

Introduction

In this Maamer, the Alter Rebbe redefines what it means to serve G-d in the midst of ordinary life. Far from portraying spiritual elevation as the domain of the secluded mystic, he reveals the hidden grandeur of the *baal ha'asakim* — the person enmeshed in worldly work, family, and struggle. This discourse explores how the descent of the soul into the body and into the distractions of daily life is not a fall, but a Divine mission. By entering the world's noise and confusion, the soul gains the capacity to transform chaos (*Tohu*) into harmony (*Tikkun*), passion into love, and limitation into connection with the Infinite. Through mitzvos, prayer, and the sanctification of material existence, the Alter Rebbe charts a path toward the deepest union — one that touches not only G-d's light, but His very Essence.

Explanation on the above — to understand the concept that the prayer of the businessman should be on a higher level, etc. It is necessary to clarify the matter of the descent of the soul, which is the Divine spark, into this world in a body and an animal soul, to be constantly preoccupied with thoughts and worries of livelihood and the vanities of this world.	בֵּיאוּר עַל הַנִּ"ל לְהָבִין הָעִנְיֵן שֶׁתְּפִלַּת הַבַּעַל עֵסֶק יִהְיֶה בְּמַדְרֵגָה גָּבוֹהַ כּוּ'. צָרִידְּ לְהָבִין עִנְיַן יְרִידַת הַנְּשָׁמָה שָׁהִיא הַנִּיצוֹץ אֱלֹקוּת בָּעוֹלֶם הַזֶּה בְּגוּף וְנֶפֶשׁ הַבְּהֵמִית לְהִיוֹת טָרוּד תָּמִיד בְּמַחְשָׁבוֹת וּדְאָגוֹת הַפַּרְנָסָה בְּהַבְלֵי הָעוֹלֶם הַזֶּה
And this is a great descent. It is necessary to say that this descent is for the sake of ascent — for after it descended and was clothed in the body and animal soul, it can rise higher and higher through the love of "with all your might," which is without limit.	וְזֶהוּ יְרִידָה גְּדוֹלֶה. מֵהֶכְרֵחַ לוֹמֵר שֶׁיְרִידָה זוֹ הִיא צוֹרֶךְ עֲלִיֶּה. שֶׁלְאַחַר שֶׁיֶּרְדָה וְנִתְלַבְּשָׁה בְּגוּף וְנֶפֶשׁ הַבְּהֵמִית תּוּכַל לַעֲלוֹת לְמַעְלָה מֵעְלָה עַל־יְדֵי אַהְבַת בְּכָל מְאֹדֶךְ שֶׁהוּא בְּלִי גְבוּל.
As our Sages said: "Good — this refers to the Angel of Life; very — this refers to the Angel of Death," etc. And this is specifically through the love that comes from the animal soul.	ּכְּמַאֲמֵר רַזָ"ל טוֹב זָה מַלְאָדְ חַיִּים, מָאֹד זֶה מַלְאָדְ הַפֶּנֶת כּוּ', וְזֶהוּ דַּוְקָא עַל־יְדֵי הָאַהַבָה הַבָּאָה מִנֶּפֶשׁ הַבְּהַמִית.
As we see below, the strength of the animal is greater than the strength of the human; likewise, above, our Sages said: "In the place where penitents stand, the perfectly righteous cannot stand."	ּכְּמוֹ שֶׁאָנוּ רוֹאִים לְמַטָּה שֶׁכּׂחַ הַבְּהֵמָה גָּדוֹל מִכּּחַ הָאָדָם, כֵּן לְמַעְלָה אָמְרוּ רַזָּ"ל בִּמְקוֹם שֶׁבַּעֲלֵי 'תְשׁוּבָה עוֹמְדִים צַדִּיקִים כּוּ'.
And this is because the level of the baal teshuvah is with greater force and intensity, since the quality of the animal soul is from the world of Tohu.	ְהָרֶינוּ מִפְּנֵי שֶׁבְּחִינַת בַּעַל תְּשׁוּבָה הוּא בְּחֵילָא יְתִירָא וּבְכֹחַ וְהָתְגַבְרוּת גָּדוֹל, וְהַיִינוּ מִפְּנֵי שֶׁבְּחִינַת נֶפֶשׁ הַבְּהֵמִית הוּא מִבְּחִינַת עוֹלֵם הַתֹּהוּ.

"And these are the kings who reigned..." The quality of Tohu is higher than the quality of Tikkun, as it is written: "Who reigned before there reigned a king over the children of Israel," which is the level of Tikkun.

וְאֵלֶּה הַמְּלָכִים אֲשֶׁר מָלְכוּ כּוּ'. וּבְחִינַת הַתּהוּ הוּא לְמַעְלָה מִבְּחִינַת הַתִּיקוּן, כְּמוֹ שֶׁנֶּאֱמֵר אֲשֶׁר מָלְכוּ לִפְנֵי מְלֹדְ מֶלֶךְ לִבְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל שֶׁהוּא בְּחִינַת הַתִּיקוּן.

To understand all this, behold it is stated in the Midrash: "At first, it arose in thought to create the world with the attribute of judgment; He saw that the world could not endure, so He associated the attribute of mercy with it," etc.

וּלְהָבִין כָּל זָה, הָנֵּה אִיתָא בַּמִּדְרָשׁ: בַּתְּחַלֶּה עָלָה בְּמַחֲשָׁבָה לְבְרוֹא אֶת הָעוֹלָם בְּמִדַּת הַדִּין, רָאָה שֶׁאֵין הָעוֹלָם מִתְקַיֵּם, שִׁיתֵּף מִדַּת הָרַחַמִים כּוּ.

And the meaning is not, as people think, that the attribute of judgment is a form of restriction or withholding of influence; for the attribute of Gevurah is one of His attributes, as it is written (I Chronicles 29): "Yours, O Hashem, are the greatness and the power," which are the ten sefirot of Atzilus that give life and existence from nothing to something.

וְאֵין הַפֵּירוּשׁ כְּמוֹ שֶׁהָעוֹלֶם סוֹבְרִים שֶׁמִּדַת הַדִּין הִיא בְּחִינַת צִמְצוּם וּמְנִיעַת הַהַשְּׁפָּעָה, כִּי הֲרֵי בְּחִינַת גְּבוּרָה הִיא אַחַת מִמִּדוֹתִיו יִתְבָּרֵךְ, כְּמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב (דְּבְרֵי הַיָּמִים א' כ"ט): לְדְּ ה' הַגְּדוּלְּה וְהַגְּבוּרָה, שֶׁהֵם עֶשֶׂר סְפִירוֹת דַּאֲצִילוּת הַמְחַיִּים וּמְהַוִּים מֵאַיִן לָיֵשׁ

Moreover, it is written (Deuteronomy 12): "For the blood is the soul," that the principal life-force of man is the blood; and blood comes from the aspect of Gevurah, the attribute of judgment.

ְעוֹד הָנֵּה כֶּתוּב (דְּבָרִים י״ב): כִּי הַדָּם הוּא הַנְּפֶשׁ, שֶׁעַקַּר חַיּוּת הָאָדָם הוּא הַדָּם, וְדָם נִמְשָׁךְ מִבְּחִינַת גָּבוּרָה מִדַּת הַדִּין.

Rather, the meaning of the attribute of judgment is the aspect of Gevurah — meaning intensity — that the vital power from the light of the Infinite comes in greater force than from the aspect of Chesed, which is drawn downward, but comes in a state of coolness.

אֶלָּא הַפֵּירוּשׁ מִדַּת הַדִּין הוּא בְּחִינַת גְּבוּרָה לָשׁוֹן הַגְּבּוֹרֶת, שֶׁכֹּחַ הַחַיּוּת מֵאוֹר אֵין־סוֹף בָּא בְּהִתְגַבְּרוּת יָתֵר מִבְּחִינַת הַחֶּסֶד שֶׁהוּא נִמְשָׁדְּ לְמַטָּה מַטָּה, אֲבָל הוּא בָּא בְּבָחִינַת קְרִירוּת.

Whereas the aspect of Gevurah — where the vitality from the Infinite Light comes with very great intensity — therefore, when it descends through the chain of worlds, it becomes the aspect of judgment: whoever is not fit to receive the flow cannot receive it, because the life-force is drawn in such great intensity.

מַשֶּׁאֵין כֵּן בְּחִינַת גְבוּרָה שֶׁבָּא הַחַיּוּת מֵאוֹר אֵין־סוֹף בְּהְתָּגַּבְּרוּת רַב לְמְאֹד, עַל־כֵּן מִמֵּילָא כְּשֶׁבָּא בְּדֶרְהְ הָשְׁתַּלְשְׁלוּת לְמַטָּה נַעֲשֶׂה בְּחִינַת דִּין: מִי שֶׁאֵינוֹ רָאוּי לְקַבֵּל הַשְׁפָּעָה אֵינוֹ יָכוֹל לְקַבֵּל, מִפְּנֵי שֶׁהַחִיּוּת נִמְשֶׁךְ בְּהִתְגַבְּרוּת רַבָּה.

In contrast, the aspect of Chesed, where the vitality comes with coolness, can draw and extend downward to the lowest levels; but the aspect of Gevurah is vitality in intensity — the level of the seven kings, which is the world of Tohu; therefore, the ten sefirot in the world of Tohu are called "kings."

מַשֶּׁאֵין כֵּן בְּחִינַת חֶסֶד שֶׁבּוֹ הַחַיּוּת בָּא בְּקְרִירוּת,
יָכוֹל לִמְשׁוֹךְ וּלְהִתְפַּשֵּׁט לְמַשָּׁה מַשָּׁה, אֲבָל בְּחִינַת
גְּבוּרָה הוּא הַחַיּוּת בְּהִתְּגַּבְּרוּת — בְּחִינַת ז' מְלָכִים,
וְהוּא עוֹלֶם הַתּהוּ, שֶׁלָּכֵן נִקְרָאוּ י' סְפִירוֹת שֶׁבְּעוֹלֶם
הַתּהוּ בְּשֵׁם מְלָכִים

And according to Kabbalah, it is explained that the quality of Tohu is an abundance of light and a paucity of vessels, whereas the quality of Tikkun is the opposite.	וְעַל־פִּי הַקַּבָּלָה מְבוֹאָר שֶׁבְּחִינַת הַתֹּהוּ הוּא רְבּוּי הָאוֹר וּמְעוּט כֵּלִים, וּבְחִינַת הַתִּיקוּן הוּא בְּהֶבֶּךְּ.
The meaning of "abundance of light" is that the light and vitality came in great intensity, for all ten sefirot were in great force — for example, the quality of Chesed was the attribute of kindness in great strength, and so too with all ten sefirot.	פֵּירוּשׁ רְבּוּי אוֹר, שֶׁהָאוֹר וְהַחַיּוּת בָּא בְּהָתְגַבְּרוּת רַבָּה, כִּי כָּל הָעֶשֶׂר סְפִירוֹת הָיוּ בְּתַגְבּוֹרֶת רַבָּה, כְּמוֹ בְּחִינַת חֶסֶד הָיָתָה מִדַּת חֶסֶד בְּהִתְגַבְּרוּת רַבָּה, וְכֵן כָּל הָעֶשֶׂר סְפִירוֹת.
And therefore there was no inter-inclusion of the attributes, that Chesed be included with Gevurah and vice versa, because each quality and attribute existed with great power and intensity.	וְגַם לָכֵן לֹא הָיָה הִתְּכַּלְלוּת הַמִּדוֹת לִהְיוֹת כָּלוּל חֶסֶד גְבוּרָה, מִפְּנֵי שֶׁכָּל בְּחִינָה וּמִדָּה הָיְתָה בְּכֹחַ וְהִתְגַבְּרוּת רַבָּה
Therefore, one could not be included with its opposite, and each attribute remained on its own.	לָכֵן לֹא הָיְתָה יְכוֹלָה לְהִתְּכַּלֵּל עִם הָפְּכָּה, וְהָיְתָה כָּל מָדָה בִּפְנֵי עַצְמָה.
And this is the meaning of "He saw that the world could not endure," because from this state there could not be a rectified world; for the rectification of the world required the aspect of Tikkun, meaning the system of lines — the inter-inclusion of attributes with one another.	וְזֶהוּ שֶׁרָאָה שֶׁאֵין הָעוֹלֶם מִתְקַיֵּם, כִּי מִזֶּה אֵינוֹ יָכוֹל לְהִיוֹת תִּיקוּן עוֹלֶם, וּלְצוֹרֶך תִּיקוּן עוֹלֶם הָיָה צָרִיךְ לִהְיוֹת בְּחִינַת תִּיקוּן, הַיְינוּ בְּחִינַת קַוִּים הִתְכַּלְּלוּת הַמִּדּוֹת זֶה בָּזֶה.
And this is the aspect of abundance of vessels and reduction of light — that the light and vitality do not come in intensity, but rather the aspect of Chesed in coolness.	וְהוּא בְּחִינַת רָבּוּי כֵּלִים וּמְעוּט אוֹר, שֶׁהָאוֹר וְהַחַיּוּת אֵינָם בָּאִים בְּהִתְגַּבְּרוּת, רַק בְּחִינַת חֶסֶד בְּקְרִירוּת.
And therefore there can be the inter-inclusion of Chesed and Gevurah, two opposites.	וְלָזֶה יָכוֹל לִהְיוֹת הִתְּכַּלְלוּת חֶסֶד גְבוּרָה, שְׁנֵי הַפָּכִים.
As our Sages said (Avos, ch. 5): "To make known how long-suffering He is — for all the generations would anger Him until Abraham our father came," etc.	וּכְמַאֲמֵר רַזָ"ל (בְּפֶּרֶק ה׳ דְּאָבוֹת): לְהוֹדִיעַ כַּמָּה אֶרֶךְ אַפַּיִם לְפָנָיו, שֶׁכָּל הַדּוֹרוֹת הָיוּ מַכְעִיסִין וּבָאִין עַד שָׁבָּא אַבְרָהָם אָבִינוּ כּוּ'.
Because the attribute did not manifest in great intensity, there was drawn forth patience and forbearance.	שֶׁמִּפְנֵי שֶׁאֵין הַמִּדָּה בָּאָה בְּהָתְגַבְּרוּת נִמְשֶׁךְ לְהְּיוֹת אֶרֶךְ אַפַּיִם וְסַבְלָנוּת.
On the contrary, there can be two absolute opposites, as we find in the building of the Beis HaMikdash: the joy was exceedingly great, as Shlomo said Shir HaShirim, for there was never such joy since the creation of the world.	וַאֲדַרְבָּה, יָכוֹל לִהְיוֹת שְׁנֵי הֲפָכִים בִּתְכֵלִית, כְּמוֹ שֶׁמָּצִינוּ בְּבָנְיֵן בֵּית־הַמִּקְדָּשׁ שֶׁהָיְתָה הַשִּׁמְחָה גְּדוֹלָה עַד מְאֹד כְּשֶׁאָמַר שָׁלֹמֹה שִׁיר הַשִּׁירִים, שֶׁלֹּא הָיְתָה בָּזֹאת מִיּוֹם בְּרִיאַת הָעוֹלָם.
As it is written (I Kings 8): "For the glory of Hashem filled the House," meaning that fire descended from above — the revelation of the Shechinah below.	וּכְמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב (מְלָכִים א׳ ח׳): כִּי מָלֵא כְּבוֹד ה׳ אֶת הַבָּיִת, שֶׁבָּא הָאֵשׁ מִלְמַעְלָה — הַיִינוּ בְּחִינַת גִּילוּי הַשְּׁכִינָה לְמַטָּה

Thus, there was great joy; yet at that very same time, it is stated (Jeremiah 32): "For through My anger and My wrath this city has been to Me," because he took Pharaoh's daughter, etc.	נִמְצָא שֶׁהָיָתָה הַשִּׂמְחָה רַבָּה מְאֹד, וְעַל אוֹתוֹ הַפֶּרֶק נָאֱמֵר (יִרְמְיָה ל״ב): כִּי עַל אַפִּי וְעַל חֲמָתִי הָיְתָה לִי הָעִיר הַזֹּאת לְמִן הַיּוֹם אֲשֶׁר בָּנוּ אוֹתָה, מִמֶּה שֶׁלְּקַח בֹּת פַּרְעֹה כּוּ.
Thus, two opposites coexisted at one time and moment — and this was because He combined the attribute of mercy, and the world of Tikkun came into being, wherein the attributes could include one another.	נָמְצָא שֶׁהָיוּ שָׁנֵי הַפָּכִים יַחַד בְּעֵת וּבְזְמַן אֶחָד, וְהַיְינוּ עַל־יְדֵי שֶׁשִּׁיתֵּף מִדַּת הָרַחֲמִים וְנַצְשָׂה עוֹלֶם הַתִּיקוּן, יָכוֹל לִהְיוֹת הִתְּכַּלְלוּת הַמִּדּוֹת זֶה בָּזֶה.
For since the attribute and its revelation did not proceed in the intensity and abundance of light, therefore the vessel was able to contain both qualities together.	שֶׁמֵאַחַר שֶׁאֵין הַמִּדָּה וְהָתָגַלּוּתָה הוֹלֵךְ בְּּרְבּוּי וּבְהִתְגַבְּרוּת הָאוֹר, אָז הַבְּלִי יָכוֹלָה לְהָכִיל גַּם שְׁתֵּי הַבְּחִינוֹת יַחַד.
Behold, the soul of man is from the level of Atzilus, the world of Tikkun; therefore, the soul includes within itself all the attributes, as explained in Tanya.	ְוָהָנֵּה נִשְׁמַת הָאָדָם הִיא מִבְּחִינַת אֲצִילוּת עוֹלָם הַתִּיקוּן, וְלָבֵן הַנְּשָׁמָה כְּלוּלָה מִכָּל הַמִּדוֹת, כַּמְבוֹאָר בַּתַּנְיָא
In contrast, the angels — their source is from the world of Tohu: the camp of Michael, the camp of Gabriel — each one is a separate line unto itself.	מַה־שֶּׁאֵין כֵּן הַמַּלְאָכִים, שָׁרְשָׁם מִבְּחִינַת עוֹלֶם הַתּהוּ — מַחֲנֵה מִיכָאֵל, מַחֲנֵה גַבְרִיאֵל, כָּל אֶחָד קוּ בִּפְנֵי עַצְמוֹ
The camp of Michael is only the aspect of love, in great intensity; and the camp of Gabriel is only the aspect of fear, in great intensity — the prince of water, the prince of fire.	מַחַנֵה מִיכָאֵל הוּא רַק בָּחִינַת אַהָבָה בְּהַתְגַּבְּרוּת מְאֹד, וּמַחַנֵה גַבְרִיאֵל הוּא רַק בְּחִינַת יִרְאָה בְּהָתְגַּבְּרוּת רַבָּה .— שַׂר שֶׁל מִיִם, שֵׂר שֶׁל אֵשׁ
And from this extends the level of the Divine Chariot: the face of the lion on the right, the face of the ox, etc.	וּמְזֶּה נִמְשֶׁךְ בְּחִינַת הַמֶּרְכָּבָה — פְּנֵי אַרְיֵה אֶל הַיָּמִין, 'פְּנֵי שׁוֹר וְכוּ.
Now, concerning the soul of man, our Sages said: "There are three partners in man — the Holy One, blessed be He, gives him the soul."	— וְהִנֵּה בְּנִשְׁמַת הָאָדָם אָמְרוּ רַזָ"ל: ג׳ שֻׁתָּפִין בָּאָדָם הַקָּדוֹשׁ בָּרוּךְ הוּא נוֹתֵן בּוֹ נְשָׁמָה.
And the vitality of the souls of animals and birds is from the aspect of "the face of the lion, the face of the ox," etc., and their source is from the world of Tohu.	וְחַיּוּת נֶפֶשׁ הַבְּהֵמוֹת וְהָעוֹפוֹת הֵם מִבְּחִינַת פְּנֵי אַרְיֵה פָּנֵי שׁוֹר וְכוּ', וּמְקוֹרָם מֵעוֹלָם הַתֹּהוּ.
Therefore it is said of man: "Back and front You have formed me" — for from the aspect of Tikkun, in the chain of worlds, the level of man is higher, since the level of animals has fallen very, very low.	ְוָלֶזֶה נֶאֱמֵר עַל הָאָדָם: אָחוֹר וָקֶדֶם צַרְתָּנִי, שֶׁמִּצֵּד בְּחִינַת הַתִּיקוּן בְּהִשְׁתַּלְשְׁלוּת, בְּחִינַת אָדֶם הִיא בְּמַדְרֵגָה גָּבוֹהַ יוֹתֵר, שֶׁבְּחִינַת הַבְּהֵמוֹת נָפְלוּ לְמַטָּה מַטָּה מָאֹד מָאֹד.
However, in their source they are in a much higher level, for they are from the world of Tohu — "before there reigned a king over the children of Israel," as is known.	מַה־שֶּׁאֵין כֵּן בְּמְקוֹרָם הֵם בְּמַדְרֵגָה גָּבוֹהַ יוֹתֵר, שֶׁהֵם מִבְּחִינַת עוֹלָם הַתֹּהוּ לִפְנֵי מְלֹדְ מֶלֶךְ וְכוּ' כַּנּוֹדָע.

Therefore, the love that comes from the animal soul is exceedingly high — the level of "with all your might," which is beyond limitation — because it comes with greater force and intensity, as the root of the animal soul is from the level of Tohu, as explained above.	ְעַל כֵּן הָאַהָּבָה הַבָּאָה מִצַּד נָפֶשׁ הַבְּהֵמִית הִיא לְמַעְלָה מַעְלָה, בְּחִינַת בְּכָל מְאֹדֶךּ שֶׁלְמַעְלָה מֵהַכְּלִי, מִפְּנֵי שָׁהִיא בְּחֵילָא יְתִירָא שָׁבָּאָה בְּהִתְגַּבְּרוּת רַבָּה, שֶׁשָּׁרְשָׁה שֶׁל נָפֶשׁ הַבְּהֵמִית הוּא מִבְּחִינַת הַתּהוּ כַּנִּזְכָּר לִעֵיל.
Only that it fell in the breaking of the vessels very far below, into physical labor and worldly separation; yet, when it is refined and elevated upward in prayer, then it expresses itself in great intensity — the love of "with all your might."	ַרֵק שֶׁנְפְלָה בִּשְׁבִירַת הַכֵּלִים לְמַטֶּה מַטֶּה מְאֹד, בַּעֲבוֹדָה גַשְׁמִית לָהִיוֹת נִפְרָדִים, אֲבָל כְּשֶׁנִּבְרֶרֶת וְעוֹלָה לְמַעְלָה בַּתְּפִלָּה, אָז הִיא בְּהִתְגַבְּרוּת רַבָּה — אַהָבת בְּכָל מְאֹדֶךְ.
As our Sages said: "The reason I did not tell you at night was because I had not eaten meat of an ox," etc.; thus, the eating of meat gives man strength and an increase of intellect, as it is written: "And wine gladdens the heart of man."	ּוּכְמַאֲמֵר רַזָ"ל: וְהַאי דְּלָא אֲמִינָא לָךְּ בָּאוּרְתָּא — דְּלָא אָכְלֵי בִּשְׂרָא דְּתוֹרָא וְכוּ', נִמְצָא שֶׁמַּאֲכַל הַבָּשָּׂר נוֹתֵן כֹּחַ וְתוֹסֶפֶת מוֹחִין בָּאָדָם, וּכְמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב: וְיַיִן יִשַּׂמֵח לְבַב אֱנוֹשׁ.
And nevertheless, below, man is on a higher level than they, beyond comparison; yet, in their source, they are higher than the level of man, for they are from the world of Tohu.	וְעַכְ"ז לְמַשָּה הָאָדָם בְּמַדְרֵגָה גָּבוֹהַ יוֹתֵר מֵהֶם וְאֵין עֵרוּךְ כּוּ', אֲבָל בְּשָׁרְשָׁם הֵם לְמַעְלָה מִבְּחִינַת הָאָדָם, שָׁהֵם מֵעוֹלָם הַתֹּהוּ.
And according to Kabbalah, this is called "the superiority of light that comes from darkness" specifically.	וְעַל־פִּי הַקַבָּלָה נִקְרָא זֶה יִתְרוֹן הָאוֹר מִתּוֹךְ הַחֹשֶׁךְ דַּוְקָא.
And this occurs through meditation during prayer — when a person contemplates how he is occupied all day, pursuing his livelihood, his food and bread, whose vitality derives from the constellations, as our Sages said: "There is no blade of grass below that does not have a star above that strikes it and tells it to grow."	ְהַיְינוּ עַל־יְדֵי הַהָּתְבּוֹנְנוּת בַּתְּפִלָּה, אֵידְּ שֶׁטֶרוּד כָּל הַיּוֹם וְרוֹדֵף אַחַר פַּרְנָסָתוֹ — מָזוֹן וְלֶחֶם, שֶׁחֵיּוּתָן הוּא מִן הַמַּזָּלוֹת, כְּמַאֲמֵר רַזָּ"ל: אֵין לְדְּ עֵשֶׂב לְמַטָּה שָׁאֵין לוֹ מַזָּל כּוּ.
And the constellations draw from the seventy ministers, and the ministers receive from the residue of the Ofanim, and the Ofanim receive from the aspect of Malchus, as it is written: "Your kingdom rules over all."	ְהַמַּזָּלוֹת נִמְשָׁכִים מִבְּחִינַת שָׁבְעִים שָׂרִים, וְהַשָּׂרִים מְקַבְּלִים מִשְׁמָרֵי הָאוֹפַנִּים, וְהָאוֹפַנִּים מְקַבְּלִים מִבְּחִינַת מֵלְכוּת, כְּמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב: מֵלְכוּתְדְּ מַלְכוּת בָּל־עוֹלָמִים.
Yet, relative to His Essence and Being, there is no comparison at all, for all of that is but a radiance and illumination alone.	אֲבָל לְגַבֵּי מַהוּתוֹ וְעַצְמוּתוֹ אֵין עֵרוּךְ, שֶׁהוּא רַק בָּחִינַת זִיו וְהָאָרָה בִּלְבָד.
And this is the meaning of Rabbi Akiva's saying: "If to those who transgress His will it is thus, how much more so to those who perform His will," for there the delight is infinite.	וְזֶהוּ עִנְיַן מַאֲמֵר רַבִּי עֲקִיבָא: אָם לְעוֹבְרֵי רְצוֹנוֹ כָּךְ לָעוֹשֵׂי רְצוֹנוֹ עַל אַחַת כַּמָּה וְכַמֶּה, שֶׁשֶּׁם הוּא הַתַּצְנוּג עַד אֵין קֵץ.
As it is written: "His splendor is upon earth and heaven," meaning that the levels of "earth and heaven" — the immanent	וּכְמוֹ שֶׁכֶּתוּב: הוֹדוֹ עַל־אֶרֶץ וְשָׁמָיִם — שֶׁבְּחִינַת אֶרֶץ וְשָׁמֵיִם, מְמֵלֵּא וְסוֹבֵב, הֵם רַק בְּחִינַת הוֹד וְזִיוּ.

and encompassing lights — are only aspects of splendor and radiance.	
Whereas for the Jewish people, His close nation, their connection is to His very Essence and Being.	מַה־שֶּׁאֵין כֵּן לִבְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל עַם קְרוֹבוֹ — לְבְּחִינַת מַהוּתוֹ וְעַצְמוּתוֹ יִתְבָּרֵךְ
From this, one's soul should ignite with powerful passion, with great intensity and longing, to cleave to Him, as it is written: "Whom have I in heaven? And with You I desire nothing on earth."	מָזֶה תִּתְלַהֵב נַפְשׁוֹ בְּהִתְגַּבְּרוּת בְּחֵילָא יְתִירָא, בִּתְשׁוּקָה וַחֲפִיצָה לְדָבְקָה בוֹ יִתְבָּרֵךְ, וּכְמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב: 'מִי־לִי בַּשָּׁמָיִם וְעִמְּךָ לֹא־חָפַצְתִּי כּוּ'.
And this is the meaning of "Blessed are You, King of the world, Who sanctified us with His commandments" — for that which flows and is drawn below to be the immanent and encompassing light is the aspect of "King of the world," and "His sovereignty rules over all."	וְזֶהוּ: בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלֶם אֲשֶׁר קּדְשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתִיו כּוּ' — שָׁמַה שֶׁנִשְׁפָּע וְנִמְשָׁךְ לְמַטָּה לִהְיוֹת מְמַלֵּא וְסוֹבֵב הוּא בְּחִינַת מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, וּמַלְכוּתוֹ בְּכָל מָשָׁלָה.
But the love and yearning of the souls of Israel to cleave to Him — to His Essence and Being — "Who sanctified us," refers to the supreme delight without end, from the expression "in which one is happy."	אֲבָל אַהֲבַת וְתַשְׁוּקת נְשָׁמוֹת יִשְׂרָאֵל לְדָבְקָה בוֹ יִתְבָּרֵדְ בְּמַהוּתוֹ וְעַצְמוּתוֹ — אֲשֶׁר קִדְשָׁנוּ, שֶׁהוּא בּחִינַת תַּעֲנוּג הָעֶלְיוֹן עַד אֵין קֵץ, לְשׁוֹן בְּאַשְׁרֵי כּוּ'.
"Sanctified us with His commandments" — for through the commandments they draw down the supreme delight, as with the tallis, and so forth.	קִדְשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו כּוּ', שֶׁעַל־יְדֵי הַמִּצְוֹת הֵם מַמְשִׁיכִים הַעֲנוּג הָעֶלְיוֹן, כְּמוֹ טַלִּית וְכוּ'.
And this is the meaning of the verse: "For this is as the waters of Noah to Me," for the toil of earning a livelihood, as explained above, is the level of "the waters of Noah."	וְזֶהוּ: כִּי מֵי־נֹחַ זֹאת לִי — כִּי שִׁעְבּוּד הַפַּרְנָסָה כַּנִּזְכָּר לְעֵיל הוּא בְּחִינַת מֵי־נֹחַ.
Just as it was in the Flood — for the meaning of the Flood is not that it came to remove the wicked from the world, for that could have been done in a moment without water.	כְּמוֹ שֶׁהָיָה בַּמַבּוּל — שֶׁאֵין הַפֵּירוּשׁ שֶׁהָיָה הַמַּבּוּל לְהַעֲבִיר הָרְשָׁעִים מִן הָעוֹלָם, כִּי לָזֶה לֹא הָיָה נִצְרַךְּ הַמַּיִם, כִּי בְּרָגַע אַחַת הָיָה נַעֲשֶׂה.
As it is written concerning Pharaoh, "And she hid him," etc. The Flood, however, was to purify the world, for at first "the earth was filled with violence," meaning that they drew down forces of impurity; therefore it was necessary to purify the world through the aspect of water that purifies.	ְוְכַמֶּשֶׁל כְּמוֹ שֶׁנֶּאֱמֵר בְּפַּרְעֹה: וַתִּצְפְּנֵהוּ כּוּ'. רַק הַמַּבּוּל הָיָה כְּדֵי לְטַהֵּר הָעוֹלֶם, כִּי בַּתְּחַלָּה וַתִּמָּלֵא הָאָרֶץ חָמָס כּוּ', שֶׁהֵם הִמְשִׁיכוּ קְלְפּוֹת כּוּ', שֶׁלֶזֶה הָיָה צָרִיךְ לְטַהֵּר הָעוֹלֶם עַל־יְדֵי בְּחִינַת מֵיִם הַמְּטַהָּרִים.
This is the aspect of rain — "the might of rains" — which is from the level of Tohu. When rain descends in an orderly and gradual manner, it is from the aspect of Chesed, causing the growth of seeds, etc.	ְוְהוּא בְּחִינַת גָּשֶׁם — גְּבוּרוֹת גְּשָׁמִים — שֶׁהוּא מִבְּחִינַת הַתּהוּ. וּכְשֶׁנִּמְשָׁכִים הַגְּשָׁמִים בְּסֵדֶר וְהַדְרָגָה, הוא בְּחִינַת חֶסֶד, וּמַצְמִיחַ זְרָעִים כּוּ'.

In contrast, the Flood came down with severity — with great intensity and force — which is from the world of Tohu, the "Chesed of Tohu." To purify the earth required an illumination from the world of Tohu, which is above the world of Tikkun, but it was an immense and overwhelming radiance, a strong outpouring from the aspect of Tohu.	מַשֶּׁאֵין כֵּן הַמַּבּוּל, שֶׁהָיוּ יוֹרְדִים בָּגְבוּרָה — הַיְנוּ בְּהִתְגַּבְּרוּת רַבָּה וּבְכֹחַ גָּדוֹל — שֶׁהוּא מֵעוֹלָם הַתֹּהוּ, חֶסֶד דְּתֹהוּ. לְטַהֵר הָאָרֶץ הָיָה צָרִיךְ לִהְיוֹת הָאַרָה מֵעוֹלָם הַתֹּהוּ, שֶׁלְמַעְלָה מֵעוֹלָם הַתִּיקוּוּ, רַק שֶׁהָיְתָה הָאָרָה רַבָּה וַעֲצוּמָה בְּהָתְגַּבְּרוּת רַבָּה מִבְּחִינַת הַתֹּהוּ
Therefore, "He blotted out all existence," for they were unfit to receive.	ַוְלָזֶה: וַיִּמְחֶה אֶת כָּל־הַיְקוּם, שֶׁלֹא הָיוּ רְאוּיִים לְקַבֵּל.
And this is the meaning of "The mountains were covered fifteen cubits," etc. — the mountains represent the aspect of Tikkun, the inter-inclusion of attributes, as with Abraham who called Him "mountain."	ְוֶזֶהוּ: וַיְכָסוּ הָהָרִים חֲמֵשׁ־עֶשְׂרֵה אַמֶּה כּוּ' — פֵּירוּשׁ, הָרִים הוּא בְּחִינַת תִּיקוּן, הִתְּכַּלְלוּת הַמִּדּוֹת, כְּאַבְרָהָם שֶׁקָרֵא אוֹתוֹ הָר כּוּ
And the distractions and worldly thoughts from the animal soul are likewise from the world of Tohu, and are called "the waters of Noah," etc.	וְהַטִּרְדוֹת וּמַחְשָׁבוֹת עוֹלָם הַזֶּה מִנֶּפֶשׁ הַבְּהֵמִית הֵם גַּם בּן מֵעוֹלָם הַתּהוּ, וְנִקְרָאִים מֵי־נֹחַ כּוּ'.
And this is "And Hashem said to Noah: Come, you and all your household, into the ark." The ark (Teivah) represents the combinations of letters, for "Noah" signifies Shabbos, as translated: "He rested and was comforted."	וְזֶהוּ: וַיֹּאמֶר ה׳ לְנֹחַ, בֹּא אַתָּה וְכָל־בֵּיתְדְּ אֶל־הַתֵּבָה. תַּבָה הִיא בְּחִינַת צֵירוּפֵי אוֹתִיּוֹת, כִּי נֹחַ הוּא בְּחִינַת שַׁבָּת, כְּתַרְגוּמוֹ: וַיִּשְׁבֹּת וְנָחַ כּוּ'.
And the meaning is not rest in essence, but as a man rests from his labor.	ָוְאֵין הַפֵּירוּשׁ שְׁבִיתָה בְּעֶצֶם, רַק כְּאָדָם שֶׁשׁוֹבֵת מִמְלַאכְתּוֹ.
As it is written: "And the fifteenth was rest" — rest after war; the level of "Noach," the repose of spirit.	ְוַכַמְּשֶׁל: וְנוּחַ בַּחֲמִשֶּׁה־עָשֶׂר כּוּ', שְׁבִיתָה אַחַר מִלְחָמֶה כּוּ', בְּחִינַת נוֹחַ — נִיחוֹחַ דְּרוּחָא.
There are two levels of "Noach" — two levels of Shabbos: the lower Shabbos and the upper Shabbos, "a day that is entirely Shabbos."	וְיֵשׁ שְׁתֵּי בְּחִינוֹת נוֹחַ — שְׁתֵּי בְּחִינוֹת שַׁבָּת: שַׁבָּת הַתָּאָה וְשַׁבָּת עִילָּאָה, יוֹם שֶׁכֵּלוֹ שַׁבָּת
And the level of prayer is also called the level of "Noach," the level of Shabbos.	וּבְחִינַת תְּפִלָּה נִקְרֵאת גַּם כֵּן בְּחִינַת נוֹחַ, בְּחִינַת שַׁבָּת.
And all the weekday prayers ascend on Shabbos, for on Shabbos the worlds are elevated; during the six weekdays there is the refinement of the 288 sparks, the aspect of Malchus which descends into Beriah, Yetzirah, and Asiyah — "and her feet descend," etc.	ְוְכָל תְּפָלוֹת הַחוֹל מִתְעַלוֹת בְּשֵׁבָּת, כִּי בְּשֵׁבָּת הוּא עָלִיֵּת הָעוֹלָמוֹת; שֶׁכָּל שֵׁשֶׁת יְמֵי הַמַּעֲשֶׂה הוּא בִּירוּרֵי רַפ״ח נִצוֹצִין — בְּחִינַת מַלְכוּת שֶׁיוֹרֶדֶת בִּבְרִיאָה יְצִירָה עֲשִׂיָּה, וְרַגְלֶיהָ יוֹרְדוֹת כּוּ
And within this there are different times, such as midnight, etc.	ָרְיֵשׁ בָּזֶה עִתִּים שׁוֹנִים, כְּמוֹ חֲצוֹת לַיְלָה.

And all six weekdays are the aspect of Divine utterances — "And G-d said: Let there be light," "Let there be a firmament," and so on.	וָיֹאמֶר — וַיֹּאמֶר הַמַּעֲשֶׂה הֵם בְּחִינַת הַשְּׁפָּעוֹת אֱלֹקִים יְהִי אוֹר כּוּ', יְהִי רָקִיעַ.
But on Shabbos, the worlds of Beriah, Yetzirah, and Asiyah are elevated into Atzilus — the level of Tikkun — for "He and His life-forces are one, He and His vessels are one."	וּרְשַׁבָּת מָתְעַלִּים בִּיַ״ע בְּבְחִינַת אֲצִילוּת, בְּחִינַת תִּיקוּן, כִּי אִיהוּ וְחַיּוֹהִי חַד [אִיהוּ] וְגַרְמוֹהִי חַד.
Meaning: "life-forces" refers to the lights, and "vessels" to the containers — all united as one within them.	פֵּירוּשׁ, חַיּוֹהִי אוֹרוֹת וְגַרְמוֹהִי כֵּלִים — הַכּּל חַד בָּהוֹן.
As it is written: "Yours, Hashem, is the greatness and the power," for in Atzilus the attributes of greatness (Chesed) and might (Gevurah) are in the state of "Yours," completely united — the level of Tikkun.	וּכְמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב: לְדָּ ה׳ הַגְּדוּלָּה וְהַגְּבוּרָה, שֶׁבְּבְחִינַת אֲצִילוּת, בְּחִינַת גְדוּלָה וּגְבוּרָה הֵם בְּבְחִינַת לְדָּ, וּמְיוּחָדִים בִּתְכֵלִית — בְּחִינַת תִּיקוּן.
Similarly, in prayer, too — every action done throughout the day, whether in earning sustenance or even in Torah study — becomes elevated in prayer through the love of "with all your might."	וְכֵן בַּתְּפִלֶּה גַּם כֵּן, כָּל הַמַּצְשֶׂה אֲשֶׁר יֵצְשֶׂה בְּכָל יוֹם — בְּמָזוֹן אוֹ אֲפָלוּ תַּלְמוּד תּוֹרָה — מִתְעֵלֶּה בַּתְּפִלָּה עַל־יְדֵי אַהָבַת בְּכָל מָאֹדֶךְ.
And this corresponds to the lower Shabbos, wherein the worlds of Beriah, Yetzirah, and Asiyah are elevated into Atzilus.	וְזֶהוּ שַׁבָּת תַּתָּאָה, שֶׁבָּהּ מִתְעַלִּים בִּיַ״ע בְּבְחִינַת אֲצִילוּת.
But in the future, there will be "the day that is entirely Shabbos" — meaning that Atzilus itself will be elevated higher and higher.	אֲבָל לֶעָתִיד לָבוֹא יִהְיֶה יוֹם שֶׁכֵּלוֹ שֵׁבָּת, פֵּירוּשׁ שָׁיִתְעַלֶּה בְּחִינַת אֲצִילוּת לְמַעְלָה מַעְלָה.
Not as it is now, when after Shabbos there must be weekdays — meaning that Atzilus must refine Beriah, Yetzirah, and Asiyah — but in the future, Atzilus will itself ascend and no longer need to refine the lower worlds.	ַןלֹא כְּמוֹ עַתָּה, שֶׁאַחַר הַשַּׁבָּת צָרִיךְ לִהְיוֹת חוֹל — הַיְנוּ שֶׁבְּחִינַת אֲצִילוּת מְבָרֶרֶת בִּיֵ״ע — וְלֶעָתִיד יִתְעַלֶּה בְּחִינַת אֲצִילוּת, וְלֹא יִהְיֶה צָרִיךְ עוֹד לְבָרֵר בִּיֵּ״ע.
For "the spirit of impurity I will remove," and "death will be swallowed up," "the woman of valor will crown her husband," and "the female will surround the male," as explained elsewhere.	פִּי אֶת רוּחַ הַטֵּמְאָה אֲעַבִּיר, וּבִלֵּע הַמְּנֶת כּוּ', אֵשֶׁת חַיִל עֲטֶרֶת בַּעְלָה, וּנְקַבָה תְּסוֹבֵב גָּבֶר, וְכַמְּבוֹאָר בְּמָקוֹם אַחֵר, וְדַי לַמֵּבִין.
And this is the meaning of the verse: "Many waters cannot quench the love." The "many waters" are the distractions of this world, which stem from the world of Tohu; the "rivers" are the thoughts that flow like a river that moves and goes.	ְוֶזֶהוּ פֵּירוּשׁ הַפָּסוּק: מֵיִם רַבִּים לֹא יוּכְלוּ לְכַבּוֹת אֶת הָאַהָבָה. מֵיִם רַבִּים הֵם טִרְדוֹת עוֹלָם הַזֶּה, שֶׁהֵם מֵעוֹלָם הַתֹּהוּ, וְנְהָרוֹת הֵם הַמַּחְשָׁבוֹת שֶׁנִּמְשָׁכוֹת כְּמֵי נָהָר דְנָיְדֵי וְאַזְלֵי.
For even within the realm of Tohu there are also two levels — "waters" and "rivers" — yet neither can extinguish the love that comes from the Divine soul with intensity, as it is written: "And with You I desire nothing."	כִּי בְּבְחִינַת הַתּהוּ יֵשׁ גַּם כֵּן שְׁתֵּי בְּחִינוֹת — מֵיִם וּנְהָרוֹת — וְלֹא יוּכְלוּ לְכַבּוֹת אֶת הָאַהֲבָה הַבָּאָה מִכּחַ נֶפֶשׁ הָאֱלֹקִית בְּהִתְגַבְּרוּת, וְעִמְּךּ לֹא חָפַצְתִּי כּוּ'.

with You I desire nothing."

"If a man would give all the wealth of his house for love, he would be utterly despised." The meaning of "his house" is the level of Chochmah (wisdom), as it is written: "With wisdom is a house built."	אָם־יִתֵּן אִישׁ אֶת כָּל הוֹן בֵּיתוֹ בָּאַהֲבָה — בּוֹז יָבוּזוּ לוֹ. פֵּירוּשׁ "בֵּיתוֹ" הוּא בְּחִינַת חָכְמָה, כְּמוֹ שֶׁנָּאֱמֵר: בְּחָכְמָה יִבָּנָה בָּיִת.
"The wealth of his house" refers to the inner dimension, as it is written: "By knowledge shall the chambers be filled with all precious and pleasant riches" — this being the aspect of the reasons (ta'amei) of Torah, corresponding to the upper and lower Gan Eden, for "the Torah emerges from Chochmah."	הוֹן בֵּיתוֹ" הוּא פְּנִימִיוּת, כְּמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב: בְּדַעַת חֲדָרִים" יִמֶּלְאוּ כָּל הוֹן יָקָר וְנָעִים, וְהוּא בְּחִינַת טַעֲמֵי הַתּוֹרָה, וְהוּא בְּחִינַת גַּן־עֵדֶן הָעֶלְיוֹן וְהַתַּחְתּוֹן, וְאוֹרַיִיתָא מַחָּכְמָה נָפְקַת.
And if "a man" — meaning a man of war — would give all this, to reach the level of Chochmah and to delight in the radiance of the Shechinah through comprehension, this would still be only a mere ray and reflection.	וְאָם יִתֵּן אִישׁ — בְּחִינַת אִישׁ מִלְחָמָה — שֶׁלְּהִיוֹת בְּחִינַת חָכְמָה, לְהִיוֹת נֶהֶנִין מִזִּיו הַשְּׁכִינָה בְּבְחִינַת הַשֶּׂגָה, הוּא רַק בְּחִינַת זִיו וְהָאָרָה בִּלְבָד.
For this comes only through the aspect of "a man of war" — the multitude of contractions (tzimtzumim) — until there can exist the level of Chochmah, the radiance of the Shechinah.	ְהוּא עַל־יְדֵי בְּחִינַת אִישׁ מִלְחָמָה — הוּא רִיבּוּי הַצִּמְצוּמִים — עַד שֶׁיּוּכַל לְהִיוֹת בְּחִינַת חָכְמָה, זִיו הַשְׁכִינָה.
But the level of love mentioned above — "and with You I desire nothing" — is not for the sake of receiving reward, that is, not for the World to Come or the upper or lower Gan Eden, but rather, "and with You," meaning to His Essence and Being, may He be blessed — to Him, not to His attributes.	אֲבָל בָּחִינַת הָאַהֲבָה הַנִּןכֶּרֶת לְעֵיל — וַעִמְּדּ לֹא חָפַצְתִּי כּוּ' — שֶׁלֹא עַל מְנָת לְקַבֵּל פְּרָס, הַיְנוּ עוֹלָם הַבָּא, גַּן־עֵדֶן הָעֶלְיוֹן וְכוּ', כִּי אָם וַעִמְּדְּ — לְמַהוּתוֹ וְעַצְמוּתוֹ יִתִבָּרֵדְ, אֵלָיו וְלֹא לְמִדּוֹתִיו
And how is it possible to draw down His very Essence and Being? It is through the mitzvos.	ןְאֵיךְ יוּכַל לָמְשׁוֹךְ בְּחִינַת מַהוּתוֹ וְעַצְמוּתוֹ? הוּא עַל־יְדֵי הַמִּצְוֹת.
For the 613 mitzvos of the Torah and the 7 rabbinic mitzvos make 620 pillars of light — the gematria of "Kesser" (Crown).	בּי תַּרִי״ג מָצְוֹת דְּאוֹרָיִיתָא וְז׳ מִצְוֹת דְּרַבָּנָן — הַם תַּר״ך עַמּוּדֵי אוֹר, גֵּימַטְרִיאַ קֶתֶר.
Just as a pillar extends from above to below, so too the mitzvos extend from the level of Galgalta — Kesser — which mediates between the Emanator and the emanated.	וּכְמוֹ שֶׁהָעַמּוּד הוּא מִלְמַעְלָה לְמַטָּה, כָּךְ גַּם הַמִּצְוֹת הֵן מִבְּחִינַת גַּלְגַּלְתָּא — בְּחִינַת קֶתָר — הַמְמֵצָע בֵּין מַאֲצִיל לְנָאֲצָלִים.
For how can one draw from His Essence and Being below? It is through the mitzvos — the 248 "organs of the King," as it is written: "And His right hand embraces me."	כִּי אֵידְ יָכוֹל לָמְשׁוֹדְ מִמַהוּתוֹ וְעַצְמוּתוֹ יִתְבֶּרֵדְ לְמַטָּה — הוּא עַל־יְדֵי הַמִּצְוֹת, רַמַ״ח אֵבָרִין דְּמַלְכָּא, וּכְמוֹ שֶׁבָּתוּב: וִימִינוֹ תְּחַבְּקֵנִי.
Like the analogy of one who embraces another out of inner love — though he cannot grasp the other's essence, he holds him through the body and its limbs.	כְּמָשָׁל הַחוֹבֵק אֶת הָאָדָם מִפְּנֵי אַהַבַת פְּנִימִיּוּתוֹ, שֶׁהוּא חָכָם בְּיוֹתֵר וְכַדּוֹמֶה, רַק שֶׁאֵינוֹ יָכוֹל לְתָפְסוֹ אֶלָּא עַל־יְדֵי הַגּוּף נֶאֶבָרָיו.

So too, metaphorically speaking, through the mitzvos — the 248 commandments — we can draw His very Essence and Being, which are His will, blessed be He.	— רַמַ״ח פָּקּוּדִין — פָּקּוּדִין יוֹכְלִּים לְהַמְשִׁידִּ מַהוּתוֹ וְעַצְמוּתוֹ, שֶׁהֵם רְצוֹנוֹ יִתְבָּרֵדְ.
And this is the meaning of "to be absorbed in the body of the King" — this refers to the mitzvos.	ן זֶהוּ לְאִשְׁתַּעְבָּא בְּגוּפָא דְמַלְכָּא — הוּא בְּחִינַת הַמָּצְוֹת.
And this is what we say in the Shema: "Hear O Israel, Havayah is our G-d" — this is the unification of Abba and Imma, the two companions, etc. "Havayah is One" — the unification of Ze'ir Anpin and Nukva; "Blessed be the Name of the glory of His kingdom forever and ever" — the lower unification.	וְזֶהוּ שֶׁאָנוּ אוֹמָרִים בְּקְרִיאַת שְׁמֵע: שְׁמֵע יִשְׂרָאֵל הוי"ה אֱלֹקֵינוּ — יִחוּד אוֹ"א, תְּרֵין רְעִין כּוּ'; הוי"ה אֶחָד — יִחוּד זוּ"נ; בָּרוּךְ שֵׁם כְּבוֹד מַלְכוּתוֹ לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד — יִחוּדָא תַּתָּאָה.
All of this is the level of "unification," meaning that the Divine light is drawn downward and they become one.	וְזֶהוּ הַכּּלֹ בְּחִינַת יִחוּד — הַיְנוּ כְּשֶׁנִּמְשֶׁךְ לְמַטָּה וְהָיוּ לַאֲחָדִים.
In contrast, the performance of the mitzvos — "And these words which I command you today." "I" (Anochi) is the level of Kesser, through "And you shall speak of them," for speech in Torah is also a positive commandment.	מַה שֶׁאֵין כֵּן מַעֲשֵׂה הַמִּצְוֹת — וְהָיוּ הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה אֲשֶׁר אָנֹכִי מְצַוְּךְ הַיּוֹם. "אָנֹכִי" הוּא בְּחִינַת כֶּתֶר, עַל־יְדֵי "וְדִבַּרְתָּ בָּם", כִּי בְּחִינַת הַדְּבּוּר בַּתּוֹרָה הוּא גַם כֵּן מִצְוַת עֲשֵׂה.
And this is the meaning of "If a man would give all the wealth of his house" — referring to the upper and lower Gan Eden, the level of Chochmah, the reasons of Torah — "he would be utterly despised," for these are but a mere radiance and reflection.	ְוֶזֶהוּ "אָם־יִתֵּן אִישׁ אֶת כָּל הוֹן בֵּיתוֹ" — בְּחִינַת גַּן־עֵדֶן הָעֶלְיוֹן וְהַתַּחְתּוֹן, בְּחִינַת חָכְמָה, טַעֲמֵי הַתּוֹרָה — "בּוֹז יָבוּזוּ לוֹ", שֶׁהוּא רַק בְּחִינַת זִיו וְהָאָרָה בִּלְבָד
But in love — "and with You I desire nothing," etc. — it is directed to Him alone, not to His attributes, but to His very Essence and Being.	אֲבָל בָּאַהֲבָה — "וַעִמְךּ לֹא חָפַצְתִּי כּוּ" — שֶׁהִיא אֵלָיו וְלֹא לְמִדּוֹתָיו, לְמַהוּתוֹ וְעַצְמוּתוֹ יִתְבָּרֵדְ.
And this is the meaning of "We have a little sister." Meaning, that now it is said "This is my beloved," etc.; but when she is elevated higher and higher through the mitzvos — to His very Essence and Being — she is called "My sister."	וְזֶהוּ "אָחוֹת לָנוּ קְטַנָּה." פֵּירוּשׁ: כִּי עַתָּה נִקְרָא "זֶה דוֹדִי" כּוּ', אֲבָל כְּשֶׁמִּתְעַלָּה לְמַעְלָה מַעְלָה עַל־יְדֵי ".הַמִּצְוֹת — לְמַהוּתוֹ וְעַצְמוּתוֹ — נָקְרֵאת "אָחוֹתִי
The term "Achos" (sister) comes from "achin" (to join), as in the Alexandrian stitching, meaning they become one entirely — "A woman of valor is the crown of her husband."	לְשׁוֹן "אָחוֹתִי" — מָלְשׁוֹן "וְלֹא מֵאַחִין" — אָחוּי אַלֶּכְסַנְּדְרִי, שֶׁהָיוּ לַאֲחָדִים מַמָּשׁ — "אֵשֶׁת חַיִּל עֲטֶרֶת ".בַּעְלָה
And there she is called "small" — a single point. For when she receives from Chochmah, she is called "great": "Great is Your faithfulness."	וְשָׁם נִקְרֵאת בְּחִינַת "קְטַנָּה" — נְקוּדָה חַדָּא. כִּי כְּשֶׁמְּקַבֶּלֶת מִבְּחִינַת חָכְמָה נִקְרֵאת "רַבָּה": "רַבָּה ".אֱמוּנָתֶךְ

And as our Sages said: "When is He called great? When He is in the city of our G-d" — meaning, when there are abundant effusions and extensions.	ְרַכַּמָּצְמַר רַבּוֹתֵינוּ זָכְרוֹנָם לִבְרָכָה: "אֵימָתַי גָּדוֹל — כְּשֶׁהוּא בְּעִיר אֱלֹקִינוּ," הַיָנוּ שֶׁיֵּשׁ הַשְּׁפָּעוֹת וְהַמְשָׁכוֹת רַבּוֹת
In contrast, when the level of Malchus is elevated ever higher— "A woman of valor is the crown of her husband"— then she becomes a single point. (See Raaya Mehemna, Parshas Terumah 158a: "And she is a crown upon his head, from the side of Segulta.")	מַה שֶׁאֵין כֵּן כְּשֶׁנִּתְעַלֶּה בְּחִינַת מַלְכוּת לְמַעְלָה מַעְלָה "אֵשֶׁת חַיִּל עֲטֶרֶת בַּעְלָהּ" — אָז הִיא בְּחִינַת נְקוּדָּה חַדָּא. (וְעַיִן בְּרַעְיָא מְהֵימְנָא פֹּ׳ תְּרוּמָה דַּף קנ״ח (ע״א: וְאִיהִי עֲטָרָה עַל רֵישֵׁיהּ מִסְּטָרָא דְּסְגוּלְתָּא.)
And it is known that a single point on high includes within it all the lower levels, as our Sages said: "The legs of the living creatures correspond to all," "the thighs of the living creatures," etc.	ְרַיָּדוּעַ שֶׁנְּקוּדָּה אַחַת עֶלְיוֹנָה כּוֹלֶלֶת כָּל הַבְּחִינוֹת הַתַּחְתּוֹנוֹת, כְּמַאֲמֵר רַבּוֹתֵינוּ זִכְרוֹנָם לִבְרָכָה: "רַגְלֵי ".'הַחַיּוֹת כְּנָגֶד כּוּלָם, שוֹקֵי הַחַיּוֹת כּוּ
"And she has no breasts." Meaning, that at present, flow and influence are drawn downward into the palaces of Beriah, Yetzirah, and Asiyah, and "His kingdom rules over all."	ןשָׁדַיִם אֵין לָה." פֵּירוּשׁ: שֶׁעַתָּה נִמְשָׁךּ וְנִשְׁפֶּע לְמַטָּה" בָּהֵיכָלוֹת דְּבִיַּ״ע, וּמַלְכוּתוֹ בְּכָל מָשָׁלָה.
But above — "for since it is occupied in absorbing, it does not emit" — there is no outward flow or extension at all.	מַה שֶׁאֵין כֵּן לְמַעְלָה — "אֵידֵי דְטָרִיד לְמִבְלַע לָא פָּלִיט" — אֵינוֹ נִמְשָׁךְ וְנִשְׁפָּע כְּלָל.
"What shall we do for our sister on the day she is spoken for?" Meaning, below, "And Hashem spoke" — "The word of the King is rule," that is, speech constitutes a separate configuration that governs and extends to another.	מַה־נַּעֲשֶׂה לַאֲחוֹתֵנוּ בַּיוֹם שֶׁידֻבַּר בָּה." פֵּירוּשׁ: כִּי" לְמַטָּה — "וַיְדַבֵּר ה׳ כּוּ" — "דְּבַר מֶלֶךּ שִׁלְטוֹן," הַיְנוּ שֶׁבְּחִינַת הַדְּבּוּר פַּרְצוּף בִּפְנֵי עַצְמוֹ, מַנְהִיג וּמַלְשִׁיךְ לַאֲחֵרִים.
In contrast, above — "that it shall be spoken <i>in her</i> " — it is in a passive form, meaning that speech there is not an independent entity, but rather <i>in her</i> , without any extension downward.	מַה שֶׁאֵין כֵּן לְמַעְלָה — "שֶׁיּדֻבַּר בָּה" — בְּחִינַת נִפְעַל, שֶׁהַדְּבּוּר אֵינוֹ בִּפְנֵי עַצְמוֹ, רַק בָּה, שֶׁאֵינוֹ .נִמְשָׁךְ לְמַשָּה

NOTE Summary

This Maamer of the Alter Rebbe illuminates the paradox of the *baal ha'asakim* — the "man of the world" — whose prayer can reach a loftier height than that of the secluded tzaddik. The discourse explains that the descent of the soul into a body and into the toil of worldly concerns is not a degradation but a descent for the sake of ascent. The struggle of engaging with the physical, refining the animal soul, and laboring amid the "waters of many distractions" draws forth a deeper love for G-d — a love beyond measure, the level of *b'chol me'odecha*, the love born from the intensity of the animal soul rooted in the world of *Tohu*.

The Alter Rebbe traces this inner process through the cosmic structure of *Tohu* and *Tikkun*. In *Tohu*, Divine energy was abundant but lacked vessels; each attribute existed in overpowering isolation, unable to unite with its opposite — hence the "breaking of the vessels." *Tikkun*, by contrast, is characterized by harmony: lesser

light but stronger vessels capable of containing opposites, allowing coexistence of *chesed* and *gevurah*. The human soul stems from *Tikkun*, harmonized and integrated, while the animal soul descends from *Tohu*, intense and raw. The task of man is to refine this lower force and elevate it — to transform the broken energies of *Tohu* into Divine service. This is the secret of the *baal teshuvah* who "stands where the tzaddik cannot stand," for his passion arises from the powerful, untamed vitality of *Tohu*. Through this lens, the Alter Rebbe reinterprets the Flood: not merely a punishment but a purification — a downpour of *chesed d'Tohu*, intense waters washing away impurity and preparing the world for *Tikkun*. Similarly, the anxieties and labors of earning a livelihood — the "many waters" of the verse "Many waters cannot quench the love" — are opportunities to redeem the holy sparks fallen into materiality. When a person turns these efforts into devotion and channels them upward in prayer, he transforms the floodwaters of *Tohu* into rivers of love, fueling a fiery yearning to cleave to G-d's essence.

Ultimately, Shabbos and prayer represent the elevation of these efforts. The weekdays are the realm of Divine speech — "Let there be light," "Let there be a firmament" — the ongoing creation of multiplicity and separation. On Shabbos, all creation ascends back into unity, "for He and His vessels are one." Likewise, in prayer, all the mundane labors of the week rise upward through the love of *b'chol me'odecha*. In the future, this elevation will be constant — "a day that is entirely Shabbos," when the world of *Tikkun* itself will ascend beyond refinement into the pure light of G-dliness. The discourse concludes by revealing that mitzvos — the "limbs of the King" — alone draw down the Essence of G-d. Torah comprehension, even the delights of Gan Eden, are but a radiance, a reflection. The mitzvos are rooted in *Kesser*, the supernal will, serving as 620 "pillars of light" that connect the infinite to the finite. Through them, the soul embraces the King Himself, not merely His garments or radiance. Thus, "If a man would give all the wealth of his house for love, he would be utterly despised": intellectual delight, even in the highest paradise, cannot compare to the simple, essential bond achieved through action and love that seeks only Him — "and with You I desire nothing."

Finally, in mystical language, this bond is described as the transformation from "This is my beloved" to "My sister." Through mitzvos, Malchus (the feminine aspect) ascends beyond Chochmah (wisdom) into absolute oneness with the Divine Essence, becoming "a single point" beyond all emanation. Above, there is no outward flow, "for since it is occupied in absorbing, it does not emit." This is the ultimate union — not comprehension or illumination, but merging being with Being itself.

Practical Takeaway

Worldly struggle is not a distraction from holiness but the very medium through which holiness is revealed. The *baal asakim* who prays after a day of labor, lifting his heart above the "many waters," attains a love beyond limitation. Through mitzvos — simple deeds done with devotion — one draws not just Divine light but the Essence of G-d Himself. When the body, the mind, and even the struggles of earning a living are harnessed

toward this goal, they become transformed into vessels of infinite unity. Every prayer, every act of kindness, every moment of faith amid challenge becomes an embrace of the Infinite.

Chassidic Story

The Alter Rebbe once traveled through a village and stopped at the home of a simple Jewish innkeeper. After the man served him, the Rebbe sat quietly as the innkeeper prayed *Maariv* with heartfelt tears, his voice trembling between the words. When he finished, the Alter Rebbe said softly, "Your prayer pierced the heavens." The man, bewildered, replied, "But Rebbe, I don't know what I'm saying — I only pray as I can." The Alter Rebbe smiled and answered, "The angels understand the words; G-d understands the heart. When your heart burns from the toil of the day and still turns upward in love, your prayer rises higher than all the wisdom of angels."

Therapeutic-Psychological Integration (TPX)

The Alter Rebbe's Maamer can be seen as a profound map of spiritual psychology — describing not only the cosmic structure of *Tohu* and *Tikkun*, but the inner structure of the human psyche.

At the core lies a universal human tension: the yearning for transcendence (*Tikkun*) versus the chaos of unrefined passion (*Tohu*). Every person carries both. The soul, calm and integrated, knows harmony and clarity — it mirrors *Tikkun*. The body and emotional drives, full of desire and intensity, mirror *Tohu*: uncontained energy, abundant light but few vessels. The Alter Rebbe teaches that the goal is not to suppress this intensity but to redeem it. Just as the shattered world of *Tohu* becomes the source of the deepest vitality once repaired, so too our unregulated drives, when elevated, become the fuel for boundless love.

In therapeutic language, this is the movement from fragmentation to integration. A person often feels torn between higher aspirations and lower impulses, between the yearning for meaning and the pressures of survival. The Maamer reframes this tension not as pathology but as purpose. The descent of the soul into the body — into anxiety, work, and struggle — is *a descent for the sake of ascent*. Our stress, fear, and longing are not obstacles; they are the raw material of transcendence. When a person learns to bring G-d into the very experience of struggle — transforming the "many waters" of daily worries into rivers of devotion — those very emotions become channels for Divine connection.

The mitzvos, in this framework, represent grounding practices — tangible actions that connect the infinite to the finite, much like therapeutic rituals that anchor emotional energy into embodied expression. Speech in prayer parallels the verbal processing of therapy: articulating what is hidden. Shabbos, the day of ascent, symbolizes integration — the moment when all fragmented parts find rest and alignment in oneness.

The deeper teaching is that healing does not come from transcending human experience but from sanctifying it. The animal soul's passions, when redirected toward meaning and connection, generate a love "beyond

measure." In trauma language, this is post-traumatic growth: the transformation of overwhelming energy (*Tohu*) into purpose and compassion (*Tikkun*).

Story

In a modern context, consider a man named Daniel — a small business owner burdened by endless stress. For years, he saw his exhaustion as proof of failure: too distracted for spirituality, too "worldly" for holiness. Then, during a quiet evening after work, he found himself whispering a short prayer with sincerity: "G-d, I'm doing my best — help me find You in all this." Something shifted. He began to realize that his struggles were not outside of Divine service but part of it. Each act of honesty in business, every ethical choice under pressure, every small moment of gratitude was a mitzvah — a bridge between heaven and earth. His anxiety didn't disappear, but it was no longer meaningless. It became, as the Alter Rebbe would say, *the very water that carries the ark*.

END NOTE