

כִּי תַצֵּא לַמְּלָחַמָה עַל אֹיָבֵיךְ וּנָתַנוֹ ה׳ אֱלֹהֵיךְ בִּיָדֶךְ וְשָׁבִיתַ שְׁבִיוֹ וְגוֹ׳

Introduction

This discourse from the Alter Rebbe opens with the verse "When you go out to war against your enemies" (Ki Seitzei al oyvecha). The maamar explores how this war is not a physical one, but the spiritual struggle every Jew faces daily: the battle with the animal soul and its desires. The Alter Rebbe draws from Zohar, Chazal, and the system of Chassidus to show how prayer, Torah, and mitzvos transform this inner war into elevation and connection with Hashem. The discourse emphasizes that even the evil inclination can be elevated to holiness, and that the daily struggle is itself the process by which a Jew fulfills his mission of refining sparks and revealing Divine light in the world.

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When you go out to war against your enemies and Hashem your God will deliver them into your hand and you will take captives, etc. Behold, it is stated in the Zohar: the time of prayer is the time of battle, and it is written, "which I took from the hand of the Emorite with my sword and with my bow," and Onkelos translates: "with my prayer and with my supplication."

And to understand what is the matter of war in prayer, and also why we pray every day. Behold, our Sages of blessed memory said: the prayers were instituted corresponding to the daily offerings. And the matter is as it is written: "My offering, My food for My fire-offerings." For they would offer the sacrifice in the time of the Beis HaMikdash as a burnt-offering upon the altar from the species of the animal, in order that fire descend from heaven and consume the burnt-offering.

For the life-force of the animal soul has its foundation from the element of fire, for the four categories of inanimate, vegetative, animal, and human are corresponding to the four elements of fire, wind, water, and earth. The aspect of fire is the aspect of the animal soul, and the aspect of wind is the aspect of the speaker, as it is written: "And man became a living soul," and Onkelos translates: "a speaking spirit." And when fire would descend from heaven, the fire below would be included in the fire above.

כָּי תַּצֵא לַמִּלְחָמָה עַל אֹיְבֶיךְ וּנְתָנוֹ ה׳ אֱלֹהֶיךְ בְּיָדֶךְ וְשָׁבִיתָ שִׁבְיוֹ וְגוֹ׳. הָנֵה אִיתָא בְּזֹהֵר שַׁצְתָא דְּצְלוֹתָא שַׁצְתָא דְּקָרֶבָא וּכְתִיב אֲשֶׁר לָקַחְתִּי מִיַּד הָאֱמֹרִי בָּחַרְבִּי וּבָקַשְׁתִּי וּתַ״א בָּצְלוֹתִי וּבָבַעוּתִי.

וּלְהָבִין מַה עַנְיַן הַמִּלְחָמָה בַּתִּפִּלֶּה וְגַם לָמָּה מִתְפַּלְלִים בְּכָל יוֹם. הָנֵּה אָרְזו״ל תְּפִלּוֹת בְּנָגָד תְּמִידִין תִּקְנוּם. וְהָעַנְיָן כַּדְּכְתִיב אֶת קָרְבָּנִי לַחְמִי לְאִשִּׁי שֶׁהָיוּ מַקְרִיבִין הַקּרְבָּן בִּזְמֵן בֵּית הַמִּקְדָּשׁ לְעוֹלָה עַל גַּבֵּי הַמִּזְבַּחַ מִמִין הַבְּהֵמָה כְּדֵי שֶׁתֵּרִד אֲשׁ מִן הַשְּׁמֵיִם וְתֹאכַל אֶת הָעֹלֶה.

כִּי חַיּוּת נֶפֶשׁ הַבְּהֵמִית הִיא יְסוֹדָה מִיסוֹד הָאֵשׁ כִּי ד׳ בְּחִינוֹת דֻּצַח״מ הַם כְּנֶגֶד ד׳ בְּחִינוֹת אַרְמ״ע וּבְחִינַת אֲשׁ הוּא בְּחִינַת נֶפֶשׁ הַחַי וּבְחִינַת רוּחַ הוּא בְּחִינַת מֶשְׁ הַחִי וּבְחִינַת רוּחַ הוּא בְּחִינַת מְדֵבֵּר כַּדְּכְתִיב וַיְהִי הָאָדָם לְנֶפֶשׁ חַיָּה וֹתַ״א לְרוּחַ מְמַלְלָא וּכְשֶׁהָיָה יוֹרֵד אֵשׁ מִן הַשָּׁמִיִם הָיָה נִכְלָל אֵשׁ מְּלַלָא וּכְשֶׁהָיָה יוֹרֵד אֵשׁ מִן הַשָּׁמֵיִם הָיָה נִכְלָל אֵשׁ מֵּלְלָא וּבְאָשׁ שֵׁלְמַעְלַה

כִּי תַצֵּא לַמִּלְחָמָה עַל אֹיָבֶיךְ וּנְתָנוֹ ה׳ אֱלֹהֶיךְ בְּיָדֶךְ וְשָׁבִיתַ שִׁבְיוֹ וְגוֹי

And the aspect of the fire above also is an aspect of animal and beast, and their root is in the Supernal Chariot, "the face of a lion, the face of an ox," etc.

וּבְחִינַת אֵשׁ שֶׁלְמַעְלָה גַּם כֵּן הוּא בְּחִינַת בְּהֵמָה וְחַיָּה וְשָׁרְשָׁן בַּמֶּרְכָּבָה הָעֶלְיוֹנָה פְּנֵי אַרְיֵה פְּנֵי שׁוֹר כו׳.

And this is [the meaning of] "a lion that consumes the offerings," etc. And since the Beis HaMikdash was destroyed, the Men of the Great Assembly instituted prayer, that each person should offer up his animal soul, to elevate it and bind it to its root, which also is from the element of fire and from the source from which it was hewn, and its foundation in the holy mountains, the Supernal Chariot, the face of the lion, the face of the ox, etc.

וְזֶהוּ אַרְיֵה דַּאֲכִיל קַרְבָּנִין כו׳. וּמִשֶּׁחָרֵב בֵּית הַמִּקְדָּשׁ תִּקְנוּ אַנְשֵׁי כְנֶסֶת הַגְּדוֹלָה הַתְּפִלָּה שֻׁיַּקְרִיב כָּ״א נַפְשׁוֹ הַבְּהַמִית לְהַצְלוֹתָה וּלְקָשְׁרָה בְּשָׁרְשָׁה שָׁהִיא גַּ״כ מִיְּסוֹד הָאֵשׁ וּמָקוֹר חָצְבָּה וִיסוֹדָתָה בְּהַרְרֵי קֹדֶשׁ מָרְכָּבָה הָעֶלְיוֹנָה בְּנֵי אַרְיֵה בְּנֵי שׁוֹר כו׳.

Except that after descending and devolving and clothing itself in the dregs of the Ofanim, there extended from it the pleasures of this world and the power of desire, which is also the aspect of the heat of fire. And also the evil inclination is a foreign fire that burns. And one must elevate the animal soul to its root, the aspect of the fire above, and to be included in the aspect of the Supernal Chariot, the aspect of "a fire consuming fire," to annihilate and burn the power of desire.

אֶלָּא שֶׁלְאַחַר יְרִידָה וְהִשְׁתַּלְשְׁלוּת וְהִתְלַבְּשׁוּת בְּעָ״שׁ
שִׁמְרֵי הָאוֹפַנִּים נִמְשַׁה תַּעֲנוּגֵי הָעוֹלָם הַנֶּה וְהַכֹּחַ
הַמְּתְאַנֶּה שֶׁהוּא גַּ״כ בְּחִינַת חֲמִימוּת הָאֵשׁ וְגַם הַיֵּצֶר
הָרָע הוּא אֵשׁ זָר דוֹלֵק וּצְרִיךְ לְהַעֲלוֹת נֶפֶשׁ הַבְּהֵמִית
לְשָׁרְשָׁה בְּחִינַת אֵשׁ שֶׁלְמַעְלָה וּלְהָכָּלֵל בְּחִינַת מֶרְכָּבָה
הָעֶלְיוֹנָה בְּחִינַת אֵשׁ אֹכְלָה אֵשׁ לְכַלּוֹת וּלְשָׂרֵף כֹּחַ
הַמֶּלְיוֹנָה בְּחִינַת אֵשׁ אֹכְלָה אֵשׁ לְכַלּוֹת וּלְשָׂרֵף כֹּחַ

And [likewise] the fire below in the pleasures of people in this world, one must not walk in them except with coldness, and to turn the opposite of the opposite, that the power of desire be with fiery sparks of flame to cleave to the living God (and see what is explained about this in the discourse on Parshas Nesachim, Parshas Shelach).

וְהָאֵשׁ שֶׁלְמַּטָּה בְּתַעֲנוּגוֹת בְּנֵי אָדָם בָּעוֹלָם הַזֶּה שֶׁלֹּא לִילֵּךְ בָּהֶם אָלָּא בְּקַרִירוּת וּלְהָפֵּךְ מַהֶּפֶּךְ לַהָּכָּף לְהִיוֹת כֹּחַ הַמִּתְאַנֶּה בִּרְשָׁפֵי אֵשׁ שַׁלְהָבֶת לְזָבְקָה בֵּאלֹהִים הַתִּים (וְעַמִּישׁ מִזֶּה בְּד״ה בְּפי נְּסָכִים בְּפִי שְׁלַח.

כִּי תַצֵּא לַמְּלְחָמָה עַל אֹיִבֵיךְ וּנָתַנוֹ ה׳ אֱלֹהֵיךְ בְּיָדֵךְ וְשָׁבִיתַ שָׁבִיוֹ וְגוֹי

And behold, every day a man's inclination overpowers him, and he must every day draw down the aspect of the fire above. For behold, it is written: "The days were formed," meaning there is a number and measure to the years of a man's life—"the days of our years in them are seventy years," etc. And they were not given to his divine soul within him, for the soul does not need rectification for itself, since it is eternal and does not clothe itself in the aspect of time, but rather unites with the source from which it was hewn, in the Infinite Light, blessed be He, as is written ("Dvarim Acheirim" §1, Siman 4:23), "with the King in His work they sat there."

יוֹם לְהַמְשִׁיךּ בְּחִינֵת אֵשׁ שֶׁלְמֵעְלָה. כִּי הָנֵּה כְּתִיב יָמִים יוּצָרוּ שֶׁיֵשׁ מִסְפֶּר וְקַצְבָּה לִשְׁנֵי חַיֵּי הָאָדָם יְמִי שְׁנוֹתֵינוּ בָהֶם שִׁבְעִים שֶׁנָה כו׳. וְלֹא נִתְנוּ לְנַפְשׁוֹ הָאֱלֹהִית שֶׁבְּקְרְבּוֹ כִּי הַנְּשֶׁמָה אֵינָה צְרִיכָה תִּיקוּוְ לְעַצְמָה הוֹאִיל וְהִיא נִצְחִית וְאֵינָה מִתְלַבָּשֶׁת בִּבְחִינַת זְמַן אֶלָּא מִתְאַחֶדֶת בְּמָקוֹר חַצְבָּה בְּאוֹר אֵין סוֹף בָּרוּךְ הוּא כְּמַ"שׁ (ד"ה א' סי' ד' כ"ג) עִם הַמֶּלֶךְ בִּמְלֵאכְתּוֹ יִישְׁבוּ שָׁם

וָהָנֵּה בָּכֵל יוֹם יָצִרוֹ שֵׁל אֲדָם מְתָגַבֵּר עַלַיו וְצַרִיךְ בְּכֵל

And see Bereishis Rabbah, Parsha 8, and in Midrash Ruth, chapter 2, that [the divine soul] was not taken from the aspect of the face of the lion and ox, etc., like the animal soul in man, but rather from the aspect of "and upon the likeness of the throne was the likeness like the appearance of man," etc. And the spirit of man, it is what rises upward, etc., and the spirit of the animal descends downward to the earth, which is from the higher earth, as it is written: "And the earth is My footstool" (see what is written in the discourse "U'Sfartem Lachem" about the Omer of barley, the food of an animal; and see Bereishis Rabbah, end of Haazinu, and in Bereishis ch. 14).

ְעַיֵּן בְּרַבּוֹת בְּרֵאשִׁית פָּרָשָׁה ח׳ וּבְמִדְרַשׁ רוּת פּ״ב כִּי הִיא לֹא נִלְקְחָה מִבְּחִינַת פְּנֵי אַרְיֵה וְשׁוֹר כו׳ כְּנֶפֶשׁ הַבְּהֵמִית שֶׁבָּאָדָם אָלֶּא מִבְּחִינַת וְעַל דְּמוּת הַכִּפֵּא דְמוּת כְּמַרְאֵה אָדָם כו׳ וְרוּחַ הָאָדָם הִיא הָעוֹלָה לְמַעְלָה כו׳ וְרוּחַ הַבְּהֵמָה יוֹרֶדֶת לְמַטָּה לָאָרֶץ שֶׁהוּא מִבְּחִינַת הָאָרֶץ הָעֶלְיוֹנָה כְּמַ״שׁ וְהָאָרֶץ הָדוֹם רַגְלָי מַאֲכַל בְּהֵמֶה וְעַיֵּן בְּרַבּוֹת סו״פ הַאָזִינוּ וּבְבָרֵאשִׁית מַאֲכַל בְּהֵמֶה וְעַיֵּן בְּרַבּוֹת סו״פ הַאָזִינוּ וּבְבָרֵאשִׁית הַפִּי״ד.

Whereas the spirit of man is swallowed up, going up higher and higher, etc. And see what is written regarding "and the spirit shall return" in the discourse on Haazinu. But the number of the life of man is given to clothe within it his animal soul, and his years are set in number, as measured by His wisdom, may He be blessed, that he can bear in his soul to elevate from it so many powers and sparks that fell there in the breaking of the vessels. And every day a new spark and a new power is elevated (and see what is explained of this in Parshas Bechukosai, in the discourse "M'voar B'Eitz Chayim").

מַה שָׁאֵין פֵּן רוּחַ הָאָדָם הִיא בְּבִלְעִי מִלְּעֵילָא מַעְלָה וְגָבוֹהַ מֵעַל גָּבוֹהַ כו׳. וְע׳ מֵ״שׁ בְּעִנְיֵן וְהָרוּחַ תִּשׁוּב בְּד״ה הַאֲזִינוּ הַשָּׁמִיִם. אֶלָּא מִסְפֵּר חַיֵּי הָאָדָם נִתַּן לְהַתְלַבֵּשׁ בּוֹ נַפְשׁוֹ הַבְּהֵמִית וּשְׁנִיו קְצוּבִים לוֹ בְּמִסְפָּר שָׁשִׁעֲרָה חָכְמָתוֹ יִתְבָּרֵךְ שֶׁיּוּכַל לִשְׁאֵת בְּנַפְשׁוֹ לְהַצְלוֹת מִמֶּנָּה כָּ״כ כֹּחוֹת וְנִיצוֹצוֹת שֶׁנָּפְלוּ שָׁמָה בִּשְׁבִירַת הַכֵּלִים. וּבְכָל יוֹם נִתְעַלֶּה נִצוֹץ וְכֹחַ חָדָשׁ בּוֹשְבִירַת הַכֵּלִים. וּבְכָל יוֹם נִתְעַלֶּה נִצוֹץ וְכֹחַ חָדָשׁ.

(2)

כִּי תַצֵּא לַמְּלְחָמָה עַל אֹיִבֵיךְ וּנָתַנוֹ ה׳ אֱלֹהֵיךְ בְּיָדֵךְ וְשָׁבִיתַ שָׁבִיוֹ וְגוֹי

And behold, in order that the aspect of the fire from above descend and be drawn down, it is commanded to bring from the ordinary, through an arousal from below. This is through contemplation in the source from which it was hewn and its root in the Supernal Chariot, from which is taken the power of desire in his animal soul, as mentioned above.

וְהָבֵּה כְּדֵי שֶׁתֵּרֵד וְתִּפְּשֵׁךּ בְּחִינַת אֵשׁ שֶׁלְמַעְלָה מִצְוָה לְהָבִיא מִן הַהָדִיוֹט ע״י אָתְעָרוּתָא דְלְתַתָּא וְהִיִינוּ ע״י הִתְבּוֹנְנוּת בְּמָקוֹר חָצְבָּה וְשָׁרְשָׁה בַּמֶּרְכָּבָה הָעֶלִיוֹנָה שָׁמְמֶנָּה נִלְקַח הַכֹּחַ הַמִּתְאַנָּה שֶׁבְּנַפְשׁוֹ הַבְּהֵמִית כַּנַּ״ל.

How they are nullified in the aspect of Chariot and Throne in relation to the likeness of Man upon the throne, and tremble and shudder with the fear of the Throne, and are enflamed and ignited with a blaze and flame of fiery sparks to be nullified and included in the light of Hashem that flows upon them.

אֵיךְ שֶׁהֵם בְּטֵלִים בִּבְחִינַת מֶרְכָּבָה וְכִפֵּא לְגַבֵּי דְמוּת אָדָם שֶׁעַל הַכִּפָא וְזָעִים וַחֲלִים מֵחֵיל כִּפָא וּמִתְלַהְבִים וּמִתְלַהְטִים בְּלַהֶבֶת וְשֵׁלְהֶבֶת רִשְׁפֵי אֵשׁ לְבָּטֵל וּלִהְכָּלֵל בָּאוֹר ה׳ הַשׁוֹפֵעַ עֲלֵיהֶם.

And automatically, the light of love will shine also upon the power of desire in his animal soul, which was taken from there, to arouse his heart to be removed from physical pleasures in which it had been sunken, and to be drawn after its root to be nullified and included in the light of Hashem.

וּמִמֵּילָא יָאִיר אוֹר הָאַהְבָה גַּם עַל כֹּחַ הַמִּתְאַנֶּה שָׁבְּנַפְשׁוֹ הַבְּהַמִּית שֶׁנִּלְקַח מִשֶּׁם לְעוֹרֵר לְבּוֹ לְהְיוֹת נַעֲתָק מִתַּעֲנוּגִים גַּשְׁמִיִּים אֲשֶׁר נִשְׁקַע בָּהֶם וּלְהִיוֹת נִמְשָׁךְ אַחַר שָׁרְשׁוֹ לְהִבָּטֵל וּלְהָכָּלֵל בְּאוֹר ה׳.

Therefore, the Men of the Great Assembly instituted the blessings of Shema, two before it: the blessing of Yotzer Or, where it is stated and restated at length the order of the angels and Seraphim and Chayos, how they are nullified to His light, may He be blessed, "Who forms ministering spirits, His ministers of fire," etc.

וְלָכֵן תִּקְנוּ אֲכָנֵ״ג בְּרָכוֹת ק״שׁ שְׁתַּיִם לְפָנֶיהָ בִּרְכַּת יוֹצֵר אוֹר שֶׁשֶׁם נָצֵמַר וְנִשְׁנָה בַּאֲרִיכוּת סֵדֶר הַמַּלְאָכִים וּשְׂרָפִים וְחַיּוֹת אֵיךּ הַשֵּׁם בְּטֵלִים לְאוֹרוֹ יִת׳ וְיוֹצֵר מְשָׁרָתִים וְאֵשׁ מְשָׁרָתִיו כו׳.

"Who forms His ministers" — that many thousands and myriads are created every day. And because of the intensity of their love, like burning fire, they are consumed and burned, and then return and are renewed. And those who are His ministers from the six days of Creation — many thousands and myriads are in one legion, and His legions have no number, as it is written: "Is there a number to His legions," as explained in the Gemara.

יוֹצֵר מְשֶׁרְתִים שֶׁכַּמָּה שֶּׁלֶף וְרִבּוֹא רְכָבוֹת נִבְרָאִים בְּכָל יוֹם וּמִחֲמַת תֹּקֶף אַהְבָתָם כָּאֵשׁ בּוֹעֵרֶת כָּלִים וְנִשְׂרָפִים וְחוֹזְרִים וּמִתְחַדְּשִׁים. וַאֲשֶׁר מְשֶׁרְתִיו מִשֵּׁשֶׁת יְמֵי בְּרֵאשִׁית כַּמָּה שֶּלֶף וְרִבּוֹא רְבָבוֹת בִּגְדוּד שֶּׁחֶד וּלְגִדוּדָיו אֵין מִסְכָּר כַּדְּכְתִיב הְיֵשׁ מִסְכָּר לִגְדוּדְיו בּדְּמַשְׁנִי בַּגְמֶרָא.

פִּי תַצֵּא לַמִּלְחָמָה עַל אֹיָבֶיךּ וּנְתָנוֹ ה׳ אֱלֹהֶידְ בְּיָדֶדְ וְשָׁבִיתְ שִׁבְיוֹ וְגוֹ׳

And all of them revere and sanctify, etc., because of their perception, for they know and grasp that their life and existence, which flows to them from Him, may He be blessed, is only from the aspect of His Name alone. This is like, by way of analogy, the name of a person, which is not his actual essence at all, but rather a kind of radiance and extension from him, so that another can call him by his name.

ְּוְכוּלָּם מַצְרִיצִים וּמְקַדִּישִׁים כו׳ מִחֲמַת הַשָּׂגָתָם שָׁיוֹדְעִים וּמַשִּׁיגִים שֶׁחַיּוּתָם וְקִיּוּמֶם הַנִּמְשְׁדְ לָהֶם מֵאָתוֹ יִת׳ הוּא מִבְּחִינַת שְׁמוֹ לְבֵד. כְּמוֹ עֵד״מ שְׁמוֹ שֶׁל אָדֶם שֶׁאֵינוֹ עֶצֶם מֵעַצְמוּתוֹ כְּלֶל אֶלֶּא אֵיזֶה בְּחִינַת הָאָרָה וְהִתְפַּשְׁטוּת מִמֶּנוּ כְּדֵי שֶׁיוּכַל זוּלָתוֹ לִקְרוֹא לוֹ בִּשְׁמוֹ

And it is called the Infinite Light, blessed be He — meaning, only a radiance from Him, like the light and glow that extend from the sun, as is written elsewhere. And they say "Kadosh," meaning that He is separated from them and does not clothe Himself in them in a revealed way.

וְנִקְרָא אוֹר אֵין סוֹף בָּרוּהְ הוּא כְּלוֹמֵר הַאֲרָה מִמֶנוּ בִּלְבַד כְּאוֹר וְזִיו הַמִּתְפַּשֵׁט מִן הַשֶּׁמֶשׁ וְכַמּ״שׁ בְּמָקוֹם אַחֵר. וְאוֹמְרִים קָדוֹשׁ כְּלוֹמֵר שָׁהוּא מֻבְדָּל מֵהֶם וְאֵינוֹ מִתְלַבֵּשׁ בָּהֶם בִּבְחִינַת גִּילוּי.

For behold it is written: "Your Kingship is a kingship over all worlds." For all life-force that spreads forth from the Infinite Light, blessed be He, to enliven all creations, to be "filling all worlds," is not in the manner of the soul which enlivens and fills the body — which is clothed within it and is affected by the events of the body. But in regard to Him, may He be blessed, it is written: "I, Hashem, have not changed," and "You are He before the world was created, and You are He, etc."

כִּי הָנֵה כְּתִיב מֵלְכוּתְךּ מֵלְכוּת כָּל עוֹלָמִים. שֶׁכָּל חַיּוּת הַמְּתְפַשֵּׁט מֵאוֹר אֵין סוֹף בָּרוּדְ הוּא לְהַחֲיוֹת כָּל הַנְּרְאִים לִהְיוֹת מְמַלֵּא כָּל עַלְמִין אֵינוֹ כְּדֶרֶךְ הַנְּשָׁמָה הַנְּבְרָאִים לִהְיוֹת מְמַלֵּא כָּל עַלְמִין אֵינוֹ כְּדֶרֶךְ הַנְּשְׁמָה הַמְּחַיָּה וּמְמַלֵּא כָּל הַגוּף שֶׁהִיא מִתְלַבֶּשֶׁת בְּתוֹכוֹ וְהִיא מְתְפַּעֶלֶת מִמְּקְרֵי הַגּוּף. מַה שֶׁאֵין כֵּן בּוֹ יִת׳ אֲנִי ה׳ לֹא שָׁנִיתִי כְּתִיב וְאַתָּה הוּא לֹדֶם שֶׁנִּבְרָא הָעוֹלְם וְאַתָּה. הוּא לֹדֶם שֶׁנִּבְרָא הָעוֹלְם וְאַתָּה. הוּא כֹּרֶ

Rather, all the worlds receive their life-force, their flow, and their existence only from the aspect of His Kingship alone, which is only an extension and radiance from Him outward.

אֶלָּא שֶׁכָּל הָעוֹלָמוֹת מְקַבְּלִים חַיּוּתָם וְשִׁפְעָם וְקִיּוּמָם מִבְּחִינַת מַלְכוּתוֹ לְבַד שֶׁהוּא בְּחִינַת הִתְּפַּשְּׁטוּת וְהָאָרָה מִמָּנוּ וְלַחוּץ.

And as in the analogy: "From my flesh I will behold God" — for even in the lower man, behold, the intellect and the emotions are his essence and being. But the aspect of his exaltedness is only outward, from him and outside, and does not touch his essence at all, except to be exalted over another. And this is his lowest aspect and level.

וּכְמוֹ לְמָשֶׁל מִבְּשָׂרִי אֶחֲזֶה אֱלוֹהַ שֶׁגַם בָּאָדֶם הַתַּחְתּוֹן הָנֵּה הַשֵּׂכֶל וְהַמְּדוֹת הֵם עַצְמוּתוֹ וּמַהוּתוֹ. וּבְחִינַת הַתְנַשְׂאוּת שֶׁבּוֹ אֵינוֹ אֶלֶּא מִמֶּנוּ וְלַחוּץ שֶׁאֵינוֹ נוֹגֵעַ אֶל עַצְמוּתוֹ אֶלֶּא לְהִתְנַשֵּׂא עַל זוּלָתוֹ וְהוּא בְּחִינָה וּמַדְרֵגָה אַחַרוֹנַה שָׁבּוֹ

So too, the extension of the aspect of His Kingship, may He be blessed, is nothing but a radiance and illumination from Him to the creations. For there is no king without a nation. And this is [the meaning of] "Creator of the holy ones, may Your Name be praised forever, our King."

בֶּךְ הָבֵּה הָתְפַּשִּׁטוּת בְּחִינַת מֵלְכוּתוֹ יִתְבָּרֵךְ אֵינָה אֶלֶּא זִיו וְהָאָרָה מִמֶּנוּ יִתְבָּרֵךְ אֶל הַנִּבְרָאִים וְאֵין מֶלֶךְ בְּלֹא .עָם. וְזָהוּ בּוֹרֵא קְדוֹשִׁים יִשְׁתַּבַּח שִׁמְךָּ לַעַד מַלְבֵנוּ

כִּי תַצֵּא לַמָּלְחַמָה עַל אֹיָבֵיךְ וּנְתַנוֹ ה׳ אֱלֹהֶיךְ בְּיַדֶךְ וְשַׁבִיתַ שָׁבִיוֹ וְגוֹי

Meaning: all the praise and glorification due to some perception is only upon the aspect of "Your Name," for His Name is called upon the creations. And it is in the aspect of "forever," for He does not clothe and reveal Himself within them, but they stand at a distance. As it is written: "For He commanded, and they were created, and He established them forever and ever."

And the meaning of "He commanded and they were created" is as if they were created of themselves, automatically, from nothing into something, by His command. For His life-force, may He be blessed, which gives them existence from nothing to something, does not spread forth and clothe itself within them in a revealed way.

For what is written, "And by the breath of His mouth all their host," does not mean that the power of the doer is literally clothed in the thing done. Rather, it is a power that flows upon them alone. And this too is [the meaning of] "and by the breath of His mouth" — meaning, by way of analogy, the breath that goes out from the mouth outward.

For even though it goes out from his inside and innermost, it appears as though it is a separate thing, independent from him. And it does not clothe itself in them, but only in the aspect of "our King" — to be a King, His Name called upon them. And this is what we request: that it be praised — meaning, that in this aspect there should be praise and an addition in strength of light and revelation.

But the Holy One, blessed be He, in His very Self and Essence, is holy and separated, as mentioned above.

And behold, the angels — because of the greatness and intensity of their perception, that their flow and vitality is drawn from the aspect of His Name alone, which is holy and separated therefore they are in the aspect of "running and returning." They

run with fiery sparks of flame, ignited to be included in His light, may He be blessed, and return in awe, for out of fear they recoil backward.

פַּירוּשׁ, שַׁכַּל הַשֶּׁבַח וְהַהַלּוּל מְחַמַת אֵיזָה הַשַּׂגַה אֵינוֹ אָלָא בָּחִינַת שָׁמָךָ שֶׁשָּׁמוֹ נָקְרֵא עַל הַנָּבְרָאִים. וְהוּא בָּבָחִינַת לָעַד שֶׁאֵינוֹ מִתְלַבֶּשׁ וּמִתְגַּלֶּה בָּהֶם אֶלָא עוֹמְדִים בָּרְחוּק מַקוֹם. וְכַדְּכִתִיב כִּי הוּא צְוַה וַיִּבַּרָאוּ ויעמידם לעד לעולם.

וּפֵירוּשׁ צְוָה וַיִּבַּרָאוּ כָּאָלוּ הֶם מֵעַצְמֵם נִבְרָאוּ מְמֵילָא מָאַיַן לְיֵשׁ ע״י צָוּוּיוֹ. שֵׁאֵין חַיּוּתוֹ יִתְבַּרֵךְ הַמְחַיֵּה וּמָהַנָה אוֹתַם מֵאָיָן לְיֵשׁ מִתְפַּשׁט וּמְתַלְבֵּשׁ בִּתוֹכַם בבחינת גילוי.

פי מ"שׁ וּבָרוּח פּיו כּל צָבאם לֹא שֵיהָיֵה כֹּח הפּועל מָתַלַבֵּשׁ מַמַשׁ בַּנִפָּעַל, אֵלָא שָהוּא כֹּחַ הַשׁוֹפַעַ עַלֵיהֵם בָּלְבַד. וְזֵהוּ גַּ״כ וּבָרוּחַ פִּיו, דְהַיִינוּ עַד״מ בִּחִינַת ההבל היוצא מן הפה ולחוץ.

שַׁגַם שָהוּא יוֹצֵא מַתּוֹכוֹ וּפָנִימִיוּתוֹ נַרְאָה כָּאַלוּ הוּא דבר נפָרד מתּוֹכוֹ לֹהֵיוֹת דבר בּפָני עצֵמוֹ. וְאִינוֹ מָתַלַבֵּשׁ בַּהֶם אֶלַא בִּחִינַת מַלְכֵּנוּ לְהִיוֹת מֵלֶךְ שְׁמוֹ נָקָרָא עַלֵיהֶם. וְאוֹתָה אַנוּ מְבַקּשִׁים שׁיִשְׁתַּבַּח, דְהַיִינוּ יִלְהָיוֹת בִּבְחִינָה זוֹ שֶׁבַח וְתוֹסֶפֶת בִּתוֹקֵף אוֹר וְגִילּוּי.

אָבָל הַקָּדוֹשׁ־בָּרוּךְ־הוּא בִּעַצְמוֹ וּבָכְבוֹדוֹ הוּא קָדוֹשׁ וּמוּבְדֵּל כו׳ כָּנַ״ל.

וָהָנַה הַמַּלְאַכִים מְחָמַת גֹּדֵל עֹצֵם הַשַּׂגָתָם שֵׁשִּׁפְעַן וְחַיּוּתָן נִמְשָׁךְ מִבָּחִינַת שָׁמוֹ לְבַד שֶׁהוּא קַדוֹשׁ וּמוּבְדַּל, לָכֶן הֶם בִּבְחִינַת רֲצוֹא וָשׁוֹב. רֲצוֹא בִּרְשָׁפֵי אַשׁ שַׁלְהֶבֶת מָתִלַהֶטֶת לְהָכַּלֵל בָּאוֹרוֹ יִת׳, וְשׁוּב בַּיָרַאַה שֶׁמְּחָמֵת הַיִּרָאַה הֶם חוֹזָרִים וְנְרְתַּעִים לַאַחוֹרֵיהֶם.

כִּי תַצֵּא לַמְּלְחָמָה עַל אֹיִבֵיךְ וּנָתַנוֹ ה׳ אֱלֹהֵיךְ בְּיָדֵךְ וְשָׁבִיתַ שָׁבִיוֹ וְגוֹי

As in the matter that it is said: "And the people saw, and they trembled, and they stood from afar." And they say: "Blessed be the glory of Hashem from His place" — that it be blessed and drawn down below also, in the aspect of revelation as it is above.

ּכְּעָנְיֶן שֶׁנֶּאֱמֵר: וַיִּרְא הָעָם וַיָּגֵעוּ וַיַּעַמְדוּ מֵרְחֹק. וְאוֹמְרִים: בָּרוּךְ כְּבוֹד ה׳ מִמְּקוֹמוֹ — שֶׁיְבוֹרַךְ וְיוּמְשֵׁךְ לְמַטָּה גַּ״כ בִּבְחִינַת גִּילוּי כְּמוֹ שֶׁהוּא לְמַעְלָה.

And from this the intelligent one should contemplate, to also be in the aspect of "running and returning" — with love, longing, and desire to be drawn after his root, to be included in the light of Hashem, Who is holy and separated, etc. And then again with awe, to accept upon himself the yoke of the Kingdom of Heaven below, as it is written: "You shall surely set a king over yourself."

וּמְזֶּה יִתְבּוֹגֵן הַפַּשְׂכִּיל לְהְיוֹת גַּ״כ בְּבְחִינַת רֲצוֹא וָשׁוֹב — בְּאַהֲבָה וַחֲשִׁיקָה וַחֲפִיצָה לְהִיוֹת נִמְשָׁךְ אַחַר שָׁרְשׁוֹ לְהִכָּלֵל בְּאוֹר ה׳ שֶׁהוּא קָדוֹשׁ וּמוּבְדָּל כו׳. וְשוּב בְּיִרְאָה לִהְיוֹת מְקַבֵּל עֹל מַלְכוּת שָׁמִיִם לְמַטָּה, בִּמַ״שׁ: שׁוֹם תַּשִּׁים עָלֶיךְ מֶלֶךְ

And as our Sages said: "If your heart runs, return to the One," that he make a dwelling for Him, so that Hashem, the One, will rest below as above. And in this way, they also instituted Pesukei D'Zimra, where it is stated: "Give thanks to Hashem, call upon His Name," etc. "Give thanks upon the earth and the heavens," etc. "Yours, Hashem, is the greatness," etc., "and the host of heaven bow down to You." Except that it is in the aspects and levels of the lower worlds — the inanimate and the vegetative. And there too is the aspect of "running and returning."

וּכְמָאַרָז״ל: אָם רָץ לִבָּךְ — שׁוּב לְאֶחָד, שָׁיַּצְשֶׂה מָכוֹן לְשִׁבְתּוֹ וְלִהְיוֹת ה׳ אֶחָד שׁוֹרֶה לְמַטָּה כְּמוֹ לְמַעְלָה. וְעַל דֶּרֶךְ זֶה תִּקְנוּ גַּ״כ פְּסוֹד״ז שֶׁשָׁם נָאֱמַר: הוֹדוּ לַה׳ קִרְאוּ בִּשְׁמוֹ כו׳, הוֹדוּ עַל אֶרֶץ וְשָׁמַיִם כו׳, לְדְּ ה׳ הַגְּדוּלָה כו׳, וְצָבָא הַשָּׁמֵיִם לְךְּ מִשְׁתַּחַוִים. אֶלָּא שָׁהוּא בִּבְחִינוֹת וּמַדְרֵגוֹת הָעוֹלָמוֹת שֶׁלְמַטָּה בְּחִינַת דוֹמם וְצוֹמְחָ, וְשַׁם גִּ״כ יִשׁ בְּחִינַת רַצוֹא וַשׁוֹב.

Therefore, there are verses that speak of His love, may He be blessed, and there are verses of His awe. And from both is born the trait of mercy, as there are verses that speak of this, such as: "And He is merciful..."; "You, Hashem, do not withhold Your mercies," etc. And these three aspects are the aspects of Avraham, Yitzchak, and Yaakov, and this aspect of mercy is the attribute of Yaakov.

וְלָכֵן יֵשׁ פְּסוּקִים מְדַבֵּר בְּאַהָּבָתוֹ יִת׳, וְיֵשׁ בְּיִרְאָתוֹ.
וּמִשְׁנֵיהֶם נוֹלְדָה מִדַּת הָרְחֲמָנוּת, שֶׁיֵשׁ פְּסוּקִים
מְדַבְּרִים בָּזֶה, כְּמוֹ: וְהוּא רַחוּם כו׳. אַתָּה הוי׳ לֹא
תִכְלָא רַחֲמֶיךּ כו׳. וּשְׁלֹשֶׁה בְּחִינוֹת אֵלוּ הֵם בְּחִינוֹת
אַבְרָהָם יִצְחָק וְיַצַקֹב, וּבְחִינַת הָרַחֲמֶנוּת זוֹ הִיא מִדָּתוֹ
.שֶׁל יַצַקֹב

And this is what our Sages said: "The prayers were instituted by the Avos." And from this one comes and reaches to the aspect and level of a greater nullification in Shema — to be included in the aspect of "Man upon the Throne," the inward aspect. And this is: "Hear, O Israel" — "hear" meaning understanding.

וְזֶהוּ שָׁז״ל: תְּפָלּוֹת אָבוֹת תִּקְנוּם. וּמִזֶּה יָבוֹא וְיַגִּיעַ לְבָחִינָה וּמַצְלַת וּמַדְרֵגוֹת בִּטוּל גָּדוֹל מִזֶּה בְּק״שׁ — לְהִכָּלֵל בִּבְחִינַת אָדָם שֶׁעַל הַכִּפֵא, בְּחִינַת פְּנִימִית. וָזֶהוּ: שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל — שְׁמֵע לְשׁוֹן הַבָּנָה.

כִּי תַצֵּא לַמִּלְחָמָה עַל אֹיָבֶיךְ וּנְתָנוֹ ה׳ אֱלֹהֶיךְ בְּיָדֶךְ וְשָׁבִיתַ שִׁבְיוֹ וְגוֹי

For Havayah, which is the aspect of His Essence and Being, so to speak — the aspect of "and upon the likeness of the Throne was the likeness like the appearance of Man," etc. — He is our God, Who is the aspect of One, "echad": alef = 1, ches = 8, daled = 4 (written large). This is the aspect of the word of Hashem, the general vitality of all the worlds.

כִּי הוי׳, שֶׁהוּא בְּחִינַת עַצְמוּתוֹ וּמַהוּתוֹ כִּבְיָכוֹל —
 בְּחִינַת וְעַל דְּמוּת הַכִּפֵּא דְמוּת כְּמַרְאֵה אָדָם כו׳ —
 הוּא אֱלֹהֵינוּ, שֶׁהוּא בְּחִינַת אֶחָד, א״ח ד׳, וְדָ׳ רַבָּתָא,
 שֶׁהוּא בְּחִינַת דְּבַר ה׳ חֵיוּת הַכְּלָלִי שֶׁל כָּל הָעוֹלְמוֹת

For with ten utterances the world was created, and with one utterance it could have been created. And this is the aspect of a single thought. As it is written in the Zohar: "With one thought He created the world," as in the verse: "He sees and beholds until the end of all generations, and calls the generations from the beginning," etc., and as explained elsewhere.

כִּי בַעֲשֶׂרָה מַצְּמָרוֹת נִבְרָא הָעוֹלָם, וּבְמַצְמָר אֶחָד יָכוֹל לְהָבֶּרוֹת. וְהוּא בְּחִינַת מַחֲשֶׁבָה אַחַת. וּכְמֵ״שׁ בַּזּהַר: בְּמַחֲשָׁבָה אַחָתָא בָּרָא עָלְמָא, עַל דֶּרֶךְ שֶׁכָּתוּב: צוֹפֶה וּמַבִּיט עַד סוֹף כָּל הַדּוֹרוֹת, וְקוֹרֵא הַדּוֹרוֹת מֵרֹאשׁ כוֹי. וּכְמַ״שׁ בָּמַקוֹם אַחֶר.

And the aspect of thought is the aspect of speech, since it is the source for the revelation of the worlds. For just as in man, there are many thoughts he thinks that never come to the revelation of speech and are called "thoughts"; and there are thoughts in which he contemplates how to bring things forth from his mouth — then such thought is already included in the aspect of speech itself.

וּבְחִינַת מַחֲשֶׁבָה הוּא בְּחִינַת הַדְּבּוּר, לְפִי שֶׁהוּא מֶקוֹר לְגִילוּי הַעוֹלֶמוֹת. וּכְמוֹ עַד״מ בָּאָדָם יֵשׁ כַּמָה מַחֲשָׁבוֹת שְׁמַחֲשֵׁב שְׁאֵינָן בָּאוֹת לְכְלֵל גִּילוּי הַדְּבּוּר וְנִקְרֵאוֹת מַחֲשָׁבוֹת שְׁמַחֲשֵׁב וּמְהַרְהֵר אֵיךְּ מְחַשְׁבוֹת שְׁמַחֲשֵׁב וּמְהַרְהֵר אֵיךְּ לְהוֹצִיא הַדְּבָרִים מִפִּיו — הַרֵי מַחֲשָׁבָה זוֹ נִכְלְלָה בַּבְּחִינַת הַדְּבּוּר מַמֵּשׁ

So it is written: "Your thoughts are very deep" — they are the aspect of concealed thoughts, etc.

פָּהְ הָנֵּה כְּתִיב: מְאֹד עָמְקוּ מַחְשְׁבוֹתֶיךְ — שֶׁהֵם בָּחִינַת מַחַשְׁבַתִּין סְתִימִין כו׳.

And see what is explained about this in the discourse *Basi L'Gani*. But behold, the thought, which is the source and root of the revealed world, is called and elevated by the name "aspect of speech and revelation."

ְוַעַמ״שׁ מָזֶּה בְּד״ה בָּאתִי לְגַנִּי. אַדְּ הִנֵּה הַמַּּחֲשָׁבָה שָׁהִיא מָקוֹר וְשֹׁרֶשׁ לְעָלְמָא דְאִתְגַּלְיָא הִיא נִקְרֵאת וְעוֹלָה בְּשֵׁם בְּחִינַת הַדְּבּוּר וְהַגִּילוּי.

And this is the large daled of "echad" — which is the one utterance in which all ten utterances are included. This is the aspect of the Infinite Light that is drawn and extends into the ten utterances to bring all creations into being from nothing to something.

וְזוֹהִי בְּחִינַת דָ׳ רַבָּתָא דְּאֶחָד, שֶׁהוּא הַמַּאֲמֶר אֶחָד שָׁבּוֹ נִכְלְלוּ כָּל הָצֲשֶׁרָה מַאֲמֶרוֹת. שֶׁהוּא בְּחִינַת אוֹר אֵ״ס הַנִּמְשֶׁךְ וּמִתְפַּשֵּׁט בַּאֲשֶׂרָה מַאֲמֶרוֹת לְהָווֹת כָּל הַנִּבְרָאִים מֵאַיִן לְיֵשׁ.

And since there, in the one utterance, there is not yet the aspect of multiplicity and division into ten utterances, therefore it is called "a single thought."

וּלְפִי שָׁאֵין שָׁם עֲדַיִן בְּחִינַת רִיבּוּי וְהִתְחַלְּקוּת עֲשָׂרָה מַאֲמַרוֹת, לַבֵן נָקָרָאת מַחַשַּׁבָּה אָחַת.

כִּי תַצֵּא לַמְּלְחָמָה עַל אֹיִבֵיךְ וּנָתַנוֹ ה׳ אֱלֹהֵיךְ בְּיָדֵךְ וְשָׁבִיתַ שָׁבִיוֹ וְגוֹי

And through this one reaches the level of "And you shall love Hashem your God with all your heart" — with both inclinations. That even the evil inclination and the power of desire in his animal soul will be included in its root, and darkness will be transformed into light.

And this is [the meaning of the verse]: "When you go out to war against your enemies." Meaning: when you go out to this war — to conquer the power of desire in his soul, to cool it off from the pleasures of this physical world, and to transform it into the love of Hashem — then it will be in the aspect of "against your enemies," that is, at their root above.

For no evil descends from above, and their root is good, for it is from the aspect of the Supernal Chariot of holiness (see what is explained in the discourse *V'nasati Lecha Mahalachim*). But after the descent and the chaining of levels, they became the dregs of the Ofanim, and from there were drawn the waste substances, from which are drawn all the pleasures of this world and the power of desire, as mentioned above.

And when it is elevated and included in its root, it is transformed from evil to good.

However, it is impossible for a person's natural trait to be transformed completely without Divine help and assistance, as

our Sages said: "If not for the Holy One, blessed be He, helping him, he could not overcome it." Meaning: there is no power in his soul alone to ascend and be included in its root, except after a radiance is drawn from the Infinite Light, blessed be He, upon his soul

And this is the radiance of the light of Torah and mitzvos, from the aspect of the likeness of Man upon the Throne — the 248 limbs of the King and the 365 sinews — for they channel the blood, which is the soul and vitality, throughout all the limbs, through the fulfillment and guarding of the mitzvos.

ןעַל־יָדֵי זֶה יַגִּיעַ לְמַדְרֵגוֹת: וְאָהַבְּתָּ בְּכָל לְכָבְּדּ — בִּשְׁנֵי יְצֶרֶידָ. שָׁגַּם הַיֵּצֶר הָרָע וְכֹחַ הַמְּתְאַנֶּה שֶׁבְּנַפְשׁוֹ יוּכְלַל בְּשֶׁרְשׁוֹ, וְאִתְהַפְּכָא חֲשׁוֹכָא לִנְהוֹרָא.

ְוָזֶהוּ: כִּי תֵצֵא לַמִּלְחָמָה עַל אֹיְבֶיךָּ. פֵּירוּשׁ: כִּי תֵצֵא לַמִּלְחָמָה עַל אֹיְבֶיךָּ. פֵּירוּשׁ: כִּי תֵצֵא לַמִּלְחָמָה זוֹ, לְנַצֵּחַ כֹּחַ הַמִּתְאַנָּה שָׁכְּנַכְּשׁוֹ לְקָרְרָהּ בְּתַעֲנוּגֵי עוֹלָם הַזָּה הַגַּשְׁמִיִּים, וּלְאַתְהַפָּכָא לְאַהְבַת ה׳ תָּהָיֶה בִּבְחִינַת עַל אֹיְבֶיךָּ, דְּהַיִינוּ בִּבְחִינַת שֶׁךְשָׁם לַמַעְלָה לִמַעְלָה.

כִּי אֵין רַע יוֹרֵד מִלְמַעְלָה, וְשָׁרְשָׁם הוּא טוֹב, שֶׁהוּא מִבְּחִינַת מֶרְכָּבָה עֶלְיוֹנָה שֶׁבְּקְדוּשָׁה (וְעַמ״שׁ בְּד״ה וְנָתַתִּי לְךָּ מַהְלָכִים). אֶלָּא שֶׁלְאַחַר יְרִידַת וְהָשְׁמַלְשְׁלוּת הַמַּדְרֵגוֹת נַעֲשוּ שִׁמְרֵי הָאוֹפַנִּים, וּמִשֶּׁם נִמְשְׁכוּ הָע״שׁ, שֶׁמֵּהֶם נִמְשָׁכוּ כָּל תַּעֲנוּגֵי עוֹלְם הַזֶּה וְהַכֹּחַ הַמְּתָאַנָּה כַּנַּ״ל

יּרְשֶׁנְּתְעַלֶּה וְנִרְלַל בְּשֶׁרְשׁוֹ — מִתְהַפֵּּך מֵרַע לְטוֹב.

אַד א״א לְהִתְהַפֵּדְ טִבְעִית מִדָּתוֹ לְשַׁנּוֹתָה לְגַמְּרֵי בִּלְתִּי עֵזֶר וְסִיּוּעַ אֱלֹקִי, כְּמָאֲרָז״ל: אִלְמָלֵא הַקָּדוֹשׁ־בָּרוּדְ־הוּא עוֹזְרוֹ כו׳. דְּהַיִינוּ, שֶׁאֵין כּּחַ בְּנַפְשׁוֹ לְבַד לִהְיוֹת עוֹלָה וְנִכְלָל בְּשָׁרְשׁוֹ, רַק אַחַר שָׁיִּפְשֵׁךְה הַאָּרָה מֵאוֹר אֵ״ס בָּרוּדְּ־הוּא עַל נַפְשׁוֹ.

וְהוּא הַאֲרַת אוֹר הַתּוֹרָה וְהַמְּצְוֹת מִבְּחִינַת דְמוּת אָדָם שָׁעֵל הַכְּפָא וְשַׁס״ה גִּידִים, שֶׁעֵל הַכָּפָא — רמ״ח אֵיבָרִים דְמַלְכָּא וְשַׁס״ה גִּידִים, שֶׁהֵם מְעַבְרִים לַדָּם, הוּא הַנֶּפֶשׁ וְהַחַיּוּת, הַמִּתְפָּשֵׁט לְכָל הָאֵיבָרִים ע״י קִיּוּם וּשְׁמִירַת מִל״ת.

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כִּי תַצֵּא לַמִּלְחָמָה עַל אֹיָבֶיךְ וּנְתָנוֹ ה׳ אֱלֹהֶיךְ בְּיָדֶךְ וְשָׁבִיתַ שִׁבְיוֹ וְגוֹי

And through this, it gives power to the fire from above, which is in the aspect of the Throne, to be drawn downward — to consume and burn the power of the animal soul's desire, and to elevate it to its root, as mentioned above. And then His attributes, the attributes of the Holy One, blessed be He, shine within him, not the natural traits of his soul.

(See what is explained about this on the verse "B'haaloscha," in the explanation that it descends according to His attributes.) And this is [the meaning of]: "And Hashem your God will deliver them into your hand." Havayah is the aspect of Torah — His will and wisdom, for "the Torah and the Holy One, blessed be He, are entirely one."

And "your God" — this is the aspect of mitzvos, the 248 positive commandments, the 248 limbs of the King. And the root of these two aspects is bound together, their beginning wedged in their end and their end in their beginning. For the aspect of Torah is the aspect of King, as our Sages said: "The Mishnah is a queen," for the Mishnah is, by way of analogy, like a king who decrees and says: if Reuven claims so, the ruling will be such and such, and likewise in laws of prohibition and permission.

And the aspect of mitzvos is the aspect of servant — to listen to His voice, as it is written: "For the children of Israel are servants."

And behold, the aspect of the kingship of Torah — "through it kings will rule" — is because when one occupies himself with Torah, the Holy One, blessed be He, reads and learns in correspondence with him. As it is written: "And I will place My words in your mouth," and "Yaakov is the rope of His inheritance."

Like, for example, a man who shakes a rope from below — also above, at the top of the rope, it shakes. And for this reason the Torah is compared to water, which descends from a high place to a low place. This is "their beginning wedged in their end."

וְעַל־יְדֵי זֶה נוֹתֵן כּחַ בָּאֵשׁ שֶׁלְמַעְלָה, שֶׁהוּא בִּבְחִינַת כִּפֵּא, לְהַמְשִׁידִּ וְלֵירֵד לְמַטְּה לְכַלּוֹת וּלְשָׂרֵף אֶת כֹּחַ נֶפֶשׁ הַמִּתְאָנָה הַבְּהֵמִית, וּלְהַעֲלוֹתוֹ לְשָׁרְשׁוֹ כַּנַ״ל. וְאָז יָאִירוּ בוֹ מִדּוֹתִיו שֶׁל הַקָּדוֹשׁ־בָּרוּדְ־הוּא, וְלֹא מִדּוֹת טִבְעִיּוֹת שֶׁבְּנַפְשׁוֹ

ְוַעַמ״שׁ מִזֶּה ע״פּ בְּהַעֲלוֹתְדּ, בְּפֵירוּשׁ שֶׁיוֹרֵד עַל־פִּי) מִדּוֹתִיו). וְזֶהוּ: וּנְתָנוֹ ה׳ אֱלֹהֶידְ בְּיָדֶדְ — הוי׳ הוּא בְּחִינֵת הַתּוֹרָה, שֶׁהִיא רְצוֹנוֹ וְחָכְמֶתוֹ יִת׳, וְאוֹרַיִיתָא וְקוּב״ה כּוּלָּא חַד.

וְאֱלֹהֶיךְ — בְּחִינַת הַמִּצְוֹת, רמ״ח פָּקוּדִין רמ״ח אֵיכָרִים דְּמַלְכָּא. וְשֹׁרָשׁ ב׳ בְּחִינוֹת אֵלוּ הֵם נָעוּץ מְּחָלֶּתָן בְּסוֹפָן וְסוֹפָן בְּמְּחָלֶתָן. כִּי בְּחִינַת הַתּוֹרָה הוּא בְּחִינַת מֶלֶךְ, כְּמָאֲרָז״ל: מַתְנִיתָא מַלְכָתָּא — שֶׁהַמִּשְׁנָה הִיא עַד״מ כְּמוֹ מֶלֶךְ, שֶׁהוּא גּוֹזֵר וְאוֹמֵר: אָם יִטְעֹן רְאוּבֵן כָּךְ כו׳, יִהְיֶה הַפְּּסָק כָּךְ וְכָךְ, וְכֵן בִּדִינֵי אָסוּר וְהָתֵּר.

וּבְחִינַת הַמִּצְוֹת הֵם בְּחִינַת עֶבֶד, לְשְׁמוֹעַ בְּקוֹלוֹ, וַכַדְּכָתִיב: כִּי לִי בָּנֵי־יִשְׂרַאֵל עַבַדִים.

וְהָנֵּה בְּחִינַת מְלוּכַת הַתּוֹרָה — שֶׁבָּה מְלָכִים יִמְלֹכוּ — הוּא מִחֲמַת שֶׁבָּל הָעוֹסָק בַּתּוֹרָה, הַקָּדוֹש־בָּרוּדְ־הוּא קוֹרֵא וְשׁוֹנֶה כְּנֶגְדּוֹ. וּכְמַ״שׁ: וָאָשִׂים דְּבָרַי בְּפִידְ, וְיַצֵּקֹב חָבֶל נַחֲלָתוֹ

כְּמוֹ לְמָשֶׁל בָּאָדָם הַמְנַנֵּעַ בַּחֶבֶל לְמַטָּה — מִתְנַנֵּעַ גַּם לְמֵצְלָה בְּתֹרֶה לְמֵיִם, לְמֵצְלָה בְּתוֹרֶה לְמֵיִם, שְׁיוֹרְדִין מִמֶּקוֹם גָּבוֹהַ לְמְקוֹם נָמוּךְ. וְזֶהוּ נָעוּץ שִׁיוֹרְדִין מִמֶּקוֹם גָּבוֹהַ לִמְקוֹם נָמוּךְ. וְזֶהוּ נָעוּץ . הַתִּלָּתָן בִּסוֹפַּן

כִּי תֵצֵא לַמִּלְחָמָה עַל אֹיָבֶיךְ וּנְתָנוֹ ה׳ אֱלֹהֶיךְ בְּיָדֶךְ וְשָׁבִיתְ שִׁבְיוֹ וְגוֹ׳

And the aspect of mitzvos is "their end in their beginning," for the end of action is first in thought (see what is explained on the verse "The heavens are My throne, and the earth...," and on the verse "Rise up, O well," in the explanation "A spring of gardens, a well of living waters," and in the discourse "Kol Dodi," regarding "leaping and skipping").

And therefore, our Sages sometimes said: "Great is study, for it brings to action" — meaning, deed is superior. And at other times they said: "Torah study is equal to them all." And both are true: for in the aspect of "their beginning wedged in their end," Torah study is greater.

And in the aspect of "their end in their beginning," action is greater. And both must be in a person. For the continuations that a man draws through the aspect of Torah are to be in the aspect of "running," through contemplation in their beginning and in their root — for "the Torah goes forth from Chochmah," and He and His wisdom are all one. And when he occupies himself with it, the Holy One, blessed be He, reads and learns in correspondence with him.

And if your heart runs, return to the One — this is through the action of mitzvos, whose end is in their beginning. And it ascends and is included in their root above, to the very highest levels, the Infinite Light, blessed be He.

And through this the fire from above is drawn and spreads downward in the Supernal Chariot, and it reaches to the animal soul. For the Chayos bear and are borne together with the Throne, for the Rider on the Throne carries those who carry Him.

And this is the aspect of "Adam," whose gematria is 45 — the aspect of chochmah (כ"ה מ"ה), the aspect of bittul, as mentioned elsewhere. For the revelation of His light, may He be blessed, in the worlds is through the middos, and their beginning is the aspect of chesed, as it is written: "For I have said: the world shall be built with chesed."

וּבְחִינַת הַמִּצְוֹת הֵם סוֹפָן בִּתְחַלֶּתָן, כִּי סוֹף מַצְשֶׂה בְּמַחֲשָׁבָה תְּחִלָּה (וְעַמ״שׁ ע״פּ הַשָּׁמִים כִּסְאִי וְהָאָרֶץ כו׳, וְע״פּ עֲלִי בְאֵר בִּפְרוּשׁ מַעְיָן גַּנִּים בְּאֵר מֵיִם תַיִּים, וְסד״ה קוֹל דוֹדִי גַּבֵּי מְדַלֵּג וּמְקַפֵּץ.

וְלָכֵן פַּעַם אָרְזו״ל: גָּדוֹל תַּלְמוּד שֶׁמֵּבִיא לִידֵי מַעֲשֶׂה — אַלְמָא מַעֲשֶׂה עֲדִיפָּא. וּפַעַם אָמְרוּ: וְתַלְמוּד תּוֹרָה כְּנָגֶד כּוּלָם. וְשְׁנֵיהֶם אֱמֶת, שֶׁבִּבְחִינַת נָעוּץ תְּחָלָּתָן בִּסוֹפָן — תַּלְמוּד תּוֹרָה גָּדוֹל.

וּבִבְחִינַת סוֹפָן בִּתְחַלֶּתָן מַעֲשֶׂה גָּדוֹל. וּשְׁנֵיהֶם צְּרִיכִים לְּהִיוֹת בָּאָדֶם. כִּי הַמְשֶׁכוֹת שֶׁאָדָם מַמְשִׁיךְ בִּבְחִינַת הַתּוֹרָה — הוּא לְהִיוֹת בִּבְחִינַת רָצוֹא, מִחְמַת הַתְּבּוֹנְנוּת בְּתַחַלְּתָן וּבְשָׁרְשָׁן, כִּי אוֹרַיִיתָא מֵחָכְמָה נָפְקַת, וְהוּא וְחָכְמָתוֹ הַכֹּל אֶחָד. וּכְשֶׁהוּא עוֹסֵק בָּה, הַקַּדוֹשׁ־בָּרוּךְ־הוּא קוֹרֵא וְשׁוֹנֶה כו׳.

וְאִם רָץ לִבְּךְ — שׁוּב לְאֶחָד. הַיִינוּ, ע״י מַעֲשֵׂה הַמִּצְוֹת, שֶׁסּוֹפָן בִּתְחִלָּתָן, וּמִתְעַלֶּה וְנִכְלָל בְּשָׁרְשָׁן לַמַעְלָה מַעְלָה, עַד רוּם הַמַּעֲלוֹת אוֹר אֵ״ס בָּרוּךְ־הוּא.

וְעַל־יְדֵי זֶה יוּמָשֵׁךּ וְיִתְפַּשֵׁט לְמַטָּה כֹּחַ הָאֵשׁ שֶׁלְמַעְלָה בַּמֶּרְכָּבָה עָלְיוֹנָה, וְנָגְעָה עַד נָפֶשׁ הַבְּהֵמִית. כִּי הַחֵּיוֹת נוֹשְׂאוֹת וּמְנוּשָׂאוֹת עִם הַכְּסֵא, שֶׁהָרוֹכֵב עַל הַכְּסֵא נוֹשֵׂא אֶת נוֹשְׂאָיו.

ְוְזֶהוּ בְּחִינַת אָדָם, בְּגִימַטְרִיא מ״ה, שֶׁהוּא בְּחִינַת חֶכְמָה (כ״ח מ״ה), בְּחִינַת בִּטוּל כו׳, כַּנִּוְכֶּר בְּמָקוֹם אַחֵר. כִּי לְפִי שֶׁבְּחִינַת גִּילוּיוֹ יִת׳ בְּעוֹלְמוֹת הוּא בַּמִדוֹת, וְרֵאשִׁיתָן בְּחִינַת חֶסֶד, כְּמַ״שׁ: כִּי אָמַרְתִּי עוֹלְם חֶסֶד יִבָּנָה

כִּי תַצֵּא לַמִּלְחָמָה עַל אֹיָבֶיךְ וּנְתָנוֹ ה׳ אֱלֹהֶיךְ בְּיָדֶךְ וְשָׁבִיתַ שִׁבְיוֹ וְגוֹי

Therefore, it is impossible to transform the middos of the worlds except through the extension of Supernal Chochmah, which is the source of Torah and mitzvos, as explained above (see also in the portion of Vayeishev, in the discourse "On the 25th of Kisley," regarding the Menorah, etc.).

And afterwards: "And you shall capture its captivity" — that which had been in captivity by the power of desire, through drawing itself into the desires and pleasures of this world — behold, "the wealth he swallowed, he will vomit it out," to be elevated and included also in holiness (see what is explained in the discourse "Like an eagle arouses...").

And in this way they also instituted in the prayers of Shemoneh Esreh: "Forgive us, for we have sinned." For before he had an arousal from below, he was in the aspect of "fools, because of their sinful path," etc., as explained elsewhere on the verse "When you kindle the lamps."

And now, when he sees that he has sinned, he must return the sparks that fell in the breaking through his sins. And for this they instituted to say: "And return us in complete repentance before You." Meaning: that it be in the aspect of "before You" — namely, that they return to their root, to be included and united, their life-force in the source from which they were hewn, in the Infinite Light, blessed be He.

And from there a new flow and a new radiance will be bestowed.

And this is the idea of all the blessings in Shemoneh Esreh: "Blessed are You" — that there be blessed and drawn down a new flow and illumination from the Infinite Light, blessed be He, into the aspect of daas, repentance, forgiveness, etc.

And this is the matter of what is said: "A pleasing aroma to Me" — "rei'ach nicho'ach": the word *nicho'ach* implies descent. And the explanation is that through "you shall offer My bread, for My fire," it ascends to be an aroma — that there be satisfaction before Him, may He be blessed, like one who smells a fragrance.

וְלָכֵן א״א לְהַהָּפֹּךְּ הַמִּדּוֹת שֶׁבָּעוֹלְמוֹת, כִּי־אָם בְּהַמְשָׁכוֹת חָכְמָה עִילָּאָה, שֶׁהִיא מָקוֹר הַתּוֹרָה וְהַמִּצְוֹת, כַּנִּזְכָּר לְעֵיל (וְעַמ״שׁ מִזֶּה בְּפָרָשַׁת וַיֵּשֶׁב (בִּד״ה בְּכ״ה בְּכִסְלֵו בְּעִנְיָן הַמְּנוֹרָה כו׳.

ְוְאַחַר־כָּךְ: וְשָׁבִיתָ שִׁבְיוֹ — דְּהַיְינוּ, מַה שֶׁהָיָה בַּשִּׁבְיָה אַצֶל כֹּחַ הַמִּתְאַנֶּה, ע״י שֶׁהִמְשִׁיךְּ אֶת עַצְמוֹ בְּרֵעוּת הָעוֹלֶם הַזֶּה וְתַעֲנוּגוֹתָיו — הִנֵּה: חֵיל בָּלַע וַיְקִיאָנּוּ, לִהְיוֹת עוֹלֶה וְנִכְלָל גַּ״כ בִּקְדוּשָׁה (וְעַמ״שׁ בְּד״ה (כְּנָשֶׁר יָעִיר.

ְוַעֵל דֶּרֶךְ זֶה תִּקְנוּ בַּתְּפִלּוֹת שׁ״ע: סְלַח לָנוּ כִּי חָטָאנוּ. שָׁעֵד שֶׁלֹא הָיְתָה לוֹ אִתְעָרוּתָא דִלְתַתָּא, הָיָה בִּבְחִינַת אוּיְלִים מִדֶּרֶךְ פִּשְׁעָם כו׳, כְּמֵ״שׁ בְּמָקוֹם אַחֵר ע״פ בָּהַעַלוֹתָךְ אָת הַנַּרוֹת.

ְעַכְשָׁו שֶׁרוֹאֶה שֶׁחָטָא, צָרִיךּ שֶׁיַחַזִּיר הַנִּיצוֹצוֹת שֶׁנָּפְלוּ בַּשְׁבִירָה בַּחֲטָאָיו. וְעַל־זֶה תִּקְנוּ לוֹמֵר: וַהְחָזִירֵנוּ בִּתְשׁוּבָה שְׁלֵמָה לְפָנֶיךּ. פֵּירוּשׁ: שֶׁיִּהְיֶה בִּבְחִינַת לְפָנֶיךּ, כְּמוֹ שֶׁהֵם בְּשָׁרְשָׁן, שֶׁיִּכֶּלְלוּ וְיִתְאַחֲדוּ הַחַיּוּת שֶׁלָּהֶם בְּמָקוֹר חָצְבָּם, בְּאוֹר אֵ״ס בָּרוּדְּ־הוּא.

וּמִשָּׁם יוּשְׁפַּע שֶׁפַע חָדָשׁ וְהַאֲרָה חֲדָשָׁה.

ְוֶזֶהוּ עִנְיֶן כָּל הַבְּרָכוֹת שֶׁבִּשְׁע״א: בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה — שִׁיוּבָרֵךְ וְיוּמָשֵׁךְ הַמְשָׁכָה וְהַאֲרָה חֲדָשָׁה מֵאוֹר אֵ״ס בָּרוּךְ־הוּא לְבְחִינַת דַּעַת וּתְשׁוּבָה וּסְלִיחָה כו׳.

וְזֶהוּ עִנְיָן שֶׁנֶּאֲמַר: רֵיחַ נִיחוֹחִי — לְשׁוֹן נָחוֹת דַּרְגָּא. וּפֵירוּשׁ, שֶׁעַל־יְדֵי שֶׁיַּקְרִיב לַחְמִי לְאִשֶׁי, הִיא עוֹלָה לְרֵיחַ, שֶׁיָּהְיֶה נַחַת רוּחַ לְפָנָיו יִת׳, כְּמָאן דְּאַרִיחַ רֵיחָא.

פִּי תַצֵּא לַמִּלְחָמָה עַל אֹיָבֶיךּ וּנְתָנוֹ ה׳ אֱלֹהֶיךָ בְּיָדֶךְ וְשָׁבִיתְ שִׁבְיוֹ וְגוֹ׳

And then it will be in the aspect of *nicho'ach* — meaning, a descent downward — to bestow His goodness and light, as explained above. And this is "nicho'ach," a double expression, as though they draw Him, so to speak, Himself downward, to dwell and be revealed in the lower worlds in an aspect of revelation.

(And with this is also understood what is written: "A man, when he brings from you a korban," etc. It should have said: "A man from you, when he brings." As explained elsewhere: "Adam" refers to Torah, the 248 positive commandments, which are the 248 limbs, etc. And through this, "when he brings from you, from the animal," etc., meaning, through this is drawn the power to refine the animal soul. For "Adam," the aspect of Torah, the level of mah, refines ban, the aspect of animal, as above in the verse "And Hashem your God will deliver them into your hand." And see what is written in Parshas Yisro, in the discourse "On the third month." And therefore all the sacrifices were only in the Mishkan or Mikdash, for there the Infinite Light dwelled — the level of mah refining ban, etc.).

וְאָז יִהְיֶה בָּבְחִינַת נִיחוֹחִי, דְהַיִינוּ לִהְיוֹת נָחוֹת דַּרְגָּא לְתַּתָּא, לְהַשְׁפִּיעַ שֶׁפַע טוּבוֹ וְאוֹרוֹ כַּנַ״ל. וְזֶהוּ: נִיחוֹחִי — נִיחוֹח שָׁלִישׁ, כְּאָלוּ מוֹשְׁכִין אוֹתוֹ כִּבְיָכוֹל בְּעַצְמוֹ לְמַפָּה, לְהְיוֹת שׁוֹרֶה וּמִתְגַּלֶּה בַּתַּחְתוֹנִים בִּבְחִינַת ..גילוּי

וּבְזֶה יוּבֵן גַּ״כ מַ״שׁ: אָדָם כִּי־יַקְרִיב מִכֶּם קָרְבָּן כו׳,)
דַּהְלָ״ל: אָדָם מִכֶּם כִּי־יַקְרִיב כו׳. וּכְמַ״שׁ בְּמָקוֹם
אַחֵר. אֶלָּא כִּי פֵּירוּשׁ אָדָם קָאֵי עַל הַתּוֹרָה, רמ״ח
מַ״ע הֵם בְּחִינַת רמ״ח אֵיבָרִין כו׳. וְעַל־יְדֵי זֶה:
כִּיֹקְרִיב מִכֶּם מִן הַבְּהֵמָה כו׳ — שָׁעַל־יְדֵי זֶה נִמְשָׁדְּ
הָכִּחַ לְבָרֵר נַה״ב. כִּי אָדָם, בְּחִינַת תּוֹרָה, שֵׁם מ״ה,
הַכְּתַר בּ״ן בְּחִינַת בְּהַמָּה כו׳. וְכַדְּעִיל בִּפֵירוּשׁ: וּנְתָנוֹ
הִי אֱלֹהֶידְּ בְּיָדָדְ. וְעַמ״שׁ בְּפ׳ יִתְרוֹ בְּד״ה בַּחֹדֶשׁ
הַשְּׁלִישִׁי. וְלְכֵן כָּל הַקְּרְבָּנוֹת הָיוּ בְּמִשְׁכָּן אוֹ בְּמִקְּדָּשׁ
הַלְּאָלִישִׁי. וְלְכֵן כָּל הַקַּרְבָּנוֹת הָיוּ בְּמִשְׁכָּן אוֹ בְּמִקְדָּשׁ
הַלְּאָלִישִׁי, שָׁבּוֹ הַשְּׁרָאַת אוֹר אֵ״ס, שֵׁם מ״ה מְבָרֵר בּ״ן

NOTE Summary

The maamar begins by explaining that prayer is described as "a time of battle" (*z'man krava*), as the Zohar states. This is because prayer is the daily act of offering the animal soul upon the "altar" of the heart, paralleling the sacrifices in the Beis HaMikdash. Just as the fire from above would descend to consume the korban, so too in prayer the fire of love from above descends to awaken and sublimate the fiery passions of the animal soul. The animal soul, rooted in the element of fire, is transformed when elevated to its holy source — the supernal Merkayah, with the faces of the lion and ox.

After the destruction of the Beis HaMikdash, the Anshei Knesses HaGedolah instituted prayer so that each Jew could still bring this korban within his heart. The Alter Rebbe explains that each day, since man's life is measured in sparks and powers that must be elevated, prayer serves to transform worldly passions into flames of Divine love. The soul's divine aspect does not need repair, but the animal soul must be continuously elevated. This is why the daily prayers were set, structured around the praises of the angels (in *Yotzer Or*) who burn with fiery longing (*ratzoh*) yet return in awe (*shov*) to receive His kingship.

Through meditation on the angels' nullification, man awakens his own *ratzoh v'shov*: yearning to be consumed in Hashem's light, yet returning in awe to accept the yoke of Heaven, as in *Shema Yisrael*. This is paralleled in

כִּי תַצֵּא לַמְּלָחַמָה עַל אֹיָבֵיךְ וּנָתַנוֹ ה׳ אֱלֹהֵיךְ בִּיָדֶךְ וְשָׁבִיתַ שְׁבִיוֹ וְגוֹ׳

the Avos, who instituted prayer: Avraham — love, Yitzchak — awe, and Yaakov — mercy, the harmonization of both. This triad leads to *Shema*, where one contemplates Hashem's unity: the Alef, Ches, and Dalet of *Echad*. The Alter Rebbe explains that the "large dalet" refers to the single primordial utterance, in which all ten utterances are included — the root of creation in Divine thought. This meditation enables the fulfillment of "b'chol levavcha" — loving Hashem with both inclinations, even transforming the yetzer hara into holiness.

Yet, this transformation is only possible with Divine help, through the light of Torah and mitzvos. Torah is likened to the King decreeing (the Mishnah is *malchta*), and mitzvos to the servant obeying. Together, they channel Divine vitality into the soul, enabling the "fire from above" to consume the animal soul's cravings. Torah draws from above to below, while mitzvos elevate from below to above — *na'utz techilasan b'sofan v'sofan b'techilasan*. Hence, Chazal sometimes say action is greater, and sometimes study is greater — both are true.

Ultimately, this is the meaning of "When you go out to war against your enemies": the battle with the yetzer and its passions. Their root is holy, and when elevated they return to that root, "captured" into holiness. This is the process of v'shavisa shivyo — reclaiming what was held captive by desire. Prayer concludes with Selach lanu and Hashiveinu b'teshuvah shleimah lefanekha — returning the fallen sparks through repentance to their true source in the Infinite Light.

Practical Takeaway

The Alter Rebbe teaches that our daily prayers are not repetitive rituals but the actual battleground of the soul. Each morning we are given new sparks to refine. By meditating on the angels' *ratzoh v'shov*, by binding ourselves in Torah study, and by acting in mitzvos, we transform our passions into Divine fire. Even past failings, when captured by worldly desire, can be elevated through repentance and prayer, returning to their holy root. Every Jew's daily struggle is not a flaw but the very purpose of creation — to wage this war and reveal that no power is outside of holiness.

Chassidic Story

The Alter Rebbe once said (recorded in *Sippurei Chassidim, Chabad*), that when a Jew prays with sincerity, "he places his animal soul upon the altar." Once, a simple chassid confessed to the Alter Rebbe that he felt his prayers were dry, for his heart was consumed with worldly cravings. The Rebbe responded: "That is the very korban you must offer. When you take that fiery craving and redirect it to Hashem, you bring the greatest satisfaction Above, greater even than the angels' song." The chassid later told that from then on, whenever he prayed, he would imagine placing his burning desires as an offering to Hashem, and this transformed his service entirely.

END NOTE]