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Doing Chessed to Get Chessed &

BRIS SHALOM

Pinchas ben Elazar ben Aharon Hakohen rose to the occasion and performed an act of zealotry to stand up for the honor of Hashem (Bamidbar 25:10). Because of this great action of his, he was zocheh to be gebentched with the greatest of brachos. The passuk says: הנני נותן לו את בריתי שלום, "behold, I have given him a covenant of peace" (Bamidbar 25:12). The Seforno explains that since Pinchas רב את ריבי, he struggled My struggle - he fought Hashem's battle for Hashem - in that zechus, he received bris shalom. What is bris shalom? מריב כל התנגדות, I will save him, מריב כל התנגדות, from all antagonism to his way of life. Pinchas will be saved from all antagonism toward him, ויהיה לו השלום, and he will be a man who will live in peace.1

Sadly, we live in a world where most of us have our *misnagdim*. Sometimes a person's wife is his *misnaged*. What does the *passuk* (Mishley 16:7) say? בָּרְצוֹת הֹא דְרְכִי אִישׁ, "when Hashem favors the ways of a man," גם אויביו ישלים אתו, "his enemies will make *shalom* with him." *Chazal* ask (Bereishis Rabbah 54:1)² who are one's enemies? His wife. Sometimes it's your kids. Sometimes, one's kids are his enemies. There are very few people we know who don't have *misnagdim*. Even a *choshuve rav* in a city who is very successful will often have *misnagdim*. Success comes together with *misnagdim*. People challenge you. It's not an unusual thing.

But because Pinchas fought Hashem's battle, Hashem said, "I'm going to save you from the strife of all antagonism. You're going to have peace in your life." That's an amazing brachah. To go through life beshalom is a rarity. I don't know anybody like that. Big gedolim were challenged. It even says regarding the malachim in Shamayim ונושה שלום במרומיו, Hashem makes shalom bemeromav. A rosh yeshivah once asked: who is fighting in shamayim? What are malachim fighting about? כולם אהובים ברורים It's amazing that the shalom between them is needed. Do you know why it's like that? Do you know why it says: and there's shalom? Because Hashem makes the shalom bemeromav. Otherwise, naturally, if there are two beings, there is going to be some strife. It's the same thing with husband and wife. If you're zocheh to shalom it's a very big zechiyah. It's only if Shechinah beineihem, with them. If the Shechinah is there and present, then you have shalom. Otherwise, there's strife.

Pinchas's actions also brought a tremendous *kapparah* to Bnei Yisrael. The Seforno explains that since Pinchas performed his act of zealotry before everybody's eyes so that they should have *kapparah* for not protesting in the face of the sinners, לכן ראוי, therefore, he is deserving of *kehunas olam*, the position of *kehunah* אשר בה יכפר בעדם, through which he would also bring *kapparah* for Klal Yisrael.

THE RIGHT TO HAVE SECHAR

The Ohr Hachaim adds that Pinchas was concerned about the kavod of Hashem.³ So, he did something for the kavod of Hashem. And what did Hashem pay him back with? His kavod was elevated, and he was zocheh to become a Kohen - it was a matanah from Hashem. He did not become a Kohen through his father. Generally, Kohanim become Kohanim [since they are the children of] their father. But Pinchas was zocheh on his own. And because he brought shalom between Yisrael and avihem shebashamayim, he was zocheh to the bris shalom. And just as he brought such a benefit to Klal Yisrael that went on for doros - he stopped a terrible mageifah and many Yidden lived for many generations afterwards as a result of that - so middah keneged middah he was zocheh to tovah from Hashem that would go on for many doros to come. והיתה לו ולזרעו אחריו ברית כהונת עולם. Unbelievable!

We have to know that Hakadosh Baruch Hu's *middos* are *middah keneged middah*. Now, the *medrash* (Midrash Aggadah, Bamidbar 25:2)⁴ says an interesting thing. It says that because of what Pinchas did, בדין הוא שיטול את שכרו, by right, he should get his reward. This is very difficult to understand. Anybody who does a good deed, gets his *sechar* by right. What is unique about Pinchas that he rightfully should get *zechus*? Hakadosh Baruch Hu gives *sechar* for every single good thing a person does. What is the meaning of this *medrash*?

¹ את בריתי שלום. ממלאך המות כענין עושה שלום במרומיו כי אמנם ההפסד לא יקרה אלא בסבת התנגדות ההפכים וזה אמנם נתקיים בפינחס שהאריך ימים הרבה מאד מכל שאר אנשי דורו עד שהיה הוא משמש במשכן שילה בזמן פלגש בגבעה שהיה בלי ספק אחרי מות יהושע ושאר הזקנים אשר האריכו ימים אחרי יהושע וכל שכן אם היה בזמן יפתח שכתב למלך בני עמון בשבת בני ישראל בחשבון ובבנותיה כו> שלש מאות שנה וכבר ספרו ז"אל שפינחס לא רצה ללכת אז אל יפתח להתיר נדרו וכל שכן לדברי האומר אליהו זה פינחס והוא עדיין חי וקיים (ספורנו שם)

[ַ] וְיָהִי בְּעַת הָהוּא וִיאֹמֶר אֲבִימֶלֶךְ וּפִיכֹל שֶׁר צְּבָאוֹ (בראשית כא, כב), (משלי טז, ז): בַּרְצוֹת ה' דַּרְכִי אִישׁ גָּם אוֹיְבִיו יַשְׁלֹם אָתּוֹ, רַבִּי יוֹחָנָן אָמֶר זוֹ אַשְׁתּוֹ, שֶׁנֶּאֱמֹר (מיכה ז, ו): אִיְבִי אִישׁ אַנְשִׁי בִּיתוֹ, מַעֲשֶׁה בְּאִשֶּׁה שֶׁקְבְּלָה עַל בְּעָלָה לַשְּׂלָטוֹן וְהָתִּיז אָת ראשׁו, וַיַשׁ אוֹמְרִים אָף הַתִּיז אָת ראשָה, וכו'.

³ תחת אשר וגו' ויכפר וגו'. נתן טעם למה שבחר לו הי לזכות הכהונה לפנחס בתורת מתנה מה' ולא מכח אביו, אמר תחת אשר קנא לאלקיו הוא עשה לאלקיו וחש על כבודו גם אלקיו ירוממהו באין צורך לו ליהנות ביקרו מיקר אביו, וכנגד מה שאמר שתהיה לו שלום וגם תהיה לזרעו וגו' אמר ויכפר על בני ישראל פירוש שעשה שלום בין ישראל ובין אביהם שבשמים והניח לישראל מחמת מלך מלאכי מות לזה יהיה לו ברית השלום מהם, וכשם שההטבה אשר הטיב בכפרת בני ישראל היא הטבה נמשכת שכל דור ודור הבא בא מכח הראשונים אשר כיפר עליהם ולזה כמו כן תהיה נמשכת הטבתו גם כן והיתה לו ולזרעו אחריו ברית כהונת עולם (אור החים. פי י"ג שם)

^{4 &}quot;ד"א וירא...ויקם (במדבר כ״ה:ז), וכו', ועשה לו הקב"ה כל אותם הנסים, והם שנים עשר נסים, א' שדרכן לפרוש זה מזה, ואלו המלאך הדביקם. ב> סתם המלאך את פיהם כדי שלא יצווחו. ג' כוון הקב"ה את הרומח כדי שיגניה שניהם. ר' נתן כח בדרועו נדי שיגביה שניהם. ד' אנ נשמטו מן הזיין אלא עמדו במקומם. ז' האריך הברזל כדי שידקור את שניהם. ר' נתן כח בדרכם לראות קלונם לכל. ח' לא הטיפו דם כדי שלא יטמא פינחס. ט' שימר הקב»ה רוחתם שלא ימותו ויטמאו פינחס. י' הגביה לו המלאך את השקוף כדי שיצאו שניהם בין כתפיו. "יא כיון שיצאו במדרכם לראות קלונם לכל. ח' לא הטיפו דם כדי שלא יטמא פינחס. ט' שימר הקב»ה הרוחתם שלא ימותו ויטמאו פינחס בן אלעזר בן ארוך הכהן, עליו נאמר חמת שיצאו ראה את הנגף מחבל בעם והשליכן לארץ ועמדו ונתפלל, שנאמר ויעמוד פינחס וגו'. "ב על ידיו נעצרה המגפה, אמר הקב"ה הרבה טובות אני מחזיק לפינחס, פינחס בן אלעזר בן ארוך הכהן, עליו נאמר חמת מלך משל למה הדבר דומה למלך שהי' עובר וסיעה של נערים עומדים, עמד אחד מהם וגדף את המלך, נתמלא עליהם המלך חימה, אחד שהי ושב ביניהם עמד הכל לאותו שגדף את המלך, המלך ראה מה עשה אותו, מיד שככה חמתו של מלך, מי גרם למלך שישוב מחמתו. אותו שהי' מיושב ועמד והכה לאותו שגדף הת המלך האל התב"ה בדין הוא שיטול שכרו, שנאמר הנני נותן לו את בריתי שלום, גדול הוא השלום שהתורה נקראת שלום, שנאמר דרכיה דרכי נועם וכל נתיבותיה שלום (משלי ג יז). פינחס, לקיים מה שנאמר חמת מלך וגו', אמר הקב"ה בדין הוא שיטול שכרו, שנאמר הנני נותן לו את בריתי שלום, גדול הוא השלום שהתורה נקראת שלום, שנאמר דרכיה דרכי נועם וכל נתיבותיה שלום מדיר.

A GOOD TZADDIK

There is a beautiful *vort* from the Steipler (1899-1985), *zichrono levracah*, that carries with it a big *yesod*. The *gemara* in *Kiddushin* (40a) discusses the *mishnah* that we read every morning; *eilu devarim*, these are the mitzvos, הזה, that a person eats their *peiros*, their dividends in this world, והקרן קיימת לעולם הבא, and the principal is waiting for him in *olam haba*, in the next world. We learn each one from the relevant *pessukim*. The *gemara* clarifies over there a very interesting *passuk*. The *passuk* says: אמרו צדיק כי טוב כי פרי מעלליהם יאכלו, a *tzaddik* who is tov, who is good, will eat of the fruits of his good actions. The *gemara* asks, is there a *tzaddik* who is good and a *tzaddik* who is not good?⁵

The *gemara* answers that a good *tzaddik* is someone who is *tov leshamayim*, he is good for Hashem, and he's *tov la'briyos*, good for other people. That's a *tzaddik tov*, a *gutte tzaddik*. But a tzaddik who is *tov leShamayim*, but not for other people, that is a *tzaddik* who is not good. In other words, there are some *mitzvos* that are only good *laShamayim*, like tzitzis, for example. They're good for Hashem but they don't bring benefits to *other* people. Other mitzvos can benefit other people as well. Nu? So the *gemara* says that when a person is a good *tzaddik* and he does actions that bring benefit to Hashem and bring benefit to people, then it says "he will eat the fruit of his actions." Then you will eat the fruit, the dividends, of your actions in this world. You have to remember this *gemara*. You want to eat the dividends in this world? It has to be good deeds that benefit others. If you do great deeds, great *tzidkus*, but they only benefit *shamayim* - you can't expect to get dividends in this world. You'll get them in the next world.

Now, how would you classify this action of Pinchas? He stood up and was zealous for Hashem. He did a *ma'aseh kanaus* and he stood up for the honor of Hashem. Seemingly, with that action, he benefited only Hashem. He did a great act of *mesiras nefesh* for Hashem. He could have gotten killed. It was a tremendous action that he did. But it wasn't a *tovah* for the people. *Adaraba*, he killed the leader of a *shevet*. Zimri was the leader, the *nasi* of Shevet Shimon. He deprived them of their leader. Even though *lechorah* he's going to get tremendous *sechar* and tremendous *zechus* in the world to come, but in this world, he should not be entitled to dividends. *Lechorah*, it's not within his rights to get benefits in this world. Why did he get the *bris kehunas olam*? Why did he get paid in this world?

The Steipler explains the reason is because with this action Pinchas saved Klal Yisrael from the *mageifah*, from the pandemic they were experiencing. And since he saved Klal Yisrael, there is no greater *tovah* for the people than this. He did an action to save Klal Yisrael from destruction, and for that, he deserves *peiros* in *olam hazeh*. That's what the passuk means when it says פנחס פנחס בו אלעזר בן אהרון הכהן השיב את חמתי he turned back my wrath against Bnei Yisrael - so his action was *tov labrios* - לכן אמור הנני נותן לו , therefore - since he was *tov la'briyos* - I am going to give him all these *berachos* in this world.

It's very interesting. What he's saying is that if you do actions that are tov laMakom and tov labrios, you're also going to get the sechar for the part of that action that was tov for Hashem. And that's peshat in the medrash that says בדין הוא שיטול שכרו. An act that's good for Hashem alone doesn't get rewarded in this world, but if you have an act that you did for Hashem, for the kavod of Hashem, but it brings about that the wrath of Hashem is turned away from Klal Yisrael, then it is bedin hu, rightful, to get the dividends in this world. The ikar sechar will be in olam haba, but the peiros is be'olam hazeh.

DOING CHESSED BRINGS CHESSED

This is something that we have to know. People sometimes need the *chessed* of Hashem, and they think of which *mitzvos* to do. They have to know that if you do *chessed* to others, you will be *zocheh* to *chessed*. Let's say you're a person who needs a *shidduch*. A lot of people need *shidduchim*. A lot of people need children. What's the *eitzah*? Do *chessed* for others. The Chafetz Chaim said if you need children, he used to give you an *eitzah* to open up a *gemach*. Not *davka* a *gemach*, but to do *chessed* with others. It's not easy to run a *gemach*. People come to you for money. You chase them down to get back the money. You're putting yourself out there for *chessed*. If you put yourself out there for *chessed*, you're going to be *zocheh* to *chessed*.

HASHKAMAH AND TORAH ARE CHESSED

Now, there's another *chiddush* in that *mishnah*. You know what the big *chiddush* in this *mishnah* is? The last thing on the list in that *mishnah* is *talmud Torah*. It says תלמוד תורה כנגד כולם. Most people would never have thought that *talmud Torah* is called a *chessed* for others. *Kibud av ve'eim* we understand. *Gemilus chassadim*, we understand. *Hachnasas orchim, bikur cholim*. תלמוד

It says another thing here that's surprising. השכמת בית המדרש שחרית וערבית. It's a *chiddush*. Coming to *shul* on time, or early is something that's a benefit for the Klal Yisrael because you're helping their *tefillos* be accepted. A person *davens* in his house. *Nu*, very nice. But he's not being *mechazek* the *tefillah* of Klal Yisrael, השכמת בית המדרש שחרית וערבית is rendering a *chessed* with others. *Talmud Torah* is a great *chessed*.

 Rav Yaakov Edelstein, who was a famous *rav* in Eretz Yisrael, was asked by another *gadol hador*, Rav Shmuel Wosner, to what do you attribute the fact that your *brachos* work? It was known that Rav Yaakov Edelstein's *brachos* were amazing. They were *poel letovah*. So Rav Shmuel asked Rav Yaakov, "Tell me what's the secret." He hemmed and he hawed. He said to him, "How do you know they work? *Meheicha teisi* they work?" But Rav Shmuel didn't want to hear those answers. Eventually he said, "Maybe it's *middah keneged middah*." Rav Yaakov Edelstein said, "Many people come to me, and I listen to each one of them with great patience. No one leaves my house saying that I rushed him and I didn't give him full attention. Maybe that's why in *Shamayim* they conduct themselves with me in the same fashion and they listen to me patiently, and they do what I ask." You hear that? You should know it works both ways. If a person is negative about doing *chessed* to other people, how can they hope to receive *chessed*?

DROPPING DEAD IN THE MIDDLE BIRCAS KOHANIM

Rav Chatzkel Levenstein (1885-1974) said that before he came to America and Eretz Yisrael, back in Europe, there was a certain *shul* where *yeshivah* bachurim would learn. One of the *gabbaim* of that *shul* brought a lot of pressure upon the *bnei hayeshivah* that were learning there. In those days, they didn't have official *yeshivah* buildings. People learned in *batei medrash*. This guy was always *shrying* at the *bachurim* to maintain the order in the *beis hakenesses*, and he disturbed their learning. In the end, he kicked them out of the *shul*. Over the years, Rav Chatzkel said whenever he met a person from that city, he asked about that *gabbai*. "What happened to that *gabbai*? What was the end of the *gabbai*?" Until one day, he met somebody from that city, who told him, "The *gabbai* died." Rav Chatzkel asked, "What happened?" He said, "He had a heart attack on Yom Tov in *shul* in the middle of *Birkas Kohanim*. They didn't want to have the Kohanim in the same room as the *meis*, and they couldn't stop the *Birkas Kohanim*. So you know what they did? They took the *meis* and carried him out of *shul* and dropped his body outside the *shul* in the middle of *Birkas Kohanim*."

Rav Chatzkel said, "Ah! All these years, I waited to see the *hashgachah* of Hashem. How Hashem is going to pay him back *middah keneged middah*. Just like he did, he drove out the *bachurim* from the *shul*, so too it was done to him. They left his body outside the *shul*."

Everything that Hashem does is middah keneged middah. There's nothing not middah keneged middah.

WHY WAS R' CHAIM VOLOZHIN'S SEFER TORAH STOLEN?

There's a famous story that's brought down in *sefer Kesser Rosh* from Rav Chaim Volozhiner (1749-1821). Rav Chaim Volozhiner was extremely *medakdek* to hear *Krias HaTorah* on Mondays and Thursdays and he was *moser nefesh* for this. Even if he was traveling, he wasn't *mevater* on this *mitzvah* no matter what. There was a *ma'aseh* that happened at his son Rav Itzele's *chasunah*. They were on the way to the *chasunah*. It was a Monday. They stayed overnight in an inn, and there wasn't any *Sefer Torah*. Rav Chaim tried with all his powers to travel somewhere where there would be a *Sefer Torah* so he could hear *Krias HaTorah* but there was an older *rav* who was with him at that time, and the *rav* told him you don't have to go to such extreme efforts. "It's the time of the *chasunah*. You're *bederech* to do a *mitzvah*. You're *osek bemitzvah*, so you're *patur*." The *gemara* says the people who are *osek* in a *chasunah* are *patur* from *tefilah*. Rav Chaim was *mevatel* his own opinion to the opinion of this older *rav*, and he said, "Okay."

After the *chasunah*, they came home and Rav Chaim opened up the *Aron Kodesh* and saw that his private *Sefer Torah* was gone. It was stolen. It disappeared. Rav Chaim was very accustomed to immediately making an extreme *cheshbon hanefesh* whenever something happened to him. He would try to figure out the reason Hashem did it to him, in order to restore his possessions. After some reflection, he understood that the reason his *sefer Torah* was stolen was because he wasn't *makpid* to hear *Krias HaTorah*. He went alone into his room, and he did *viduy*, and was *mekabel* on himself to be extremely scrupulous with *Krias HaTorah* on Mondays and Thursdays. He was *mekabel* from his *rebbi*, the Gr"a, that if someone does *teshuvah* right after he gets punished, and is *mesvadeh* properly and *mekabel* to better his ways, it's not *shayach* that the damage should remain and his *chisaron* will immediately be restored. The Gaon based this on the *gemara* in *Brachos* (5b). It says Rav Huna had four hundred barrels of wine that turned to vinegar, and after he made a *cheshbon hanefesh* and found the reason why it happened to him, he did *teshuvah* immediately. The *gemara* says, according to one opinion, that the vinegar turned back to wine, and according to another opinion, the price of vinegar shot up, and it was sold for the price of wine.

Rav Chaim was in his room being osek beteshuvah, and he received word that his sefer Torah was found. When they opened it up, it was a peledike zach. The page that he missed [hearing during that] Krias HaTorah was gone [from his personal sefer Torah]. Nu, so they asked him, "What's pshat?" Lechorah, he got back the sefer Torah, so he should get back that yeriah also. If everything is middah keneged middah and if you do viduy the yesurim go away. [So why was one yeriah missing?] He said Shamayim wants to give him a zechus that he should be mekayem once again the mitzvah of kesivas sefer Torah, by writing that particular yeriah that's missing. He says [in his sefer] it seems that it was the sechar for the mitzvah of teshuvah, that now it became a zechus for him and [in Shamayim] they were mezakeh him with kesivas sefer Torah. A pelah! Mamash moradik!

A person has to know everything is *middah keneged middah*. You should seek out *mitzvos* that *bedin*, by rights, collect *sechar* in this world. We should be *zocheh* to do those *mitzvos* and be *zocheh* to the *tovah* of Hakadosh Baruch Hu.

PART 2: SHABBOS: YOUR GATEWAY TO HEAVEN

SHABBOS, GATEWAY TO OLAM HABA

In previous talks, we discussed the wonders of Shabbos and the understanding of what the gift of Shabbos can offer us. But we also know the famous concept that Shabbos is *mei'ein olam haba*, Shabbos resembles the Next World. Today we're going to be *mevarer*: what is the practical application of this idea, *lema'aseh*.

There is a sefer called Shaarei Orah, authored by R' Yosef Gikatilla (1238-1305), a famous mekubal. In his description of Shabbos, he writes (שער ב ד»ה המלאך הגואל) as follows: ומן השבת אדם נכנס לחיי העולם הבא, if so, ואם כן, open up your eyes, ואם כן, and contemplate, see, think into, ואם כן, how you're going to observe the Shabbos. אם אתה חפץ לזכות לחיים ולגאולה ולהיכנס לחיי העולם הבא, if you desire chaim, life, redemption, and to enter chayei olam haba. אם אתה חפץ לזכות לחיים והנה השבת שלנו בדמיון בית שער Shabbos is compared to a gateway, a doorway, והנה השבת שלנו בדמיון בית שער הנקרא (to enter the great palace of chayei olam haba, which is called, שבת הגדול, Olam haba is called Shabbos hagadol. שבת הגדול מן החיים ומחלליה מות יומת שהרי נסגר, the doorway is shut before him, לפניו הפתח לפניו הפתח אם.

We see from here that *olam haba* and Shabbos are dependent one upon the other. As we mentioned a number of times, Moshe Rabeinu told Klal Yisrael, ראו, contemplate, כי הֹ נתן לכם השבת contemplate, ואין, that Hashem gave you the Shabbos (Shemos 16:29). And R' Ovadia, the Seforno, says, אבל היא מתנה, this is not a *mitzvah* alone, it's not just a regular *mitzvah*, this is a great gift. What is the gift? והוא שישיגו יום שכלו שבת it's the day that enables you to connect and fathom the day which is *kulo* Shabbos.⁹

When Torah says us, ושמרו בני ישראל את השבת, zogt R' Ovadia miSeforno, you know what that is telling me? You know what Moshe was saying to Klal Yisrael? ושמרו בני ישראל את השבת, the Jewish people should observe the Shabbos here, in olam hazeh, so that לעשות את השבת, that they are able to do the Shabbos ביום שכלו שבת, in the future. So when you say in the davening ושמרו and you think, for what goal? לעשות את השבת, in the future, in olam haba.

It comes out that Shabbos is a unique and special *mitzvah*, distinct from all other *mitzvos*. Through the observance of Shabbos, a person actually gets a physical connection to *olam haba*. Now, I want to tell you what that means when I say it's a "doorway." Aren't there other doorways? And the answer is no. This *is* the doorway to *olam haba*. You could be a good Jew, a nice Jew. You like all kinds of Shabbos food, cholent, *chamin*, gefilte fish, *meshlo*, whatever they call it. But the only way of getting into *olam haba*, the *beis shaar*, is Shabbos. The entrance is Shabbos.

The Ohr Hachaim (Shemos 31:16) writes, כי מן הנמנע החלטי, it's absolutely impossible that a person should be able to attain a step to get into *olam haba* without Shabbos. Shabbos, he says, is the bridge that a person steps on in this world, the stepping stone that takes you into the next world. When you're keeping Shabbos, you are creating the Shabbos for yourself, in the next world.¹⁰

SHABBOS CONNECTS US TO OLAM HABA

I want to tell you, this is very deep. Every single Shabbos that we keep, it's really a test and a connection that builds our connection with the next world. Shabbos is the only *mitzvah* in this world that you could enjoy and taste and connect to *olam haba*. Now, don't get me wrong. Every *mitzvah*, you get *olam haba* for. חלמוד תורה כנגד כולם, for learning Torah, you get the biggest *olam haba*. But you know when you get that *olam haba* for that *mitzvah*? In the next world. The way to get to *olam haba* in the next world is through the observance of Shabbos in this world. Shabbos is actually a day which the Zohar says is the test for a person. It's the day that a person gives himself a test to know how much *shaychus* he has to *olam haba*. And it depends on how much a person senses *menuchas* Shabbos. Through a person's feeling of *menuchah* on Shabbos, a person could potentially become aware of his *shaychus* to *olam haba*.

We have all had Shabbosos where they are dead. You don't feel any connection. And that's because during the week, you may have done *aveiros*, and you didn't do *teshuvah* before Shabbos. You didn't prepare yourself, so you became distanced through *cheit*.

There is an interesting Arizal that is brought down in the *poskim*, that if you have a worker, make sure you pay the worker before Shabbos. Whatever you do, don't let [Shabbos come without paying him]. And you know what he says? It's alluded to in the words of Shabbos. In the *passuk* it says, ביומו תתן שכרו (Devarim 24:15). That means, on the day that somebody works for you, you should pay him his wages. The letter of Shabbos, ש-ב-ת, stands for ביומו תתן שכרו. Now, at first it sounds strange. What *shaychus*, what's the connection between the two?

And this is the answer: because Shabbos is unique. Generally, there is a rule שכר .And, as it says, היום לעשותם ומחר לקבל שכרם. And, as it says, מצוה בהאי עלמא ליכא, Hashem doesn't give you the reward for *mitzvos* in this world (Kiddushin 39b). The reward for *mitzvos* is in the next world. But Shabbos is unique. Through Shabbos, Hashem gives us a connection to *olam haba* in this world.

So, in order for you to merit and be *zocheh* in that *sechar*, you have to make sure that you have paid up the *sechar* you owe a worker before Shabbos. If you don't fulfill what the Torah says to give the *sechar*, the worker's payment, Hashem doesn't give you the payment.

Every [Shabbos] morning, at the end of *mussaf* we quote a *mishnah* in Tamid (7:4) that says, what was the *mizmor* of Shabbos? They used to say מזמור שיר לעתיד לבוא ליום שכולו שבת ומנוחה לחי העולמים. Then you know what it says? מזמור שיר לעתיד לבוא ליום שכולו שבת ומנוחה לחי העולמים. That's what it says in the *mishnah*. We say it every Shabbos morning. Now, for many years, I had a question. You know what my question was? We don't say that. All the other *shir shel yom* stated in that *mishnah*, we say. How come when it comes to Shabbos, we don't say מזמור שיר לעתיד לבוא ליום שכולו שבת ומנוחה לחי העולמים?

הארצות וכו' ערלים, כאמרו ושמרו בני ישראל את השבת, לעשות את השבת לדורותם והוא שישיגו יום שכלו שבת.

⁸ וז"ל, וכול: ועתה דע והאמן כי השבת היא עין כל הטובה ומקור כל האצילות לשם אדנ"י ולישראל הדבקים במדה הזאת, ומן השבת אדם נכנס לחיי העולם הבא שהוא סוד היובל כמו שהודענוך. והעולם הבא נקרא 'שבת הגדול היא שביעית עליונה, וא"ל ח"י הוא סוד השבת שהיא שביעית של מטה, ומן העולם הבא משוכת השבת כל האצילות והטוב הגדול היא מוד השבת של מטה, ומן העולם הבא משוכת השבת כל האצילות והטוב הגדול והים והגאולה. ואם כן פקח עיניך וראה היאך תשמור את השבת אם אתה חפץ לזכות לחיים ולגאולה ולהכנס לחיי העולם הבא. והנה השבת שלנו בדמיון בית שער להכנס לטרקלין פרוב משלה וכן סדרו בתפלה ולא נתתו לגויי כי ה' נתן לכם השבת. ואין זו מצוה בלבד אבל היא מתנה שלא נתנה לזולתם כאמרם ז"ל (שם פרק יציאות השבת) מתנה טובה יש לי בבית גנזי ושבת שמה ואני מבקש ליתנה לישראל וכן סדרו בתפלה ולא נתתו לגויי

So, if we take a look in the *mishnayos*, the Tiferes Yisrael explains that in the *Beis Hamikdash* they said the same exact thing that we say, מזמור שיר ליום השבת. But the *mishnah* is explaining the reason why we say this psalm, even though it doesn't mention anything directly about Shabbos. And the answer is: because this is the *shir* of *le'asid lavo*, this is the *shir* of the future. And why do we say this *shir* of the future on Shabbos? Because every Shabbos connects us to *olam haba*. Every Shabbos prepares us for *olam haba*. And therefore, every Shabbos relates to this *mizmor*.

That's why R' Yosef Gikatilla tells us, "Open your eyes, see, and understand how you are keeping Shabbos. See how you are observing Shabbos and prepare yourself because your connection to olam haba depends on the way you connect to Shabbos."

So *rabbosai*, we are giving you many *yesodos* on Shabbos. We have told you before how to prepare for Shabbos when it comes to eating Shabbos seudos, and how to prepare for Shabbos when it comes to learning Torah. It says, לא ניתנו שבתות וימים אלא לעסוק בהן בדברי תורה (Yerushalmi, Shabbos 15:3). That is the greatest test. In *olam haba*, all you do is learn Torah. If you don't prepare yourself in this world – if a person tries to learn on Shabbos and he finds it difficult, that has to concern him. "Why am I finding it difficult? That must mean that I am far away from *olam haba* and I've got to get moving quickly. I don't want to be far from *olam haba*. I want to get connected to *olam haba*." And when you eat on Shabbos, you have to know the eating on Shabbos also has to connect you to Hashem. Everything about Shabbos connects you to *olam haba*. When it comes to Shabbos, you should think, "Hakadosh Baruch Hu, I want to think about the future, I want to think about my *olam haba*."

THINK ABOUT OLAM HABA EVERY DAY

I want you to know, my *Zeide* used to tell us as children and as adults that every day, once a day, you should think about *olam haba*. And he used to quote the Chovos Halevavos who says that one of the big challenges that the *satan* gives us is that we should not think about *olam haba*. "Think about your next meal, about how much gas costs, about how much air conditioning costs. Just don't think about *olam haba*." Because if a person thinks about *olam haba*, his focus in life will be different. We're all going to *olam haba*. And then there are a few possibilities. But the ideal choice and the great hope is we get to *olam haba*.

So you have to think about it every single day. My *Zeide* used to train us. He would say, "Say these words with your mouth: 'Hakadosh Baruch Hu, I want to be *zocheh* to my *chelek* in *olam haba*. Remind yourself of that at least once a day. And then it will help you when you're learning Torah on Shabbos." When you're thinking about coming here, you're thinking, "What time should I come? Should I come here at 4 o'clock, maybe 5 o'clock, I'll learn for a few minutes? Or should I maybe come at 2:30." Think, *olam haba*. "I want *olam haba*." That's what we should be thinking. On Shabbos morning, when I think whether I should come to the *seder* or go to sleep, I tell myself, "I want *olam haba*." Friday night, while you're eating, don't waste your time. *Chap arein*. Make your meal part of the gateway to *olam haba*. Talk about Hakadosh Baruch Hu, talk about Hashem, talk about the great food that Hashem gave you, talk about the family that Hashem gave you. Thank Hashem!

BE GRATEFUL FOR EVERY BRACHAH

I talk to people every week who don't have families. Single people, not married, and I imagine them sitting in their houses and they are miserable. They must be *tzubrochen* to pieces. I once had a guy call me up, and I said, "Where are you eating this Shabbos?" He said, "I'm sick and tired of going out. I'm going to stay at home all alone." I said, "That's going to be much worse. When you go out, at least you've got a diversion." My heart went out for him!

You have to think about it. If you are married, you have to thank Hashem that you have a wife. If you have children, you have to thank Hashem if you have children. Do you know what kind of *brachah* that is? To sit without a wife is *geferlach*. You have to realize that a wife is a key to *olam haba*. You're not an *adam hashalem* without a wife. And what do we do? We complain about our wives. Don't complain about your wife! Look at all the different foods that you're eating. Take note of every different *ta'am*. It's just not plain fish. There is fish with *chrein*, there is fish with mayonnaise, there is fish with dip, fish with salad. And you think about all the wonderful things. This *challah*, that *challah*. You have to think about it. It's unbelievable! Drinks, too. Some people only have water. Some people have juice, some people have soda, some people have tea, some people have seltzer, some people have flavored water. So many things that Hashem gives me. Tremendous *brachos*!

When you think about this, you will remember Hashem. And when you remember Hashem, you remember about *olam haba* because you want to get to Hashem. If you remember about *olam haba*, you'll keep your Shabbos on a much higher level, *be'ezras Hashem yisbarach*.

¹¹ רבי חגי בשם רבי שמואל בר נחמן. לא ניתנו שבתות וימים טובים אלא לאכילה ולשתייה [פ' קרבן העדה: אלא לאכילה ולשתייה. כלומר לתענוג ולמנוחה כמו שנח השם ביום השבת וכן בי"ט]. על ידי שהפה זה מסריח. אם צא יעסקו בדבר אחר כי אם באכילה ובשתיה יש לחוש שיהיו מדברים בפיהם לשון הרע ל"א שיש לחוש שיבואו לידי מיאוס כענין הקיא והקלות העירו לו לעסוק בהן בדברי תורה. שב צא יעסקו בדבר אחר כי אם באכילה ובשתיה יש לדין. כיצד הוא עושה. או יושב ואוכל או יושב ועוסק בדברי תורה. כתוב אחד אומר. רבי ברכיה בשם רבי חייא בר בא. לא ניתנו שבתות וימים טובים אלא לעסוק בהן בדברי תורה. מתניתא מסייעה בין לדין. כיצד הוא עושה. או יושב ואוכל או יושב ועוסק בדברי תורה. כתוב אחד אומר. שבת היי. שבות כיי. מה הקדוש ברוך הוא שבת ממאמר. אף את שבות ממאמר.

הגדולים לחיי העולם הבא הנקרא 'שבת הגדול', והתקן עצמך בפרוזדור כדי שתכנס לטרקלין. וכשתבין דבר זה אז תבין (ישעיה כ"ח) וְקְרָאתָ לְשׁבָּת עוְג וּלְקְדוֹשׁ ה' מְכְבָּדְ זו היא שביעית עליונה הנקראת יובל. ולפי דרש רו"ל (ויקרא רבה פר' ל"ו) 'וֹלְקְדוֹשׁ ה' מכובד' זה יום הכפורים כולם מן היובל הם יוצאים ומשם הסליחה נמשכת לשם אדנ"י, שלנו, וְלְקְדוֹשׁ ה' מְכָבְּדְ זוֹ היא שביעית שליונה הנקראת יובל. ולפי דרש רו"ל (ויקרא רבה פר' ל"ו) 'ולקדוש ה' מכובד' זה יום הכפורים כולם מן היובל הם יוצאים ומשם הסליחה נמשכת לשם בהליני מָרְסָמִים וְהַסְלְחוֹת, ואומר (שם) אֲדֹנִי שְׁמַעה אַדֹנִי הְלְחָה אַדֹנִי הְלְחָה לְּבֹיצָה ט"ז אי) בענין שבת, לארנה הנקראת 'העולם הבא'. ואם ח"ו אדם מחלל את השבת הרי הוא רחוק מן החיים, וּמְסַלְּיָהָ מוֹת יִמְת (שמות ל"א, שהרי מכהל לפניו הפתח מלהכנס לעולם הבא ולפיכך אמרו חז"ל ** (ביצה ט"ז אי) בענין שבת, 'אע"ג דאיה' עבידא לאגלויי מתן שכרה לא עבידא לאגלו"י, לפי ששכר העולם הבא גנוז הוא, וטובו (ישעיה ס"ד) עין לא רְאָתָה אַלְהִים זוּלְתְרַ יַעֲשָה לְמְסַבָּה לוֹ, וכתיב (תהלים ל"א) מה רב טוּבְרְּ אַשֶּר לְמִסְבָּה לוֹ, וכתיב (תהלים ל"א) מה רב טוּבְרְּ אַשֶּר לְמִסְבָּה לוֹ, וכתיב עליו מה הוא, לפי שהוא הטוב הגדול והאור הגנוז מששת ימי בראשית שאין כל בריה יכולה להסתכל בו זולתי השם ית'. וצריך אתה להיות זריז בקיום שלש סעודות בשבת שהם סוד קשר אחד אחד למוני שלש סעודות בשבת, ואו זהוא ראוי להנצל משלש אחד מהרביאים לא נתנבא עליו מה הוא, לפי שהוא הטוב הגדול והאור האנוז והאות הלו, א) אחת כנגד אדנ"י שמתאחדת ביום השבת זוהו סוד התאחדות השבע, שניה כנגד יהו"ה ית', שלישית כנגד בינה הקשורה בסוד אן אחו"ה, וזהו סוד התאחדות השלע, ווסוד לְשַבּר בבינה שבים העבת לועני השבת שלע סעודות הללו, א) אחת כנגד אדנ"י שמתאחדת ביום השבת זוהו סוד הייחוד האמיתי השלם בסוד 'עדן' וֹהר' 'גִּן' בן (ר"ת ענג'). וכל המקיים שלש סעודות על ידי א"ל מולה ולמטה, ולפיכך השבת 'זכור 'ושמול ועדה ע הבינה נקשרת באה"ה בסוד שלש ספירות, למטה נקשר באדם ודעור, ושבור השבת וביצד העלה מתן שכרה נעלה מכל חי ויהיא האור הגנז וסתום שאף פירות. [** כתוב בח"יו החיים שענים שרבת העלה מתום שברה בילה מתן שכרה נעלהה מכל חי ויהיא האור הגנזו וסתום שאף פירע. להייים בחיייו בחיייו שנב בחיים בחיים בח



This parashah reveals some of the amazing hanhagah of middah keneged middah of Hashem. The Seforno tells us that since Pinchas struggled Hashem's struggle, Hashem gave Pinchas peace in his life. Pinchas's action brought kapparah for Bnei Yisrael, so he was given the kehunah so he could bring more kaparah for Bnei Yisrael. The Ohr Hachaim adds that Pinchas was concerned about the kavod of Hashem, so he was elevated and became a kohen. Pinchas brought shalom between Yisrael and Hashem, so he was given the bris shalom. Additionally, his action caused the plague to end and he saved the lives of people and they lived for many generations, so Hashem gave Pinchas a gift that would go on for many generations - the kehunah. The Steipler points out that since Hashem works with middah keneged middah, mitzvos that only have an effect in Shamayim yield dividends in the next world, but mitzvos that we do that benefit other people yield peiros in this world too. We can bedin, rightfully, tap into the brachos of Hashem in this world by doing the deeds of a tzaddik tov - deeds that benefit other people. By searching for these kinds of mitzvos, we can enrich our lives with pleasantness. It is honorable to note that the list of massim tovim in Eilu Devarim includes rising early for davening and talmud Torah, both of which are considered doing great chessed for other people due to the benefits these mitzvos bring to the world. This week I will (bli neder) look out for mitzvos that bedin, by rights, collect sechar in this world because they have a positive effect, such as helping people's tefillos to be accepted by coming to shul on time or even early, by learning Torah or not disturbing others who are learning Torah, and by listening to people patiently.