

Sichas Nun Beis Parshas Toldos

מִשִּׂיחוֹת לֵיל גי (כ״ח מַר־חֶשְׁוָן), לֵיל הי (אי־דְּרֹאשׁ־חֹדֶשׁ בִּסְלֵו), וְיוֹם הַשַּׁבַּת־קֹדֶשׁ (ב׳ כִּסְלֵו), פַּרַשַׁת תּוֹלְדוֹת היתשנ״ב

From the talks of Tuesday night, the third (the twenty-eighth of Mar-Cheshvan), the night of Thursday, the fifth (the first of Rosh Chodesh Kislev), and the holy Shabbos day (the second of Kislev), Parashas Toldos 1992.

Introduction

The Lubavitcher Rebbe (1902–1994), whose teachings reveal the deepest dimensions of Torah and their direct relevance to every Jew's daily avodah, presents in this maamar-cycle a far-reaching explanation of Parshas Noach and Parshas Toldos. Drawing from the essence of Chassidus, the Rebbe shows how the names, themes, and inner structure of these parshiyos illuminate the relationship between the soul and the body, the role of Torah before and after Matan Torah, and the revelation of Atzmus through mitzvos, Chassidus, and the unique energies of the month of Kislev.

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Several times a matter was spoken regarding the names through which the Torah portions are called, that even though simply these names were established based on the beginning of the section, behold, since they were established according to the custom of Israel, for Torah is Torah, they are certainly with the ultimate precision (as with all matters of Torah).

דְבַּר כַּמָּה־פְּעָמִים אוֹדוֹת הַשָּׁמוֹת שֶׁבָּהֶם נִקְרָאִים -פָּרְשִׁיוֹת הַתּוֹרָה, שֶׁאַף שֶׁבְּפַשְׁטוּת נִקְבְּעוּ שֵׁמוֹת אֵלּוּ עַל־שֵׁם הַתְחָלַת הַסִּדְרָה, הֲרֵי כִּיוָן שֶׁנִקְבְּעוּ עַל־פִּי מִנְהַג יִשְׂרָאֵל שֶׁתּוֹרָה הִיא, הֲרֵי־הֵם בְּוַדַּאי בְּתַכְלִית (הַדִּיּוּק (כְּכָל עִנְיָנֵי הַתּוֹרָה.

And one of the proofs to this is from the name of the weekly portion, Parashas Toldos: the beginning of the portion is "And these are the generations of Yitzchak" (Bereishis 25:19), similar to the beginning of the second portion in the Torah, "These are the generations of Noach" (Bereishis 6:9).

וּמֵאַחַת הַהוֹכָחוֹת לָזֶה – מִשְׁמָה שֶׁל פָּרְשַׁת הַשָּׁבוּעַ, פָּרְשַׁת תּוֹלְדוֹת: הַתְּחָלַת הַפָּרְשָׁה הִיא "וְאֵלֶה תּוֹלְדֹת יִצְחָקִ" (בְּרֵאשִׁית כ״ה:י״ט), כְּמוֹ הַתְחָלַת הַפָּרְשָׁה הַשְּׁנִיָּה בַּתּוֹרָה, "אֵלֶה תּוֹלְדֹת נֹחַ" (בְּרֵאשִׁית ו׳:ט׳.

And since both portions begin with the same words, "(And) these are the generations," therefore, in order to call them (by the name of their beginning) with names that distinguish between them, it is fitting to call the first by the word closest to the beginning of the portion, "generations," and the second— in order to distinguish it from the first by calling it with a name different from the name already given to the first—"Yitzchak."

ְּוַכִינָן שֶׁשְׁתֵּי הַפֶּּרְשִׁיּוֹת מַתְחִילוֹת בְּאוֹתָן תַּבוֹת,
(וְ)אֵלֶּה תּוֹלְדֹת, הָבִי לְּבְרוֹתָן (עַל־שֵׁם הַתְּחָלָתָן)
בְּשֵׁמוֹת שֶׁיַּבְדִּילוּ בֵּינֵיהָן, מַתְאִים לְּקְרוֹת הָרִאשׁוֹנָה
עַל־שֵׁם הַתַּבָה הָכִי קְרוֹבָה לְהַתְּחָלַת הַפְּּרָשָׁה –
תּוֹלְדוֹת, וְהַשְׁנִּיָּה – בְּדֵי לְהַבְדִּילָה מֵהָרִאשׁוֹנָה
בִּקְרִיאַת שֵׁם שׁוֹנֶה מֵהַשֵּׁם שֶׁנִּתּן כְּבָר לָרִאשׁוֹנָה –
בִּקְרִיאַת שֵׁם שׁוֹנֶה מֵהַשֵּׁם שֶׁנִּתּן כְּבָר לָרִאשׁוֹנָה –
בִּתְּלְדוֹת) יצָחֵקּ

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And since the custom of Israel became established and spread (as printed in all the Chumashim, and similarly in the calendars) that we call the first "Noach," and the second "Toldos," it is proven that the calling of the names is not based on the first word, or the first word that distinguishes it from another portion, but rather in a manner that the name should be with the greatest precision.

וְכֵיוָן שֶׁנָּקְבַּע וְנִתְפַּשֵּׁט מִנְהַג יִשְׂרָאֵל (כַּמָּה דְּפָס בְּכָל הַחֻּמָּשִׁים, וְעַל דֶּרֶך זָה בְּהַלּוּחוֹת) שֶׁקוֹרִין הָרְאשׁוֹנָה בְּשֵׁם נֹחַ וְהַשְּׁנִיָּה בְּשֵׁם תּוֹלְדוֹת, מוּכָח שֶׁקְרִיאַת הַשֵּׁמוֹת הִיא (לֹא עַל־שֵׁם הַתַּבָה הָרִאשׁוֹנָה, אוֹ הַתַּבָה הָרִאשׁוֹנָה שֶׁמַּבְדִּילָה אוֹתָה מִפֶּרָשָׁה אַחֶרֶת, אֶלָּא) בִּאֹפֵן שֵׁיִּהְיֵה הָשֵׁם בִּדִּיּוֹק בִּיוֹתֵר.

And it was explained elsewhere that these names ("Noach" for the first portion and "Toldos" for the second) fit the content of the portions: the content of "These are the generations of Noach" (Bereishis 6:9) is not the telling of the birth of his sons (generations in the simple sense) of Noach, for that was already stated at the end of Parashas Bereishis and is repeated here only as detail connected with the content of the portion, but rather it is the telling of the events of Noach, and therefore it is called (after him) "Noach."

וְנִתְבָּאַר בְּמָקוֹם אַחֵר שֶׁשֵׁמוֹת אֵלוּ (נֹחַ לַפָּרְשָׁה הָראשׁוֹנָה וְתוֹלְדוֹת לַשְּׁנִיָּה) מֵתְאִימִים לְתֹכֶן הַפֶּרְשִׁיוֹת: הַתּּכֶן דְּ"אֵלֶּה תּוֹלְדֹת נֹחַ" (בְּרֵאשִׁית וֹי:טי) הוּא (לֹא סִפּוּר לֵידַת בָּנָיו (תּוֹלְדוֹת כַּפְשׁוּטָן) שֶׁל נֹחַ, שֶׁכְּכָר נָאֱמֵר בְּסוֹף פָּרְשַׁת בְּרֵאשִׁית, וְנִכְפַל בָּאן כְּפְרָט בְּתֹכֶן הַפָּרְשָׁה) – סִכּוּר הַמְּאֹרְעוֹת שֶׁל נֹחַ, וַלָּכֵן נִקְרֵאת (עַל שְׁמוֹ) נֹחַ

And the content of "These are the generations of Yitzchak" (Bereishis 25:19) is not the telling of the events of Yitzchak, for many events, and fundamental events—his birth, the Akeidah, the match and marriage—are in the portions (Vayeira and Chayei Sarah) that precede this, but rather it is the telling of the birth of his sons, as Rashi explains: "Yaakov and Esav, who are said in the portion," and therefore it is called "Toldos," whose meaning (in its simple sense) is "children."

וְהַתֹּכֶן דְ"אֵלֶּה תּוֹלְדֹת יִצְחָקּ" (בְּרֵאשִׁית כ״ה:י״ט)
הוּא (לֹא סִפּוּר הַמְּאֹרְעוֹת שֶׁל יִצְחָק, שֶׁהְרֵי כַּמָּה
וְכַמָּה מְאֹרָעוֹת, וּמְאֹרָעוֹת עִקֶּרִיִּים: לֵידָתוֹ, הָעֲקַדָּה,
הַשִּׁידוּהְ וְהַנִּשׁוֹּאִין, הֵם בַּפָּרְשִׁיוֹת (וַיֵּרָא וְחַיֵּי שָׂרָה)
שֶׁלְּפְנֵי זָה, אֶלָּא) סִפּוּר לֵידַת בָּנָיו, כְּפֵירוּשׁ רַשִׁ"י:
"יַצְקֹב וְצַשָּׁו הָאֲמוּרִים בַּפָּרְשָׁה," וְלָכֵן נִקְרֵאת
הּוֹלְדוֹת שֶׁפֵּירוּשׁוֹ (כִּפְשׁוּטוֹ) בָּנִים

(2)

And it is possible to add and to explain also regarding the content of the names of the portions as they are in themselves (in addition to their relevance to the content of the portion), that since they became part of the Torah, including also Torah meaning instruction, one must learn instruction in the service of a person to his Creator also from the names of the portions as they are in themselves.

ן יֵשׁ לְהוֹסִיף וּלְבָאֵר גַּם בְּנוֹגֵעַ לְתְכֶן שְׁמוֹת הַפָּרְשִׁיּוֹת בְּשֶׁלְעַצְמָם (נוֹסֶף עַל שַׁיָּכוּתָן לְתָכֶן הַפָּרִשָּׁה) – שֶׁבֵּיוָן שָׁנַּעֲשוֹּ חֵלֶק מֵהַתּוֹרָה, כּוֹלֵל גַּם תוֹרָה מִלְשׁוֹן הוֹרַאַה,

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And in our case, the portion of Toldos, that "Toldos" is (not the first matter, the first time in which it is possible to use this name, but rather the second matter) after Noach.

יֵשׁ לִלְמֹד הוֹרָאָה בַּעֲבוֹדַת הָאָדָם לְקוֹנוֹ גַּם מִשְׁמוֹת הַפֶּּרָשִׁיוֹת כְּשֶׁלְעַצְּמָם, וּבְּנִדּוֹן דִידַן, פָּרָשַׁת תּוֹלְדוֹת, שֶׁתּוֹלְדוֹת הוּא (לֹא הָעִנְיָן הָרִאשׁוֹן, בַּפַּעַם הָרִאשׁוֹנָה שֶׁיְכוֹלִים לְהִשְׁתַּמִשׁ בְּשֵׁם זָה, אֶלָּא הָעִנְיָן הַשֵּׁנִי) לָאַחַרִי נֹחַ.

And as an introduction—that in the explanation of the names "Noach" and "Toldos" (not in connection to the content of the matter and the portion, but the names themselves) regarding their lesson and instruction in the service of a person: "Toldos" refers to the essential offspring of tzadikim—good deeds; and "Noach," the name of the person which indicates his essence, is relevant to the birth of existence (in the simple sense of offspring), when he is called by a name.

וּבְהַקְדָּמָה – שֶׁבְּפֵרוּשׁ הַשָּׁמוֹת נֹחַ וְתוֹלְדוֹת (לֹא בְּשַׁיָּכוּת לְתָכֶן הָעִּנְיָן וְהַכָּּרָשָׁה, אֶלָּא הַשָּׁמוֹת עַצְּמָם) בְּשַׁיָּכוּת לְהַלְמוּד וְהַהוֹרָאָה בַּעֲבוֹדַת הָאָדָם, קאֵי תּוֹלְדוֹת עַל עָקַר תּוֹלְדוֹתֵיהֶם שֶׁל צַדִּיקִים – מַעֲשִׁים טוֹבִים, וְנֹחַ, שֵׁם הָאָדָם שֶׁמוֹרֶה עַל עַצְמוּתוֹ, שַׁיָּדְ לְלֵדַת הַמְצִיאוּת (עַל־דֶּרֶךְ תּוֹלְדוֹת כִּפְשׁוּטוֹ), שֶׁאָז נְקָרָא בְּשֵׁם.

And an explanation and clarification is required:

וְדָרוּשׁ בַּאוּר וְהֶסְבֵּר:

1) The harmony (in the inner dimension of the matters) between the explanation of the names as they are in themselves with the explanation of the matter and the portion, for at first glance, they are the opposite of each other.

א) הַהַתְּאָמָה (בִּפְנִימִיוּת הָעִנְיָנִים) דְּפֵרוּשׁ הַשָּׁמוֹת כְּשֶׁלְעַצְמָם עִם פֵּרוּשׁ הָעִנְיָן וְהַפָּרָשָׁה, שֶׁלְכְאוֹרָה, הָרֵי־הֵם הָפְכִיִּים זֶה מִּדָּה,

For: in "Noach" — the explanation of the name is relevant to the essence of the existence (birth) of a person (in the simple sense of offspring), and the explanation of the matter is relevant to good deeds, as Rashi explains: "To teach you that the main offspring of tzadikim are good deeds."

כִּי: בְּנֹחַ – פֵּרוּשׁ הַשֵּׁם שַׁיָּדְּ לְעֶצֶם מְצִיאוּת (לַדַת) הָאָדָם (עַל־דָּרֶדְ תּוֹלְדוֹת כִּפְשׁוּטוֹ), וּפֵרוּשׁ הָעִנְיָן שַׁיָּדְ לְמַעֲשִׂים טוֹבִים, כְּפֵרוּשׁ רַשִּׁ"י: "לְלַמֶּדְדְּ שֶׁעִקַר ",תּוֹלְדוֹתֵיהֵם שֵׁל צַדִּיקִים מַעֲשִׂים טוֹבִים

And the opposite is the case in "Toldos," for the explanation of the name is relevant to good deeds, while the explanation of the matter is relevant to birth (offspring in the simple sense), as Rashi explains: "Yaakov and Esav who are said in the portion."

וְהָפְכּוֹ בְּתוֹלְדוֹת – שֶׁבֵּרוּשׁ הַשֵּׁם שַׁיָּדְּ לְמַצְשִׂים טוֹבִים, וּפֵרוּשׁ הָעִנְיָן שַׁיָּדְ לְלֵדָה (תּוֹלְדוֹת כִּפְשׁוּטוֹ), ".כְּפֵרוּשׁ רַשִּׁ"י: "יַצְקֹב וְצֵשָׂו הָאֲמוּרִים בַּבֶּרְשָׁה

2) And the main point—the explanation of the lesson and instruction from "before Toldos" and from "Toldos" that comes after Noach:

ב) וְעָקֶּר – בַּאוּר הַלְמוּד וְהַהוֹרָאָה מִכֹּחַ שֶׁלְכְנֵי הוֹלְדוֹת וּמתוֹלְדוֹת שֵׁלְאַחֵרי נֹחַ:

Regarding "Noach" — since the name of the person that he is called at his birth is not (seemingly) relevant to his service in good deeds (the offspring of tzadikim), what is the matter of "Noach" (before Toldos) in the service of a person?

בְּנוֹגַעַ לְנֹחַ – כִּיוָן שֶׁשֵׁם הָאָדָם שֶׁנַּקְרָא בְּלֵדָתוֹ אֵינוֹ שַּיֶּךְ (לְכְאוֹרָה) לַעֲבוֹדָתוֹ בְּמַעֲשִׁים טוֹבִים (תּוֹלְדוֹתֵיהֶם שֶׁל צַדִּיקִים), מַהוּ הָעִנְיָן דְּנֹחַ (לְפְנֵי ?תּוֹלְדוֹת) בַּעֲבוֹדַת הָאָדָם

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And regarding "Toldos" — since it comes after "Noach" (and several portions in between), one must say that the intention is not the good deeds (simply) that are in the beginning of the service, but rather a further elevated level in good deeds that comes after the introduction of "Noach" (and the other portions in between).

וּבְנוֹגֵעַ לְתוֹלְדוֹת – כֵּיוָן שֶׁבָּא לְאַחֲרֵי נֹחַ (וְעוֹד כַּמָּה פֶּרָשִׁיוֹת שֶׁבֵּינְתִיִם), עַל־כָּרְחָהְ צָרִיךְ לוֹמֵר שֶׁאֵין הַכַּוָּנָה לְמַעֲשִׂים טוֹבִים (סְתָם) שֶׁבְּהַתְחָלַת הָעֲבוֹדָה, אֶלָּא לְדַרְגָּא נַעֲלֵית בְּמַעֲשִׂים טוֹבִים שֶׁבָּאָה לְאַחֲרֵי הַהַקְדָּמָה וְנֹחַ (וּשְׁאָר הַפָּרָשִׁיוֹת שֶׁבֵּינְתַיִם.

And one must explain its content and its matter, this level in the service of a person. Apparently one could say that "Noach" indicates a state of rest (rest of the soul and rest of the body) so that the service of fulfilling Torah and mitzvos can be properly, as the Rambam writes regarding the physical blessings in the Torah, "so that they be free to learn wisdom and do the mitzvah," and therefore the order is that "Noach" precedes "Toldos," for in order that the service and "Toldos" (good deeds) can exist, one must first precede a state of "Noach" (rest).

וְצָרִיךְ לְבָאֵר תָּכְנָה וְעִנְיָנָה שֶׁל דַּרְגָּא זוֹ בַּעֲבוֹדַת הָאָדָם. לְכָאוֹרָה אֶפְשָׁר לוֹמֵר שֶׁנֹחַ מוֹרָה עַל מֵצָּב שֶׁל מְנוּחָה (מְנוּחַת הַנֶּפֶשׁ וּמְנוּחַת הַגּוּף) כְּדֵי שֶׁתִּהְיֶה הָעֲבוֹדָה דְּקִיּוּם הַתּוֹרָה וּמְצְווֹת כִּדְבַעֵי, עַל־דֶּרֶךְ מַה שֶׁכָּתַב הָרַמְבַּ"ם עַל הַיָּעָדִים הַגּשְׁמִייִם שֶׁבַּתּוֹרָה, "כְּדֵי שֶׁיְּהוֹ פְּנוּיִים לְלְמוֹד הַחָּכְמָה וְלַעֲשׂוֹת הַמִּצְוָה," וְלָכֵן הַפַּדֶר הוּא שֶׁנֹחַ קוֹדֵם לְתוֹלְדוֹת, כִּי כְּדֵי שֶׁתּוֹכַל לִהְיוֹת הָעֲבוֹדָה וְתוֹלְדוֹת (מַעְשִׁים טוֹבִים), בְּהֶכְרֵחַ הֹלְהַקֹּדִים מַעֲמָד וּמַצֶּב דְנֹחַ (מְנִשְׁים טוֹבִים), בְּהֶכְרֵחַ

But it is more reasonable to say that the precedence of "Noach" to "Toldos" is not only (in time) because of the necessity of the matter, but rather a true precedence (in Torah), a precedence in level.

אֲבָל, מִסְתַּבֵּר יוֹתֵר לוֹמֵר שֶׁהַקְדִימָה דְּנֹחַ לְתוֹלְדוֹת הִיא לֹא רַק (בִּזְמַן) בִּגְלַל הַהֶּכְרַחַ שֶׁבַּדָּבָר, אֶלָּא קִדִימָה אֲמָתִּית (בַּתּוֹרָה), קִדִימָה בְּמַעֲלָה.

(1)

And it is possible to say the point of explanation in this: the distinction between Parashas Noach and Parashas Toldos is similar to the distinction between before the giving of the Torah and after the giving of the Torah. For it is known that the preparation and the beginning of the giving of the Torah was through the service of Avraham, and in particular through the circumcision, and after this was the birth of Yitzchak (who was born from holy seed).

וְנֵשׁ לוֹמֵר נְקָדֵּת הַבֵּיאוּר בָּזֶה: הַחִלּוּק שֶׁבֵּין כָּּרָשַׁת נֹחַ לְפָרָשַׁת תּוֹלְדוֹת הוּא עַל־דֶּרֶד הַחִלּוּק בֵּין לִפְנֵי מַתַּן תּוֹרָה וּלְאַחֲרֵי מַתַּן תּוֹרָה – כַּיָדוּעַ שֶׁהַהְּכָנָה וְהַהַּתְחָלָה דְּמַתַּן תּוֹרָה הָיְתָה עַל־יְדֵי עֲבוֹדָתוֹ שֶׁל אַבְרָהָם, וּבִפְּרָט עַל־יְדֵי הַמִּילָה, וּלְאַחֲרֵי־זֶה הָיְתָה לֵדַת יִצְחָק (שְׁנּוֹלֵד (מִטְפָּה קִדוֹשָׁה.

Sichas Nun Beis Parshas Toldos

And it follows that in Parashas Toldos, "And these are the generations of Yitzchak the son of Avraham; Avraham begot Yitzchak" (Bereishis 25:19), the first whose entire existence and offspring are after the preparation and beginning of the giving of the Torah, begins the service connected with the giving of the Torah.

וְנִמְצָא, שֶׁבְּפָרְשַׁת תּוֹלְדוֹת, "וְאֵלֶּה תּוֹלְדֹת יִצְחָק בֶּן אַבְרָהָם, אַבְרָהָם הוֹלִיד אֶת יִצְחָק" (בְּרֵאשִׁית כ״ה:י״ט), הָרִאשׁוֹן שֶׁכָּל מְצִיאוּתוֹ וְתוֹלְדוֹתָיו לְאַחֲרֵי הַהְּכָנָה וְהַהַתְחָלָה דְּמַתַּן תּוֹרָה, מַתְחִילָה הָעֲבוֹדָה הַקְשׁוּרָה עִם מַתַּן תּוֹרָה.

And in the portions before this, and in particular Parashas Noach, in which (only) at its conclusion and ending (only) Avram was born, behold this is service that is before the giving of the Torah.

וּבַפֶּרָשִׁיוֹת שֶׁלְּפְנֵי־זֶה, וּבִפְּרָט פָּרָשַׁת נֹחַ, שֶׁ(רַק) בְּסִיּוּמָה וְחוֹתָמָה (רַק) נוֹלַד אַבְרָם, הַרֵי־זוֹ עַבוֹדָה שָׁלְפְנֵי מַתַּן תּוֹרָה.

And its meaning in the service of Israel (after the giving of the Torah) is that "Noach" refers to their existence of Israel that is before (and precedes) the Torah, and "Toldos" refers to their service of Israel in the fulfillment of Torah and mitzvos, through which their true existence (as they precede the Torah) comes into actuality and revelation, as will be explained.

ןְעִנְיָנוֹ בַּעֲבוֹדָתָם שֶׁל יִשְׂרָאֵל (לְאַחֲרֵי מַתַּן־תּוֹרָה) – שֵׁי בֹתִי קָאֵי עַל מְצִיאוּתָם שֶׁל יִשְׂרָאֵל שֶׁלְפְנֵי (וְקוֹדֶמֶת שֵׁל יִשְׂרָאֵל שֶׁלְפְנֵי (וְקוֹדֶמֶת לַתּוֹרָה), וְ"תּוֹלְדוֹת" קָאֵי עַל עֲבוֹדָתָם שֶׁל יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּמוֹרָה), וְ"תּוֹלְדוֹת" קָאֵי עַל יְצַבוֹדְתָם שֶׁל יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּקִינִם הַמִּינוֹר, שֶׁעַל־יְדֵי־זֶה בָּאָה מְצִיאוּתָם הָאֲמִתִּי (כְּפִי שֶׁקּוֹדְמִים לַתּוֹרָה) בְּפֹעַל וּבְגָלוּי, בְּּדִלְקְמֶּוֹן

(7)

And the explanation of the matter: it is stated in Tana D'vei Eliyahu that two things preceded the world, the Torah and Israel, and I do not know which of them preceded; when it says "Command the children of Israel," "Speak to the children of Israel," I say that Israel preceded.

וּבֵאוּר הָעַנְיָן: אִיתָא בְּתָנָא דְבֵי אֵלְיָהוּ שְׁנֵי דְבָרִים קָדְמוּ לָעוֹלָם, תּוֹרָה וְיִשְׁרָאֵל, וְאֵינִי יוֹדֵעַ אֵיזֶה מֵהֶם קוֹדֵם, כְּשָׁהוּא אוֹמֵר צַו אֶת בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל, דַּבֵּר אֶל בָּנִי־יִשְׂרָאֵל, אוֹמֵר אָנִי יִשְׂרָאֵל קָדְמוּ.

That this precedence is primarily in level, meaning that the superiority of Israel is greater than the superiority of the Torah.

שֶׁקְדִימָה זוֹ הִיא בְּעָקֶר בְּמַעֲלָה, הַיְנוּ, שֶׁמַעֲלָתָם שֶׁל יִשְׂרָאֵל גִּדוֹלָה יוֹתֵר מִמְעַלָת הַתּוֹרֵה.

But, in order that the superiority of Israel should come in actuality and revelation, there must be fulfillment of the Torah.

אָבָל, כְּדֵי שָׁמַעֲלָתָם שֶׁל יִשְׂרָאֵל תָּבוֹא בְּפֹעַל וּבְגָלוּי, צַריִדְ לֹהָיוֹת קִיּוּם הַתּוֹרָה.

As stated in Tana D'vei Eliyahu Rabbah— a parable to a king of flesh and blood who has sons in his house and has an elderly servant among them who teaches his sons pleasant ways and good deeds... so, too, the words of Torah tilt Israel to the side of merit, educate them in mitzvos, and bring them to the life of the World to Come.

פָּדְאִיתָא בְּתָנָא דְבֵי־אֵלְיָּהוּ רַבָּה: מָשָׁל לְמֶלֶךְ בָּשָׂר וְדָם שֵׁיֵשׁ לוֹ בָּנִים בְּתוֹךְ בֵּיתוֹ וְיֵשׁ לוֹ עֶבֶד זְקֵן בֵּינֵיהֶם שֶׁיֵשׁ לוֹ בָּנִים בְּתוֹךְ בַּיתוֹ וְיֵשׁ לוֹ עֶבֶד זְקֵן בֵּינֵיהֶם שֶׁהוּא מְלַמֵּד אֶת בָּנָיו דְּרָכִים נָאִים וּמַעֲשִׂים טוֹבִים... כָּדְ דִּבְרֵי תוֹרָה... מַכְרִיעִין אֶת יִשְׂרָאֵל לְכַף זְכוּת, מְחַנְכִין אוֹתָן לְחַיֵּי הָעוֹלָם מְחַנְכִין אוֹתָן בְּמִצְווֹת וּמְבִיאִין אוֹתָן לְחַיֵּי הָעוֹלָם ...
הַבָּא

Meaning that through the Torah the superiority of Israel comes in actuality and revelation.

הַיְנוּ, שֶׁעַל־יְדֵי הַתּוֹרָה בָּאָה מַעֲלָתָם שֶׁל יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּפֹעַל וּבַגַלוּי.

Sichas Nun Beis Parshas Toldos

And the explanation in this: the essential superiority of Israel in the essence of their existence— "Israel and the Holy One, blessed be He, are entirely one"— exists even without the fulfillment of Torah and mitzvos, pleasant ways and good deeds.

As in the parable of a king of flesh and blood who has sons for

As in the parable of a king of flesh and blood who has sons, for the love to the sons is an essential love even when they do not have pleasant ways and good deeds.

(And on the contrary: in children who have pleasant ways and good deeds, who are fit to be loved also from the perspective of intellect, the essential love is not recognized so much.)

However, this essential superiority relates to His essence, may He be blessed (that Israel are one with His essence), and not (so much) to the existence of Israel themselves—their own superiority.

And through this, that Israel fulfill the Torah and the mitzvos, that they are seen in their superiority in pleasant ways and good deeds, the superiority that is from the essence ("children") also comes into the aspect of revelations (pleasant ways and good deeds).

Meaning that in their superiority that is from the aspect of revelations, the essence is drawn and penetrates.

And even though the essence is infinitely beyond revelation, and certainly the absence of revelation does not detract from the essence— and on the contrary, the essence is in concealment since revelations are not vessels for the essence— nevertheless, since the essence is not defined by anything at all, it is not possible that it must be specifically in concealment.

Rather, it is certain that it can also come in revelation, and therefore the true matter of the revelation of the essence is in drawing it in actuality and in revelation specifically.

וְהַהַסְבָּרָה בָּזָה: מַעֲלָתָם הָעִקּרִית שֶׁל יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּעֶצֶם מְצִיאוּתָם, "יִשְׂרָאֵל וְקַדְשָׁא־בְּרִיךְ־הוּא כֹּלָא חַד", גַּם לִוּלֵי קִיּוּם הַתּוֹרָה וּמִצְווֹת, דְּרָכִים נָאִים וּמַעֲשִׂים טוֹבִים

כְּבַמְּשָׁל דְּמֶלֶךְ בָּשָּׁר־וָדָם שֶׁיֵשׁ לוֹ בָּנִים, שֶׁהָאַהְבָה לַבָּנִים הִיא אַהְבָה עַצְמִית גַּם כְּשֶׁאֵין לָהֶם דְּרָכִים נָאִים וּמֵצֵשִׁים טוֹבִים.

וְאַדְרַבָּה: בְּבָנִים שֶׁיֵשׁ לָהֶם דְּרָכִים נָאִים וּמַעֲשִׂים טוֹבִים, שֶׁרָאוּי לָאֶהֹב אוֹתָם גַּם מִצַּד הַשֵּׂכֶל, לֹא נִכֶּרֶת בָּל־כַּךְ הָאַהַבָּה הָעַצְמִית.

אָבָל, מַעֲלָה עַצְמִית זוֹ מִתְיַחֶּסֶת לְעַצְמוּתוֹ יִתְבָּרֵהְ (שֶׁיִשְׂרָאֵל הֵם חַד עִם עַצְמוּתוֹ יִתְבָּרֵהְ), וְלֹא (כָּל־כָּהְ) לָהַמָּצִיאוּת דְּיִשְׂרָאֵל עַצְמָם, מַעֲלָה שֶׁלָּהַם.

ְעַל־יְדֵי זֶה שֶׁיִשְׂרָאֵל מְקַיָּמִים הַתּוֹרָה־ וּמִצְווֹת, שֶׁרוֹאִים הַמַּצְלָה שֶׁלָּהֶם בִּדְרָכִים נָאִים וּמַצְשִּים טוֹבִים בָּאָה הַמַּצְלָה שֶׁמִּצַד הָעֶצֶם (בָּנִים) גַּם בִּבְחִינַת הָגּלִּוּיִם (דְּרַכִים נַאִים וּמַצֵשׁים טוֹבִים.

הַיְנוּ, שֶׁבַּמַּעֲלָה שֶׁלָּהֶם שֶׁמִּצֵד בְּחִינַת הַגִּלוּיִים, נִמְשֶׁךְּ וְחוֹדֵר הָעֶצֶם.

וְאַף שֶׁהָעֶצֶם הוּא בְּאֵין־עֲרֹךְ לְהַגְּלוּי, וּבְוַדַּאי שֶׁהֶעְדֵר הַגְּלוּי אֵינוֹ גּוֹרֵעַ בְּהָעֶצֶם, וְאַדְרַבָּה, הָעֶצֶם הוּא בְּהָעָלֵם כִּיוָן שֶׁגְלוּיִים אֵינָם כֵּלִים לְהָעֶצֶם, הַרֵי לְאִידָךְ, כִּיוָן שֶׁהָעֶצֶם אֵינוֹ מִגְדָּר בְּשׁוּם דָּבָר, לֹא יִתְּכֵן שִׁיּהָיֵה מַכְרָח לִהִיוֹת בְּהָעָלֵם דַּוְקָא.

אֶלֶא בְּוַדַּאי יָכֹל לָבֹא גַם בְּגִלּוּי, וְלָכֵן אֲמִתַּת הָעִנְיָן דְגִלּוּי הָעֶצֶם הוּא בְּהַמְשָׁכָה בְּפֹעֵל וּבְגָלוּי דַּוְקָא.

(7)

Sichas Nun Beis Parshas Toldos

And in a similar manner, in the very existence of Israel itself— a soul in a body: just as regarding Torah and Israel we prove from what is said in the Torah, "Command the children of Israel," "Speak to the children of Israel," that the Torah is for the sake of Israel, a command to Israel, and therefore Israel preceded, so one can prove this also regarding soul and body.

ְוְעַל־דֶּרֶד־זֶה בִּמְצִיאוּתָם שֶׁל יִשְׂרָאֵל גוּפָא – נְשֶׁמָה בְּגוּף: כְּשֵׁם שֶׁבָּנוֹגֵעַ לְתוֹרָה וְיִשְׂרָאֵל מוֹכִיחִים מִמַּה־שֶׁנֶּאֱמַר בַּתּוֹרָה "צֵו אֶת בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל", "דַּבֵּר אֶל בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל" (שֶׁהַתּוֹרָה הִיא בִּשְׁבִיל יִשְׂרָאֵל, צִוּוּי לִישִׂרָאֵל) שֶׁיִשְׂרָאֵל קָדְמוּ

Since the commandments of the Torah are not relevant to the soul while it is in Gan Eden, but only after its descent below to be enclothed in the body, one must conclude that the body precedes, and for its sake the soul was created (and how much more so the entire chain of worlds).

יֵשׁ לְהוֹכִיחַ מִזֶּה גַּם בְּנוֹגֵעַ לִנְשָׁמָה וְגוּף, שֶׁכֵּיוָן שֶׁצִוּוּיֵי הַתּוֹרָה אֵינָם שַׁיָּכִים לַנְשָׁמָה בִּהְיוֹתָה בְּגַן־עֵדֶן, אֶלָּא לְאַחֲרֵי יְרִידָתָה לְמַטָּה לְהָתְלַבֵּשׁ בַּגוּף, עַל־כָּרְחָךְ צָרִיךְ לוֹמַר, שֶׁהַגוּף קוֹדֵם, וּבִשְׁבִילוֹ נִבְרְאָה הַנְשָׁמָה ((וְעַל אַחַת כַּמָּה וְכַמָּה כָּל סֵדֶר הַהִּשְׁתַּלְשְׁלוּת

And the explanation in this—in accordance with the well-known principle that the choice of the Essence is specifically in the physical body:

וְהַהַסְבֶּרָה בָּזֶה – עַל־פִּי הַיָּדוּעַ שֶׁבְּחִירַת הָעַצְמוּת הִיא בָּהַגוּף הַגַּשָׁמִי דַּוְקָא:

There is superiority in "choice" also regarding a "son," for in a son the love of the father to him is a natural love; their bond is from a level in which the beloved son has standing (the advantage of "son"), and not from His Essence, may He be blessed.

יֵשׁ מַעֲלָה בְּ״בְּחִירָה״ גַּם לְגַבֵּי ״בֵּן״, שֶׁבְּ״בֵּן״ שָׁאַהַבת הָאָב אַלָּיו הִיא אַהֲבָה טִבְעִית, הַהִּתְקַשְּׁרוּת בֵּינֵיהֶם הִיא מִמַּדְרַגָּה שָׁיֵשׁ בָּה תְּפִיסַת מָקוֹם דְּהַ״בֵּן״ הָאָהוּב (הַמַּעֲלָה דְ״בֵּן״), וְלֹא מֵעַצְמוּתוֹ יִתְבָּרֵדְ מַמָּשׁ.

Whereas in choice, there is no standing for the chosen thing at all, only that so He chose with free choice, which is His Essence itself.

מַה־שָׁאֵין־כֵּן בְּ״בְּחִירָה״, אֵין בָּה תְּפִיסַת מָקוֹם דְהַדָּבָר הַנִּבְחָר כְּלָל, כִּי אִם שֶׁכָּךְ בָּחַר בִּבְחִירָה חַפִּשִׁית שֵׁהָיא מֵעַצִמוּתוֹ מֵמַשׁ.

And its example in the distinction between the soul and the body: the soul is "a part of G-d above truly," a part through which one grasps the Essence; and as it is written, "You are children to the Lord your G-d," like a son who is a part from the essence of the father.

וְדָגְמָתוֹ בְּהַחִלּוּק שֶׁבֵּין הַנְשָׁמָה לַגוּף: שֶׁהַנְשָׁמָה הִיא "חֵלֶק אֱלוֹקָה מִמַּעַל מַמָּשׁ", חַלֶּק שֶׁעַל־יָדוֹ תּוֹפְסִים בְּהָעֶצֶם, וּכְמוֹ שֶׁנָּאֱמֵר "בָּנִים אַתֶּם לַה' אֱלֹקֵיכֶם", כְּמוֹ הַבֵּן שֶׁהוּא חַלֶּק מֵעֶצֶם הָאָב.

Its bond with the Holy One blessed be He is from a level in which there is standing for the advantage of "son," and not from His Essence itself; whereas the body, which in itself has no elevation (the material body that resembles in its materiality the bodies of the nations), the Holy One blessed be He chose it with free choice, which is from His Essence— and thus its bond is from His Essence itself.

הָתְקַשְּׁרוּתָה עִם הַקָּדוֹש־בָּרוּדְ־הוּא הִיא מִמַּדְרֵגָה שֶׁיֵשׁ בָּה תְּפִיסַת מָקוֹם לְהַמֵּצְלָה דְּ״בֵּן״, וְלֹא מֵעַצְמוּתוֹ יִתְבָּרֵדְ מַפְּשׁ; מַה־שָׁאֵין־כֵּן הַגוּף, שֶׁמִּצֵד עַצְמוֹ אֵין בּוֹ עִלוּי (״גוּף״ הַחָמְרִי הַנִּדְמֶה בְּחָמְרִיּתוֹ לְגוּפֵי אַמוֹת־הָעוֹלָם), אֶלָּא שֶׁהַקְּדוֹש־בָּרוּדְ־הוּא בָּחַר בּוֹ בִּבְחִירָה חָפְשִׁית שֶׁהִיא מֵעַצְמוּתוֹ יִתְבָּרֵדְ הַמְּשׁ הַהִּתְקַשְּׁרוּת הִיא מִצַּד עַצְמוּתוֹ יִתְבָּרֵדְ מַמְּשׁ

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And in further detail: the choice of the Essence is also in the soul, for the very fact that the soul is a "son" to the Holy One blessed be He is because so He chose in His free choice.

But since in the soul there is the advantage of "son," the choice of the Essence is not recognized in it; and through its descent and enclothing in the body (which has no elevation, only the choice of the Essence), the choice of the Essence in the soul is revealed.

And on the other hand, the advantage of the choice in the body is related to His Essence (the Chooser), and not to the body (the chosen), which in itself has no elevation (even after the choice).

And through the soul (which has the advantage of "son") enclothing itself in the body to enliven it, refine it, and purify it through the fulfillment of Torah and mitzvos, an elevation also occurs in the body, that the choice of the Essence is revealed in it in a manner that is related to it and revealed within it.

And after the choice of the Essence is revealed in the body (through the soul enclothing itself to refine and purify the body through the fulfillment of Torah and mitzvos), then it is also revealed in the soul (through the body) that it is not only "son," but it also possesses the choice of the Essence.

And according to this, it is possible to explain the content of the idea that in the future the soul will be nourished from the body—that in this time, the time of the service of refining and purifying the body, the main emphasis is that the revelation of the light of the soul (the advantage of the revelations) be drawn and penetrate into the body.

And in the future, after the completion of the refinements, the main emphasis will be on the revelation of the Essence that is above revelations, and therefore the soul will sense that its bond with the Holy One blessed be He is not only from its own advantage, but primarily from His Essence itself— and this sense the soul receives from the body, in which the choice of the Essence is revealed.

וּבִפְרָטִיּוּת יוֹתֵר: בְּחִירַת הָעַצְמוּת הִיא גַּם בַּנְשָׁמָה, כִּי זָה גוּפָא שֶׁהַנְשָׁמָה הִיא "בֵּן" לַהַקָּדוֹשׁ־בָּרוּדְ־הוּא הוּא לָפִי שֶׁכָּדְ בָּחַר בִּבְחִירָתוֹ הַחָפְשִׁית.

אָבָל כֵּיוָן שֶׁבַּנְשָׁמָה יֵשׁ הַמַּעֲלָה דְּ״בֵּן״, לֹא נָכֶּרֶת בָּה בְּחִירַת הָעַצְמוּת, וְעַל־יְדִי יְרִידָתָה וְהִתְלַבְּשׁוּתָה בַּגּוּף (שֶׁאֵין בּוֹ עִלּוּי, כִּי אִם בְּחִירַת הָעַצְמוּת) מִתְגַּלָה בַּנְשָׁמָה בְּחִירַת הָעַצְמוּת.

וּלְאִידָּה, מַעֲלַת הַ"בְּחִירָה" בַּגוּף מִחְיַחֶּסֶת לְעַצְמוּתוֹ יִתְבָּרֵךְ (הַבּוֹחֵר), וְלֹא לַגוּף (הַנַּבְחָר), שֶׁמִּצֵּד עַצְמוֹ (אֵין בּוֹ עִלּוִּי (גַּם לְאַחֲרֵי הַבְּחִירָה.

ְוַעַל־יְדֵי זֶה שֶׁהַנְשָׁמָה (שֶׁיֵשׁ בָּה הַמַּצְלָה דְּ־בֵּן") מִתְלַבֶּשֶׁת בַּגוּף לְהַחֲיוֹתוֹ וּלְבָרְרוֹ וּלְזַכְּכוֹ עַל־יְדֵי קִיּוּם הַתּוֹרָה וּמִצְווֹת – נַעֲשֶׂה עִלּוִי גַּם בַּגוּף, שֶׁמִתְגַּלָּה בּוֹ בָּחִירַת הָעַצְמוּת בָּאֹפָן שֶׁמִּתְיַחֶסֶת אֵלָיו וּמִתְגַּלָּה בּוֹ.

וּלְאַחֲבִי שֶׁבְּחִירַת הָעַצְמוּת מִתְגַּלֶּה בְּהַגוּף (עַל־יְדֵי הַתְּלַבְּשׁוּת הַנְשָׁמָה לְבָרֵר וּלְזַכֵּךְ הַגוּף עַל־יְדֵי קִיּוּם הַתּוֹרָה וּמִצְוֹת), אֲזַי מִתְגַּלֶּה גַּם בְּהַנְשָׁמָה (עַל־יְדֵי הַגוּף) שָׁהִיא לֹא רַק "בֵּן", אֶלָּא יֵשׁ בָּה בְּחִירַת הַעַצְמוּת

ְוַעַל־פִּי־זָה יֵשׁ לְבָאֵר תּכֶן הָעִנְיָן שֶׁלֶעָתִיד לָבוֹא] הַנְשָׁמָה תִּתְפַּרְנֵס מִן הַגּוּף – שֶׁבִּזְמֵן הַזָּה, זְמֵן הָעֲבוֹדָה דְבֵרוּר וְזִפּוּף הַגּוּף, עִקַר הַהַדְגָשָׁה הִיא שֶׁגִּלוּי אוֹר [.הַנְשָׁמָה (מַעֲלַת הַגִּלּוּיִים) יוּמְשַׁךְ וְיַחְדָּר בְּהַגּוּף

וְלֶעָתִיד לָבוֹא, לְאַחֲרֵי גְמֵר הַבֵּרוּרִים, תִּהְיֶה עִקַר] הַהַדְגָּשָׁה עַל הִתְגַּלּוּת הָעֶצֶם שֶׁלְמַצְלָה מִגְּלּוּיִים, שֶׁלְכֵן יִרְגַּשׁ בְּהַנְשָׁמָה שֶׁהִתְקַשְׁרוּתָה עִם הַקְּדוֹשׁ־בָּרוּדְּ־הוּא הִיא לֹא (רַק) מִצַּד מַעֲלָתָה, אֶלָא (גַּם וּבְעָקָר) מִצַּד עַצְמוּתוֹ יִתְבָּרֵדְ מַמְשׁ, שֶׁרֶגָשׁ זֶה מְקַבֶּלֶת הַנְשָׁמָה [.מהַגּוּף שֵׁבּוֹ מתִגּלָּה בְּחִירַת הַעצְמוּת

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And it is found that in the existence of Israel, a soul in a body, and their service in the fulfillment of the Torah and commandments, the connection of Israel with the Holy One, blessed is He, is revealed in all aspects:

from the standpoint of the essence – the choice of the Essence; from the standpoint of the revelations – the level of "son," and the level of pleasant ways and good deeds;

and from the standpoint of both together – that the choice of the Essence is revealed and penetrates the level of "son" and the pleasant ways and good deeds;

that is, that the essence is also in revelation (that in this is emphasized the truth of its matter, of the essence, that it is not defined as being in concealment, but rather it also comes in revelation, as mentioned above, section 4).

וְנִמְצָא, שֶׁבַּמְצִיאוּת שֶׁל יִשְׂרָאֵל, נְשָׁמָה בְּגוּף,
וַעֲבוֹדָתָם בְּקיּוּם הַתּוֹרָה וּמִצְוֹת, מִתְגַּלֶּה הַהִּתְקַשְׁרוּת
וְעֲבוֹדָתָם בְּקיּוּם הַתּוֹרָה וּמִצְוֹת, מִתְּגַלֶּה הַהִּתְקַשְׁרוּת
דְּישְׂרָאֵל עִם הַקָּדוֹשׁ־בָּרוּף־הוּא בְּכֶל הָאֱפָנִים: מִצֵּד
דְ"בֵּן", וְהַמֵּעֲלָה דְּדְרָכִים נָאִים וּמַצְשִׂים טוֹבִים; וּמִצֵּד
שְׁנִיהֶם יַחַד – שֻׁבְּחִירַת הָעַצְמוּת מִתְגַלָּה וְחוֹדֶרֶת
בַּמַצְלָה דְּ"בֵּן" וּבַדְּרָכִים נָאִים וּמַצְשִׂים טוֹבִים, הַיְנוּ,
שֶׁהָעֶצֶם הוּא גַּם בְּהִתְּגַלוֹת (שֶׁבָּזֶה מִדְגָשׁ אֲמִתַּת עִנְנוֹ
שֶׁל הָעֶצֶם, שֶׁאֵינוֹ מִגְדָּר בַּהֶעֶלֵם, אֶלֶּא בָּא גַּם בְּגִלוּי,
(מַנִּוְכָּר לְצִיל סְעִיף ד

(1)

According to this, it is possible to explain the particulars of the ideas of "Noach" and "Toldos" in the service of a person: Noach (which is before Toldos) indicates the essential superiority of Israel, who preceded the Torah— the bond of Israel with the Holy One blessed be He from the essence itself, which is above the bond that is from revelations through pleasant ways and good deeds.

עַל־פִּי־זֶה יֵשׁ לְבָאֵר פְּרָטִי הָעִנְיָנִים דְּ''נֹחַ'' וְ''תּוֹלְדוֹת''
בַּעֲבוֹדַת הָאָדָם: ''נֹחַ'' (שֶׁלְפְנֵי 'יּתּוֹלְדוֹת'') מוֹרֶה עַל מַעֲלָתָם הָעַצְמִית שֶׁל יִשְׂרָאֵל שֶׁקֶדְמוּ לַתּוֹרָה, הַהְתָּלֵשְׁרוּת דְּיִשְׂרָאֵל עִם הַקָּדוֹשׁ־בָּרוּדְ־הוּא מִצַּד הָעֶצֶם מַמָּשׁ שֶׁלְמַעְלָה מֵהַהִתְלֵשְׁרוּת שֶׁמִּצֵּד הַגִּלוּיִים עַלִּייִדֵי דְּרָכִים נָאִים וּמַעֲשִׂים טוֹבִים

But the true perfection is when the essence is drawn and penetrates and is revealed also in the aspect of revelations—
Toldos that comes after Noach, which indicates (not only good deeds in general, but) good deeds that come as a result (after) the revelation of the essence itself.

אָבָל, הַשָּׁלֵמוּת הָאֲמִתִּית הִיא כְּשֶׁהָעֶצֶם נִמְשָׁהְ וְחוֹדֵר וּמִתְגַּלָּה גַּם בִּבְחִינַת הַגִּלּוּיִים – "תּוֹלְדוֹת" שֶׁלְאַחֲרֵי "נֹחַ", שֶׁמוֹרָה (לֹא רַק עַל מַעֲשִׂים טוֹבִים סְתָם, אֶלָּא) עַל מַעֲשִׂים טוֹבִים שֶׁבָּאִים כְּתוֹצָאָה (לְאַחֲרֵי) מַהַתְּגַלוּת הַעָּצֵם מַמֵּשׁ.

And it is possible to say that this matter is alluded to also in each of the two portions (Noach and Toldos) on its own:

וְנֵשׁ לוֹמַר, שֶׁעְנְיָן זֶה מְרֻמָּז גַּם בְּכֶל אַחַת מִב׳ הַכָּרָשִׁיוֹת ("נֹחַ" וְ"חִוֹלְדוֹת") בִּפְנֵי־עַצְמַה:

In Noach, which refers to the essence— Rashi adds and emphasizes that the main offspring of the righteous are good deeds, meaning that the main thing is that the essence be drawn and penetrate into the aspect of revelations, good deeds.

בְּ״נֹחַ״, שֶׁקָאֵי עַל הָעֶצֶם – מוֹסִיף וּמַדְגִּישׁ רַשִּּ"י שָׁעִקַר תּוֹלְדוֹתֵיהֶם שֶׁל צַדִּיקִים ״מַצְשִׁים טוֹבִים״, הַיְנוּ, שֶׁהָעָקֶר הוּא שֶׁהָעֶצֶם יוּמְשַׁךְּ וְיַחְדָּר בִּבְחִינַת הַגָּלוּיִים, ״מַעֲשִׂים טוֹבִים".

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Except that the good deeds of Noach—since their main aspect is in spirituality, in lofty matters, and not in simple and physical matters that in themselves have no superiority—this is revelation and not the essence, and the drawing of the essence ("Anochi") which is expressed in simple and physical matters is at the Giving of the Torah, whose beginning is in the good deeds in Parashas Toldos.

אֶלָּא, שֶׁהַ״מַעֲשִׁים טוֹבִים״ דְ״נֹחַ״ – כֵּיוָן שֶׁעְקְרֶם]
בְּרוּחָנִיּוֹת, בְּעִנְיָנִים נַעֲלִים, וְלֹא בְּעַנְיָנִים פְּשׁוּטִים
וְגַשְׁמִיִּים שֶׁמִּצַד עַצְמָם אֵין בָּהֶם מַעֲלָה – הָרֵי־זָה
בְּחִינַת הַגִּלוּיִים וְלֹא הָעֶצֶם, וְהַמְשָׁכַת הָעֶצֶם (״אָנֹכִי״)
שֶׁמְּתְבַּטֵאת בְּעִנְיָנִים פְּשׁוּטִים וְגַשְׁמִיִּים הִיא בְּמַתַּן
תּוֹרָה, שֶׁהַתְחָלָתוֹ בְּ״מַעֲשִׂים טוֹבִים״ שֶׁבְּפָרְשַׁת
[.""תּוֹלְדוֹת

And in Toldos, which refers to revelations (pleasant ways and good deeds)— Rashi adds and emphasizes the matter of Toldos in its literal sense (Yaakov and Esav mentioned in the portion), the essence of "the offspring of Yitzchak" (in the literal sense, the birth of existence) which is above and before the aspect of revelations.

וּבְ״תּוֹלְדוֹת״, שֶׁקָאֵי עַל הַגִּלּוּיִים (״דְּרָכִים נָאִים וּמֲעֲשִׂים טוֹבִים״) – מוֹסִיף וּמַדְגִּישׁ רַשִּׁ"י הָעִנְיָן דְ״תּוֹלְדוֹת״ כִּפְשׁוּטוֹ (״יַעֲקֹב וְעֵשָׁו הָאֲמוּרִים בַּפָּרָשָׁה״), הָעֶצֶם דְ״תּוֹלְדוֹת יִצְחָק״ (כִּפְשׁוּטוֹ, לֵדַת הַמְצִיאוּת) שֶׁלְפְנֵי וּלְמַעְלָה מִבְּחִינַת הַגִּלּוּיִים הַמְצִיאוּת) שֶׁלִפְנֵי וּלְמַעְלָה מִבְּחִינַת הַגִּלּוּיִים

Meaning that in the good deeds (the Toldos in service) that are from the aspect of revelations, the essence (Toldos in its literal, essential sense) penetrates, is drawn, and becomes revealed. הַיְנוּ, שֶׁבַּ"מַעֲשָׂים טוֹבִים" ("תּוֹלְדוֹת" בָּעֲבוֹדָה) שָׁמִצַד בְּחִינַת הַגִּלּוּיִים – חוֹדֵר וְנִמְשֶׁךְ וּמִתְגַּלֶּה הָעֶצֶם (("תּוֹלְדוֹת" כִּפִשׁוּטוֹ

(7)

And it is possible to add and explain in greater particularity in Parashas Toldos – "And these are the offspring of Yitzchak," Yaakov and Esav mentioned in the Parashah: and as a preface – since Yitzchak is the first Jew whose entire existence and offspring are after the preparation and the beginning of the giving of the Torah, it is reasonable to say that all matters of Yitzchak, and how much more so his main matters, "the offspring of Yitzchak," Yaakov and Esav, exist in every single Jew.

ן יֵשׁ לְהוֹסִיף וּלְבָאֵר בִּפְרָטִיּוּת יוֹתֵר בְּפָּרָשַׁת תּוֹלְדוֹת – "וְאֵלֶה תּוֹלְדוֹת - "עֲקֹב וְעֵשָׂו הָאֲמוּרִים
בַּפָּרָשָׁה": – וּבְהַקְדְּמָה – שֶׁבֵּיוָן שֶׁיִּצְחָק הוּא הַיְהוּדִי
הָרִאשׁוֹן שֶׁכָּל מְצִיאוּתוֹ וְתוֹלְדוֹתִיו לְאַחֲרֵי הַהַּכָנָה
וְהַהַתְחָלָה דְּמַתַּו תּוֹרָה, מִסְתַּבֵּר לוֹמַר, שֶׁכָּל עִנְיָנִיו שֶׁל
יִצְחָק, וְעֵל אַחַת בַּמָּה וְכַמֶּה עִנְיָנִיו הָעָקֶריִּים, "תּוֹלְדוֹת יִצְחָק, יְעֵלִב וְעֵשָּׂו, יֵשְׁנָם בְּכָל אֶחָד וְאָחָד מִיִּשְׂרָאֵל
יִצְחָק", יַעֲקֹב וְעֵשָּׂו, יֵשְׁנָם בְּכָל אֶחָד וְאֶחָד מִיִּשְׂרָאֵל

That Yaakov refers to the soul, and Esav refers to the body (as is known that Yaakov and Esav in their root are Tikkun and Tohu, Ma"h and Ba"n, and the soul and body are also Ma"h and Ba"n).

שַׁיַּצְקֹב קָאֵי עַל הַנְשָׁמָה, וְעֵשָׁו קָאֵי עַל הַגּוּף (כַּיָּדוּעַ – שָׁיַּצְקֹב וְעֵשָּׁו בְּשָׁרְשָׁם הֵם תִּקוּו וְתֹהוּ, מַ''ה וּבַ''ן, וְגַם גנְשָׁמָה וְגוּף הֵם מַ''ה וּבַ''ן.

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And it is possible to say that the choice that is from the Essence in a matter which in itself has no superiority is expressed in the precedence of Esav (body) to Yaakov (soul), "the first was born, Esav"; and one may add that the superiority of Esav is also hinted in "admoni," letters of "me'od," without limit, and also in "a mantle of hair," which hints to the thirteen attributes of the beard.

ןְיֵשׁ לוֹמַר, שֶׁהַבְּחִירָה שֶׁמָצִד הָעַצְמוּת בְּדָבָר שֶׁמְצַד עַצְמוֹ אֵין בּוֹ שׁוּם מַעֲלָה, מִתְבַּטֵאת בְּהַקְדִימָה דְּעֵשָׁו (גוּר) לְיַצַקֹב (נְשֶׁמָה), "הָראשׁוֹן גָּחוֹן עֵשְׁוֹ"; וְיֵשׁ לְהוֹסִיף, שֶׁמַעֲלַת עֵשָׂו מְרֻמֶּזֶת גַּם בְּ"אַדְמוֹנִי", אוֹתִיוֹת "מְאֹד", בְּלִי גְּבוּל, וְגַם בְּ"אַדֶּרֶת שֵׁעָר", שֶׁרוֹמֵז עַל י״ג תִּקוּנֵי דִּיקְנָא

And since specifically through the soul enclothing in the body to refine and purify it through the fulfillment of Torah and mitzvos the choice of the Essence is drawn and revealed in the body (and afterwards also in the soul) also from the aspect of revelations—therefore Esav requests from Yaakov, "Pour into me now from this very red," meaning that through Yaakov (soul) there will be revealed (this) in Esav (body) the superiority of the without-limit (the "red, red," letters of "me'od" twice) that is in the choice of the Essence.

ְּוְכֵיוָן שֶׁדַּוְקָא בְּהִתְלַבְּשׁוּת הַנְשֶׁמֶה בְּהַגוּף לְבָרְרוֹ
וּלְזַכְּכוֹ עַלֹּי-יְבִי קִיּוּם הַתּוֹרָה וּמְצְוֹת נִמְשֶׁכֶת וּמִתְגַּלָּה
בְּּחִירַת הָעַצְמוּת בְּהַגוּף (וּלְאַחֲרֵי־זֶה גַּם בְּהַנְשֶׁמָה) גַּם
מְצֵּד בְּחִינַת הַגִּלוּיִים (כַּנִּזְפָר לְעֵיל ס׳ ה) – לָבוְ מְבַקֵּשׁ
עַשָּׁוֹ מִיַּצְקֹב "הַלְעִיטֵנִי נָא מִן הָאָדֹם הָאָדֹם הַזָּה",
הַיְנוּ, שֶׁעַל־יְדֵי יַעֲקֹב (נְשָׁמָה) תִּתְגַּלָה ("הַזָּה") בְּעֵשִׂוּ
מוּרְף) מַעֲלַת הַבְּלִי גְּבוּל ("הָאָדֹם הָאָדֹם", אוֹתִיּוֹת
הַיִּמִים) שֵׁבְּבַחירַת הַעצְמוּת

And according to this one can explain what is written, "And Esav despised the birthright," to the positive— "and he despised" from the expression of "bizah," meaning that he relinquishes the birthright for the sake of a greater elevation of the revelation of the Essence (in which is emphasized the truth of the concept of the Essence, that it is not defined by concealment and comes also in revelation) which is above the category of birthright.

וְעַל־פִּי־זֶה יֵשׁ לְפָּרֵשׁ מַה־שָׁכָּתוּב "וַיָּבֶז עֵשָׂו אֶת הַבְּכֹרָה'' לְמַעֲלְיוּתָא ("וַיִּבֶז" מִלְּשׁוֹן "בְּזָה") – שָׁמְוֹתֵּר עַל הַבְּכוֹרָה בִּשְׁבִיל עִלּוּי גָּדוֹל יוֹתֵר דְּהִתְגַּלּוּת הָעֶצֶם (שֶׁבָּזֶה מֵדְגָשׁ אֲמִתַּת עִנְיָנוֹ שֶׁל הָעֶצֶם, שָׁאֵינוֹ מִגְדָּר בַּהֶעֶלֵם וּבָא גַּם בְּגִלּוּי) שֶׁלְמַעְלָה מֵהַגֶּדֶר הֹיְדִּ"בִּלַרָה

And according to this one can explain the precise wording of Rashi: "And these are the offspring of Yitzchak," Yaakov and Esav (Yaakov precedes Esav) mentioned in the Parashah (even though in their statement in the Parashah Esav precedes Yaakov)—because the revelation ("and these") of the Essence ("offspring") is through this that the soul (Yaakov) enclothes itself in the body (Esav) in order to refine it and purify it through the service of the fulfillment of Torah and mitzvos ("mentioned in the Parashah"), that through this the choice of the Essence is revealed (in the body, and through it the choice is also revealed in the soul).

וְעַל־פִּי־זֶה יֵשׁ לְבָאֵר דִּיּוּק לְשׁוֹן רַשִּׁ"י "וְאֵלֶה תּוֹלְדוֹת יִצְחָקּ", יַעֲקֹב וְעֵשָׁו (יַעֲקֹב קוֹבַם לְעֵשָׂו) הָאֲמוּרִים יִצְחָקּ", יַעֲקֹב וְעֵשָׁו (יַעֲקֹב קוֹבַם לְעֵשָׂו) הָאֲמוּרִים בַּפָּרָשָׁה קוֹבַם עֵשָׁו לְיַעֲקֹב) בַּפָּרָשָׁה קוֹבַם עֵשָׁו לְיַעֲקֹב) – כִּי, הִתְּגַלּוּת ("וְאֵלֶה") הָעֶצֶם ("תּוֹלְדוֹת") הִיא עַל־יְדֵי־זָה שֶׁהַנְשָׁמָה (יַעֲקֹב) מִתְלַבֶּשֶׁת בַּגוּף (עֵשָׂו) כְּבֵי לְבָרְרוֹ וּלְוַכְּכוֹ עַל־יְדֵי הָעֲבוֹדָה דְּקִיּוּם הַתּוֹרָה וּמְצִוֹת ("הָאֲמוּרִים בַּפָּרָשָׁה"), שֶׁעַל־יְדִי־זָה מִתְגַּלָּה גַּם הַבְּחִירָה בְּחִירַת הָעַצְמוּת (בְּהַגוּף, וְעַל־יִדוֹ מִתְגַלָּה גַּם הַבְּחִירָה (בִּהַגוּף, וְעַל־יִדוֹ מִתְגַלָּה גַּם הַבְּחִירָה .

Sichas Nun Beis Parshas Toldos

And as a continuation of this come the portions after this:

Parashas Vayeitzei— "And Yaakov went out from Be'er Sheva and he went toward Charan," the service of Yaakov in the refinement of Lavan; and Parashas Vayishlach— "And Yaakov sent messengers before him to Esav his brother"— the refinement of Esav; and until Parashas Vayeishev— "And Yaakov dwelled," to dwell in tranquility, in which is emphasized the perfection of "Noach" (from the expression of rest) in actuality and in revelation in the completion and wholeness of the service, which is the matter of reward, "the reward of a mitzvah (is the) mitzvah itself," whose essence and perfection is the satisfaction (Noach from the expression of satisfaction) of the Creator, which is drawn and revealed and penetrates into the satisfaction of the created being.

וּבְהֶּמְשֵׁךְ לָזֶה בָּאִים הַפָּרָשִׁיוֹת שֶׁלְאַחֲבִי־זֶה: פָּרְשַׁת]

"וַיֵּצֵא" – "וַיֵּצֵא יַצְּלִב מִבְּאֵר שָׁבַע וַיֵּלֶךְ חָרָנָה",

עֲבוֹדַת יַצְלִב בְּהַבֵּרוּר דְּלָבָן; וּפָּרָשַׁת "וַיִּשְׁלַח" –

"וַיִּשְׁלִ יַצְלִב מַּלְאָכִים לְפָּנָיו אֶל עֵשָׂו אָחִיו" –

הַבֵּרוּר דְּעַשָּׁו; וְעַד לְפָּרָשַׁת "וַיֵּשֶׁב" – "וַיֵּשֶׁב יַעֲלְב",

"לֵישֵׁב בְּשַׁלְוָה", שֶׁבָּזָה מֵדְגָּשֶׁת הַשְּׁלֵמוּת דְּ"בֹחַ"

(מִלְשׁוֹן מְנוּחָה) בְּפֹעַל וּבְגלוּי בִּגְמַר וּשְׁלֵמוּת הָעֲבוֹדָה,

שְׁנָבוֹן הַשָּׁכָר, "שְׁכַר מִצְנָה (הִיא הַ)מִצְוָה

(עַצְמָה)", שָׁנָקרוֹ וּשְׁלֵמוּתוֹ הוּא הַנַּחַת־רוּחַ ("נַחַ" מִלְּשׁׁוֹן נַחַת־רוּחַ דְּבָרַא

(בְּהַנַּחַת־רוּחַ דְּבָרַא

(\pi)

And according to the known point that the Torah portion of the week is related to the content of the time, there is to connect the above with the content of the month of Kislev, in which we read the portion of Toldos: its theme is emphasized in the holidays in it – the festival that concludes and seals it, the days of Chanukah, and the holidays in the teachings of Chassidus, the 19th of Kislev and the 10th of Kislev, whose shared point is the matter of oil.

The miracle of the oil of Chanukah, which hints to the inner dimension of the Torah, the level of the "oil" in Torah, which was revealed in Chassidus in Kislev in the manner of "your wellsprings shall spread outward," at the entrance of his house, outside.

And the idea here is that "oil" refers to the essence of the thing, which therefore seeps through everything, drawn and penetrating everywhere, even below outside. In that drawing and revelation below is emphasized the revelation of the essence itself, just as the essence of "Noach" is revealed specifically in "Toldos," Yaakov and Esav.

וְעַל־פִּי הַיָּדוּעַ שֶׁפֶּרָשַׁת הַשָּׁבוּעַ שַׁיָּכֶת לְתְכֶן הַזְמֵן –
יֵשׁ לְקַשֶׁר הָאָמוּר לְעֵיל עִם תָּכְנוֹ שֶׁל חֹדֶשׁ כִּסְלֵו שֶׁבּוֹ
קוֹרִין פֶּרָשַׁת תּוֹלְדוֹת': עִנְיָנוֹ שֶׁל חֹדֶשׁ כִּסְלֵו מִדְגָּשׁ
בְּהַיָּמִים טוֹבִים שֶׁבּוֹ – הַיּוֹם־טוֹב שֶׁבְּסִיוּמוֹ וְחוֹתָמוֹ,
יְמֵי חֲנַבָּה, וְהַיָּמִים טוֹבִים בְּתוֹרַת הַחֲסִידוּת, י"ט כִּסְלֵו
יְיוּ"ד כִּסְלֵו, אֲשֶׁר, הַנְּקְדָּה הַמְשְׁתָּכֶּת שֶׁבֵּינֵיהֶם הִיא
יִנִין הַשָּׁמֵן

נֵס הַשָּׁמֶן דַּחַנֵּכָּה, שֶׁרוֹמֵז עַל פְּנִימִיוּת הַתּוֹרָה, בְּחִינַת הַשֶּׁמֶן שֶׁבַּתּוֹרָה, שֶּנִּתְגַּלָּה בְּתוֹרַת הַחֲסִידוּת בְּחֹדֶשׁ כִּסְלֵו, בְּאֹפָן דְיָפוּצוּ מַעְיִנֹתֶיךּ חוּצָה", עַל פֶּתַח בֵּיתוֹ "מִבַּחוּץ

וְהָעִנְיָן בָּזָה – שֶׁשֶׁמֶן" מוֹרָה עַל עַצְמִיוּת הַדָּבָר (עֶטֶענְץ"), שֶׁלָכֵן מְפַעְפַּעַ בְּכָל דָּבָר, שֻׁנִּמְשָׁךְּ וְחוֹדֵר בְּכָל מָקוֹם, עַד לְמַטָּה מַטָּה (בַּחוּץ), אֲשֶׁר, בְּהַהְמְשֶׁכָה וְהַהָתְגַּלּוּת לְמַטָּה דַּוְקָא מְדָגָּשֶׁת הִתְגַלּוּת הָעֶצֶם מַמָּשׁ, כְּשֵׁם שֶׁהָעֶצֶם דְּנֹחַ" מִתְגַלָּה בְּתוֹלְדוֹת" דַּוְקָא, יַעֲקֹב "וְעֵשָׂו הָאֲמוּרִים בַּפָּרְשָׁה.

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And one can add that this is hinted also in the novelty of the festival of Chanukah (the end and seal of Kislev) above other holidays – that its beginning and most days (five or six) are in Kislev and continue also into the beginning of Teves.

וְיֵשׁ לְהוֹסִיף, שֶׁעַנְיֶן זֶה מְרֻמֶּז גַּם בְּהַחִדּוֹשׁ בְּהַיּוֹם־טוֹב דַּחֲנָפָה (סִיּוּמוֹ וְחוֹתָמוֹ שֶׁל חֹדֶשׁ כִּסְלֵוֹ) לְגַבֵּי שְׁאָר הַיָּמִים טוֹבִים – שֶׁהַתְחָלֶתוֹ וְרַבּוֹ (חֲמִשָּׁה אוֹ שִׁשָּׁה יָמִים) בְּחֹדֶשׁ כִּסְלֵו, וְהוֹלֵךְ וְנִמְשֶׁךְ גַּם בְּהַתְחָלֵת חֹדֶשׁ יַמִּםת מַבֵּת

The idea of the month of Teves – "a month in which the body enjoys the body," which hints to the enjoyment of the lower body (the physical body) from the body (the essence) above.

עָנְיָנוֹ שֶׁל חֹדֶשׁ טֵבֵת – יָרַח שֶׁהַגוּף נֶהֶנֶה מִן הַגּוּף", שֶׁרוֹמֵז עַל הַהַנָּאָה דְּהַגוּף שֶׁלְמַטָּה (גוּף הַגַּשְׁמִי) מַהַגוּף (הָעֶצֶם) שָׁלְמַעְלָה.

And one can say that in the continuation of the days of Chanukah in Teves it is hinted that through the service of the Chanukah light, the mitzvah-lamp and Torah-light, made by the soul's enclothing to refine the physical body first and its portion in the world, drawn outward, the choice of the Essence in the physical body is drawn and revealed.

וְיֵשׁ לּוֹמַר, שֶׁבְּהַהֶּמְשֵׁךְּ דִּימֵי חֲנֻבָּה בְּחֹדֶשׁ טֵבֵת, מְרֻמָּז, שֶׁעַל־יְדֵי הָצְבוֹדָה דְּנֵר חֲנֵבָּה, נֵר מִצְוָה וְתוֹרָה אוֹר", שֶׁנַעֲשֶׁית עַל־יְדֵי הִתְלַבְּשׁוּת הַנְשָׁמָה (נֵר ה' נִשְׁמַת שָׁל־יְדֵי הִתְלַבְּשׁוּת הַנְשָׁמָה (נֵר ה' נִשְׁמַת אָדָם") לְבָרֵר וּלְזַכֵּךְ אֶת הַגוּף הַגַּשְׁמִי (בַּתְּחִלָּה) וְחָלְקוֹ (עַל פֶּתַח בֵּיתוֹ מִבַּחוּץ

It penetrates the being of the body until it is felt and revealed in the sensation of the body (pleasure), that it is recognized and revealed openly that Yisrael and the Holy One, blessed be He, are entirely one, and even to the revelation of His Essence in the whole world, that it becomes a dwelling for Him, a dwelling for His Essence itself.

נִמְשֶׁכֶת וּמִתְגַּלֶּה בְּחִירַת הָעַצְמוּת בְּהַגוּף הַגַּשְׁמִי בְּאֹפֶּן שֶׁחוֹדֶרֶת בִּמְצִיאוּת הַגוּף עַד שֻׁנְּכֶּרֶת וּמִתְגַּלָּה בְּהָרְגַּשׁ הַגוּף (הְנָאָה), שֶׁנִּכֶּר בְּפֹעַל וּבְגָלוּי שֶׁיִשְׂרָאֵל וְקְדְשָׁא־בְּרִידִּ־הוּא כּלָא חַד", וְעַד לְגִלוּי עַצְמוּתוֹ יִתְבָּרֵךְ (יֵשׁ הָאָמִהִּי) בְּכָל הָעוֹלָם (בַּיֵשׁ הַנִּבְרָא), יִשְׁנַּעִשָּׁה דִּירָה לוֹ יִתִבַּרֵךְ, דִּירָה לְעַצְמוּתוֹ מַמֵּשׁ שִׁנַּעַשָּׁה דִּירָה לוֹ יִתִבַּרָך,

NOTE Summary:

The Rebbe begins by emphasizing that the names of the Torah portions are exact, since they were established according to the minhag of Yisrael, and minhag Yisrael is Torah. Even though Parshas Noach and Parshas Toldos both open with similar expressions of "These are the generations...," each parsha receives a different name because its name must reflect its deepest essence. "Noach" expresses the core being and essential state—associated with menuchah, tranquility, and the essential existence of the tzaddik—while "Toldos" expresses revealed outcomes, results, and good deeds.

The Rebbe shows that this distinction reflects the cosmic difference between before and after Matan Torah. "Noach" corresponds to the essential, innate connection of Yidden to Hashem that precedes Torah entirely—"Yisrael arose in thought"—a connection rooted in Atzmus itself and not dependent on revealed qualities. "Toldos," in contrast, corresponds to the avodah that follows this essential bond: the revelation of the essence within the world through good deeds, mitzvos, and the practical avodah of the soul as it works through the body.

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This framework becomes deeper when applied to Yitzchak, the first Jew whose entire existence and "generations" follow the preparation for Matan Torah. His Toldos—Yaakov and Esav—exist within each Jew. Yaakov represents the neshamah; Esav represents the guf. The Rebbe explains that the choice of Atzmus is specifically in the guf, the element that has no inherent revealed virtue. This is why Esav is born first. Yet the revelation of that essential chosenness is only through the neshamah working within the guf, refining it and elevating it through Torah and mitzvos.

From here the Rebbe explains that true shleimus is when the essence (Noach) permeates and is expressed within the realm of giluyim (Toldos). Not only does the essence remain concealed, but it becomes revealed and manifests within the practical avodah of good deeds, even in the lowest and simplest aspects of life.

The Rebbe then connects all of this with the avodah of the month of Kislev, the month of the revelation of the "oil" of Torah—the pnimius of Torah revealed through Chassidus, beginning with Yud and Yud-Tes Kislev—and culminating in Chanukah, the miracle of oil. Oil represents etzem, which penetrates everywhere and flows downward without limit, even "chutzah," mirroring how the essence of a Jew becomes revealed in the world through Torah, mitzvos, and the spreading of Chassidus.

The continuation of Chanukah into the month of Teves—"a month in which the body enjoys the body"—hints to the pleasure of the physical body below receiving from the Essence above. Through ner mitzvah and Torah or, accomplished by the neshamah refining the physicality of the guf and the world, the revelation of Atzmus penetrates the very sensation of the physical body. This leads to a state where the world itself reveals "Hashem and Yisrael are entirely one," completing the purpose of creation: a dira for Atzmus in the lowest realm.

Practical Takeaway:

The Rebbe's teaching calls each Jew to reveal their inherent, essential bond with Hashem—represented by "Noach"—within the practical details of daily avodah—"Toldos." This means engaging the physical world, the body, and ordinary actions with mitzvos, refinement, and light, until the deepest essence shines even in the simplest places. By spreading the wellsprings of Chassidus outward, especially in the spirit of Kislev and Chanukah, every Jew participates in drawing Atzmus into the world, transforming the physical into a dwelling for the Infinite

Chassidic Story

There was once a young chossid who felt torn between two worlds. On one hand, he was deeply drawn to learning, davening, and anything that uplifted his soul. On the other hand, every time he had to deal with his job, daily responsibilities, or the physical demands of life, he felt out of place and frustrated. He believed that elevating himself meant escaping the physical, that the only way to feel close to Hashem was to remain in the spiritual realm of the neshamah. The ordinary world, he thought, simply pulled him down.

Confused and burdened, he wrote to the Lubavitcher Rebbe, sharing his sense of disconnect and asking for guidance. The Rebbe's response surprised him. The Rebbe explained that his struggle came from a

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misunderstanding of what true holiness is. "Your body is not an obstacle," the Rebbe told him. "It is the vessel for revelation. The neshamah's purpose is not to flee from the guf, but to refine it. Through your actions in the physical world, you reveal Atzmus — the Divine Essence — specifically in the lowest and most ordinary places."

The young man took the Rebbe's words to heart. When he returned to work, he did so with a new mindset. Every task, no matter how mundane, now carried meaning. Every interaction with another person became an opportunity to act with integrity, kindness, and purpose. Slowly he discovered that moments of clarity and connection — once felt only in learning or tefillah — began to appear in his daily labor as well. He realized that the spark of his essence shone brightest not when he escaped the world, but when he elevated it.

With time, the Rebbe's teaching transformed him. What once felt like a conflict between body and soul became a partnership. He came to see that the greatest revelations of holiness occur specifically when the neshamah works through the guf, refining the physical rather than rejecting it. In this way, he personally experienced the Rebbe's central message: that the essence of a Jew is not diminished by descent — it is revealed through it. **END NOTE**