

תפארת ישראל

The Splendor of Israel Introduction of the Author - הַקְּדָמַת הַמְחַבֵּר

Introduction

This discourse by the Maharal of Prague explores the deeper meaning of the concluding words of *Tehillim 19*: "יָהְיוֹ לְרָצוֹן אָמְרֵי פִּי וְהֶגְיוֹן לְבֵּי לְפָנֶיךּ ה' צוּרִי וְגֹאֵלִי." The Maharal interprets this verse not just as a personal prayer, but as a statement of profound theological principles: God does not reject the lowly, desires sincere inner devotion, and remains the eternal Creator and Redeemer, even when man distances himself. He also explains the significance of Torah as the crown and glory of Israel, tying it to the national identity of the Jewish people and the divine praise received through its laws. The name of the sefer, *Tiferes Yisrael*, is revealed to embody this concept—the Torah as the beauty and greatness of Israel.

"And this is the Torah that Moshe placed before the Children of Israel" (Devarim 4:44). This verse—wants to say, that the Torah is like a placed object, anyone who wants to merit it—will merit it. And therefore it did not say: "that he placed to the Children of Israel," only "before the Children of Israel." Like an object that is placed before them, anyone who wants to merit—merits it. And a person should not say that the Torah was only given to great sages, who are distant from error, but the Torah was given to all, and he should also not say: "perhaps I will err in the Torah."

And this thing they explained in the Midrash (Shir HaShirim Rabbah 2:4): "He brought me to the house of wine, and his banner over me was love" (Shir HaShirim 2:4), Rabbi Yonah said: two companions who are engaged in halachah, one says the source-house of halachah, and the other does not say the source-house of halachah, the Holy One, blessed be He, says: "and his banner over me was love." Rabbi Acha said: an ignorant person who reads "love" as "hatred," like saying "and you shall love"—and he says "and you shall hate," the Holy One, blessed be He, says: "and his banner over me was love." Until here.

The explanation of "source-house of halachah"—is the root of halachah and its reasoning.

וְזֹאת הַתּוֹרָה אֲשֶׁר שָׁם מֹשֶׁה לִּפְנֵי בְּנֵי"
יִשְׂרָאֵל" (דְּבָּרִים ד, מד). הַכָּתוּב הַנֶּה -רוֹצָה
לוֹמַר, כִּי הַתּוֹרָה כְּחֵפֶץ מַנָּח, כָּל הָרוֹצֶה לִזְכּוֹת
בָּה – יִזְכָּה בָּה. וּלְכָּך לֹא אָמַר: אֲשֶׁר שָׁם לְבְנֵי
יִשְׂרָאֵל". כְּמוֹ דָּבָר הַמֶּנְּח
יִשְׂרָאֵל". כְּמוֹ דָּבָר הַמֶּנְּח
לִפְנֵיהָם, כָּל הָרוֹצֶה לִזְפוֹת זוֹכֶה בָּה. וְלֹא יֹאמֵר
הָאָדָם כִּי הַתּוֹרָה לֹא נִתְּנָה רַק לִגְדוֹלֵי הַחֲכָמִים,
שָׁהֵם רְחוֹקִים מִן הַפָּעוּת, אֲבָל הַתּוֹרָה נִתְנָה לַכּל,
וַלֹא יֹאמֵר גַּם־כֵּן אוּלֵי אֶשְׁגָּה בַּתּוֹרָה

וְדָבֶר זֶה פַּרְשׁוּ בַּמִּדְרָשׁ (שִׁיר הַשִּׁירִים רַבָּה ב,

ד): "הַבִּיאֵנִי אֶל בֵּית הַיָּיִן וְהִגְּלוֹ עָלַי אַהַבָּה"
(שִׁיר־הַשִּׁירִים ב, ד), רַבִּי יוֹנָה אָמַר: שְׁנֵי חֲבֵרִים הָעוֹסְקִים בַּהַלָּכָה, זֶה אוֹמֵר בֵּית אָב שֶׁל הָלָכָה, וֹנָה אֵינֵוֹ אוֹמֵר בֵּית אָב שֶׁל הָלָכָה, אוֹמֵר הַקּדוֹשׁ־בָּרוּהְ־הוּא: "וְדִגְלוֹ עָלַי אַהֲבָה". אָמֵר רַב אַחָא: עַם הָאָרֶץ שֶׁקוֹרֵא לְאַהֲכָה -אֵיבָה, כְּגוֹן "וְאָהַרָּהָ" – וְאָיַבְהָּ', אָמֵר הַקָּדוֹשׁ־ בָּרוּהְּ־הוּא: "וְדִגְלוֹ עַלִי אַהַבָה", עַד בַּאן

פַרוּשׁ בֵּית אַב שֵׁל הַלָּכָה' - שַׁרַשׁ הַלָּכָה וְטַעֵּמָה.

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And because of this it appears that the blessing on Torah study is "to engage in words of Torah," and we do not bless "to learn Torah." And one should explain that therefore we bless "to engage in words of Torah"—because this blessing is a blessing over commandments, that one is obligated to bless over every positive commandment. And a positive commandment is only for a thing that includes action, for it is called a positive commandment—one is obligated to do. And therefore one must bless "to engage," meaning Torah study with action. And this is when one utters speech

וּמִפְּנֵי זֶה נִרְאֶה כִּי הַבְּרָכָה עַל לִמּוּד הַתּוֹרָה לַעֲסֹק בְּדְבָרִי תוֹרָה', וְאֵין מְבָרְכִין 'לִלְמֹד תּוֹרָה'
וְעֵל כָּךְ יֵשׁ לְּפָרֵשׁ שֶׁלְכָּךְ אָנוּ מְבָרְכִין: לַעֲסֹק
בְּדָבָרִי תוֹרָה', מִפְּנֵי שֶׁהַבְּרָכָה הַוֹּאת הִיא בִּרְכַּת הַמִּצְוֹת, שֶׁחַיָּב לְבָרֶךְ עַל כָּל מִצְוֹת עֲשֵׂה. וְאֵין מִצְוֹת עֲשֵׂה רַק בְּדָבָר שֶׁיֵשׁ בּוֹ מַעֲשֶׂה, שֶׁהָרֵי נִקְרָא מִצְוֹת עֲשֵׂה', שֶׁחַיָּב לַעֲשׁוֹת. וּלְכָךְ יֵשׁ לְבָרַךְ: לַעֲסֹק', דְּהַיְנוּ לִמּוּד תּוֹרָה בְּמַעֲשֶׂה. וְזֶה בָּאֲשֶׁר הוּא מוֹצִיא הַדְּבּוּר

this is called engagement in Torah, for speech is considered action. But "learning" is called understanding the thing that one studied, and the blessing is only over the action of the commandment. And if one studied only in-depth analysis alone, he should not bless "to engage in words of Torah," for this is said over the action.

זֶה נִקְרָא עֵסֶק בַּתּוֹרָה, שֶׁהַדְּבּוּר נֶחְשָׁב מַעֲשֶׂה. אֲבָל לִמּוּד' נִקְרָא הָבָנַת הַדָּבָר מַה שֶׁלְמַד, וְאֵין הַבְּנַת הַבְּּבְר מָה שֶׁלְמַד, וְאֵין הַבְּנַת הַמְּצְוָה. וְאָם לָמַד בְּעִיוּן לְבַרָהְ: לַעֲסֹק בְּדִבְרֵי תוֹרָה' שֶׁזֶּה לָבֵר, אֵין לוֹ לְבָרֵהְ: לַעֲסֹק בְּדִבְרֵי תוֹרָה' שֶׁזֶּה .נְאֱמַר עַל הַמַּעִשָּה

However, it appears to say as we have said: that therefore we bless "to engage in the words of Torah," because "to learn Torah" is only applicable to one who has studied Torah and directs the halachah according to its truth—only then does it apply to *learning* Torah. But one who does not direct the halachah to its truth—this is not considered learning. Therefore we bless: "to engage in the words of Torah," whether he directs the halachah or does not direct the halachah, only that he intends to learn the truth—even though he is mistaken. For learning Torah for oneself is very easy, and there is no need to worry about anything.

אָמְנָם נִרְאָה לוֹמֵר כְּמוֹ שֶׁאָמַרְנוּ. כִּי לְכָךְ מְבָרְכִין:
לַעֲסֹק בְּדְבָרֵי תוֹרָה', כִּי לִלְמֹד תּוֹרָה' לֹא שַׁיֶּדְ רַק
עַל מִי שֶׁלָּמַד תּוֹרָה וּמְכֵּוּן הַהַּלָּכָה לַאֲמִתָּה, שֶׁבָּזָה
שַׁיֶּדְ לְמוּד תּוֹרָה. אֲבָל מִי שֶׁאֵינוֹ מְכַנֵּן הַהַּלָכָה עַל
אָמְתָּה, אֵין זֶה לִמוּד. לְכָךְ מְבָרְכִין: לַעֲסֹק בְּדִבְרֵי
אָמְתָּה, בֵּין שֶׁהוּא מְכַוּן הַהַּלָּכָה, אוֹ שֶׁאֵינוֹ מְכַנֵּן
הַהַּלָּכָה, אוֹ שֶׁאֵינוֹ מְכַנֵּן
הַהַלְכָה, אוֹ שֶׁאֵינוֹ מְכַנֵּן
הַהַלְכָה, בִי שְׁהוּא מְכַוּן לִלְמֹד הָאֱמֶת, אַף עַל גַּב שֶׁהוּא
שוֹגֵג. הָרֵי כִּי לְמוּד הַתּוֹרָה לְעַצְמוֹ נָקֵל מְאֹד, וְאֵין
צַרִיךְ לַחֹשׁ לִשׁוּם דַּבַר

However, to place words of Torah before another is difficult from two perspectives: the first, because if he does not direct the halachah to enlighten the eyes of the other with a matter of truth—why should he? For the purpose of placing words of Torah before another is to make him wise with words of truth and uprightness. And the way of truth is distant from being found—and all the more so in these generations, in which wisdom has vanished from mankind.

אָמְנָם לָשׁוּם דִּבְרֵי תּוֹרָה לִפְנֵי זוּלָתוֹ הוּא קָשֶׁה מִשְׁנֵי פָּנִים; הָאָחָד כִּי אִם אֵינוֹ מְכַוּן הַהֲלָכָה לְהָאִיר עֵינֵי זוּלָתוֹ בִּדְבַר אֱמֶת, לָמָה לוֹ. כִּי תַּכְלִית מֵה שִׁיְכַוּן הַמַּנִּיחַ דִּבְרֵי תּוֹרָה לִפְנֵי זוּלָתוֹ, לְהַחְכִּים אוֹתוֹ בְּדְבְרֵי אֶמֶת וְישֶׁר. וְדֶרֶךְ הָאֱמֶת רָחוֹק מִשֶׁימָצֵא, וּמִכָּל שֶׁכֵּן בַּדּוֹרוֹת הָאֵלוּ, שֶׁאָבְדָה חָכְמָה מבּנִי אדם

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The second: even if he does direct the halachah, who knows if the words of his mouth will be acceptable to the other. And if they are not accepted, still, it did not accomplish anything. And there is no doubt that every act in which the doer is distant from reaching the goal of his intent—it is not fitting that he do that act, lest his action be in vain and for nothing.

And this matter that we said—even in the complete generations, a person needed extra caution that he not stumble in this. And they said in the fourth chapter of Berachos (28b): upon entering the study hall one prays: "May it be Your will that I not stumble in a matter of halachah, and that I not declare pure that which is impure, and that my colleagues rejoice in me, and that my colleagues not stumble in a matter of halachah and I rejoice in them"—until here.

Behold, even in a great Torah scholar, the heart of a person inclines to rejoice when he finds a deficiency in the words of his fellow. For every person by nature rejoices in the perfection he has over his fellow. Therefore he prays not to follow his nature and rejoice when his friend stumbles in a matter of halachah while he himself does not stumble.

And even though one may explain the opposite of what was said—that "and my colleagues rejoice in me" is a prayer that his colleagues rejoice in him when he does not stumble in halachah—the wording of the statement does not support this, since it did not say that he should speak a matter of halachah, only that it said in a negative way: that he not err in a matter of halachah. And maybe he will not say any matter of halachah at all, for not every person will say a matter of halachah in the study hall.

And he should have said: "May it be Your will that I say regarding pure [things] 'pure,' and regarding impure [things] 'impure,' and that my colleagues rejoice in me." And the commentary of Rashi, of blessed memory, will prove it. And if this matter is so for those of perfect stature—all the more so in an imperfect generation, in which all the words of another are

הַשַּׁנִי, אַף אִם הוּא מְכַנֵּן הַהַּלָּכָה, מִי יוֹדֵעַ אִם יִהְיוּ לְרָצוֹן אִמְרֵי פִיו לְזוּלְתוֹ. וְאִם לֹא יִהְיוּ לְרָצוֹן, עֲדַיִן לֹא הוֹעִיל דָּבָר. וְאֵין סָפֵק כִּי כָּל פְּעַלֶּה אֲשֶׁר רָחוֹק שֶׁיַגִּיעַ הַפּוֹעֵל אֶל תַּכְלִית כַּוּנָתוֹ, אֵין רָאוּי שֶׁיִפְעַל אוֹתָה פְּעַלָּה, שָׁלֹא יִהְיֶה פְּעַלָּתוֹ לָרִיק וּלְבַטָּלָה.

וְהַדָּכָר הַנָּה אֲשֶׁר אָמַרְנוּ, אַף בַּדּוֹרוֹת הַשְׁלֵמִים הָיָה צָרִידְּ לָאָדָם וְרִיזּוּת יְתַרָה שָׁלֹא יִהְיָה נִכְשָׁל בָּזָה. וְאָמְרוּ בְּפֶּרֶק ד' דִּבְרָכוֹת (כח, ב): בִּכְנִיסָתוֹ לְבֵית הַמְּדְרָשׁ מִתְפַּלֵּל: יְהִי רָצוֹן שָׁלֹא אֶכָּשֵׁל בִּדְבַר הַלָּכָה, וְלֹא אֹמַר עַל טָהוֹר טָמֵא, וְיִשְׂמְחוּ בִּי חֲבִרִי, וְלֹא יִכָּשְׁלוּ חֲבֵרֵי בִּדְבַר הַלָּכָה, וְאֶשְׂמַח בָּהֶם', עַד בָּאן

הָבִי שֶׁאַף בְּתַלְמִיד חָכָם גָּדוֹל, לֵב הָאָדָם נוֹטָה לִשְׁמֹחַ פַּאֲשֶׁר יִמְצָא בְּדְבָרֵי זוּלָתוֹ חָסָרוֹן. כִּי כָּל אָדָם בְּטִבְעוֹ שָׁמֵחַ בַּשְׁלֵמוּת אֲשֶׁר יֵשׁ לוֹ עַל זוּלָתוֹ, וּלְכָךְ מִתְפַּלֵל שָׁלֹא יֵלֵךְ אַחַר טִבְעוֹ וְיִשְׂמַח כְּשֶׁחֲבֵרוֹ נִלְשָׁל בְּדָבַר הֲלָכָה, וְהוּא אֵינוֹ נִכְשָׁל.

וְעִם כִּי יֵשׁ לְפָּרִשׁ הַחֵפֶּךְ מַה שֶׁאָמַר: וְיִשְּׂמְחוּ חֲבֵרִי בִּי', מְפִלָּה שֶׁיִשְׁמְחוּ חֲבַרִיו בּוֹ כַּאֲשֶׁר לֹא יִכְּשׁל הוּא בִּדְבַר הַלָּכָה. אֵין הַמַּאֲמָר סוֹבֵל זָה, שֶׁעַדַיִן לֹא אָמַר שָׁיֹאמַר דְבַר הַלָּכָה, רַק שֶׁאָמַר בְּדֶרֶךְ שְׁלִילָה שָׁלֹא אֶבָּשֵׁל בִּדְבַר הְלָכָה'. וְאוּלֵי לֹא יֹאמַר דְּבַר הְלָכָה כְּלָל, כִּי לֹא כָּל אָדָם יֹאמַר דְּבַר הַלָּכָה בְּבֵית הַמְּדְרַשׁ.

וְהָיָה לוֹ לוֹמַר: יְהִי רָצוֹן שָׁאֹמֵר עַל טָהוֹר טָהוֹר,
וְעַל טָמֵא טָמֵא, וְיִשְׂמְחוּ חֲבַרִי בִּי'. וּפָרוּשׁ רַשְׁ"י
זִּכְרוֹנוֹ לִבְרָכָה יוֹכִיחַ. וְאִם הַדָּבָר הוּא כָּךְ בְּשְׁלַמֵי
הַמַּצְלָה, מִכָּל שָׁכֵּן בַּדּוֹר הַבִּלְתִּי שָׁלֵם, אֲשֶׁר כָּל
דְּבָרִי זוּלָתוֹ אֵינָם לוֹ לְרָצוֹן, כִּי לֹא יִלְמֹד זְכוּת עַל
הַאוֹמֵר. וַהָּרִי הַקְשִׁי מִצַּד שְׁנִי פָּנִים.

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not favorable to him, for he does not judge the speaker favorably. And behold, the difficulty is from two perspectives.

However, to be saved from this, when one directs his deeds to Hashem, blessed is He, who bequeathed to man the Torah and wisdom—He will still give him His Torah, and guide him in the paths of truth, for from Him comes forth Torah.

And in the chapter "Eilu Nedarim" (Nedarim 81a): Rav Yehudah said in the name of Rav: What is the meaning of the verse (Yirmiyahu 9:11): "Who is the wise man who will understand this? Why was the land lost?" This matter was asked of the sages, and of the prophets, and of the angels—and they did not explain it—until the Holy One, blessed is He, explained it Himself, as it is said (ibid. v.12): "And Hashem said: Because they have abandoned My Torah, and did not listen to My voice, and did not walk in it." That is, "did not listen to My voice" means "and did not walk in it." Rav said: Because they did not bless over the Torah first. Until here.

And this is a wonder—that the land should be destroyed because they did not bless on the Torah first, and not because of idol worship, or illicit relations, or bloodshed that occurred in the First Temple.

However, the explanation is: that which is a cause for the existence of something, is also a cause for its continued existence. And do not wonder—for the carpenter is the cause of the building of the house. Yet even if the carpenter disappears, the house remains. This is not so, for the carpenter is not a component of the house, only one who joins the wood together. And that is what the carpenter acts upon—not the essence of the house; the house is made by the carpenter by circumstance. But something that is essentially the cause for the existence of

another thing, is certainly the cause for its continuation. For it was the cause that it should exist, and so too it is the cause for its continued existence. And this matter is demonstrable by proof.

אָמְנָם לְהָנָצֵל מִזֶּה, כַּאֲשֶׁר יְכַוּן מַעֲשָׂיו אֶל הַשָּׁם יִתְבָּרַךְּ, אֲשֶׁר הוֹרִישׁ אֶל הָאָדָם הַתּוֹרָה וְהַחָּכְמָה, גַּם עַתָּה יִתַּן לוֹ תּוֹרָתוֹ, וְיַדְרִיךְ אוֹתוֹ בִּנְתִיבוֹת אֵמֶת, כִּי מֵאִתּוֹ תַּצֵא תּוֹרָה.

וּבְפֶּרֶק אֵלּוּ נְדָרִים (דַּף פּא, א): אָמֵר רַב יְהוּדָה אָמֵר רַב: מֵאי דְּכְתִיב (יִרְמְיָה ט, יא): "מִי הָאִישׁ הָחָכָם וְיָבֵן אֶת זֹאת עַל מָה אֶבְדָה הָאָרֶץ" וְגוֹי. דָּבָר זֶה נִשְׁאֵל לַחֲכָמִים וְלַבִּיאִים וְלַמֵּלְאָכִים, וְלֹא פַּרְשׁוּהוּ, עַד שֶׁפַּרְשׁוֹ הַקָּדוֹשׁ־בָּרוּדְ־הוּא בְּעַצְמוֹ, שֶׁנֶּאֱמֵר (שָׁם פָּסוּק יב): "וַיֹּאמֶר ה' עַל עֶזְכָם תּוֹרָתִי וְלֹא שָׁמְעוּ בְקוֹלִי וְלֹא הָלְכוּ בָה", אָמֵר רַב: שַׁקֹעוּ בְקוֹלִי" הַיְנוּ "וְלֹא הָלְכוּ בָה", אָמֵר רַב: שָׁלֹא בַּרְכוּ בַּתּוֹרָה תְּחַלָּה', עַד כָּאן

וְדָבָר זֶה מִן הַתַּמֵּה שֶׁיִּהְיֶה חַרְבַּכֵּן הָאָרֶץ בַּשְׁבִיל שָׁלֹא בַּרְכוּ בַּתּוֹרָה תְּחָלָּה. וְלֹא בִּשְׁבִיל עֲבוֹדַת כּוֹכָבִים וְגִלּוּי עֲרָיוֹת וּשְׁפִיכַת דָּמִים שֶׁהָיוּ בְּבַיִת רִאשׁוֹן.

אֶמְנֶם בַּאוּר זֶה, כִּי הַדָּבָר שֶׁהוּא סִבָּה אֶל מְצִיאוּת דְּבָר אַחֵר, הוּא גַּם־כֵּן סְבָּה אֶל קִיוּם מְצִיאוּתוֹ. וְאַל יִקְשֶׁה לְךְ כִּי הַנַּגָּר הוּא סִבָּה לְבִנְיֵן הַכַּיִת. וְעִם כָּל זֶה בְּהָעְדַּר הַנַּגָּר יִשְׁאֵר הַכַּיִת קַיָּם. דְּבָר זֶה אֵינוֹ, כִּי אֵין הַנַּגָּר סְכָּה לַבַּיִת, רַק שֶׁהוּא מְקָרֵב הָעֵצִים יַחַד. וְדָבָר זֶה הַנַּגָּר כּּוֹעֵל, לֹא עֶצֶם הַבַּיִת, וְהַבַּיִת נַעֲשֶׂה מִן הַנַּגָר בְּמִקְרָה

אָבָל דָּבָר שֶׁהוּא סִבָּה בְּעֶצֶם אֶל מְצִיאוּת דָּבָר אַחֵר, כָּל שֶׁכֵּן שֶׁהוּא סְבָּה לַקִיּוּם שֶׁלוֹ. שֶׁהֲרֵי הָיָה סִבָּה שֶׁיִהְיֶה נִמְצָא, וְכֵן גַּם־כֵּן הוּא סְבָּה לַקִיּוּם שֶׁלוֹ, וְדָבָר זֶה מְבֹאַר בְּמוֹפֵת

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Therefore, if they had blessed on the Torah at the beginning, saying "Blessed is He who gives the Torah to Israel," and there was love to Hashem, blessed is He, for having given the Torah to Israel—for this is the meaning of the blessing on the Torah, that He, blessed is He, is blessed for this, and that one loves Hashem for the good He gave them—the Torah—then this would have also caused the Torah to remain among Israel.

That Hashem, blessed is He, would have placed in their hearts to guard and to do and to uphold—even if they would sometimes transgress one commandment, they would immediately return to guard and to do and to uphold. And this would have been from Hashem, blessed is He, who is the cause of the Torah, and He is also the cause that it not be nullified.

Similar to this: when damage reaches a branch that extends from the tree, then the root from which it came returns and causes its growth from the root, which was the cause of its emergence. And without the root, the tree has no existence at all.

And therefore, had they blessed on the Torah first, recognizing that He, blessed is He, is the cause of the Torah and gave them the Torah—and they were attached to Him, blessed is He, in love for what He gave—the Torah to Israel—then through this attachment, Hashem, blessed is He, would also be the cause that the Torah would not be nullified. But because they did not bless on the Torah first, they were not attached to Him, blessed is He, in love for what He gave—the Torah to Israel—there was not here a sustaining cause for the Torah among Israel, and thus they came to transgress the Torah, and this caused the land to be lost.

And they said: "This matter was asked," etc.—the explanation is that there are three levels: The first level is the level of wisdom which a person has in the lower worlds—that which man is able to grasp. The second level is the level of prophecy, which is upon the prophets, who are human beings in this world, and to whom the Holy Spirit comes from above. The third level is the comprehension that is in the upper realms, for the angels are above. And this is what it means when it says, "This matter was asked," etc.

וּלְפִיכָך אָם הָיוּ מְבָרְכִין עַל הַתּוֹרָה תְּחַלָּה לוֹמַר: בָּרוּך נוֹתֵן תּוֹרָה לְיִשְׂרָאֵל', וְהָיְתָה אַהֲבָה אֶל הַשֵּׁם יִתְבָּרַךְ בַּמָּה שֶׁנָתַן תּוֹרָה לְיִשְׂרָאֵל, כִּי זֶה עִנְיַן הַבְּרָכָה עַל הַתּוֹרָה שֶׁהוּא יִתְבָּרַךְ מְבֹרָךְ עַל זֶה, וְאוֹהֵב הַשֵּׁם יִתְבָּרךְ בִּשְׁבִיל הַטוֹב שֶׁנָתַן לוֹ הַתּוֹרָה. וְאָז הָיָה זֶה סִבָּה גַּם־בֵּן שֶׁתִּהְיֶה הַתּוֹרָה מִתְקַיֶּמֶת בִּיִשַׂרָאֵל.

שָׁהָיָה הַשֵּׁם יִתְבָּרַדְּ נוֹתֵן בְּלְבָּם לִשְׁמֹר וְלַצְשׁוֹת וּלְקַיֵּם. אַף אָם הָיוּ עוֹבְרִים לִפְּעָמִים מִצְּוָה אַחַת, הָיוּ חוֹזְרִים מִיָּד לְשָׁמֹר וְלַצְשׁוֹת וּלְקַיֵּם. וְזֶה הָיָה מִן הַשֵּׁם יִתְבָּרַדְּ אֲשֶׁר הוּא סְבָּה לַתּוֹרָה, וְהוּא גַּם־בֵּן סבָּה שֵׁלֹא תִתִבַּטל

דוֹמֶה לָזֶה; כַּאֲשֶׁר הִגִּיעַ נֵזֶק אֶל עָנֶף הַיּוֹצֵא מִן הָאִילָן, אָז הָעֵקֶר שָׁמִּמֶּנּוּ יָצָא, חוֹזֵר וְגוֹרֵם גְּדֵלוֹ מִן הַשֹּׁרֶשׁ, אֲשֶׁר הָיָה סְבָּה לַגִּדּוּל שֶׁלוֹ שֶׁיֵּצֵא. וּבְלֹא הַשֹּׁרֶשׁ אֵין קִיּוּם לָאִילָן כְּלַל

וּלְפִיכָהְ אִלּוּ הָיוּ מְבָּרְכִין בַּתּוֹרָה תְּחִלֶּה, מֵה שֶׁהוּא
יִתְבָּרַךְ סְבָּה לַתּוֹרָה וְנָתַן לָהֶם הַתּוֹרָה, וְהָיוּ דְּבָקִים
בּוֹ יִתְבָּרַךְ כְּאַהָבָה בַּמָּה שֶׁנָתַן תּוֹרָה לְיִשְׂרָאֵל,
וּמִצַּד הַדְּבֵקוּת הַזֶּה הָיָה הַשֵּׁם יִתְבָּרַךְ סְבָּה גַּם־בֵּן
שָׁלֹּא תִּתְבַּמֵל הַתּוֹרָה. אֲבָל מִפְּנֵי שֶׁלֹא בַּרְכוּ בַּתּוֹרָה
תְּחִלָּה, שֶׁלֹא הָיוּ דְבָקִים בּוֹ יִתְבָּרַךְ בְּאַהְכָה בַּמָּה
שָׁנָתַן תּוֹרָה לְיִשְׂרָאֵל, וֹא הָיָה בָּאן סְבָּה מְקַיָּמֶת אֶת
הַתּוֹרָה בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל, וּבָאוּ לִידֵי זֶה שֶׁעָבְרוּ עַל הַתּוֹרָה,
וַדְבַר זֶה גּוֹרֵם שֶׁאַבְדָה הָאָרֵץ

וְאָמְרוּ: דָּבֶר זֶה נִשְׁאֵל' וְכוּ'. פַּרוּשׁ שֶׁשָׁלשׁ מַדְרָגוֹת הַם. הַמַּדְרֵגָה הָאָחָת הִיא מַדְרֶגֶת הַחָּכְמָה שֶׁיֵּשׁ לָאָדָם בַּתַּחְתּוֹנִים, מַה שֶׁיָּכוֹל הָאָדָם לְהַשִּׂיג. הַמַּדְרֵגָה הַשְׁנִיָּה הִיא מַדְרַגַת הַנְּבוּאָה, שֶׁהִיא עַל הַנְּבִיאִים, שֶׁהֵם בְּנֵי אָדָם שֶׁהֵם בָּעוֹלָם הַזָּה, וּכָא לָהֶם רוּחַ הַקֹּדָשׁ מַעֶּלְיוֹנִים. הַמַּדְרֵגָה הַשְּׁלִישִׁית הִיא הַהַשָּׂגָה שֶׁהִיא בָּעֶלְיוֹנִים, כִּי הַמַּלְאָכִים הַם לִלְיוֹנִים. וְזֶה שֶׁאָמֵר: דָּבָר זֶה נִשְׁאַל' וְכוּּ.

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For that which He, blessed is He, is the cause of the Torah—is higher than the level of sages, prophets, and angels. For all of these are caused and resultant, and they do not reach something which is from the side of the Primary Cause itself, and from the perspective of the caused there is no knowledge of this.

For even if they would have known that the reason the land was destroyed was because they sinned, this was not the cause of the destruction of the land. For if they had sinned, Hashem, blessed is He, would have sustained the Torah within them, and they would have returned to the proper path. Rather, the cause was that they did not bless on the Torah first, and through this came the destruction of the land.

And if they had cleaved to Him, blessed is He, in that He gave the Torah—then Hashem, blessed is He, would have been with them in what He gave them—the Torah. And just as He, blessed is He, was the cause of the Torah's existence among them, He would also have been the cause of its sustenance among them, and the land would not have been lost.

But now, since they did not bless on the Torah first, and they were not cleaving to Him, blessed is He, in that He gave the Torah to Israel—then also Hashem, blessed is He, was not with them to sustain the Torah, and this was the cause that the land was lost.

And one might ask: Why did they not bless on the Torah first? The explanation is: the meaning of the blessing is not merely speech of the mouth alone. Certainly they did say the blessing with their mouths. But the intention of the blessing in essence is the complete love and cleaving to Hashem, blessed is He—to love Hashem, blessed is He, in that He gave the Torah. And this is the idea of the blessing.

And not all loves are equal—for true love is love with all heart and all soul, as it is written (Devarim 6:5): "And you shall love Hashem your G-d with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might."

כִּי מַה שֶׁהוּא יִתְבָּרַךְּ סִבָּה לַתּוֹרָה, הוּא יוֹתֵר עֶלְיוֹן מִן מַדְרֶגֶת חֲכָמִים נְבִיאִים וּמֵלְאָכִים. כִּי אֵלוּ כֵּלָם הֵם עֲלוּלִים וּמְסוֹבָבִים, וְאֵינָם מַגִּיעִים אֶל דָּבָר שֶׁהוּא מִצֵּד הָעִלָּה דַּוְקָא, וּמִצַּד הָעֲלוּלִים אֵין יְדִיעָה לָזָה.

כִּי אַף אִם הָיוּ יוֹדְעִים הַסִּבָּה שֶׁאֶבְדָה הָאָרֶץ בִּשְׁבִיל שָׁחָטָאוּ, לֹא הָיְתָה זֹאת סִבָּה לְאִבּוּד הָאָרֶץ, כִּי אִם שָׁטְאוּ, הָיָה הַשֵּׁם יִתְבָּרַךְ מְקַיֵּם הַתּוֹרָה בָּהֶם, וְהָיוּ חוֹזְרִים לְמוּטָב. רַק הַסִּבָּה הָיְתָה שֶׁלֹא בֵּרְכוּ בַּתּוֹרָה חוֹזְרִים לְמוּטָב. רַק הַסִּבָּה הָיְתָה שֶׁלֹא בֵּרְכוּ בַּתּוֹרָה . הְחָלֶה, וּבָזֶה בָּא לָהֶם אִבּוּד הָאָרֶץ

וְאִלּוּ הָיוּ דְּבֵקִים בּוֹ יִתְבָּרַךְ בַּמָּה שֶׁנָּתַן תּוֹרָה, אָז הָיָה הַשֵּׁם יִתְבָּרַךְּ עִמָּהֶם בַּמָּה שֶׁנָתַן הַתּוֹרָה לָהָם. וּכְמוֹ שֶׁהוּא יִתְבָּרַךְ הָיָה הַסִּבָּה לִמְצִיאוּת הַתּוֹרָה בָּהֶם, הָיָה גַּם־בֵּן סִבָּה לְקִיּוּם הַתּוֹרָה בָּהֶם, וְלֹא צָבְדָה הָאָרֶץ

אָבָל עַתָּה שֶׁלֹּא הָיוּ מְבָרְכִים בַּתּוֹרָה תְּחִלָּה, וְלֹא הָיוּ דְּבֵקִים בּוֹ יִתְבָּרַף בַּמָּה שֶׁנָתוּ תּוֹרָה לְיִשְׂרָאֵל, גַם־בֵּן לֹא הָיָה הַשֵּׁם יִתְבָּרַף עִמֶּהֶם לְקַיֵּם הַתּוֹרָה, וְזָה הָיָה גּוֹרֵם שֶׁאָבְדָה הָאָרֵץ.

וְאֵל יִקְשֶׁה לְּדְּ, לָמָה לֹא הָיוּ מְבָרְכִים בַּתּוֹרָה תְּחַלָּה. שֶׁאֵין פֵּרוּשׁ הַבְּרָכָה - הַדִּבּוּר בַּפֶּה בִּלְבַד, דְּוַדַּאי הַדְּבּוּר בַּפֶּה הָיוּ מְבָרְכִים. אֲבָל הַכּּוָנָה עַל הַבְּרָכָה בְּעַצְמָה, הִיא הָאַהְבָה הַגְּמוּרָה וְהַדְּבֵקוּת אֶל הַשֵּׁם יִתְבָּרַדְּ, לֶאֱהֹב הַשֵּׁם יִתְבָּרַדְּ בַּמָּה שֶׁנָתו מּוֹרָה, וְזָהוּ עִנְיַן הַבְּרָכָה

וְאֵין כָּל הָאַהְבוֹת שָׁווֹת, כִּי הָאַהְבָה הָאֲמִתִּית הִיא הָאַהְבָה בְּכָל לֵב וּבְכָל נָפֶשׁ, וּכְדְכְתִיב (דְּבָרִים ו, ה): "וְאָהַבְּהָּ אֶת ה' אֱלֹהֶיךְּ בְּכָל לְבָבְךְ וּבְכָל נַפְשְׁךְ ה'וּבְכַל מָאֹדֶדְ.

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And they did not have complete love for Hashem, blessed is He, in that He gave the Torah to Israel—especially regarding this great goodness, which is the Torah, which is the greatest of all good, for which one must bless Hashem, blessed is He, and exalt His Name with all his heart. And according to the greatness of the goodness, they did not bless with all their heart.	ְוְלֹא הָיְתָה לָהֶם הָאַהַבָה הַגְּמוּרָה אֶל הַשֵּׁם יִתְבָּרַהְּ בַּמָּה שָׁנָּתַן הַתּוֹרָה לְיִשְּׂרָאֵל, וּבִפְּרָט עַל הַטּוֹבָה הַגְּדוֹלָה, שֶׁהִיא הַתּוֹרָה, שֶׁהִיא טוֹבָה עַל הַכּּל, שֶׁיֵשׁ לְבָרֵךְ הַשֵּׁם יִתְבָּרַךְ וְיִתְעַלֶּה שְׁמוֹ עַל זֶה בְּכָל לְבּוֹ. וּרְכִּי הַטּוֹבָה הָעֶלְיוֹנָה, לֹא הָיוּ מְבָרְכִים בְּּכָל לְבָּם.
And this is what they said there (Nedarim 81a) as well: "Why is it that Torah scholars are not commonly found whose children are also Torah scholars? Because they do not bless on the Torah first." For even if they do bless with the mouth, nonetheless, this matter—that the Torah was given—requires that one bless Hashem, blessed is He, with all his heart, and thereby he has complete love for Hashem, blessed is He.	וְזֶה שֶׁאָמְרוּ שֶׁם (נְדָרִים פּא, א) גַּם־בֵּן: מִפְּנֵי מָה אֵין תַּלְמִידֵי חֲכָמִים מְצוּיִים שֶׁיוֹצְאִים מֵהֶם תַּלְמִידֵי חֲכָמִים, מִפְּנֵי שֶׁאֵין מְבָרְכִין בַּתּוֹרָה תְּחִלָּה'. כִּי אַף אִם הָיוּ מְבָרְכִין בַּפָּה, מִכָּל מָקוֹם דָּבָר הַזֶּה – שֶׁהוּא נְתִינַת הַתּוֹרָה – צָרִיךְ לְבָרֵךְּ הַשֵּׁם יִתְבָּרַךְּ בְּכָל לִבּוֹ, וּבָזֶה יֵשׁ לוֹ הָאַהָבָה הַגְּמוּרָה אֶל הַשֵּׁם יִתְבָּרַךְ
And even if he is a Torah scholar and a complete tzaddik, this matter—that he bless Hashem, blessed is He, with all his heart on the giving of the Torah—is distant from being done as it is fitting.	וְאַף אָם הוּא תַּלְמִיד חָכָם וְהוּא צַדִּיק גָּמוּר, רָחוֹק הַדָּבָר הַגָּה שֶׁיְבָרַךְ הַשֵּׁם יִתְבָּרַךְ בְּכָל לְבּוֹ עַל נְתִינַת הַתּוֹרָה כְּפִי הָרָאוּי.
Moreover, the Torah scholar's heart is attached to the Torah, for the Torah is beloved to those who study it. And because of their love for the Torah, this displaces love for the Creator at that moment when they come to study.	ְעוֹד כִּי הַתַּלְמִיד חָכָם לְבּוֹ דָבֵק אֶל הַתּוֹרָה, כִּי חֲבִיבָה הַתּוֹרָה עַל לוֹמְדֶיהָ. וּבִשְׁבִיל אַהֲבָתָם לַתּוֹרָה, דָּבָר זָה מְסַלֵּק אַהֲבַת הַמָּקוֹם בְּשָׁעָה זוֹ שָׁבָּאִים לִלְמוֹד.
For when they come to learn Torah, and their love is for the Torah, then in their learning there is not love for Hashem, blessed is He, for having given the Torah—for one cannot have love for two [at once].	כִּי כַּאֲשֶׁר בָּאִים לִלְמוֹד תּוֹרָה, וְאַהָּבָתָם אֶל הַתּוֹרָה, אֵין בַּלְמוּד שֶׁלָּהֶם הָאַהָּבָה אֶל הַשֵּׁם יִתְבָּרַדְּ בַּמָּה שָׁנָתַן תּוֹרָה, כִּי אֵין הָאַהָּבָה לִשְׁנַיִם.
For all love is attachment to the beloved, and if he is attached to this, he is not attached to the other.	– כִּי כָּל אַהָבָה הִיא דְבֵקוּת בַּנָּאֲהָב, וְאָם דָּבֵק בָּזֶה אֵינוֹ דָבֵק בָּאַחֵר.
Therefore, love of the Torah, which is beloved to them, is something that displaces the possibility of blessing with the whole heart to Hashem, blessed is He, for having given the Torah. And this is what it means that they do not bless on the Torah first.	וּלְפִיכָּהְ אַהְבַת הַתּוֹרָה, שֶׁהִיא חֲבִיבָה עֲלֵיהֶם, דְּבָר זָה מְסַלֵּק שָׁאֵין הַבְּּרָכָה בְּכָל לִבּוֹ אֶל הַשֵּׁם יִתְבָּרַהְ בַּמָּה שֶׁנָתַן הַתּוֹרָה. וְזָה שֶׁאֵין מְבָרְכִים בַּתּוֹרָה הָתִּלָּה
And therefore, Torah scholars do not emerge from them. For if they loved Him in that the Torah is found from Him, blessed is He, then Hashem, blessed is He, would also be the cause for Torah to come forth from them as Torah scholars.	וּלְפִיכָךְ אֵין יוֹצְאִים מֵהֶם תַּלְמִידֵי חֲכָמִים. כִּי אִלוּ הָיוּ אוֹהֲבִים אוֹתוֹ בַּמָּה שֶׁהַתּוֹרָה נִמְצֵאת מֵאִתּוֹ יִתְבָּרַךְ, הָיָה הַשֵּׁם יִתְבָּרַךְ גַּם־כֵּן סִבָּה לַתּוֹרָה לָצֵאת מֵהֶם תַּלְמִידֵי חֲכָמִים

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But now, since they are attached to and pursuing the Torah itself alone, and they are not attached to Him, blessed is He, in that He is the cause of the Torah—they do not produce a Torah scholar who possesses Torah.	ְעַתָּה שֶׁהֵם דְּבֵקִים וְרוֹדְפִים אַחַר הַתּוֹרָה עַצְמָה בִּלְבַד, וְאֵינָם דְּבֵקִים בּוֹ יִתְבָּרַף בַּמָּה שֶׁהוּא יִתְבָּרַף סִבָּה לַתּוֹרָה, לֹא הָיָה יוֹצֵא מֵאִתָּם תַּלְמִיד חָכָם שֶׁיֵשׁ בּוֹ תּוֹרָה.
For there is no cause present that imparts the Torah to the Torah scholar.	שֶׁאֵין כָּאן הַסִּבָּה הַמַּשְׁפִּיעַ אֶת הַתּוֹרָה הוּא הַתַּלְמִיד חָכָם.
And this is what the verse says (Yirmiyahu 5:11): "And they did not listen to My voice"—this refers to the Torah itself; "and they did not walk in it"—they did not take the Torah together with its cause, for taking the Torah together with its cause is called walking in the Torah completely.	וְזֶה שֶׁאָמֵר הַכָּתוּב (יִרְמְיָה ה, יא): "וְלֹא שָׁמְעוּ בְּקוֹלִי" – נָגֶד הַתּוֹרָה עַצְמָה, "וְלֹא הָלְכוּ בָּה" – שָׁלֹא לָקְחוּ הַתּוֹרָה עִם סִבָּתָה, כִּי לְקִיחַת הַתּוֹרָה עם סִבָּתָה נִקְרָא הַלִּיכָה בַּתּוֹרָה לְגַמְרֵי
And because of this, neither the sages nor the prophets nor the angels knew this matter.	וּמִפְּנֵי זֶה לֹא הָיוּ יוֹדְעִים דָּבָר זֶה לֹא חֲכָמִים וְלֹא נְבִיאִים וְלֹא הַמֵּלְאָכִים.
For this matter reaches specifically to the Primary Cause, and not to that which is resultant. And all these are effects and results, and therefore the Holy One, blessed is He, explained it Himself.	כִּי דָּבָר זֶה מַגִּיעַ אֶל הַסְּבָּה הָרְאשׁוֹנָה בִּפְרָט, וְאֵין מַגִּיעַ אֶל הַמְּסוֹבָב. וְכָל אֵלוּ הֵם עֲלוּלִים וּמְסוֹבָבִים, וְלָבֵן פַּרְשָׁה הַקָּדוֹש־בָּרוּדְּ־הוּא בְּעַצְמוֹ.
And similarly, if a Torah scholar does not bless on the Torah first, he does not take the Torah with the Cause of the Torah, and there is lacking and interruption, and Torah scholars do not come from him.	ְוְכֵן אָם אֵין תַּלְמִיד חָכָם מְבָרֵךְ בַּתּוֹרָה תְּחַלֶּה, אֵין לוֹקֵחַ אֶת הַתּוֹרָה עִם סְבַּת הַתּוֹרָה, וְיֵשׁ כָּאן הָסָרָה וָהָפְּסֵק, וְאֵין יוֹצָאִין מִמֶּנוּ תַּלְמִידֵי חֲכָמִים.
Like one who takes a tree without the root from which the tree came, then fruit does not continue from it. And therefore, if he blesses on the Torah first, a Torah scholar comes from him and produces fruit.	ּכְּמוֹ מִי שֶׁלָּקַח אִילָן בְּלֹא שֹׁרֶשׁ אֲשֶׁר מִמֶּנוּ הָאִילָן, אָז אֵין נִמְשָׁךְ פְּרִי מִמֶּנוּ. וּלְפִיכָךְ אָם מְבָרֵךְ בַּתּוֹרָה הְחִלָּה, יוֹצֵא מִמֶּנוּ תַּלְמִיד חָכָם וְעוֹשֶׂה פְּרִי.
And because of this, when a person directs himself in Torah to Hashem, blessed is He, who gave the Torah, Hashem, blessed is He, also saves him from error and illuminates his eyes in His Torah.	וּמִפְּנֵי כָּדְ כַּאֲשֶׁר הָאָדָם מְכַנֵּן בַּתּוֹרָה לְהַשֵּׁם יִתְבָּרַהְ אֲשֶׁר נָתַן הַתּוֹרָה, גַּם־כֵּן הַשֵּׁם יִתְבָּרַדְ מַצִּיל אוֹתוֹ מָן הַשְׁגָּגָה, וְיָאִיר עֵינַיו בְּתוֹרָתוֹ.
And when David saw before him these two matters we mentioned: the first—that he feared lest he stumble in words of Torah; and the second—that his words would not be pleasing to others—he arranged his words in the psalm "The heavens declare the glory of G-d" (Tehillim 19).	ְוְכַאֲשֶׁר רָאָה דָּוִד לְפָנָיו שְׁנֵי דְּבָרִים אֵלוּ אֲשֶׁר זָכַרְנוּ; הָאֶחָד – שֶׁהָיָה יָרֵא פֶּן יִכְּשֵׁל בְּדִּבְרֵי תּוֹרָה. וְהַשֵּׁנִי – שֶׁלֹּא יִהִיוּ דְּבָרָיו לְרָצוֹן לְזוּלָתוֹ, וְנָגֶד זָה סִדַּר דְּבָרָיו בַּמִּזְמוֹר "הַשָּׁמֵיִם מְסַפְּרִים כְּבוֹד אֵ-ל" (וְגוֹ' (תְּהָלִים י"ט

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He began first by telling the greatness of the Torah, saying: "The Torah of Hashem is perfect, restoring the soul; the testimonies of Hashem..." until "Also Your servant is careful with them; in observing them is great reward."

And according to the greatness of the matter, one must be careful not to stumble in it. And he mentioned six things, and in each one he mentioned Hashem—to say that the Torah is joined with Hashem, blessed is He.

To say that through the Torah a person acquires attachment to Him, blessed is He. And because he wished to say that this attachment is a complete attachment—not attachment in a partial sense like one who is a man of middos, who by way of his character acquires attachment to Him, blessed is He, but does not acquire full attachment, only partial—

According to the middah to which he is attached entirely on one side—and because the sides of distinction are six: right and left, front and back, above and below—corresponding to this he mentioned six names, that he is attached to Him, blessed is He, on every side, and does not deviate from Hashem, blessed is He, in any direction—not to the right, nor to the left, and not in any direction.

He began to say: "The Torah of Hashem is perfect, restoring the soul," because when the Torah is perfect, through this the person also becomes perfect. And when he is perfect, the person is completely with Hashem, as it is written (Devarim 18:13): "You shall be perfect with Hashem your G-d," and our Sages of blessed memory explained in Maseches Nedarim (32b): "Whoever makes himself perfect is with Hashem."

And therefore our Sages of blessed memory said (Chullin 91b): "The image of the perfect one is engraved on the Throne of Glory." For it is said about Yaakov (Bereishis 25:27): "And Yaakov was a wholesome man." And thus it says: "restoring the soul," meaning, it restores the soul to give it life. For the wholesome one is with Hashem, as we said, and it is written (Devarim 4:4): "And you who cleave to Hashem your G-d are all alive today," for through the cleaving to Him, you are alive.

הָקְדִּים תְּחִלָּה לְסַפֵּר מַעֲלַת הַתּוֹרָה, שֶׁאָמַר: "תּוֹרַת ה' תְּמִימָה מְשִׁיבַת נָפֶשׁ פִּקּוּדֵי ה'" וְגוֹ', עַד "גַּם עַרָדְּדְּ נִזְהַר בָּהָם בִּשְׁמִרַם עֵקֵב רַב.

וּלְפִי מַעֲלֵת הַדָּבָר צָרִידְ שֶׁיּהָנָה נְזְהָר שֶׁלֹּא יִכָּשֵׁל בּוֹ. וְזָכַר שִׁשָּׁה דְּבָרִים, וּבְלֵל אֶחָד זָכַר הַשֵּׁם, לוֹמַר כִּי הַתּוֹרָה מְצֹרֶכֶת אֶל הַשֵּׁם יִתְבָּרַדְּ, שֶׁנַקְרֵאת ;"תּוֹרַת ה'" "עֵדוּת ה'", וְכֵן כֵּלֶם

לוֹמֵר כִּי עַל־יְדֵי הַתּוֹרָה קוֹנֶה הָאָדָם דְּבֵקוּת בּוֹ יִתְבָּרַךְ. וּמִפְּנֵי שֶׁבָּא לוֹמֵר שֶׁהַדְּבֵקוּת הַזָּה הוּא דְּבֵקוּת נָּמוּר, לֹא דְּבֵקוּת בְּצֵד מָה, כְּמוֹ מִי שֶׁהוּא בַּעַל מִדּוֹת, עַל־יְדֵי הַמִּדּוֹת קוֹנֶה דְּבֵקוּת בּוֹ יִתְבָּרַךְ, ,וְאֵינוֹ קוֹנָה רַק הַדְּבֵקוּת בְּצֵד מָה

כְּפִי הַמִּדָּה אֲשֶׁר דָּבַק לְגַמְרֵי בְּכָל צֵד. וּמִפְּנֵי שֶׁהַצְּדָדִין הַמְחַלָּקִים הֵם שִׁשָּׁה, וְהֵם: יָמִין וּשְׂמֹאל, פָּנִים וְאָחוֹר, מֵעְלָה וּמַטָּה, וּכְנֶגֶד זֶה זָכַר שִׁשָּׁה שֵׁמוֹת, שֶׁהוּא דָּבַק בּוֹ יִתְבָּרַדְּ בְּכָל צֵד, וְאֵינוֹ נוֹטֶה מִן הַשֵּׁם יִתְבָּרַדְּ לְשׁוּם צֵד, לֹא לְיָמִין וְלֹא לִשְׁמֹאל, וְלֹא לְשׁוּם צֵד

וְהִתְחִיל לוֹמַר: "תּוֹרַת ה' תְּמִימֶה מְשִׁיבַת נָפָשׁ", כִּי כַּאֲשֶׁר הַתּוֹרָה תְּמִימֶה, עַל־יִדִי־זָה הָאָדָם גַּם־כֵּן תָּמִים. וְכַאֲשֶׁר הוּא תָּמִים, הָאָדָם הוּא עִם הַשֵּׁם יִתְבָּרַךְ לְגַמְרֵי, וּכְדָכְתִיב (דְּבָרִים יח, יג): "תָּמִים תִּהְיֶה עִם ה' אֱלֹהֶיךְ", וּפַרְשׁוּ זִכְרוֹנָם לְבְרָכָה בְּמַסֶּכֶת נְדָרִים (דף לב, ב): כָּל הַמַּתְמִים עַצְּמוֹ הוּא עם הַשׁם יִתְבַּרַךְּ

וּלְכָךְ אָמְרוּ זִכְרוֹנָם לִבְרָכָה (עֵין חַלִּין צא, ב): צוּרַת תָּם חַקּוּקָה בְּכִפֵּא הַכָּבוֹד'. כִּי יַצְקֹב עָלָיו נָאֱמֵר (בְּרָאשִׁית כה, כז): "וְיַצְקֹב אִישׁ תָּם". וּלְכָךְ אָמֵר: "מְשִׁיבַת נָפָשׁ", כְּלוֹמֵר שֶׁהִיא מְשִׁיבַת נָפֶשׁ לְהַחֵיוֹתוֹ. כִּי הַתָּמִים הוּא עִם הַשֵּׁם יִתְבָּרַךְ כְּמוֹ שֶׁאָמַרְנוּ, וּכְתִיב (דְבָרִים ה, ד): "וְאַתֶּם הַדְּבַקִים בַּה' אֱלֹהֵיכֶם חַיִּים כַּלְּכֶם הַיּוֹם", כִּי מִצַּד הַדְּבַקִּים

תפארת ישראל

The Splendor of Israel Introduction of the Author - קַּקְרָמֶת הַמְחָבֶּר

And therefore it is written: "The Torah of Hashem is perfect, restoring the soul."

And afterward he said: "The testimony of Hashem is faithful, making the simple one wise." Meaning: what is the worth of a person who has only human intellect? But "the testimony of Hashem is faithful, making the simple one wise"—through Torah, one becomes wise. For the Torah testifies about realities to clarify each matter, and it is faithful, making the simple one wise until he is considered exceedingly intelligent.

And afterwards he said that the Torah also brings a person to the level of "rejoicing the heart." Meaning: the person is considered a complete being through the Torah, and therefore it rejoices the heart of the person. For when a person is in completeness, he is in joy. And the opposite is when he is in deficiency—he is in mourning. And thus when death occurs to one from his flesh, he is in mourning.

And he further said: "The commandment of Hashem is pure, enlightening the eyes." Meaning: the Torah teaches a person the action that he should do, and it is not considered as if he walks in darkness. Previously he said: "making the simple one wise" regarding the wisdom that makes him wise, and here he said: "the commandment of Hashem is pure, enlightening the eyes," so that he not walk in his deeds in darkness, but rather he performs the mitzvah, until the person is completely whole both in his intellect and in his deeds.

And afterward, "The fear of Hashem is pure, enduring forever." The explanation is that through the Torah one acquires eternity. And this matter is hinted to in the chapter *Bameh Madlikin* (Shabbos 31a), that through awe one acquires eternal existence, on the verse: "The fear of Hashem is His treasure" (Yeshayahu 33:6), and this will be explained in the coming chapters with the help of Hashem, may He be blessed.

And he said: "The judgments of Hashem are truth; they are righteous altogether." This matter surpasses all others: that through the Torah, one becomes similar to Hashem, to the extent it is possible to resemble one's Creator.

בּוֹ יִתְבָּרַךְ אַתֶּם חַיִּים. וּלְכָךְ כְּתִיב: "תּוֹרַת הּ' "חָמִימָה מְשִׁיבַת נָּפָשׁ

ְוְאַחַר־כָּךְ אָמַר: "עֵדוּת ה' נָאֱמָנָה מַחְכִּימַת כָּּתִי". כָּרוּשׁ, כִּי מַה נָחְשָׁב הָאָדָם שֶׁאֵין בּוֹ רֵק שֵׁכָל הָאֱנוֹשִׁי אֲבָל "עֵדוּת ה' נָאֱמָנָה מַחְכִּימַת כָּתִי", שָׁעַל־יְדֵי הַתּוֹרָה נַעֲשֶׂה חָכָם. כִּי הַתּוֹרָה מְעִידָה עַל הַנְּמְצָאִים לְבָרַר כָּל דָּבָר, וְהִיא נֶאֱמָנָה, מַחְכִּימַת הַפַּתִי, עַד שֵׁנָחִשָּׁב שִׂכִלִי בִּיוֹתֵר.

וְאַחַר־כָּךְ אָמַר שֶׁעוֹד מְבִיאָה הַתּוֹרָה שֶׁת הָאָדָם שֶׁל הַמַּדְרֵגָה שֶׁהִיא "מְשַׁמְּחֵי לֵב". פֵּרוּשׁ, שֶׁנֶּחְשָׁב הָאָדָם שֶׁהוּא מְצִיאוּת שֶׁלֵם עַל־יְדֵי הַתּוֹרָה, וּלְכָךְ הִיא מְשַׂמַּחַת לֵב הָאָדָם. שֶׁכַּאֲשֶׁר הָאָדָם הוּא בְּשְׁלֵמוּת, הוּא בְּשִׁמְחָה. וְהַכֶּךְ זָה כַּאֲשֶׁר הוּא בְּחַסָרוֹן, הוּא בַּאֲבֵלוּת. וּלְכָךְ כַּאֲשֶׁר קָרָה לוֹ הַמִּיתָה מִן שְׁאֵר בְּשָׂרוֹ – הוּא בַּאֲבֵלוּת.

ְעוֹד אָמַר: "מִצְוַת הּ' בָּרָה מְאִירַת עֵינָיִם". רוֹצֶה לוֹמַר כִּי הַתּּוֹרָה מְלַמֶּדֶת לָאָדָם אֶת הַמַּעֲשֶׂה אֲשֶׁר יַעֲשֶׂה, וְלֹא נֶחָשָׁב שֶׁהוֹלֵךְ בַּחֹשֶׁךְ. וְלִפְנֵי זֶה אָמַר: "מַחְכִּימַת פָּתִי" עַל הַחָכְמָה הַמַּחְכָּמֶת אוֹתוֹ, וְכָאן אָמַר: "מִצְוַת הּ' בָּרָה מְאִירַת עֵינָיִם", שֶׁלֹא יֵלֵךְ בְּמַצְשָׂיו בַּחֹשֶׁךְ, רַק יַצְשֶׂה הַמִּצְוָה, עַד שֶׁהָאָדָם הוּא שַׁלַם לְגַמָּרֵי בֵּין בִּשִּׂכלוֹ וּבִין בִּמַעֲשֵׂיו

וְאַחַר־כָּהְ "יִרְאֵת ה' טְהוֹרָה עוֹמֶדֶת לָעַד". פָּרוּשׁ, שַׁעַל־יְדֵי הַתּוֹרָה יִקְנֶה הַנִּצְחִיוּת. וְדָבָר זֶה רָמְזוּ בְּפֶּרֶק בַּמָּה מַדְלִיקִין (שַׁבָּת לֹא, א) כִּי עַל־יְדֵי הַיְרְאָה יִקְנֶה הַקִּיּוּם הַנִּצְחִי, עַל כָּסוּק: "יִרְאַת ה' הִיא אוֹצָרוֹ" (וְשָׁעִיה לֹג, ו), וְיִתְבָּאֵר זֶה בַּפְּרָקִים הַבָּאִים בְּעָזְרַת הַשֵּׁם יִתְבָּרַהְ

וְאָמַר: "מִשְׁפְּטֵי ה' אֱמֶת צָדְקוּ יַחְדָּו". דָּבָר זֶה עוֹד יוֹתֵר עַל הַכּּל, שֶׁעַל־יְדֵי הַתּוֹרָה מִתְדַּמָּה אֶל הַשֵּׁם יִתְבָּרַדְ בַּמָּה שֶׁאֶפְשָׁר לְהִתְדַמּוֹת אֶל בּוֹרְאוֹ.

תפארת ישראל

The Splendor of Israel Introduction of the Author - הַקְּדָמֵת הַמְחַבֵּר

For the seal of the Holy One, blessed be He, is "Truth" (Shabbos	ּכִּי חוֹתָמוֹ שֶׁל הַקָּדוֹשׁ־ בָּרוּדְ־הוּא אֱמֶת (שַׁבָּת נה,
55a), and the judgments of the Torah and its ways are truth.	א), וּמִשְׁפְּטֵי הַתּוֹרָה וּדְרָכֶיהָ אֱמֶת.
And it says: "They are righteous altogether"—because all things contain truth to some extent, but "the judgments of Hashem are truth; they are righteous altogether" means that they are all equal in truth.	וְאוֹמֵר: "צָדְקוּ יַחָדָּו", כִּי כָּל הַדְּבָרִים יֵשׁ בָּהֶם אֱמֶת בְּצַד מָה, וּ"מִשְׁפְּטֵי ה' אֱמֶת צָדְקוּ יַחְדָּו", בָּלוֹמַר שָׁכַּלָּם שָׁוִים בָּאֲמִתּוּת.
And this indicates that they are utterly true; therefore, they are all equal in truth. For if it were not so, they would not all be equal in truth—rather, one would be more than another. But because they are utterly true, they are all equal in truth.	וְזֶה מוֹרָה שֶׁהֵם אֶמֶת לְגַמְרֵי, לְכָךְ כַּלֶּם שָׁוִים בָּאֲמִתּוּת. שָׁאִם לֹא כֵן, לֹא הָיוּ כַּלֶּם שָׁוִים בָּאֲמִתּוּת, רַק זֶה יוֹתֵר מָזֶה, אֲבָל מִפְּנֵי שֶׁהֵם אֶמֶת לְגַמְרֵי, לְכָךְ כַּלָּם שָׁוִים בָּאֲמִתּוּת
And he said: "More desirable than gold and than much fine gold." The explanation is that the mitzvah contains two aspects: the first is that the mitzvah is beneficial to the physical human being. This is clearly evident to all—that all the commandments of the Torah are designed to perfect and complete the person, so that he becomes good.	ְלָאֲמֵר: "הַנָּחָמָדִים מִזָּהָב וּמְפָּוּ רָב". פַּרוּשׁ, כִּי הַמְּצְוָה יֵשׁ בּּוֹ שְׁנֵי דְּבָרִים; הָאֶחָד - שֶׁהַמְצְוָה טוֹב לָאָדָם הַגּוּפָנִי, שֶׁדָּבָר זָה מְבֹאָר לַכֹּל, שֶׁכָּל הַמְּצְוֹת שֶׁהַם בַּתּוֹרָה הֵם לְהַשְׁלִים תִּקוּן הָאָדָם, עַד שֶׁהָאָדָם הוּא בְּטוֹב.
And the second: that intellect also necessitates the commandments, from a Divine intellectual secret. Regarding this, it is said that the mitzvah contains a Divine intellectual secret—they are "more desirable than gold and much fine gold," which are desirable to the eye's vision. But the mitzvos of the Torah are even more desirable to the vision of the intellect.	ְוָהַשַּׁנִי – שֶׁהַשָּׁכֶל גַּם־כֵּן מְחַיַּב הַמִּצְוֹת, מִצֵּד סוֹד שָׁכְלִי. וְעַל זֶה אָמַר כִּי מַה שֶׁהַמִּצְוָה יֵשׁ בָּה סוֹד שִׁכְלִי אֱלֹהִי, הֵם "נְחֲמָדִים מִזָּהָב וִמִפָּז רָב". שֶׁהֵם – נָחַמָדִים לִרְאִיַּת הָעֵיִן, וּמִצְוֹת הַתּוֹרָה – הֵם יוֹתֵר .נָחַמָּדִים לִרְאִיַּת הַשֵּׁכָל
Just as the term "seeing" applies to the eye, so too it applies to the intellect—for the word "saw" is used for both, as in the expression "I see the words of so-and-so." Therefore, he said that the Divine intellect in the Torah is more desirable to the vision of the intellect than gold and fine gold are to the vision of the eye.	שֶׁכְּמוֹ שֶׁיִפּל לְשׁוֹן רָאִיָּה עַל הָעֵיִן, כֶּךְּ יפל רְאִיָּה עַל הַשָּׂכָל, כִּי לְשׁוֹן רָאָה' מְשַׁמְשׁ בְּאֶחָד לִשְׁנִיהֶם, כְּמוֹ שֶׁאָמֵר: רוֹאֶה אֲנִי דִּבְרֵי פְּלוֹנִי; לְפִיכָךְ אָמַר כִּי הַשֵּׁכָל הָאֱלֹהִי בַּתּוֹרָה יוֹתֵר נָחְמָד לְרְאִיַת הַשֵּׁכָל - מִן זָהָב וּמִפָּז שֶׁהוּא נָחְמָד לִרְאִיַת הָעַיִן
And regarding the physical good that the Torah establishes—that everything is for the good—for the Torah is called "good," regarding this it says: "and sweeter than honey and drippings of the honeycomb," which refers to physical sweetness.	וְעַל טוֹב הַגּוּפָנִי שֶׁהַתּוֹרָה מַעֲמִיד הַכּּל בְּטוֹב, כִּי הַתּוֹרָה תִּקָקָרָא 'טוֹב', וְעַל זֶה אָמֵר: "וּמְתוּקִים מִדְּבַשׁ וְנֹפֶת צוּפִים", שֶׁזֶּה עֲרַבוּת גוּפָנִי.

תפארת ישראל

The Splendor of Israel Introduction of the Author - קַּקְרָמֶת הַמְחָבֶּר

And the reason the matter is doubled in each expression—saying both "than gold and fine gold," and "sweeter than honey and drippings of honeycomb"—is that if he had said only "more desirable than fine gold," one might think they are only more desirable than fine gold but not than other forms of gold. Now that it says: "more desirable than gold and than fine gold," we understand that it is not just that they are more desirable than gold, but even more than fine gold—meaning, they are absolutely more desirable than all forms. Similarly, the phrase "sweeter than honey and drippings of honeycomb" teaches the same idea.

And on this it says: "Also Your servant is warned by them"—meaning, according to their level and greatness, it is proper that one should be warned by them.

"And in keeping them is great reward"—refers to the World to Come. And afterward it says: "Mistakes—who can understand?" Meaning, according to the greatness and level of the matter, one must be cautious not to sin.

And so it says: "Mistakes—who can understand?"—this refers to erring in words of Torah, for due to their great depth it is impossible to fully understand everything in complete truth, and therefore it says: "Who can understand?" Then it says: "From hidden sins cleanse me"—regarding an unintentional act, when one did not even know he sinned.

And afterward it says: "May the words of my mouth be favorable," in order that he merit to spread Torah to others. And on this it says: "May the words of my mouth be favorable"—that others will accept his words.

And in the Midrash (Yalkut Shimoni, Tehillim §778): "May the words of my mouth be favorable"—that they will act upon them for generations and they will be engraved for generations, and they will be read from them like from the book of the Miros. Meaning: heretical books, like the books of the Miros, do not render the hands impure (Mishnah Yadayim 4:6), but these will be read and reward will be given for them like [the reward for studying] Nega'im and Ohalos.

וּמַה שֶׁכָּפַל הַדָּבָר אֵצֶל כָּל אֶחָד וְאֶחָד לוֹמַר: "מְזָּהָב וּמִפָּז", "וּמְתוּקִים מִדְּבַשׁ וְנֹפֶת צוּפִים", שָׁאִם אָמַר: הַנָּחַמָּדִים מִפָּז', אֶפְשָׁר לוֹמֵר שֶׁאֵינָם נָחַמָּדִים רַק "יוֹתַר מִפַּז. וְעַתַּה שֶׁכָּתִיב: "הַנַּחַמַדִים מִזָּהַב וּמִפַּז "יוֹתָר מִפַּז. וְעַתַּה שֶׁכָּתִיב: "הַנַּחַמַדִים מִזָּהַב וּמִפַּז

יֵשׁ לִלְמֹד כְּמוֹ שָׁאֵין פַּרוּשׁ "מְזָּהָב" וְלֹא יוֹתֵר, שֶׁהָרֵי גַּם־כֵּן נָחְמָד מִפָּז, וְכֵן פַּרוּשׁ "מִפָּז" לֹא שָׁהוּא נָחְמָד מִפָּן בִּלְבַד, רַק שֶׁהוּא נָחְמָד יוֹתֵר עַל "כּל. וְכָךְ פַּרוּשׁ: "וּמְתוּקִים מִדְּבַשׁ וְנֹפֶת צוּפִים."

וְעַל זֶה אָמַר: "גַם עַבְדְּךְ נִזְהָר בָּהֶם", לְפִי מַדְרֵגָתָם וְעַל זֶה אָמַר: "מַעַלְתַם רָאוּי שֵׁיָהֵיָה נִזְהָר בָּהֶם

וּבְשֶׁמְרֶם עֵקֶב רָב" – לָעוֹלֶם הַבָּא. וְאַחַר־כָּהְּ" אָמֵר: "שָׁנִיאוֹת מִי יָבִין" וְגוֹ'. בְּלוֹמֵר כִּי לְפִי מַדְרֵגַת וּמַעֲלַת הַדְּבָר, צָרִיךְּ שֶׁיִּהְיֶה הָאָדָם נִזְהָר שָׁלֹא יָחֲטָא.

וּלְכֶךְ אָמַר: "שְׁנִיאוֹת מִי יָבִין" – נָגֶד אִם יִטְעֶה בְּדִבְרֵי תּוֹרָה, שֶׁאִי אָפְשָׁר לְגדָל עֹמֶק שֶׁלָּהֶם שֶׁיָּבִין כָּל הַדְּבָרִים עַל אֲמִתָּתם, וּלְכָךְ אָמַר: "מִי יָבִין". וְאַחַר־כָּךְ אָמַר: "מִנִּסְתָּרוֹת נַקֵנִי" עַל שִׁנְגַת מַעֲשֶׂה, שָׁלֹא יַדַע מִן הַעֲבַרָה.

וְאַחַר־כָּדְ אָמַר: "יִהְיוּ לְרָצוֹן אִמְרֵי פִּי" כְּדֵי שֶׁיִּהְיֶה לוֹ זְכוּת שֶׁיֵּשְׁפִּיעַ תּוֹרָה לַאֲחַרִים, וְעַל זֶה אָמַר: היִהְיוּ לְרָצוֹן אִמְרֵי פִּי", שֶׁיִהְיוּ מְקַבְּלִים אֶת דְּבָרָיוּ.

וּבַמִּדְרָשׁ (יַלְקוּט־שְׁמְעוֹנִי תְּהָלִים, רָמָז תרעח): "יִהִיוּ לְרָצוֹן אָמְרֵי פִּי", שֶׁיַּצְשׁוּ לְדוֹרוֹת וְיֵחָקְקוּ לְדוֹרוֹת, וְאֵל יִהִיוּ קוֹרִין בָּהֶם כְּקוֹרִין בְּסַפֶּר הַמִּירוּס. פַּרוּשׁ: סִפְרֵי הַמִּינִים, כְּמוֹ סִפְרֵי הַמִּירוּס אֵינָם מְטַמְאִים' דְּמַפֶּכֶת יָדִיִם (ד, ו), רַק יִהִיוּ קוֹרִין בַּהָם וְנוֹטִלִים עַלִיהָם שַׁכָּר כִּנְגַעִים וַאֲהָלוֹת.

הַקְדָּמָה שָׁלִישִׁית) שֶׁבִּשְׁבִיל כָּךְ אֶמְרוּ בְּמַסֶכֶת

הַיָּמִים־אַ כט, יא) זוֹ מַתַּן תּוֹרָה

בַּרַכוֹת בַּפֶּרֶק הָרוֹאֶה (נח, א): "וְהַתִּפָּאֶרַת" (דְּבָרֵי

The Maharal of Prague

תפארת ישראל

The Splendor of Israel Introduction of the Author - הַקְּדָמַת הַמְחַבֵּר

Rabbi Yirmiyah said in the name of Rabbi Yochanan: "'I will אַמַר רַבִּי יָרְמִיָה בִּשֵׁם רַבִּי יוֹחַנַן: "אַגוּרַה בָאֵחַלְךְ dwell in Your tent forever' (Tehillim 61:5)—could it enter your עוֹלָמִים" (תִּהָלִים סא, ה), וְכִי סָלְקָא דַעְתַּךְ שֶׁדָּוְד mind that David asked to live in two worlds? Rather, the מָבַקֵשׁ דִירָה בִּשָׁנֵי עוֹלָמִים; אֶלָא יִהִיוּ קוֹרִין meaning is: they will read and mention me in synagogues and וּמַזְכִּירִין אוֹתִי בִּבָתֵּי כְּנָסִיּוֹת וּבְבַתֵּי מִדְרַשׁוֹת כָּאָלוּ study halls as if I were still alive." אַני קים' And therefore he said: "May the words of my mouth be וּלְכַךְ אֲמַר: "יָהָיוּ לְרַצוֹן אָמָרִי פִּי" -אֱל הַבָּרִיּוֹת. acceptable" — to the creations. "And the meditation of my heart before You" means to say: "For וָהֶגִיוֹן לְבִּי לְפָנֵיךְ" רוֹצֶה לוֹמֵר "כִּי כַל לְבָבוֹת" all hearts is the Holy One, blessed be He, a searcher" (Divrei דּוֹרֵשׁ הַשֵּׁם יִתְבָּרַךְ" (דְּבְרֵי הַיָּמִים־א כח, ט), HaYamim I 28:9), and You knew that I intended for the sake of וְיָדַעְתַּ שֶׁכָּוּנְתִּי לְשֵׁם ה', וּלְכַךְ יַדְרִיךְ אוֹתִי בְּדֶרֶךְ Heaven. Therefore, He will guide me in the path of truth. "Hashem, my Rock and Redeemer," meaning: after You have "ה' צוּרָי וְגַאֲלִי", כָּלוֹמַר כִּי אַחַר שֶׁאַתָּה יִצַרְתַּנִי, formed me, You do not reject Your creations. And if another that אָין אַתָּה מוֹאָם בִּיצוּרֶיךְ. וְאָם אַחֶר שֶׁיִצַרְתַּנִי מֵעֲשִׂי You have formed, his actions caused him to be distanced, גָּרְמוּ לְהַרְחִיק אוֹתִי, הֲרֵי אַתָּה גוֹאֲלִי מִכָּל דְּבָר, אַף behold. You are my Redeemer from everything—even though I ָכִי רַחַקְתִּי, עַד שֶׁאֲנִי לְרָצוֹן. became distant—until I become desirable. Therefore, the prayer is to One who does not despise the lowly, וּבָכֵן הַתִּפָלָה אֶל מִי שֶׁאֵינוֹ מוֹאַס בִּשְׁפַלִים, וְאֵינוֹ and does not distance those who had been far — that "the words מַרְחִיק לְשֶׁהָיוּ רְחוֹקִים, שֵׁיִהִיוּ לְרַצוֹן אָמָרֵי פִי of my mouth be acceptable before all," and that He will teach לְפְנֵי כֹּל, וְיוֹרַנִי דֶּרֶךְ אֱמֶת, וְיִסְעָדֵנִי בִּימִין צִּדְקוֹ me the path of truth, and support me with His right hand of נצח אַמַן: righteousness forever, amen. And the name of this composition is called *Tiferes Yisrael*, וְשֶׁם הַחַבּוּר הַזָּה נָקָרֵא תִּפָאֵרַת יִשְׂרַאֵל, כִּי הוּא because it is a composition on the Torah, which is the glory of חַבּוּר עַל הַתּוֹרָה, שֶׁהִיא תִּפָּאֶרֶת יִשְׂרָאֵל, כִּדְכְתִיב Israel, as it is written (Devarim 4:8): "And what great nation is (דְּבָרִים ד, ח): "וּמִי גּוֹי גַּדוֹל אֲשֶׁר לוֹ חַקִים there that has statutes and righteous ordinances..." and (ibid. וְמַשְׁפַּטִים צַדִּיקִם" וְגוֹ', "וְאַמְרוּ רֵק עַם חַכֶם וְנַבוֹן 4:6): "And they will say, only a wise and understanding people הַגּוֹי הַגָּדוֹל הַזָּה" (שָׁם שָׁם, ה.). is this great nation." And we have already explained in the introduction to the וֹּכְבַר בַּאַרָנוּ בַּהַקְדַּמַה שֵׁל חָבּוּר גִבוּרוֹת ה' Gevuros Hashem (third introduction), that for this reason they

NOTE Summary

said in Tractate Berachos, chapter *HaRoeh* (Berachos 58a):

"And the glory' (Divrei HaYamim I 29:11) — this refers to the

The Maharal opens with a close reading of the verse "יָהָיוּ לְרָצוֹן אָמֶרִי פִּי"," explaining that the

giving of the Torah."

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words of one's mouth should be pleasing not only before Hashem but also before other people. The next phrase, "וְהֶגְיוֹן לְבֵי לְפָנֶיךְ"," speaks to God's knowledge of the heart and His desire for sincerity and truth in intention. Even if a person has strayed, if he turns toward Hashem with truth and yearning, Hashem, who does not reject His creations, will redeem and accept him. The discourse concludes with a discussion on the name *Tiferes Yisrael*, emphasizing that Torah is the source of Israel's true beauty and nobility, as declared in the verse, "וְבַבוֹן". "בּק עַם חַבֶּם וְבַבוֹן".

Practical Takeaway

No matter how far one has strayed, sincere prayer and truthful inner intention can reconnect a person with Hashem. He is not repelled by brokenness, nor does He abandon those who were distant. The Torah, in its beauty and truth, is both our national glory and our personal pathway back to God.

Chassidic Story

A story is told about the Maharal of Prague during his tenure as Chief Rabbi. A wayward young man, known for his irreverent behavior, once barged into the synagogue during the Yamim Nora'im. Many congregants turned him away in disgust. But the Maharal called him close and gave him an aliyah. Afterward, he explained: "Hashem, our Creator, never rejects the handiwork of His own hands. If this young man stood here today with even a flicker of teshuvah in his heart, who are we to bar the gates of return?" The young man later became a serious baal teshuvah and a devoted student.

(Source: Maaseh Avos, collected traditions of the Maharal's life) END NOTE