Menachem Mendel of Horodak Pri Ha'Eretz Parshas Acharei Mos

A discourse was initiated on the teaching: "Be praying for the welfare of the government," etc. The Rav began by citing the verse: "After the death of the two sons of Aharon, when they came near before Hashem," and he explained it with Rashi's comment: a parable to a doctor, etc. — that this is a greater exhortation than the first.	נִשְׁאָל מַאֲמָר הָוֵי מִתְפַּלֵּל בִּשְׁלוֹמָה שֶׁל מַלְכוּת וְגוֹ', פָּתַח הָרֵב פָּסוּק אַחֲרֵי מוֹת שְׁנֵי רְנֵי אַהֲרֹן בְּקָרְבָתָם לְפְנֵי ה', וּפֵרשׁ רַשִּ"י ז"ל מָשָׁל לְרוֹפֵא וְגוֹ' — זָהוּ זַרוּזוּ יֹתֵר מִן הָרִאשׁוֹן.
And he explained the concept based on the saying of Akavya ben Mahalalel: "Reflect upon three things, and you will not come to sin: Know from where you came," etc. And then he interpreted: "From where did you come? — from a putrid drop," etc.	וְאָמַר הָעִנְיָן עַל דֶּרֶךְ מַאֲמַר עַקַבְיָא בֶּן מְהַלַּלְאֵל: — הָסְתַּכֵּל בִּשְׁלוֹשָׁה דְבָרִים וְאִי אַתָּה בָא לִידֵי עֲבֵרָה דַע מֵאַיִן בָּאתָ וְגוֹ'. וְהַדָּר פֵּרֵשׁ: מֵאַיִן בָּאתָ? — מִטִּפָּה יֹסְרוּחָה וְגוֹ
And this is the critique of the world for the repetition in his words — and the response is: the beginning of his words is to remind man that he is but a guest in this world. For that is the way of questioning a guest upon first seeing him — after offering peace: "From where did you come? Where are you going? What is your purpose and need?"	ְןהוּא דְּקְדוּק הָעוֹלֶם עַל שֶׁכָּפַל דְּבָרָיו. וְתְשׁוּבָתָם: שֶׁתְּחִלֵּת דְּבָרָיו הֵם לְהַזְּכִּיר אֶת הָאָדָם שֶׁהוּא אוֹרֵחַ בָּעוֹלֶם הַגָּה, שֶׁבֵּן דֶּרֶךְ הַשְּׁאֵלֶה לָאוֹרֵחַ בִּתְחַלֵּת רְאוּתוֹ, אַחַר נְתִינַת שָׁלוֹם: מֵאַיִן בָּאתָ, וּלְאָן אַתָּה הוֹלֵךְ, וּמֵה עִנְיָנוֹ וְהַצְּרִיכָתוֹ אַחַ"כּ
The explanation is that it is not enough that he is a guest — but his entire essence is loathsome and repulsive, from the beginning of his coming until his return to the dust. And in the meantime, he inserts his head among great mountains — and in the end, he must give judgment before the King of kings, the Holy One, blessed be He.	פַרוּשׁ — לֹא דַּי שֶׁהוּא אוֹרַחַ, אֶלָּא שֶׁכָּל עִנְיָנוֹ הוּא מָאוּס וְנִמְאָס, מִתְּחָלֵּת בּוֹאוֹ עַד שׁוּבוֹ לַעֲכָּרוֹ, וּבֵין כָּךְ לְכָךְ מַכְנִיס רֹאשׁוֹ בֵּין הָרִים גְּדוֹלִים אֲשֶׁר עַתִיד לִתֵּן אֶת הַדִּין לִפְנֵי מֶלֶךְ מַלְכֵי הַמְּלָכִים הַקָּדוֹשׁ בָּרוּךְ הוּא.
But one can understand from the repetition of his words and their order a moral lesson: "When from the womb did it emerge?" And the phrase is clothed in precious garments.	— אֲבָל אֶפְשָׁר לְהָבִין מִכְּפַל דְּבָרָיו וְסִדְרָם מוּסַר הַשְּׁבֵּל בַּאֲשֶׁר מִבֶּטֶן מִי יָצָא, וּמִילְּתָא אַלְבִּישׁ יְהוֹן יְקִירָא.
For behold, about Akavya ben Mahalalel, our sages said: the Temple courtyard was never locked in Israel with a man like him in wisdom and fear of sin.	שֶׁהַנֵּה עַקַבְיָא כֶּן מְהַלַּלְאֵל אָמְרוּ רַבּוֹתֵינוּ זִכְרוֹנָם לִבְרָכָה שָׁאֵין עַזָרָה נִנְעֶלֶת בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל כָּמוֹתוֹ בְּחָכְמָה וְיִרְאַת חֵטָא.
For the concept of fear of sin is the fear of the sin itself — more than the punishment that comes for it.	שֶׁהַנֵּה עָנְיַן יִרְאַת חֵטָא הוּא הַיְּרַאָה מִן הַחַטָא עַצְמוֹ יֹתֵר מָן הָעֹנֶשׁ הַבָּא עֲבוּרוֹ.
As explained many times, punishments are remedies for the soul and its cleansing from the evil of sin.	כַּמְבוֹאָר כַּמָּה פְּעָמִים שֶׁהָעֲנָשִׁין הֵם רְפוּאוֹת הַנָּפֶשׁ וּמֵירוּקָה מֵרֹעַ הַחֵטָא.
And surely one should fear and tremble before the blow itself more than from the cure.	וּבוַדַּאי יֵשׁ לִירָא וּלְפַחֵד מָן הַמַּכָּה עַצְמָה יוֹתֵר מָן הָרְפוּאָה.
And this is also understood by any person.	וְכֵן הוּא מוּבָן לְכָל אָדָם.

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And the living will lay it to heart — that the essence of man is his inner being and his vitality, while the body is the flesh of the person and his garment.	וְחַי יִתַּן אֶל לִבּוֹ אַחֲרֵי שֶׁעִיקּר הָאָדָם הוּא הַפְּנִימִית וְחֵיוּתוֹ, וְהַגוּף הוּא בְּשֵׂר הָאָדָם וּלְבוּשׁוֹ
As is visible, after the vitality departs, the body is a loathsome carcass.	בְּגַרְאֶה שֶׁאַחֲרֵי הִפָּרְדוֹ הַחֵיּוּת — הַגוּף הוּא פֶּגֶר מֻבָּס.
And from this you understand: in every place a person focuses his thoughts, and sets his soul, his eyes, and his heart — there is where he is, and by that is he called.	וּמִכְּלֶלוֹ אַתָּה שׁוֹמֵעַ שָׁבְּכָל מָקוֹם שָׁאָדָם מְחַשֵּׁב וּמְהַרְהֵר, וְנוֹתֵן נַכְּשׁוֹ עֵינוֹ וְלְבּוֹ עָלֶיהָ — שָׁם הוּא וְעַל שָׁמוֹ נָקָרָא.
Therefore, if he is thinking about sin, he himself becomes the very klipah (shell) and the impure spirit that gives it life and dwells upon it.	הָרֵי שֶׁאָם מְחַשֵּׁב בַּעֲבֵרָה, הַרֵי הוּא בְּעַצְמוֹ הַקְּלִיפָּה וְרוּחַ הַטֵּמְאָה הַמְחַיָּה אוֹתָה וְהַשׁוֹרָה עָלֶיהָ.
As they said: A person does not transgress a sin unless a spirit of folly enters him.	פַאַמַרָם זָכְרוֹנָם לִבְרָכָה: אֵין אָדָם עוֹבֵר עֲבֵרָה אֶלָּא אָם בֵּן נִכְנַס בּוֹ רוּחַ שְׁטוּת.
For as soon as holiness and fear of Heaven departs from him, the spirit of impurity rests upon him.	שָׁתֵּיכֶף בָּהִפָּבֵד הַקְּדוּשָּׁה וְיִרְאַת שָׁמַיִם מֵאִתּוֹ — חָלָה עָלָיו רוּחַ הַפַּמְאָה.
For it is known: there is nothing empty in the world — if something is not defined as pure, it is considered impure, of the damaging forces and human afflictions.	פִי יָדוּעַ שֶׁאֵין שׁוּם דָּבָר רֵיק בָּעוֹלָם, אָם אֵינוֹ מִקְרֵי טָהוֹר, הָרֵי טָמֵא יִקָּרֵא — מָן הַמַּזִּיקִין וּנְגָעֵי בְּנֵי אָדָם.
For it is impossible for any body or material to exist without the form that shapes it and gives it life.	שֶׁהָרֵי אִי אָפְשָׁר לְשׁוּם גוּף וְחוֹמֶר בִּלְתִּי הַצוּרָה הַמְצַיֶּרֶת אוֹתוֹ וּמְחַיָּיתוֹ
For it is impossible for any body or material to exist without the	
For it is impossible for any body or material to exist without the form that shapes it and gives it life. And the vitality within sin is only given in order to test people — the righteous — for all the worlds were created for the sake of the	אוֹתוֹ וּמְחַיֶּיתוֹ. וְהַחֵיּוּת שֶׁבְּתוֹדְּ הָעֲבַרָה לֹא נִתְּנָה אֶלָּא לְנַפּוֹת בָּהֶם בְּנֵי אָדָם — הַצַּדִּיקִים, בְּכָל בְּרִיאַת הָעוֹלָמוֹת שֶׁנִּבְרָאוּ
For it is impossible for any body or material to exist without the form that shapes it and gives it life. And the vitality within sin is only given in order to test people — the righteous — for all the worlds were created for the sake of the righteous.	אוֹתוֹ וּמְחַיָּיתוֹ. וְהַחַיּוּת שֶׁבְּתוֹךְ הָעֲבֵרָה לֹא נִתְּנָה אֶלָּא לְנַסּוֹת בָּהֶם בְּנֵי אָדָם — הַצַּדִּיקִים, בְּכָל בְּרִיאַת הָעוֹלָמוֹת שֶׁנִּבְרְאוּ בִּשְׁבִיל הַצַּדִּיקִים. ?וּמַהוּ חַיּוּת הָעֲבֵרָה וְצוּרָתָהּ
For it is impossible for any body or material to exist without the form that shapes it and gives it life. And the vitality within sin is only given in order to test people — the righteous — for all the worlds were created for the sake of the righteous. And what is the vitality and form of sin? Behold, it (the sin) is possible to perform and to enjoy — and if so, when a person performs it, he is the sin itself. Or when he thinks about it, he becomes the vitality of the sin, and the affliction itself — from the afflictions of man — that have been transformed from	אותו וּמְחַיֶּיתוֹ

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And so is the way of all new things that sprout forth — like the sprouting of a plant from a seed, and the creation of a chick from an egg.	ְרֵכֵן דֶּרֶךְ כָּל הִתְחַדְּשׁוּת תִּצְמַחְנָה, כְּצִמְחַת הַצֶּמַח מִן הַגַּרְעִין, וּבְרִיאָת הָאֶפְרוֹחַ מִן הַבֵּיצָה.
For it is impossible to begin the renewal of change from the original form into the new form — until the first form is destroyed and completely nullified.	שֶׁאִי אֶפְשָׁר לְהַתְּחִיל הִשְׁתַּנּוּת מִצּוּרָה הָרִאשׁוֹנָה אֶל הַחַדְשָׁה, עַד שֶׁתִּפָּסֵד צוּרָה הָרִאשׁוֹנָה וְתֵלֵךְ לָהּ מִכָּל וָעִקָּר.
The seed must first be completely consumed and decomposed — and so too the egg.	שֶׁהַגַּרְעִין מֻכְרָח לִּהִיוֹת תְּחִלֶּה כָּלֶה וְנִפְסָד לַגְּמֶרֵי, וְכֵן הַבֵּיצָה.
And afterward, upon the remaining hylic matter (the unformed potential), which is capable of transformation — the new form falls upon it: in the creation of the chick and the sprouting.	וְאַחַר כָּדָּ, עַל שָׁאָרוּת חֹמֶר הַהִּיּוּלִי שֶׁאָפְשֶׁר לְהִשְׁתַּנּוֹת, חָלָה עָלָיו הַצּוּרָה הַחֲדָשָׁה — בְּבְרִיאָת הָאָפְרוֹחַ וָהַצְּמִיחָה.
And at the moment the thing is nullified of both forms — it is called "Ayin" (Nothingness), which is the concept of <i>Tzimtzum</i> — for "Wisdom is found from Ayin" (Iyov 28:12).	וּבִשְׁעָה שֶׁהַדָּבָר בָּטֵל מִשְׁנֵי הַצּוּרוֹת, נִקְרָא "אַיִן", שֶׁהוּא עְנָיַן הַצִּמְצוּם — שֶׁהִיא הַחָּכְמָה מֵאַיִן תִּמֶּצֵא.
As in the beginning of the order of creation — for no new revelation is possible except by its return first to <i>Ayin</i> .	ּכְּתְחַלַּת סַדֶר הַבְּרִיאָה, שֶׁאִי אֶפְשָׁר לְשׁוּם הִתְגַלוּת חָדָשׁ כִּי אִם בְּחַזְרַתוֹ אֶל הָאַיִן תְּחִלָּה.
As explained elsewhere — regarding man's ability to effect transformation and miracles — when he reaches lowliness, self-nullification, and <i>Ayin</i> , which is wisdom.	בְּמְבוֹאָר בְּמָקוֹם אַחֵר בְּעִנְיַן יְכוֹלֶת הָאָדָם לַעֲשׁוֹת הִשְׁתַּנּוּיוֹת וְנִסִּים — בְּהַגִּיעוֹ אֶל הַשְּׁפֶלוּת וְהַבִּטוּל וְהָאַיִן, שָׁהוּא הַחָּכְמָה.
So too is the way of man — to reverse, Heaven forbid, the sword that turns — and become transformed from holy to profane, from pure to impure, into klipah and affliction that damages man.	וְכֵן דֶּרֶהְ הָאָדָם לְהַט הַחָּרֶב הַמִּתְהַפֶּּכֶת ח"ו, וְנֶצֵשֶׂה מִקֹדֶשׁ חוֹל וּמִטָּהוֹר טָמֵא, וּקְלִפָּה מֵזִּיק נְגָעֵי בְּנֵי אָדָם.
For when holiness and fear of Heaven depart from him, and after the contraction and withdrawal of holiness — it becomes transformed into a spirit of impurity, destructive and klipah.	כִּי בְּהָסְתַּלֵּק הַקְּדוּשָׁה וְיִרְאַת שָׁמַיִם מֵאָתוֹ, וְאַחֲרֵי צָמְצוּם הַקְּדוּשָׁה וְהִתְפַּשְׁטוּתָה, מִשְׁתַּנֶּה וְנַעֲשֶׂה רוּחַ מַמְאָה מַזִּיק וּקְלָפָּה.
And his body becomes a body for the klipos — and behold, he becomes a destructive being with a body, which is harsher and more coarse than other spiritual klipos and damaging spirits.	ְגוּפוֹ נַעֲשֶׂה גּוּף לַקְּלִיפּוֹת, וַהָּרֵי הוּא מֵזִּיק עִם גּוּף, שֶׁהוּא יוֹתֵר קָשֶׁה וּמְגֵשָׁם מִשְׁאָר מַזִּיקִין וּקְלִיפּוֹת רוּחָנִית.
And this is fear of sin — when it is transformed into the sin itself, which is a blow far harsher than the punishment, which is only the remedy.	ָןנֶהוּ יִרְאַת חֵטָא — שֶׁמִשְׁתַּנֶּה לְהַעָשׁוֹת הַחֵטָא עַצְמוֹ, שָׁהִיא הַמַּכָּה הַיּוֹתֵר קָשֶׁה מִן הָעֹנֶשׁ, שֶׁהוּא הָרְפוּאָה.
And behold, this fear of sin branches out from Chochmah (wisdom). One who is wise — who nullifies himself and becomes <i>ayin</i> (nothing) — corresponds to the Chayos HaKodesh (supernal living beings) who are renewed daily as new creations.	ְוְהָנֵּה יִרְאַת חֵטָא זֶה מִסְתַּצֵף מִן הַחָּכְמָה, מִי שֶׁהוּא חָכָם שֶׁמִּתְבַּטֵל וְנַצֲשֶׂה אַיָּן, נָגֶד חַיּוֹת הַקּדֶשׁ, לְהַעָשׁוֹת בְּכָל יוֹם בְּרִיָּה חֲדָשָׁה, כְּמַאֲמַר: בְּנִי אַתָּה, אֲנִי הַיּוֹם יְלְדְתִּיךְ.

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Therefore, he fears the sin itself — after recognizing that after nullification and withdrawal, the original form changes — and thus he fears.	לָכֵן מִתְיַרָא מִן הַחַטְא עַצְמוֹ, אַחֲרֵי יְדִיעָתוֹ שֶׁאַחֲרֵי הַבִּטוּל וְהַסְתַּלְּקוּת, צוּרָה הָרְאשׁוֹנָה מִשְׁתַּנָּה, וְלָכֵן מִתְיָרֵא.
And this is what our sages said about Akavya ben Mahalalel — that he possessed the level of wisdom and fear of sin, for one flows from the other.	וְזֶהוּ שֶׁאָמְרוּ רַבּוֹתֵינוּ זִכְרוֹנָם לִבְרָכָה עַל עַקַבָּיָא בֶּן מְהַלַּלְאֵל, שֶׁהָיְתָה לוֹ מַדְרֵגַת הַחָּכְמָה וְיִרְאַת חֵטְא, שֶׁאֶחָד נִמְשָׁךְ מַחֲבֵרָה.
And those are his words here — and he repeated his statements: at first, with the simple explanation; and afterward, he explained the concept.	ןהֵן הֵם דְּבָרָיו בְּכָאן, וְכָפַל דְּבָרָיו — שֶׁמִּתְּחָלֶּה הַפֵּרוּשׁ בִּפְשׁוּטוֹ, וְאַחַר כָּךְ הָסְבִּיר הָעִנְיָן.
That he comes from a putrid drop — which is after the corruption, destruction, and nullification of the potency of the drop — in order to become a new being, as is known.	שֶׁבָּא מִטִּפָּה סְרוּחָה — שֶׁהוּא אַחֲרֵי הַכֶּּסֶד וְכִלַּיוֹן וּבִטוּל כֹחַ הַטִּפָּה, לְהַעָשוֹת בְּרִיָּה כַּנּוֹדָע
"And to where are you going" — this refers to the second <i>ayin</i> , when he transforms from a pure being to an impure one and to klipah, which is worms and decay.	וְלְאָן הוֹלֵךְ — שֶׁהוּא הָאַיִן הַשֵּׁנִי, לְהִשְׁתַּנּוֹת מִבְּרִיָּה טְהוֹרָה לִטְמֵאָה וּקְלִיפָּה, שֶׁהוּא רִמָּה וְתוֹלֵעָה.
The difference between the first <i>ayin</i> of nullification and the second <i>ayin</i> is this: the change from holiness to klipah is not written <i>ayin</i> with a yud (אָין), but <i>an</i> without a yud (אַר).	ְוָהַחָלוּק שֶׁבֵּין הַבִּטוּל וְהָאַיִן הָרָאשׁוֹן לְאַיִן הַשֵּׁנִי, שֶׁהַמִּשְׁתַנֶּה מִקְדוּשָׁה לְקְלִיפָּה — אֵינוֹ נִקְרָא "אִין" בִיוּ"ד, אָלָּא "אַן" בָּלֹא יוּ"ד.
That is, it is a counterfeit of the holy shekel, but it draws sparks of divine vitality from the $aleph(\aleph)$ — through the extension of a straight $nun(1)$ into excess and into klipah.	שֶׁהוּא שֶׁקֶל הַקּדָשׁ, אֲבָל מַכְנִיס נִיצוֹצֵי חַיּוּת הָאָלֶ"ף, דֶּרֶךְ הִתְפַּשְׁטוּת נוּ"ן פְּשׁוּטָה אֶל הַמּוֹתָרוֹת וְהַקְּלִיפָּה.
And they said: "And you shall not come to sin" — for hands represent love and fear (of God).	וְאָמְרוּ: וְאֵין אַתָּה בָא לִידֵי עֲבֵרָה, כִּי יָדַיִם נִקְרָאוֹת אַהְבָה וְיִרְאָה.
And behold, there is [a type of] fear and there is fear of punishment — which are the punishments and death, as our Sages said: "There is no death without sin."	ְרָבָּה אִית יַרְאָה וְאִית יִרְאַת הָעֹנֶשׁ, שֶׁהֵם הָעֹנְשִׁין וְהַפָּנֶת, כְּאָמְרָם זִכְרוֹנָם לִבְרָכָה: שֶׁאֵין מִיתָה בְּּלֹא חֵטְא.
And this fear, which is called <i>external fear</i> , applies to all those who enter the world — as it says: "He that feared the word of the Lord among Pharaoh's servants."	וְיַרְאָה זוֹ הַנַּקְרֵאת יִרְאָה חִיצוֹנִית, נוֹהֶגֶת בְּכָל בָּאֵי — עוֹלָם, כְּמַאֲמַר: הַיָּרֵא אֶת דְּבַר ה' מֵעַבְדֵי פַּרְעֹה שֶׁהִיא יִרְאַת עֹנֶש, שֶׁהִיא יִרְאַת הֶפְּסֵד עַצְמוֹ
But the essential fear — from the Root and Origin of all worlds — is that which is called "His Kingdom rules over all."	אָבָל עִיקַר הַזְּרֵאָה מִפְּנֵי עִיקָּרָא וְשָׁרְשָׁא דְּעַלְמָא — הִיא הַנִּקְרֵאת מַלְכוּתוֹ בְּכָל מָשָׁלָה.
For all forms of fear branch from it — such as punishments, suffering, and death — which cleanse the filth of impurity from souls.	שֶׁכֶּל הַיָּרָאוֹת מִסְתַּצְפִין מִמֶּנָּה, שֶׁהֵם הָעֹנְשִׁין, יִסּוּרִין וּמֶנֶת, הַמְּמֶרְקִים חֶלְאַת זֹהֲמֵת הַנְּפָשׁוֹת.

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For it is healing, a cure, and a bandage for the souls — from every wound and every illness.	פָּי רְפוּאוֹת הוּא וּמָזוֹר וּתְחַבּשֶׁת לַנְּפָשׁוֹת, מִכֶּל מַכָּה וְכָל חֹלִי.
And behold, to a person who is good before God, the fear of external forces is not bitter to him nor evil — as our Sages said: "And behold, it was very good — this refers to death."	ְהָבֵּה לְאָדָם שֶׁטוֹב לִפְנֵי הָאֱלֹהִים, אֵינוֹ רַע וָמָר עָלָיו יִרְאַת הַחִיצוֹנִים, כְּאָמֶרֶם ז"ל: וְהִבֵּה טוֹב מְאֹד — זָה הַמֶּנֶת.
As explained in the Zohar — for many times a person returns to his Maker because of this fear.	ּכְּמְבוֹאָר בַּזּהַר, כִּי הַרְבֵּה פְּעָמִים אָדָם שָׁב אֶל עוֹשֵׂהוּ מִפְּנֵי יִרְאָה זוֹ.
Therefore, it is very good — even for the greatest of the righteous.	לָכֵן טוֹב הוּא מְאֹד, וַאֲפִּלוּ לִגְדוֹלֵי הַצַּדִּיקִים.
For not all times are equal — and sometimes one can only reach true fear through beginning with external fear.	לֹא כָל עַתִּים שָׁוִין, שֶׁלְפְעָמִים אֵינוֹ יָכוֹל לְהַגִּיעַ לְיַרְאָה אֲמִתִּית כִּי אָם עַל־יְדֵי הַתְּחָלֵת הַיִּרְאָה הַחִיצוֹנִית, לְדַמּוֹת בָּנַפְשׁוֹ
And since all fears derive from one root — from it, he ascends higher and higher and begins to taste the sweetness of fear and the fiery fervor toward the Blessed One.	ןאַחַר שֶׁכָּל הַיְּרָאוֹת הֵן מִשֶּׁרָשׁ אֶחָד, מִמֶּנָה מַגִּיעַ מַעֲלָה מַעֲלָה, וְטוֹעֵם נְעִימַת הַיִּרְאָה וְהָתְלַהָּבוּת אֵלָיו יִתְבָּרַף.
Therefore, the righteous give thanks and bless Him, may He be blessed, for all that He created — even punishments and afflictions.	וְלָכֵן הַצַּדִּיקִים מוֹדִים וּמְבָּרְכִים אוֹתוֹ יִתְבָּרַךְ עַל כָּל מַה שָבָּרָא — מִן הָעֹנְשִׁין וְהַיְּסוּרִין.
For only someone who has never seen light in his life, who possesses only external fear and fears bodily harm — to him, punishments, afflictions, and death are evil.	כִּי אָם מִי שֶׁלֹּא רָאָה מְאוֹרוֹת מִיָּמֶיו, שֶׁאֵין לוֹ אֶלָּא יִרְאָה חִיצוֹנִית וְיָרָא מֵהֶפְסֵד גּוּפוֹ — רַע עָלָיו הַמַּצְשֶׂה, יִסוּרִים וְהַמָּנָת.
But in truth, this is what is called "the peace of the kingdom," for He makes peace on high and causes return to Him, as mentioned.	אֲבָל בָּאֱמֶת הִיא הַנִּקְרֵאת שְׁלוֹמָה שֶׁל מַלְכוּת, כִּי הוּא עוֹשֶׂה שָׁלוֹם בִּמְרוֹמָיו לָשׁוּב לְפָנָיו כַּנִּזְכָּר.
And also: "Peace, peace to the distant," for it gives life and healing, as mentioned.	וְגַם: שָׁלוֹם שָׁלוֹם לֶרָחוֹק — הִיא הַנּוֹתֶנֶת חַיִּים וּרְפוּאָה, כַּנִּזְכֶּר.
Therefore, in all circumstances, it is proper for every person not to turn away his eyes from this fear.	לָכַן עַל כָּל פָּנִים רָאוּי לְכָל אָדָם שֶׁלֹא לָסוּר מֵאַחֲרֵי עֵינָיו יִרְאָה זוֹ.
For if he merits, he will distinguish between the true kingship and between it (the external), and if not — Heaven forbid — at least he will turn from evil and do good because of fear.	שֶׁאָם יִזְכֶּה, יַבְחִין בֵּין מַלְכוּת הָאֱמֶת וּבֵינָה, וְאָם לָאו חַס וְשָׁלוֹם, עַל כָּל פָּנִים יָסוּר מֵרָע וְיַעֲשֶׂה טוֹב מִפְּנֵי הַיִּרְאָה.
And this is [the meaning of]: "Be praying for the peace of the kingdom" — to cleave at least to this level of fear.	ן זֶהוּ: הָוֵי מִתְפַּלֵּל בִּשְׁלוֹמָה שֶׁל מֵלְכוּת — שֶׁהוּא לְהִתְדַּבֵּק בְּיִרְאָה זוֹ עַל כָּל פָּנִים.
For if not for its awe, people would swallow each other alive — for the soul is called "friend," as in: "Your friend and your father's friend," etc.	שֶׁאָלְמֶלֵא מוֹרָאָהּ, אִישׁ אֶת רֵעֵהוּ חַיִּים בָּלָעוּ, כִּי הַנְּשֶׁמָה נָקְרֵאת רֵעַ, כְּמַאֲמַר: רֵעֲדּ וְרֵעַ אָבִידּ וְגוֹ'.

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And while he is still alive, the kelipos (husks) swallow him — as we explained above — that he becomes a kelipah and a destructive being like them by following after them.	— וּבְעוֹדוֹ בַּחַיִּים יְבַלְּעוּהוּ הַקְּלִיפּוֹת, כְּדָבְרֵינוּ לְעֵיל שֶׁלֹא יִתְהַוֶּה קְלִיפָּה וּמַזִּיק כְּמוֹתָם בְּהִמֶּשְׁכוֹ אַחֲרֵיהֶם.
For the difference between the human intellectual soul and the animal soul is: the animal soul is the soul of vitality, that grows, nourishes, and desires — all created only for the body.	פִּי הַחִלּוּק הוּא שֶׁבֵּין נֶפֶשׁ הָאָדָם הַשֵּׂכְלִי לְנֶפֶשׁ הַבְּהַמִּי, פִי נֶפֶשׁ הַבְּהֵמִי — הוּא נֶפֶשׁ הַחִיּוּנִי, וְהַמְגַדֵּל וְהַזָּן וְהַמְּתְאַנָּה — כָּלָם לֹא נִבְרָאוּ אֶלָּא לְצֹרֶךְ הַגּוּף, שֶׁהֵמֶּה צוּרַת וְחַיּוּת הַגּוּף.
And this is what is meant by "the soul of the animal — it descends below."	ָן זֶהוּ מַאֲמָר: נֶפֶשׁ הַבְּהֵמָה — הִיא יוֹרֶדֶת הִיא לְמַטָּה.
And through the elevation of the body, they are elevated.	ןְעַל־יְדֵי עֲלִיָּה הַגּוּף, הֵם מִתְעַלִּים.
But not so the human intellectual soul — it was not created for the body. On the contrary — the body and the animal souls were created for the intellectual soul, to act through them and draw them after it, and to elevate them with it.	מַה שֶׁאֵין כֵּן נֶפֶשׁ הָאָדָם הַשֵּׂכְלִי — לֹא נִבְרְאָה בִּשְׁבִיל הַגּוּף, אֲדַרְבָּא — הַגּוּף וְכָל הַנְּפָשׁוֹת הַבְּהֵמִיּוֹת נִבְרְאוּ בִּשְׁבִיל הַנָּפָשׁ הַשֵּׂכְלִי, וּלְפַעַל עַל יְדֵיהֶם וּלְמַשְׁכָם אַחָרֶיהָ וּלְעַלּוֹת עִמָּה.
And if so, then as soon as the person draws his intellectual soul into bodily pleasure — behold, he becomes an animal soul — and he is a beast.	וְאָם כֵּן — תַּכֶּף בְּהַמְשִׁיךּ הָאָדָם נַפְשׁוֹ הַשֵּׂכְלִי לְהַנאַת הַגּוּף, הָרֵי הוּא נַצֲשֶׂה נָפָשׁ הַבְּהֵמִי, וְהָרֵי הוּא בְּהֵמָה.
And this is [the meaning of]: "They swallow life" — that they swallow the vitality within them.	ָן זֶהוּ: חַיִּים בָּלָעוּ, שֶׁמַבְלִיעִים הַחַיּוּת בְּתוֹכָם.
From this point on, all contractions (Gevuros, punishments) and kindnesses are desired — in the way of the first <i>tzimtzum</i> (contraction), for creation was only possible through contraction.	וּמֵעַתָּה — הָנֵּה מָתְאַוִּים כָּל הַצִּמְצוּמִים (הַגְּבוּרוֹת, עֹנְשִׁין), וַחֲסָדִים עַל דֶּרֶךְ הַצִּמְצוּם הָרִאשׁוֹן, שֶׁלֹא הָיְתָה שׁוּם אֶפְשָׁרוּת הַבְּרִיאָה כִּי אִם עַל יְדֵי צִמְצוּם.
And likewise, all the contractions, judgments, punishments, and death — both from the body and the soul — all are kindness and goodness.	וְכֵן כָּל הַצִּמְצוּמִים וְהַגְּבוּרוֹת — עֹנְשִׁין וּמִיתָה — מִגוּף וְנָכָּשׁ — הַכּּל חֶסֶד וָטוֹב.
For if not for its awe, people would swallow each other alive, as mentioned — and through them, one draws close to before Hashem.	— שֶׁאָלְמָלֵא מוֹרָאָהּ, אִישׁ אֶת רֵעֵהוּ חַיִּים בָּלְעוּ כַּנִּזְכָּר ןעַל יְדֵיהֶם מִתְקָרֵב לִפְנֵי ה'
And this is [the meaning of]: "After the death of the two sons of Aharon" — that all variations of deaths are the "sons of Aharon," which is Chesed — "when they came close before Hashem."	וְזֶהוּ: אַחֲרֵי מוֹת שְׁנֵי כְנֵי אַהָּרוֹ — שֶׁכָּל שִׁינוּי הַמִּיתוֹת הם בְּנֵי אַהָּרוֹ, שֶׁהוּא חֶסֶד, בְּקרְבָתָם לִפְנֵי ה'.
And this is Rashi's explanation: a parable to a doctor, etc. — that all the additional warning to the second patient not to die as the first did is even better and brings peace.	ְוֶזֶהוּ פֵּירוּשׁ רַשִּ"י ז"ל: מָשֶׁל לְרוֹפֵא וְגוֹ' — שֶׁכֶּל מֵה שֶׁצֵרִז הַשֵּׁנִי שֶׁלֹא יָמוּת כְּדֶרֶךְ שֶׁמֵּת פְּלוֹנִי, הוּא הַיּוֹתֵר טוֹב וְשָׁלוֹם

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And "the peace of the kingdom" refers to the union of the Holy One, blessed be He, and His Shechinah, as is known.	וְשְׁלוֹמָה שֶׁל מַלְכוּת — הוּא יִחוּד קַדְשָׁא בְּרִידְּ הוּא וּשְׁכִינְתֵּיה, כַּנּוֹדָע.
And this is what our Sages said: "The Torah is only sustained by one who kills himself in the tent" — that he recalls all types of deaths and imagines them upon himself to strengthen fear and Torah.	וְזֶהוּ אָמְרוּ רַבּוֹתֵינוּ זִכְרוֹנָם לְבָרָכָה: אֵין הַתּוֹרָה מִתְקַיֶּמֶת אֶלָּא בְּמִי שֶׁמְּמִית עַצְמוֹ בְּאוֹהֶל — שֶׁמַזְכִּיר לְעַצְמוֹ כָּל הַמִּיתוֹת, וּמְדַמֶּה בְּעַצְמוֹ אוֹתָם לְחַזֵּק הַיְרֵאָה וְהַתּוֹרָה.
And it is known that the sustaining of Torah is referred to as <i>Netzach</i> and <i>Hod</i> — "the sons of Aharon, when they drew close to Hashem and they died."	וִידוּעַ שֶׁקִיּוּם הַתּוֹרָה נָקְרֵאת נֵצַח וְהוֹד, בְּנֵי אַהַרֹן בְּקַרְבָתָם אֶל ה' וַיָּמֵתוּ.
As explained on the verse: "And you shall see them upon the stones" — our Sages said: the thighs harden like stone — which is death, for the sake of sustaining offspring.	ּכְּמוֹ שֶׁמְבֹאָר עַל הַפָּסוּק: וְרְאִיתָם עַל הָאֲבָנִים — אָמְרוּ רַזַ"ל: שֶׁמִּתְקַשִּׁין הַיְרַכַיִם כָּאֲבָנִים, שֶׁהוּא מִיתָתָם לְקִיּוּם הַוָּלָד.
And the interpretation of "And Hashem spoke to Moshe" is: the intellect [comes] <i>after</i> "the death of the two sons of Aharon" — meaning, after one has "killed himself in the tent," as mentioned above.	וּפֵירוּשׁ: וַיְדַבֵּר ה' אֶל מֹשֶׁה — הוּא הַשֵּׂכֶל אַחֲרֵי מוֹת שָׁנִי בְנֵי אַהָרֹן, שֶׁהוּא אַחֲרֵי שֶׁהֵמִית עַצְמוֹ בָּאֹהֶל כַּנִּזְכָּר לְעֵיל.
"When they drew near before Hashem" — this refers to the Written Torah, as is known.	בְּקָרְבָתָם לִפְנֵי ה' — שֶׁהוּא תּוֹרָה שֶׁבִּכְתָב, כַּנּוֹדָע.

[NOTE: Summary of the Discourse

This deeply reflective discourse revolves around the famous verse, "אַהְרֹי מִּוֹת שְׁנֵי בְנֵי אַהָּרֹן" (Vayikra 16:1), and expands it into a profound meditation on death, transformation, fear, and spiritual refinement.

The *death of Aharon's sons* is presented not merely as a tragic event but as a mystical paradigm: they represent *Chesed*, and their death "in drawing close to Hashem" serves as a model of total surrender to the Divine. The Midrashic parable cited by Rashi — a doctor who warns one patient by referencing the fate of another — is elevated into a meditation on how fear of loss (even death) can be spiritually constructive, drawing one closer to the Divine.

The discourse divides fear (*yirah*) into two categories:

- 1. External fear fear of punishment, pain, or death, which is universal and natural.
- 2. **Essential fear** fear of the Divine Presence itself, stemming from a deep awareness of G-d's majesty and transcendence.

All fear, the Rebbe explains, ultimately derives from this higher root — *Malchus*, G-d's kingship — and even the most external fear can serve as a gateway to authentic awe and transformation.

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A key teaching is the concept of "killing oneself in the tent" (Avodah in the beis midrash): imagining death not in a morbid sense, but to instill true humility and strengthen Torah learning. This mental self-nullification refines the soul, just as the seed must rot before new life can sprout.

The discourse then moves to the **ontological role of suffering and death**: they are not punishments in the simple sense but *spiritual medications* that purge the soul's impurities. Just as the first *Tzimtzum* (constriction) was necessary for creation, so too constriction and suffering can serve as a channel for Divine closeness and ultimate goodness.

The discourse concludes by warning that if one uses their **intellectual soul** — the part of the human created not for the body but for Heaven — solely in service of bodily pleasure, he descends into the realm of the *animal soul*. There, he is spiritually devoured by the *kelipos* (forces of spiritual concealment). But by engaging with even the lower fears — like fear of suffering — one remains tethered to G-d and may eventually ascend to true *yiras haromemus* (awe of G-d's greatness).

Practical Takeaway

- 1. **Fear even the simple fear of punishment is not to be dismissed.** It serves as a foundational tool in developing awe of G-d and discipline in spiritual life. Use it wisely as a springboard to greater awareness.
- 2. **Transform suffering into connection.** Don't resist life's "contractions" (hardships); instead, see them as the very instruments G-d uses to draw us closer. Even the feeling of constriction can be a form of Divine compassion if channeled into return and refinement.
- 3. Imagine your own death not to despair, but to sharpen your purpose. "Killing oneself in the tent" means being willing to surrender ego, comforts, and bodily desires for the sake of Torah and Divine connection.
- 4. **Don't let the intellect serve the body.** Your soul especially the *sechel* (intellect) must guide and uplift the body and the animal instincts, not be dragged down by them. Awareness of this hierarchy is central to spiritual life.

Chassidic Story (About Reb Menachem Mendel of Horodok)

Source: Told by the Alter Rebbe and recorded in various early Chassidic texts, including Shivchei HaBesht and Beit Rebbe.

Once, a young man approached **Reb Mendel of Horodok** and cried, "Rebbe, I have no *yiras shamayim* (fear of Heaven)! How can I be a proper Jew without fear?"

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Reb Mendel responded:

"Do you fear fire?"

The man answered, "Yes, Rebbe, of course."

"And what about the fire of Gehenom?" Reb Mendel asked.

"I try not to think about it," the man said, shamefully.

Reb Mendel smiled gently and said,

"Then begin by fearing the fire of the stove — and from there, climb. All true awe begins somewhere. Even a spark of fear, if genuine, can ignite the soul to burn with love and truth."

And then Reb Mendel added in a whisper:

"Do not fear fear itself. Even the coarsest fear is a gift from Heaven, if you use it to seek the Giver."

That young man later became one of the early Chassidim who would meditate daily on the finiteness of life — not to become broken, but to break through. **END NOTE**]