behold, the Domem, Tzomeach, and Chai are taken from the letters of speech—as mentioned earlier, from the "utterance of the mouth of Hashem."	וְהָנֵּה הַדַּצַ"ח נִלְקְחוּ מֵאוֹתִיּוֹת הַדְּבּוּר כְּנִזְכֶּר לְעֵיל ""מוֹצָא פִי ה
Therefore, in order to elevate the letters of speech that descended below into the Domem, Tzomeach, and Chai—to raise them to their source—this must come through man, who was taken from the letters of thought, which are higher than the letters of speech.	וְלָכֵן כְּדֵי לְהַצֵּלוֹת אוֹתִיּוֹת הַדִּבּוּר שֶׁיָּרְדוּ לְמַטָּה בַּדַּצַ"ח, לְהַצְלוֹתָם לְשָׁרְשָׁן—זֶהוּ עַל יְדֵי הָאָדָם שֶׁנִּלְקַח מֵאוֹתִיּוֹת הַמַּחֲשָׁבָה, שֶׁהֵן לְמַעְלָה מֵאוֹתִיּוֹת הַדְּבּוּר.
Therefore, this elevation depends on the person beginning with self-rectification, as our sages said: "Adorn yourself first, and afterward adorn others."	ּוְעַל כֵּן הַעֲלָאָה זוֹ תְּלוּיָה עַל יְדֵי שֶׁמִּתְחִלָּה יְתַקֵּן עַצְמוֹ, רָכְּמַאָמֵר: "קַשׁוֹט עַצְמָךּ וְאַחַר כָּךּ קַשׁוֹט אֲחַרִים".
That first his soul—whose source is in the letters of thought—must rise to the root of thought and be lifted even higher, etc.	שֶׁמָּתְּחָלֶּה תִּתְעַלֶּה נַפְשׁוֹ שֶׁשֶּׁרְשָׁה מֵאוֹתִיּוֹת הַמַּחֲשָׁבָה—תִּתְעַלֶּה בְּמְקוֹר כֹּחַ הַמַּחֲשָׁבָה, וְעוֹד הַגְּבָּה 'לְמַעְלָה כו'.
Then afterwards, he will be able to elevate the letters of speech, etc.	אָז אַחַר כָּדְ תוּכַל לְהַצְּלוֹת אוֹתִיּוֹת הַדְּבּוּר כו'.

(See also the maamar "Lo hibit aven b'Yaakov," and in the maamar "Vayechi" on the verse "Asri lagafen.")	ְעַיֵּן עוֹד בְּדִ"ה "לֹא הָבִּיט אָנֶן בְּיַעֲקֹב", וּבְפִי "וַיְחִי") רִבְּדִ"ה "אָסְרִי לַגָּפֶן.
(x)	
And behold, the ascent of man is through prayer in the aforementioned state. For wherever a person's focus, desire, and longing is—there his very essence and being is included and cleaves, as is known.	ְהְנֵּה עֲלִיַּת הָאָדָם הִיא עַל־יְדֵי הַתְּפִלֶּה בִּבְחִינָה הַנַּ"ל, כִּי בְּמָקוֹם שֶׁמְגַמַּת הָאָדָם וְחָפָצוֹ וְתְשׁוּקֶתוֹ—שָׁם נִכְלָל וְנִדְבָּק עַצְמוּתוֹ וּמַהוּתוֹ בִּכְלָלוֹ כַּנּוֹדָע.
And this is the idea of the blessings: "May Hashem bless you," meaning, to have a multitude of elevation of sparks—whether powers of the G-dly or animal soul within the person, or those within food, drink, or other physical needs, which are renewed each morning and ascend upward every day through arousal from below via prayer, in abundance and intensity, through the powerful bond of fierce love in the Shema and prayer.	ְוֶזֶהוּ עִנְיֵן הַבְּרָכוֹת: "יְבָרֶכְךָּ הּ"—הַיְנוּ לִהְיוֹת רִיבּוּי עֲלִיּוֹת נִצּוֹצוֹת, הֵן כֹּחוֹת נַפְשִׁיוֹת הָאֱלֹקִית וְהַבֶּהֶמִית שֶׁבָּאָדָם וּשְׁכַמַּאֲכָלִים וּמַשְׁקִים וּשְׁאָר צְרָכִיו הַמִּתְחַדְּשׁוֹת לַבְּקָרִים וְעוֹלוֹת לְמַעְלָה בְּכָל יוֹם בָּאִתְעָרוּתָא דִּלְתַּתָּ עַל־יְדֵי הַתְּפָלָּה, בְּרִיבּוּי וְגֹדֶל עֹצֶם הִתְקַשְׁרוּת הָאַהַבָּה עַלִּיךְיאַת שְׁמַע וּתְפִּלָּה
For behold, the idea of "blessing" is illustrated by a seed growing from the ground: the seed is planted in the earth, buried and covered with soil, and through blessing and success, it rises and sprouts from the earth with increase and multiplication far beyond its original state.	כִּי הָנֵּה עִנְיַן בְּרָכָה נֶאֱמֵר עַל דֶּרֶךְ מָשָׁל עַל הַזָּרַע הַצּוֹמֵחַ מִן הַשָּׁדָה, שָׁנִּזְרע הַגַּרְעִין בָּאָרֶץ עַד שָׁנִּטְמַן וְנִתְכַּסָּה בֶעָפָר, וְעַל־יְדֵי הַבְּרָכָה וְהַהַצְלָחָה—כְּשָׁהצְלִיחַ וְעָשָׂה פְּרִי—עוֹלֶה וְצוֹמֵחַ מִן הָאָרֶץ בְּתוֹסֶכֶּת מְרֵבָּה עַל הָעִיקָּר.
So too, it is written: "And I will sow the House of Israel," and "I will sow her for Me in the land," etc.—for Israel is in the aspect of planting: the planting of G-dliness. As it is written, "Blessed is Hashem, G-d of Israel…" as explained elsewhere.	ְּרֶבְּה הָנֵּה כְּתִיב: "וְזַרְעְתִּי אֶת בֵּית יִשְׂרָאֵל", וְ"זְרְעְתִּיהָ לִי בָּאָרֶץ" כו׳, שֶׁישְׁרָאֵל הֵם בִּבְחִינַת זְרִיעָה—דְּהַיְנוּ זְרִיעַת בְּחִינַת אֱלֹקוּת, כְּמוֹ שֶׁבָּתוּב: "בָּרוּדְ ה' אֱלֹקֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל" כו׳, כְּמוֹ שֶׁמְבוֹאָר בְּמָקוֹם אַחֵר.
And they are drawn below into the physical world and concealed, clothed within the animal soul and the faculties that crave physical things—like a seed hidden and covered in the earth—in order that it may rise and sprout with increase and expansion.	ְוָנְמְשָׁכוּ לְמַטָּה בָּעוֹלָם הַגַּשְׁמִי, וּמְכֵסִים וּמְלוּבָּשִׁים בְּנֶפֶשׁ הַבֶּהֶמִית וּכְחוֹת הַמִּתְאַוִּים לִדְבָרִים גַּשְׁמִיִים, וּכְמוֹ הַזְּרִיעָה הַטְמוּנָה וּמְכֵסָּה בָעָפָר, כְּדֵי שֶׁיַעֲלֶה וְיִצְמַח בְּתוֹסֶפֶת וְרִיבּוּי

The powers of the vital soul will also ascend and become included in Oneness in the recitation of Shema—as our Sages said: "Israel was only exiled in order to add converts," etc. As explained elsewhere.	כּחוֹת הַנֶּפֶשׁ הַחִיּוּנִית יַעֲלוּ גַם־הֵם וְיִתְכַּלְלוּ בְּאֶחָד בַּקְרִיאַת שְׁמַע, וּכְמוֹ שֶׁאָמְרוּ רַזַ"ל: "לֹא גָלוּ יִשְּׁרָאֵל אֶלֶא כְּדֵי שֶׁיִּתּוֹסְפוּ עֲלֵיהֶם גַּרִים" כו', וּכְמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב בְּמֶקוֹם אַחֵר.
Therefore, G-d made man upon the earth to receive vitality from physical things, so that all the powers of domēm, tsomēaḥ, ḥai, and their vitality—through which the soul of all living and spirit of all flesh are given life—may ascend in the soul and spirit of man through the Shema and prayer.	ְוְלָבֵן עָשָׂה אֱלֹקִים אֶת הָאָדָם בָּאָרֶץ, לְקַבֵּל הַחַיּוּת מָן הַדְּבָרִים הַגִּשְׁמִיִּים, כְּדֵי שֶׁיִתְּכַּלְלוּ כָּל כֹּחוֹת הַדַּצַ"ח וְהַחֵיּוּת אֲשֶׁר בָּהָם לְהַחֵיוֹת נֶפֶשׁ כָּל חָי וְרוּחַ כָּל בָּשֶׂר—בְּחֵיּוּת הַנֶּפֶשׁ וְרוּחַ הָאָדָם הָעוֹלֶה לְמַעְלָה בְּקָרִיאַת שְׁמֵע וּתִפִּלָּה
Therefore, one must pray every day. And behold, regarding this blessing that comes from an awakening below, it is written: "And may He protect you"—for it requires guarding from harm-doers: from the external forces and the sitra achra, so they should not derive nourishment from this love.	ְלְכֵן צָרִידִּ הָאָדָם לְהִתְפַּלֵל בְּכָל יוֹם. וְהִנֵּה עַל בְּרָכָה זוֹ שֶׁהִיא מֵאִתְעָרוּתָא דִּלְתַּתָּא נָאֱמַר "וְיִשְׁמְרָדִּ", שֶׁהִיא צְרִיכָה שְׁמִירָה מִן הַמַּזִּיקִין—הֵם הַחִיצוֹנִים וְסִטְרָא אָחָרָא—שָׁלֹא יִהְיֶה לָהֶם יְנִיקָה מֵאַהַבָּה זוֹ.
Meaning: once this love is awakened in a person's soul, he should not respond by feeling proud of himself or glorifying in it, or any other ulterior motive, G-d forbid—for "Who may ascend the mountain of Hashem? one with clean hands and a pure heart." Meaning, "pure heart" without any foreign admixture.	דְּהַיְנוּ, מֵאַחַר שֶׁתִּתְעוֹרֵר אַהָבָה זוֹ בְּנֶפֶשׁ הָאָדָם, לֹא יִתְפַּעֵל בְּעַצְמוֹ לִהְיוֹת מַחַזִיק טוֹבָה לְעַצְמוֹ אוֹ לִהְיוֹת הָתְפָּאֲרוּת וּגְדֵלָּה מָמֶנָּה אוֹ שְׁאָר אֵיזֶה פְּנִיֶּה חַס וְשָׁלוֹם, כִּי "מִי יַעֲלֶה בְהַר ה'", "נְקִי כַפַּיִם וּבַר לֵבָב"—פֵּירוּשׁ: בר לֵבָב", שֶׁהוּא בְּלִי שׁוּם תַּעֲרוֹבוֹת זָר חַס וְשָׁלוֹם.
(In Zohar: see the interpretations of "May Hashem bless you and protect you" in Zohar end of Vayechi, 248a; and end of Naso 247a; and in Ra'aya Mehemna, Pinchas 245a; and Parshas Eikev 271b; and Midrash Rabbah, Bo ch. 15 and Bechukosai ch. 36.)	בַּזּהַר נִזְכַּר פֵּירוּשׁ "יְבָרֶכְהָ ה' וְיִשְׁמְרֶךֶּ" סוֹף פַּרְשַׁת) וַיְחִי דרמ"ח ע"א, וְסוֹף פַּרְשַׁת נָשֹא דקמ"ז ע"א, וּבְרִעְיָ"א מְהֵימְנָא פַּרְשַׁת פִּינְחָס דרמ"ה ע"א, וּבְפַּרְשַׁת עֵקֶב דרע"א סע"ב, וּבְרַבָּ"ה פַּרְשַׁת בּוֹ פט"ו, בְּחָקֹתֵי (פּל"ו
And behold, through an awakening from below comes an awakening from Above—as it is written: "If he sets his heart upon it then spirit brings forth spirit and draws forth spirit" (Iyov 34:14–15)—so that "May Hashem shine His face upon you" is drawn from above to below.	ְהָנֵּה עַל־יְדֵי אָתְעָרוּתָא דִּלְתַּתָּא אָתְעָרוּתָא דִּלְעֵילָּא, וּכְמוֹ שֶׁכֶּתוּב: "אָם יָשִׂים אֱלָיו לְבּוֹ כו׳"—"וְרוּחַ אַיְתֵי רוּחַ וְאַמְשִׁידְּ רוּחַ"—לְהִיוֹת "יָאֵר ה' פָּנָיו אֵלֶידִּ" מָלְמַעָלָה לְמַטָּה.

That just as he desires and longs and asks that there be a revelation of the infinite light of the Blessed One and that "there is none else besides Him" be manifest below as above—so too will this be drawn from above: the illumination of this revelation which he is requesting.	שֶׁכְּמוֹ שֶׁהוּא חָפֵץ וּמִשְׁתּוֹקֵק וּמְבַקֵּשׁ שֶׁיָּהָיֶה גִּילּוּי אוֹר אֵין־סוֹף בָּרוּדְ־הוּא וְ"אֵין עוֹד מִלְבַדּוֹ" לְמַטָּה כְּמוֹ שֶׁהוּא לְמַעְלָה—בָּךְ יוּמְשַׁךְּ מִלְמַעְלָה הַמְשָׁכַת הָאָרַת גִּילּוּי זָה אֲשֶׁר הוּא מְבַקֵּשׁ
And this is "May Hashem shine His face"—the illumination of the face is the level of Chochmah (Wisdom), as it is written: "The wisdom of a man shines his face" (Koheles 8:1).	וְזֶהוּ "יָאֵר ה' פָּנָיו"—בְּחִינַת הָאָרַת פָּנִים הִיא בְּחִינַת "חָכְמָה, כְּמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב: "חָכְמַת אָדֶם תָּאִיר פָּנָיו
(In Zohar, the explanation of "May Hashem shine His face" is mentioned in Naso 133b, 141a, 147a.)	בַּזֹהַר נִזְכַּר פֵּירוּשׁ "יָאֵר ה' פָּנָיו" נָשׂא קל"ג ב׳, קמ"א). (א׳, קמ"ז א׳).
That is, to have a revelation of the power of "Ma" (מ"ה)—and that "there is none else besides Him." "Who is wise? He who sees what is born," i.e., sees with actual vision the being born from nothing, and that all before Him is as naught.	דְהַיְנוּ לִהְיוֹת גִּילּוּי כֹּחַ מ"ה, וְ"אֵין עוֹד מִלְּבַדּוֹ" כו׳. "אֵיזֶהוּ חָכָם? הָרוֹאֶה אֶת הַנּוֹלֶד"—הַיְנוּ הָרוֹאֶה בִּבְחִינַת רְאִיָּה מַמָּשׁ אֶת הַנּוֹלֶד מֵאַיִן, וְ"כָּלָא קַמֵּיהּ כְּלָא" .כו׳
For through arousal from below—"Shema Yisrael"—"Shema" implies understanding through contemplation, etc., but hearing is not like seeing.	ָּכִי בְּאָתְעָרוּתָא דִּלְתַּתָּא—"שְׁמֵע יִשְׂרָאֵל"—"שְׁמַע" לְשׁוֹן הַבָּנָה עַל־יְדֵי הִתְּבּוֹנְנוּת כו׳, וְאֵין דּוֹמֶה שְׁמִיעָה לָרְאִיָּה כו׳.
It is a revelation of the power of Ma (humility/nullification) that comes from above, and this revelation is in Torah—for "Torah emerges from wisdom," and it is His wisdom, which is above [everything], only it is clothed below in the physical subjects of Zeraim, Mo'ed, etc.	הָיא בְּחִינַת גִּילּוּי כֹּחַ מ"ה הַבָּא מִלְמֵעְלָה, וְגִילּוּי זֶה הוּא בַּתּוֹרָה—בִּי "אוֹרַיְיתָא מֵחָכְמָה נַפְקַת", וְהִיא חָכְמָתוֹ יִתְבָּרַדְּ שֶׁלְמַעְלָה, רַק שֶׁמְלוּבֶּשֶׁת בְּגַשְׁמִיוּת לְמַטָּה בְּעִנְיָנֵי "זְרָעִים", "מוֹצֵד" כו׳
This is like water that descends from a high place to a low one. And about this it is written: "And I will give the rain of your land" and as it is written: "As the rain and snow come down from heaven so is My word that goes out from My mouth."	וְעַל זָה נָאֱמַר: "וְנָתַתִּי מְטַר אַרְצְכֶם" כו׳, וּכְמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב: "כִּי כַאֲשֶׁר יֵרִד הַגָּשֶׁם וְהַשֶּׁלֶג מִן הַשָּׁמִיִם כו׳—כֵּן יִהְיֶה "דְבָרִי אֲשֶׁר יֵצֵא מִפִּי
Through this "rain," "and you shall gather your grain," etc.—to become a dwelling and resting place for the Blessed One: a revelation of the infinite light of the Blessed One drawn from above to be One in One.	שֶׁעַל־יְדֵי בְּחִינַת מֶטָר זֶה—"וְאָסַפְּתָּ דְגָנֶךּ" כו'—לִהְיוֹת מִשְׁכָּן וּמָכוֹן לְשִׁבְתּוֹ יִתְבָּרֵךְ, לְגִילוּי אוֹר אֵין־סוֹף בּרוּדְ־הוּא הַבָּא מִלְמַעְלָה, לִהְיוֹת "אָחָד בְּאֶחָד".

And this is "May He be gracious to you"—from the language of "charm" and "encampment": "And Israel encamped there." Like "David encamped," to be in the state of "And I shall dwell among them," a dwelling below, the actual resting of the infinite light of the Blessed One below as it is above.	ְוְזֶהוּ "וִיחֻנֶּדֶּ"—לָשׁוֹן "חֵן", וְלָשׁוֹן "חֲנִיָּה": "וַיִּחַן שֶׁם יִשְׂרָאֵל", וּכְמוֹ "חָנָה דָוִד"—לְהְיוֹת בְּכְחִינַת "וְשָׁכַנְתִּי בְּתוֹכָם", דִּירָה בְּתַחְתּוֹנִים, דִּירַת וְהַשְׁרָאַת אוֹר אֵין־סוֹף בָּרוּדְ־הוּא מַמָּשׁ בִּבְחִינַת גִּילוּי לְמַטָּה כְּמוֹ שֶׁהוּא לִמֵעְלָה.
And this is the idea of Birchas HaMazon: the drawing down of a revelation of G-dliness from above upon the powers and vitality that were renewed in a person through food.	ן זֶהוּ עִנְיַן בָּרְכַּת הַמָּזוֹן: הַמְשָׁכַת גִּילוּי אֱלֹקוּת מִלְמַעְלָה עַל הַכֹּחוֹת וְהַחַיּוּת שֶׁנִּתְחַדֵּשׁ בָּאָדָם מִן הַמַּאֲכָל.
These are the three blessings from the Torah, and the fourth by Rabbinic decree: four times "Blessed are You" to draw a revelation in the soul and the world, as if [G-d] is present face-to-face.	ְוְהֵם ג׳ בְּרָכוֹת דְּאוֹרַיִיתָא, וְהָרְבִיעִית דְּרַבָּנָן—ד' פְּעָמִים "בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה", לִהִיוֹת נִמְשָׁךְ בְּחִינַת גִּילוּי בַּנָּפֶשׁ וּבָעוֹלָם, 'כְּאִלוּ הוּא לְנֹכַח כו'.
Through this, there is clarification and separation from what was previously under the dominion of noga, and inclusion in holiness—to become a vessel, resting place, and sanctuary for the indwelling of the infinite light of the Blessed One in actual revelation.	שָׁצַל־יְדֵי זֶה נִתְבָּרֵר וְנִפְּרֵד מִמֵּה שֶׁהָיָה תְּחָלֶּה תַּחַת מֶמְשֶׁלֶת נוֹגַה, וְנִכְלֵל בִּקְדוּשָׁה, לְהִיוֹת בְּחִינַת כְּלִי וּמָכוֹן וּמִשְׁכָּן לְהַשְׁרָאַת גִּילוּי אוֹר אֵין־סוֹף בָּרוּדְ־הוּא מַמָּשׁ.
(7)	
However, this is [only] if one eats specifically to the point of satisfaction, for then "bread sustains the heart of man" (Tehillim 104:15)—that through the bread, he lives the life of his soul. And the vitality included in his soul is itself what becomes included in holiness through the soul's elevation and its inclusion in the revelation of the infinite light of the Blessed One, which rests and is revealed in Chochmah, the power of Ma (מ"ה).	אָמְנָם זָהוּ אִם אוֹכֵל דַּוְקָא כְּדֵי שְׂבִיעָה, שֶׁאָז "לֶחֶם לְבַב אֶנוֹשׁ יִסְעָד", שֶׁעַל־יְדֵי הַלֶּחֶם יִחְיֶה חַיֵּי נַפְשׁוֹ, וְהַחֵּיּוּת הַכְּלוּלָה בְּנַפְשׁוֹ—הִיא הִיא הַנִּכְלֶלֶת בִּקְדֵשָׁה בְּהִתְעַלוּת הַנָּפֶשׁ וְהִתְכַּלְלוּתָה בִּבְחִינַת גִּילוּי אוֹר אֵין־סוֹף בָּרוּדְ־הוּא הַשׁוֹרֶה וּמִתְגַלֶּה בְּחָכְמָה כֹּחַ מ״ה.
For in that vitality there is an abundance of holiness from "the mouth of Hashem," which is the source of life.	ֶלְפִי שֶׁבַּחַיּוּת הַהוּא יֵשׁ רִיבּוּי קְדוּשָׁה מִמּוֹצָא פִי ה', שָׁהוּא מְקוֹר הַחַיִּים.

(See Zohar on the verse "And you shall eat and be satisfied," Parshas Vayigash 247b; and Parshas Terumah 153b, 152b, and 157a; and also Zohar Parshas Miketz 204a–b regarding the concept and explanation of "satisfaction"; and 194a on the verse "And behold from the Nile…"; and Parshas Beha'aloscha 150a regarding "and the bread was satisfying and we became good"; and the commentary of the Ramaz there; and Pardes Rimonim, Entry "Ratzon.")	ְוַעֵּיֵן בַּזּהַר עַל פָּסוּק "וְאָכַלְתָּ וְשָׂבָעָתָּ" בְּפַרְשַׁת וַיִּגַּשׁ) דַּף ר"ז ע"ב, וּבְפַרְשַׁת תְּרוּמָה דַּף קנ"ג ע"ב, וְדַף קנ"ב ב', וְדַף קנ"ז ע"א. וְעַיֵּן עוֹד בַּזּהַר פַּרְשַׁת מְקֵץ דַּף ר"ד ע"א–ב' מֵענְיַן וּפֵירוּשׁ "שָּׂבַע", וְדַף קצ"ד ע"א עַל פָּסוּק "וְהָנֵּה מִן הַיְאֹר כו", וּבְפַרְשַׁת בְּהַעֲלֹתְךּ דַּף ק"נ ע"א גַּבֵּי "וְנַפְשֵׁנוּ יְבַשָּׁה אֵין כֹּל בִּלְתִּי אֶל־הַמֶּן עֵינֵינוּ",
But if one does not eat to the point of satisfaction—so that the soul receives only a limited vitality—then that vitality, which contains only a small amount of holiness, has no power to be included in the level of Chochmah revealed in the soul, and to be clarified from nogah and included and united in holiness.	אֲבָל אָם אֵינוֹ אוֹכֵל כְּדֵי שְׂבִיעָה—שֶׁלֹּא לָקְחָה הַנָּפֶשׁ רַק חַיּוּת מוּעָט—אֵין כֹּחַ בַּחַיּוּת זֶה שָׁאֵין בּוֹ אֶלָּא מְעַט קְדוּשָׁה לְהָתְכַּלֵל בִּבְחִינַת חָכְמָה שֶׁמִתְגַלֶּה בַּנָּפֶשׁ, וּלְהָתְבָּרֵר מִנוֹגַה וּלְהָכָּלֵל וּלְהָתְאַחֵד בִּקְדוּשָׁה.
But regarding this it is said: "May Hashem lift His face"—meaning, "lift" as in elevating upward; "His face" refers to the revealed aspect of influence (pnimiyus), whereas the aspect of "back" (achorayim) refers to influence in a concealed state, like one who throws behind his shoulder.	אֲבָל עַל זָה נָאֱמַר "יִשָּׂא ה' פָּנָיו"—פֵּירוּשׁ "יִשָּׂא", יַגְבִּיהַ לְמַעְלָה; "פָּנָיו" הִיא בְּחִינַת גִּילוּי הַהַשְׁפָּעָה שָׁנָקְרֵאת בְּשֵׁם "פָּנִים", וּבְחִינַת "אֲחוֹרַיִם" הִיא הַשְׁפָּעָה שָׁהִיא בְּהֶסְתֵּר פָּנִים, כְּמָאן דְּשָׁדֵי בַּתַּר כְּתִיפוֹי.
That is, He raises it upward, beyond the chain of worlds—into the level of "He who sits high, who lowers Himself to see in the heavens and the earth," where both spirituality and physicality are equal before Him, and upon both it says "Who lowers Himself."	דְהַיְנוּ שֶׁיַגְבִּיהַ לְמַעְלָה מִן הַהִשְׁתַּלְשְׁלוּת, בִּבְחִינַת "הַמַּגְבִּיהִי לָשֶׁבֶת הַמַּשְׁפִּילִי לְרְאוֹת בַּשָּׁמַיִם וּבָאָרֶץ", שָׁמַיִם וָאָרֶץ—רוּחָנִיּוּת וְגַשְׁמִיוּת—שָׁוִין לְפָנָיו יִתְבָּרֵךּ, "וְעַל שְׁנֵיהֶם הוּא אוֹמֵר "הַמֵּשְׁפִּילִי".
And this elevation will be "to you," meaning that the drawing and influence from this level beyond the chain of worlds—i.e., "May Hashem lift"—should come to you in revealed form.	וְהַהַגְּבָּהָה הַזֹּאת תִּהָיֶה אֵלֶידְּ—בְּלוֹמֵר, שֶׁיוּמְשַׁךְּ אֵלֶידְ בִּגִילוּי הַהַמְשָׁכָה וְהַשְׁפָּעָה מִבְּחִינָה שֶׁלְמַעְלָה מִן הָיִהָּשְׁתַּלְשָׁלוּת—שֶׁהִיא בְּחִינַת "יִשָּׂא ה".

So that through this, all the scattered and distant sparks of vitality will be gathered—one by one—even if they contain only the tiniest amount of holy vitality, and be included and unified in the supreme holiness, the source of life and holiness within the lower realms.	שֶׁעַל־יְדֵי זֶה יֵלָקְטוּ לְאֶחָד אֶחָד כָּל נִצּוֹצֵי הַחֵיוּת הַמְפָזָרִים וְהַנִּדָּחִים, אֲפִילוּ אִם יֵשׁ בָּהֶם חַיּוּת קְדוּשָּׁה כָּל שָׁהוּא מְעַט מִזְעָר, וְיוּכְלְלוּ וְיִתְאַחֲדוּ בִּקְדוּשָׁה עֶלְיוֹנָה, מְקוֹר הַחַיִּים וְהַקְּדוּשָׁה שֶׁבַּתַּחְתּוֹנִים
(See Ra'aya Mehemna, Parshas Pinchas 244b on this concept of "May Hashem lift His face" and also 238b.)	ןְעַיֵּן בְּרַעָיָ"א מְהֵימְנָא פַּרְשַׁת פִּינְחָס דרמ"ד ב' מֵענְיַן) וֹזֶה דְּ"יִשָּׂא ה' פָּנָיו" כו', וְדַף רל"ח ב'.
But how will the drawing and influence from this level above the chain of worlds occur? For this it says: "And may He place for you peace."	אֲבָל כֵּיצֵד תִּהְיֶה הַהַמְשָׁכָה וְהַשְּׁפָּעָה מִבְּחִינָה שֶׁהִיא לְמַעְלָה מִן הַהִשְׁתַּלְשְׁלוּת? עַל זָה נָאֱמַר: "וְיָשֵׂם לְךָּ "שָׁלוֹם
Peace is the concept of connection and unification of opposites, as it is written: "He makes peace in His heights"—[between] Michael, the minister of water, etc.	שָׁלוֹם הוּא עִנְיָן הִתְּקַשְּׁרוּת וְהִתְחַבְּרוּת שְׁנֵי הֲפָכִים, וּכְמוֹ שֶׁבֶּתוּב: "עוֹשֶׂה שָׁלוֹם בִּמְרוֹמֵיו", מִיכָאֵל שֵׂר שֶׁל מַיִם כו
This is through their nullification to a level that is far above both of them—which unites them, as is known.	ןהַיְנוּ עַל־יְדֵי בִּיטוּלָם לִבְּחִינָה שֶׁהִיא לְמַעְלָה מַעְלָה מִשְׁנֵיהֶם, הַמְחַבֶּרֶת אוֹתָם כַּנּוֹדָע.
And our Sages said: Torah scholars increase peace in the world, as it is written: "And all your children shall be learners of Hashem, and great shall be the peace of your children."	וְהָבֵּה אָמְרוּ רַזַ"ל: "תַּלְמִידֵי חֲכָמִים מַרְבִּים שָׁלוֹם בָּעוֹלָם", שֶׁנָּאֱמֵר: "וְכָל בָּנַיִּךְ לְמוּדֵי ה' וְרַב שְׁלוֹם "בָּנָיִךְ
Meaning: because they are "learners of Hashem"—"learners" in the passive sense, meaning their study of halachah is because it is the word of Hashem, with a state of bitul.	דְהַיְנוּ, מִשׁוּם שֶׁהֵם "לְמּוּדֵי ה'"—ן"לְמּוּדֵי" לָשׁוֹן נִפְעָל, דְהַיְנוּ שֶׁיְהֵא לִימּוּד הַהַלָּכָה מִפְּנֵי שֶׁהִיא דְּבַר ה'—בִּרְחִינַת בִּיטוּל.
For they receive the teaching each time from Hashem, and Hashem is the one teaching them, as it is written: "I am Hashem, your teacher"	שֶׁהֵם הַמְקַבְּלִים הַלִּימוּד בְּכָל פַּעַם מֵהַשֵּׁם יִתְבָּרֵדְ, וְהַשֵּׁם יִתְבָּרֵדְ הוּא מְלַמְּדָם, כְּמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב: "אֲנִי ה' מְלַמֶּדְדְּ" כו'.
And the word of Hashem itself—this is halachah. The Mishnah itself is what speaks in their mouths, as it is written: "And My words that I have placed in your mouth I shall place My words in your mouth."	וּדְבַר ה' מַמָּשׁ—זוֹ הִיא הַלֶּכָה, וְהַמִּשְׁנָה הִיא הִיא הַמְדַבֶּרֶת בְּפִיהֶם, וּכְמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב: "וְדְבָרֵי אֲשֶׁר שָׂמְתִּי "בְּפִיךּ", "וְאָשִׂים דְּבָרֵי בְּפִיךְּ
Through this, they increase peace in the world—"and great shall be the peace of your children"—in the level of the middle bar that penetrates from one end to the other.	וְעַל־יְדֵי זָה מַרְבִּים שָׁלוֹם בָּעוֹלֶם—"וְרַב שְׁלוֹם בָּנָיִךְ"—בָּבְחִינַת בְּרִיחַ הַתִּיכוֹן הַמַּבְרִיחַ מִן הַקֶּצָה אֶל הַקָצֶה

As it is written: "For Hashem is a G-d of knowledges"—meaning, He includes both perspectives: just as from Above to below all is as naught before Him, so too from below to Above	ְּכְמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב: "כִּי אֵל דַעוֹת ה'", שֶׁכּוֹלֵל שְׁתֵּי דַעוֹת: שֶׁכְּשֵׁם שֶׁמִּלְמַעְלָה לְמַטָּה "כוּלָּא קַמֵּיה כְּלָא 'חֲשִׁיב"—בָּךְ מִלְמַטָּה לְמַעְלָה כו.
And this is through Torah learning in this manner—of which it is said: "And do not profane," as explained elsewhere.	ְוָהַיְנוּ עַל־יְדֵי לִימּוּד הַתּוֹרָה בְּבְחִינָה זוֹ, שֶׁעָלֶיהָ נֶאֱמַר: "וְלֹא תְחַלְּלוּ" כו', כְּמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב בְּמָקוֹם אַחֵר".
And this is what our Sages said: Whoever engages in Torah makes peace between the upper and lower realms—meaning, the supernal and lower unifications (Yichuda Ila'ah and Tata'ah).	· ·
And this is "and great shall be the peace of your children"—[they] increase peace in the upper and lower worlds through being Torah scholars receiving from Chochmah, the power of Ma (מ"ה)—and this is "and may He place for you peace."	ן זֶהוּ "וְרַב שָׁלוֹם בָּנָיִדְ"—מַרְבִּים שָׁלוֹם בְּפַמַלְיָא שֶׁל מַעְלָה וּבְפַמַלְיָא שֶׁל מַטָּה, עַל־יְדֵי שֶׁהֵם תַּלְמִידִי חֲכָמִים מְקַבְּלִים מֵחָכְמָה בְּחִינַת כֹּחַ מ״ה, וְזֶהוּ "וְיָשֵׁם לְדְּ "שָׁלוֹם
Meaning: that He gives you the level of peace—that Torah scholars increase peace in the world—through "the word of Hashem, this is halachah."	ּכְּלוֹמַר, שֶׁהוּא הַנוֹתֵן לְךָּ בְּחִינַת הַשְּׁלוֹם, לִהְיוֹת תַּלְמִידֵי חַכָּמִים מַרְבִּים שָׁלוֹם בָּעוֹלָם עַל־יְדֵי "דְבַר ה'", זוֹ הִיא הַלֶּכָה.
(See Midrash Rabbah, Toldos, beginning of section 66; and Naso, end of section 11.)	(וְעַיֵּן בְּרַבָּ"ה תּוֹלְדוֹת רֵישׁ פי ס"ו. נָשׂא סוֹף פי י"א).
And our Sages said: The only vessel that holds blessing for Israel is peace—for this level of peace is the vessel to receive the supreme blessing, the level of "May Hashem lift His face," which is above the chain of worlds.	וְאָמְרוּ רַזַ"ל: "אֵין כְּלִי מַחֲזִיק בְּרָכָה לְיִשְׂרָאֵל אֶלָּא הַשָּׁלוֹם", שֶׁבְּחִינַת שָׁלוֹם זֶהוּ בְּחִינַת כְּלִי לְקַבֵּל בְּרָכָה עֶלְיוֹנָה—בְּחִינַת "יִשָּׂא ה' פָּנָיו" שָׁהִיא לְמַעְלָה מִן הַהִּשְׁתַּלְשְׁלוּת.
Therefore, the sages had the power to obligate [Birchas HaMazon] even for less than the Torah-defined amount of satiation—because they are of the level of "May Hashem lift His face," which is above the chain of worlds, through the level of peace.	וְלָכֵן יֵשׁ כֹּחַ בְּיֵד חֲכָמִים לְהַצְּרִיךְ לְבָרֵךְ בִּרְכַּת הַמָּזוֹן אֲפִילוּ בְּפָחוֹת מִכְּשִׁיעוּר שְׁבִיעָה שֶׁמִן הַתּוֹרָה, מִפְּנֵי שֶׁהֵם מִבְּחִינַת "יִשָּׂא ה' פָּנָיו" שֶׁלְמַעְלָה מִן הַהִשְׁתַּלְשְׁלוּת, עַל־יְדֵי בְּחִינַת שָׁלוֹם.
And this is [the meaning of] "And they shall place My Name upon the children of Israel"—that My Name shall be called upon them through their occupation in Torah and their divine service, when these are in the state of "learners of Hashem."	וְזֶהוּ "וְשָּׁמוּ אֶת שְׁמִי עַל בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל"—שֶׁיְהֵא שְׁמִי נִקְרָא עֲלֵיהָם בְּעֵסֶק תּוֹרָתָם וַעֲבוֹדָתָם, שֶׁתִּהָיָינָה "בִּבְחִינַת "לָמּוּדֵי ה

כֹה תְבָרְכוּ אֶת בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל

And then: "And I will bless them." "I" is the same letters as "אַיַי" (nothingness), for "Wisdom emerges from ayin"—that is, from the level of "May Hashem lift His face."	וְאָז: "וַאֲנִי אֲבָרְכֵם". "אֲנִי" אוֹתִיּוֹת "אַיִן", כִּי "הַחָּכְמָה מאַיִן תִּמָּצֵא"—-דְּהַיְנוּ מִבְּחִינַת "יִשָּׂא ה' פָּנָיו".
That the blessing will be from above to below—a surplus of blessing and an abundance of influence from far above the chain of worlds.	שֶׁתִּהְיֶה הַבְּרָכָה מִלְמַעְלָה לְמַטֶּה—תוֹסֶפֶּת בְּרָכָה וְרִיבּוּי הַשְׁפָּעָה מִלְמַעְלָה מַעְלָה מֵהָהִשְׁתַּלְשְׁלוּת.
And this is the concept of a blessing at the beginning and a blessing at the end. A blessing at the beginning is the level of "May Hashem bless you," which is from below to above.	ן ֶהוּ עִנְיַן בְּרָכָה בָּרֹאשׁ וּבְרָכָה בַּסּוֹף. בְּרָכָה בָּרֹאשׁ הִיא בְּחִינַת "יְבָרֶכְךְּ", שֶׁהִיא מִמֵּטָה לְמַעְלָה.
And the blessing at the end—"And I will bless them"—is from above to below.	וּבָרָכָה בַּסּוֹף—"וַאָנִי אֲבָרְכֵם"—מְלְמַעְלָה לְמַטָּה.
(In the Zohar, "And I will bless them" is mentioned in Parshas Shemini 38a, Parshas Miketz 199a, and beginning of Parshas Yisro 67a.)	בַּזּהַר נָזְכַּר "וַאָנִי אֲבָרְכֵם" בְּפַּרְשַׁת שְׁמִינִי דל"ח ע"א,) וּפַרְשַׁת מִקַץ דקצ"ט ע"א, וְרֵישׁ פַּרְשַׁת יִתְרוֹ דס"ז (ע"א).

[NOTE Summary:

The discourse explains the inner structure of the *Birkat Kohanim* (Priestly Blessing), focusing on the phrase: "ושמו את שמי על בני ישראל ואני אברכם"—"And they shall place My Name upon the children of Israel, and I shall bless them." The Alter Rebbe teaches that this passage reflects two distinct but connected flows of Divine energy.

The first stage—"ושמו את שמי"—refers to the *human-driven ascent*. When Jews study Torah and serve G-d with the mindset of "קמּוּדֵי ה" receiving Torah as the living word of Hashem with humility and surrender—their divine service causes G-d's Name to rest upon them. This represents an upward motion: from below to above, raising up the sparks of holiness found in food, physical life, and the soul's emotional energies.

The second stage—"ואני אברכם" ואני" is composed of the letters of "אין" (nothingness), pointing to the level of Divine light that is beyond all worlds. This is the level of j. www, where the blessing flows downward from the highest reaches of the Infinite into the lowest realms. It is an expression of G-d's grace that transcends merit—a supernal, unbounded kindness.

The discourse explains the dynamic of ברכה בראש וברכה בראש וברכה בראש וברכה בראש וברכה ליברכך. a blessing that begins from below (יברכך הי), and a blessing that concludes from above (ואני אברכם). Together, they form a complete cycle of union between human effort and Divine will. The entire progression reveals the purpose of creation: that the lower worlds receive and house the highest lights.

Alter Rebbe Likkutei Torah Parshas Naso פה תברכו את בני ישראל

Practical Takeaway

The Alter Rebbe's teaching encourages us to recognize the power of our *avodah* (divine service). When we approach Torah and mitzvos with the consciousness of receiving from the Ein Sof and aligning our will to His, we become vessels for G-d's Name to rest upon us. Then, not only do we elevate ourselves and our surroundings, but we also awaken a flow of blessing from above—far beyond what we could earn or imagine.

It also teaches us about the value of even small efforts—when infused with sincerity, they reach beyond worlds. And it reminds us to maintain humility and *bitul*, for that is the vessel that holds true peace and blessing.

True Chassidic Story

In the town of **Liadi**, during the winter of 1803, a devastating illness swept through the region, particularly afflicting young children. Families were in anguish, and many turned to the Alter Rebbe for guidance and intercession.

One father, a simple Jew who lived a distance away, came to the Rebbe in desperation. He was not a scholar and did not understand much of Chassidus, but he had begun studying a passage of the Tanya every night after work—though he barely understood the words.

When he finally reached the Alter Rebbe, he broke down and said, "Rebbe, I have nothing to offer—no Torah, no insight. I barely understand the words I say. But every night, I try to learn your sefer before sleep. Maybe Hashem will see that and have mercy on my child."

The Alter Rebbe's face grew serious. He closed his eyes and said quietly, "When a Jew learns Torah with self-nullification, even if he understands little, it creates a vessel for ואני אברכם. That's the blessing from above."

Then he opened his eyes and told the man, "Return home. With G-d's help, your child will recover"

Miraculously, the child began to improve almost immediately. In the weeks that followed, many others in the town experienced unexpected recovery. The Chassidim would later say the Rebbe had "placed Hashem's Name" upon them, and the "אנ" from above had blessed them in return.

END NOTE