



LESSONS IN LIKUTAY TORAH

PRECIOUS TEACHINGS THAT AWAKEN THE HEART
TO DIVINE SERVICE FROM THE HOLY MASTER
❧ **RABBI SHNEUR ZALMAN OF LIADI** ❧
TRANSLATED AND EXPLAINED

לקוטי תורה

פרשת אמור

דבור המתחיל

וספרתם לכם

“Making Ourselves Shine”

www.LEARN CHASSIDUS.com

In collaboration with:

www.ChassidutBehirah.com



Please Donate to Keep this Project Going! ב"ה

Please help this project continue so that Torah Or and Likutei Torah will be available to Jews around the world in the language they understand.

Please become a monthly donor of \$18.

Please make yourself available to the Alter Rebbe, who wants his maamarim to be available to every Jew in the world.

Please take 5 minutes and sign up online at www.Donorbox.org/LearnChassidus to become a monthly donor of \$18.

With these \$18 a month, you will have the tremendous merit of having translated the Torah Or and Likutei Torah, making it available to Jews all around the world, and will receive the tremendous merit and blessings that come with that!

For additional sponsorship opportunities, or questions on the project, email me at lessonslikutaytorah@gmail.com

Likutay Torah

לקוטי תורה

פרשת אמור

דבור המתחיל

וספרתם לכם¹

דף לה' עמוד ב'

“Making Ourselves Shine”

(א) Chapter 1

Parshas Emor commands us to keep the Jewish Festivals, the Yomim Tovim. Included is the mitzvos of bringing the Omer offering on the second day of Pesach, and of counting the days from bringing the Omer offering until Shavuos:

”[וַיְדַבֵּר ה' אֶל מֹשֶׁה לֵאמֹר: דַּבֵּר אֶל בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וְאָמַרְתָּ אֲלֵהֶם כִּי תָבֹאוּ אֶל הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר אָנִי נֹתֵן לָכֶם וְקָצַרְתֶּם אֶת קְצִירָהּ וְהִבֵּאתֶם אֶת עֹמֶר רִאשִׁית קְצִירְכֶם אֶל הַכֹּהֵן: וְהֵנִיף אֶת הָעֹמֶר לִפְנֵי ה' לְרִצְוֹנְכֶם מִמִּחֶרֶת הַשָּׁבֹת יִנִּיפֶנּוּ הַכֹּהֵן:]

“Hashem spoke to Moshe saying: Speak to the Children of Yisrael and tell them: When you will come to the land that I give you, and you will harvest its grain, you shall bring an Omer measure of the first harvest to the Kohen. He shall wave the Omer [of harvested grain] before Hashem [in the Beis Hamikdash], this will bring Hashem's goodwill to you, from the day after the first day of the Yom Tov of Pesach the Kohen shall wave it.

וּסְפַרְתֶּם לָכֶם מִמִּחֶרֶת הַשָּׁבֹת, מִיּוֹם הִבֵּיאתֶם אֶת עֹמֶר הַתְּנוּפָה, שִׁבְעַ שָּׁבוֹת [תְּמִימוֹת תִּהְיֶינָה: עַד מִמִּחֶרֶת הַשָּׁבֹת

And you shall count for yourselves from the day after the first day of Yom Tov [of Pesach], from the day

¹ (נאמר יום ה' פרשת אמור, ו' אייר תקס"ז במאהליב. נדפס בשינויים קלים בהנחות הר"פ ע' מ'. ביאור על מאמר זה הוא ד"ה הניף נדפס אחר מאמר זה בלקו"ת דף לו.א. הערות וקיצורים על מאמר זה- באוה"ת ויקרא- ג ע' תתסו, והקיצורים מובאים כאן בשולי הגליון.)

הַשְּׂבִיעִת תִּסְפְּרוּ חֲמִשִּׁים יוֹם וְהִקְרַבְתֶּם מִנְחָה
חֲדָשָׁה לַה'." (פָּרָשַׁתְנוּ כג, ט-י, טו-טז):

when you bring the waved Omer offering [in the Beis Hamikdash], they shall be **seven** complete **weeks**. Until after the seventh week, you shall count up to fifty days, and then [on Shavuot], you shall bring a new flour offering to Hashem." (Vayikra 23: 9-10, 15-16)

הִנֵּה "וּסְפַרְתֶּם" הוּא לְשׁוֹן בְּהִירוֹת, כְּמוֹ
"אֲבֵן סָפִיר" (יחזקאל א, כו).

The word "וּסְפַרְתֶּם-and you shall count" can be read as an expression of "shining" as is the term "אֲבֵן סָפִיר-a radiant stone," (Yechezkal 1:26) since it has the same root letters ס.פ.ר. as the word for "shine."

The Hebrew root ס.פ.ר. has various meanings. In this maamar,² the Alter Rebbe mentions two meanings: 1- לִסְפּוֹר-to count; 2- סְפִירוֹת-shining/radiance.

וְכֵן 'עֶשֶׂר סְפִירוֹת' הוּא לְשׁוֹן בְּהִירוֹת.

So too, the "Ten סְפִירוֹת-Sefiros" of Atzilus are an expression of "radiance."

The Ten Sefiros of Atzilus are ten modes through which Hashem reveals Himself to us. In effect, He "shines" His Divine Light to us.

וְזֶהוּ "וּסְפַרְתֶּם לָכֶם כו'", הֵינּוּ לְהַמְשִׁיךְ
עֶשֶׂר סְפִירוֹת שֶׁיֵּאִירוּ "לָכֶם" - לְמַטָּה.³

This is how we can interpret the phrase "וּסְפַרְתֶּם לָכֶם"-(lit. "you shall count for yourself"): "You shall draw down the Ten סְפִירוֹת-Sefiros of Atzilus" so that they should shine "לָכֶם-into you" as you exist here below in the physical world.

The counting of the Omer is not just to count the passing of days leading up to Shavuot. The inner meaning of this mitzvah is about a special process of shining Divine Light into ourselves.

² See the maamar for Parshas Emor 5730, where the Rebbe discusses four different words using the root ס.פ.ר., and how they are all connected to counting the Omer.

³ (עֵינֵינוּ בְּפִרְסָה שֶׁעַד ח', פָּרָק ב', בְּשֵׁם "סִפֵּר הַבְּהִיר": אֲמַאי אֶקְרִי סְפִירוֹת? עַל שֵׁם (תְּהִלִּים יט, ב): 'הַשְּׂמִים מְסַפְּרִים' כו'. וְעֵינֵינוּ בְּזִדְדֵי תְרוּמָה קל"ו, ב': "מֵאִי מְסַפְּרִים' כו' דְּנִהְיִין כו'").

In the third chapter of Tanya, the Alter Rebbe mentions that the Divine soul of every Jew is derived from the Ten Sefiros of Atzilus. To “shine the Sefiros” into ourselves means to cause all ten soul powers of the Divine soul to become fully manifest, so that they should reflect their source Above, in the Ten Sefiros. By increasing in our Torah study and prayer, we bring down Divine Light to help reveal our Divine soul. This strengthening of our service of Hashem, which “shines” the Sefiros into us, will be explained in the maamar.

וְלִהְיוֹת זֹאת, הִנֵּה פֶסַח הוּא יְצִיאַת
מִצְרַיִם, וְחַג הַשְּׁבוּעוֹת הוּא מִתֵּן-תּוֹרָה,

To understand this, Pesach is the time of “Leaving Mitzrayim (Egypt),” and Shavuos is the time of the “Giving of the Torah.”

וְקוֹדֵם קִבְּלַת הַתּוֹרָה הָיוּ צָרִיכִים לִסְפּוֹר
ז' שָׁבוּעוֹת שְׁלִימוֹת, וְאַחֵר כִּן הָיוּ יְכוּלִּים
לִקְבֹּל הַתּוֹרָה.

Before receiving the Torah, they needed to count seven complete weeks, and only after this were they able to receive the Torah.

כִּי הִנֵּה בְּתִיב (יְחִזְקָאל א, יד): "וְהַחַיּוֹת רָצוּא
וְשׁוּב", שְׁלֹמֶעֱלָה הִכָּל בְּבַחֲיַנַת רָצוּא
וְשׁוּב.

It is written, “The Chayos Angels **רָצוּא**-run in yearning for Hashem, and then **שׁוּב**-return to their spiritual place.” (Yechezkal 1:14) This shows how Above, in the spiritual worlds, everything happens in these two stages of **רָצוּא**-running in yearning for Hashem, and then **שׁוּב**-returning to one’s place.

וְכֵמוֹ כֵּן, פֶּסַח הוּא בְּחִינַת רָצוּא וְשְׁבוּעוֹת
הוּא בְּחִינַת שׁוּב:

Similarly, Pesach was an experience of **רָצוּא**-running in yearning for Hashem, and Shavuos was an experience of **שׁוּב**-returning to bring down Hashem’s revelation into our domain.

כִּי פֶסַח הוּא יְצִיאַת מִצְרַיִם, שֶׁהוּא
בְּחִפְזוֹן, כְּמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב (בֹּא יב, יא): "וְאַכְלֶתֶם
אוֹתוֹ בְּחִפְזוֹן"; וְכָתִיב (שׁוֹפְטִים טז, ג):
"בְּחִפְזוֹן יֵצְאָתָּ כו",

We see that Pesach was a **רָצוּא**-running away experience, since the Jewish People left Mitzrayim in a hurry, as it is written, “You shall eat [the Korban Pesach] in haste,”

⁴ (וְעֵינֵינוּ בִּזְהָר פְּרִשְׁת אָמֹר, דָּף צ"ז).

(Shemos 12:11) and it is written,
“You left [Mitzrayim] in a rush.”
 (Devarim 16:3)

כִּי אַז הָיָה הַתְּגִלּוֹת אֱלֻקוֹת מְלֻמָּעָה,
 בְּמֵאֵמֶר (הַגָּדָה שֶׁל פֶּסַח): "מִצָּה זֹאת שָׂאֲנוּ אוֹכְלִים
 עַל שׁוּם מָה, עַל שׁוּם שֶׁלֹּא הִסְפִּיק בְּצֻקָם שֶׁל
 אֲבוֹתֵינוּ לְהַחְמִיץ] עַד שֶׁנִּגְלָה עֲלֵיהֶם מֶלֶךְ
 מַלְכֵי הַמְּלָכִים הַקָּדוֹשׁ בְּרוּךְ-הוּא וּגְאֻלָּם"
 - בְּבַחֲיִנַת חֲפִזּוֹן.

This is because, at that time, the revelation of Hashem came from Above, from Hashem's initiative, as it says (Hagada Shel Pesach): “We eat this unleavened bread – Matzah – because the dough of our ancestors did not have time to rise before the King of all kings, the Holy One, Blessed be He, revealed Himself by saving them.” This shows that they left in a great hurry.

וְלַעֲתִיד כְּתִיב (יִשְׁעִיה נב, יב): "כִּי לֹא בְּחִפְזוֹן
 תֵּצֵאוּ, וּבִמְנוּסָה לֹא תֵלְכוּן כִּי", שֶׁלֹּא יִהְיֶה
 בְּבַחֲיִנַת חֲפִזּוֹן, אֲבָל יֵצֵאת מִצְרַיִם הָיָה
 בְּחִפְזוֹן כִּי.⁵ וְהֵינּוּ בַּחֲיִנַת רָצוּא, מִמַּשָּׁה-
 לְמַעַלָּה.

However, regarding the Future Era of Redemption, it is written, **“You will not go out in a hurry, and you will not travel in a rush,”** (Yeshaya 52:12) without needing to hurry, whereas leaving Mitzrayim was in a hurry. This shows how it was an experience of **running from below to Above in yearning for Hashem.**

מֵה שָׂאִין בֵּין שְׁבוּעוֹת הוּא בַּחֲיִנַת שׁוֹב,
 שֶׁהוּא בַּחֲיִנַת מִתֵּן-תּוֹרָה - גִּילּוֹי רָצוֹנוֹ
 לְמַטָּה, כְּמוֹ שְׁכָתוּב (יִתְרוֹ יט, כ): "וַיֵּרֶד ה'
 עַל הָר סִינַי" - הַמְּשַׁכָּה מְלֻמָּעָה-לְמַטָּה.

This was not the case on Shavuot, which was an experience of שׁוֹב-returning to bring down Hashem's revelation into our place, since it was the Giving of the Torah, which is the revelation of His Will below in the

⁵ וְעֵינֵינוּ מֵה שֶׁנִּתְבָּאֵר מִזֶּה בְּרִבּוּת, סוּף פְּרִשָּׁה בֵּא. וּבִמְכִילֵתָא, פְּרִשָּׁה בֵּא, פְּרִשָּׁה ז'. וְעֵינֵינוּ שָׁם. וְהוּבֵא גַם כֵּן בִּילְקוּט, פְּרִשָּׁה בֵּא (רָמָן קצט). וְעֵינֵינוּ בְּ"סִפְרֵי שֶׁל בִּינוּנִים" פֶּרֶק ל"א.

וְעֵינֵינוּ מֵה שֶׁנִּתְבָּאֵר סוּף פְּרִשָּׁת וַיֵּשֶׁב, סוּף דְּבוּר הַמִּתְחִיל "כֹּה אָמַר כִּי וְנִתְּתִי לָךְ מִהֲלָכִים" (תּוֹרָה אור ל, ד): אֲבָל לַעֲתִיד-לְבֵּא, כְּשִׁיתְּגַלֶּה בַּחֲיִנַת 'סוֹבֵב כָּל עֲלָמִין' כִּי, שִׁיחֶיהָ גַם הַשׁוֹב בְּבַחֲיִנַת הִלִּיכָה כְּמוֹ הַרְצוּא כִּי.

וַיֵּמָה שֶׁנִּתְבָּאֵר סוּף דְּבוּר הַמִּתְחִיל "וְהָיָה מִסְפֵּר בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל" (לְקַמּוֹן בַּמִּדְבָּר ו, ג), בְּעֵנֵינוּ שֶׁלַּעֲתִיד תִּהְיֶה מַעֲלַת אֲתֵעְרוּתָא-דְּלִתְתָּא גְדוֹלָה וְגִבּוּיָה לְאִין קָץ כִּי. וּמִכָּל זֶה יוֹבֵן עֵנֵינוּ "כִּי לֹא בְּחִפְזוֹן".

physical world, as it is written, “And Hashem came down onto Mount Sinai,” (Shemos 19:20) which is the process of **drawing down** Hashem’s revelation from Above to below.

וְהָיָה כְּתִיב (שׁוֹפְטִים טו, ג): “לִמְעַן תִּזְכֹּר אֶת יוֹם צֵאתְךָ מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם כָּל יְמֵי חַיֶּיךָ, וּבְמֵאֲמַר רַ"ל: “בְּכָל יוֹם וְדוֹר וְדוֹר [חַיֵּב אָדָם לִרְאוֹת אֶת עַצְמוֹ כְּאִלּוּ הוּא יָצָא מִמִּצְרַיִם] כו”.

שְׂצָרֶיךָ לִהְיוֹת בְּכָל יוֹם בְּחִינַת יְצִיאַת מִצְרַיִם.

Now, it is written, “You shall remember the day you came out of Mitzrayim all the days of your life,” (Devarim 16:3) and as our Sages say, “In every generation, each person needs to see himself as though he left Mitzrayim,” (Pesachim 10:5) which means that every day a person needs to spiritually experience “Leaving Mitzrayim.”

In the statement of the Sages quoted above, it only says that in every *generation* one needs to experience the Exodus from Mitzrayim. Nevertheless, we see from the verse quoted above, which says that we must remember the Exodus from Mitzrayim “all the days of our lives,” that it is not just every *generation*, but every *single day* that we must personally relive the Exodus from Mitzrayim.

וְהָיָה בְּקִרְיַת שְׁמַע: “וְאֶהְבֶּתָּ [אֶת ה' אֱלֹהֶיךָ בְּכָל לִבְּךָ וּבְכָל נַפְשְׁךָ וּבְכָל מְאֹדְךָ] כו” (וְאֶתְחַנֵּן ו, ה), וְחֻתָּם (שְׁלַח טו, מא): “אֲנִי ה' אֱלֹהֵיכֶם אֲשֶׁר הוֹצֵאתִי כו”.

This spiritual “Exodus from Mitzrayim” happens daily, during the recital of the Shema, when we come to fulfill the command that “**You shall love Hashem** with all of your heart, soul, and might,” to the extent that it takes us out of all of our limitations, and as we end the recital of Shema: “I am Hashem who took you out of Mitzrayim to be your G-d.”

In Tanya, chapter 47, the Alter Rebbe explains how saying Shema is the idea of “Leaving Mitzrayim.” The word “מִצְרַיִם-Mitzrayim,” comes from the word מִצָּר- limitation. In our case, the limitation referred to is the spiritual limitation that the animal soul imposes on the Divine soul. The animal soul’s physical desires and thoughts encompass the person and block out his Divine soul’s desire to connect

⁶ (“חַיֵּיב אָדָם לִרְאוֹת אֶת עַצְמוֹ כְּאִלּוּ הוּא יָצָא מִמִּצְרַיִם.” פְּסָחִים קטז, ב).

to Hashem. When a Jew says Shema and thinks about Hashem's Oneness and remembers that the only thing that matters to him in his life is to give himself over to Hashem, then this enables him to break out of the spiritual limitations created by the animal soul.

ובפרט, מן "ברוך שְׁאָמַר" עד קריאת שמע הוא הִכְנָה שִׁבּוּא לְבַחֲנִית יְצִיאַת מִצְרַיִם - "וְאַהֲבֵת כו".

Specifically, from the prayer entitled Baruch She'amar until Krias Shema is a process of preparation so that the person should experience the "Exodus from Mitzrayim" and fulfill the command that "You shall love Hashem."

וְהֵינּוּ, כְּשִׁיתְבוּנֵן אִיךְ שְׁכָל "צָבָא הַשָּׁמַיִם לְךָ מִשְׁתַּחֲוִים" (נְחֵמְיָה ט, ו), "וְהָאוֹפָנִים וְחַיּוֹת הַקֹּדֶשׁ בְּרַעַשׁ גָּדוֹל [מִתְנַשְּׂאִים לַעֲמַת הַשְּׁרָפִים, לַעֲמַתָּם מִשְׁבָּחִים וְאוֹמְרִים: בָּרוּךְ כְּבוֹד ה' מִמְּקוֹמוֹ:] " (בְּרַכַּת "יוֹצֵר"), וְהַ"חַיּוֹת זְעוֹת מִחֵיל כֶּסֶּא", "נוֹשְׂאוֹת וּמְנוֹשְׂאוֹת עִם כֶּסֶּא", אֵלֶּף אֵלֶּפִים וְרִבּוּא רִבְבָן יִשְׁמְשׁוּנֶיהָ, וְכוּלָם הֵם בְּבַחֲנִית בִּיטוּל תָּמִיד.

This preparation involves thinking deeply into how "the hosts of Heaven bow to You [Hashem]," (Nechemya 9:6) and about how we say in the daily prayer before Shema, "The Ofanim angels and holy Chayos angels, with a great thunderous sound rise facing the Serafim angels, and say, 'Blessed is the Glory of Hashem from His place.'" And, "The Chayos angels tremble with awe of Hashem's Throne," as they "lift up and are uplifted together with His Throne," and He has thousands and millions and countless myriads of angels that serve Him, and they are all constantly in a state of complete selflessness before Him.

וְזֶהוּ "לְהוֹדִיעַ לְבָנֵי הָאָדָם גְּבוּרוֹתָיו וּכְבוֹד הָדָר מַלְכוּתוֹ" (תְּהִלִּים קמ"ה, יב), שֶׁהוּא בַּחֲנִית "הָדָר מַלְכוּתוֹ", שְׂכוּלָם בְּטָלִים לְגִבְיָה מִמֶּשׁ. וְנִמְשָׁךְ לָהֶם הַבִּיטוּל עַל יְדֵי שְׁמִשְׁגִּים כִּי "מַלְכוּתָהּ מַלְכוּת כָּל

This is the meaning of the verse, "To make known to mankind His mighty deeds, and the glorious majesty of His Malchus-Kingship." (Tehillim 145:12) This refers to the "Majesty of His Malchus-

⁷ (רָאָה פִּיּוֹט "וְחַיּוֹת" בְּמוֹסָף לְרֹאשׁ הַשָּׁנָה אַחֲרֵי "קְדוּשׁ").

⁸ (עַל פִּי דִּנְיָא ל ז, י: "אֵלֶּף אֵלֶּפִים יִשְׁמְשׁוּנֶיהָ, וְרִבּוּ רִבְבּוֹן קְדָמוּהִי יְקוֹמוּן").

עולמים" (שם, יג). **Kingship," which all of the angels are completely awestruck by. This feeling of selflessness towards Hashem comes to them through their awareness of how "Your Malchus/Kingship is the kingdom of all worlds." (ibid. verse 13)**

פירוש "מלכותך", שחיות כל העולמות אינו אלא מבחינת "מלכותך" - הארת שמו בלבד.

The meaning of "Your Malchus/Kingship is the kingdom of all worlds," is that the life of all of the worlds is only from the level of "Your Malchus/Kingship of Atzilus," which is only like the "Radiance of His Name."

A person doesn't need a name for himself. He uses it to relate to others. In addition, one's name doesn't provide any direct information about the person. Similarly, the revelation of Hashem through the Sefira of Malchus only reveals Hashem's relation to the worlds, not Hashem in His relation to Himself, and the beings created from Malchus only know that Hashem exists, but have no idea what Elokus/Divinity actually is. A "Radiance" of His Name means that even the level of Malchus, His "Name," doesn't fully descend to the level of the creations. Rather, only a glimmer of Malchus, like a light that is reflected off of a mirror from the original source, descends. This shows how the worlds are many stages removed from any direct experience of Elokus/Divinity.

לא כמו שהנשמה מחיה את הגוף, שעצמיות חיות הנשמה מלובש בתוך הגוף ממש.

This descent of Malchus to create worlds is not like how the soul of a person gives life to the body, where the essential life-force of the soul is actually invested into the body.

אבל מהותו ועצמותו - "רם ומתנשא כו", ואין שום דבר מלבישו כלל; הנה הנה ויהיה בלי שינוי כלל, כמו שכתוב (מלאכי ג.ו): "אני ה' לא שניתי"; "אתה הוא קודם שנברא העולם, ואתה הוא לאחר שנברא כו" - בלי שום שינוי כלל, ואין שום דבר

However, Hashem's Being and Essence is "exalted and uplifted" (Shachris Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur) from the worlds, and nothing can 'contain' Him at all, since He always was, is, and will be, forever, without any changes whatsoever, as it is

⁹ (נוסח תפלת השחר בשינוי לשון).

מְכַסֶּה וּמְסַתִּיר נִגְדּוֹ,

written, “I, Hashem, have not changed,” (Malachi 3:6) and, “You were the same before the world was created, and you are the same after the world was created,” (Shachris Prayer) with no change whatsoever, and nothing can cover over or conceal Him.

אֲלֵא רַק הָאֶרֶץ "שֵׁם כְּבוֹד מַלְכוּתוֹ"
בְּלִבָּר, זֶהוּ חַיּוֹת וְהַתְּהוּוֹת כָּל הָעוֹלָמוֹת.

Rather, it is only the “Name of His Glorious Malchus/Kingship” that is the source of life and existence of all the worlds.

Since Hashem Himself is infinitely exalted beyond worlds and creation, to the extent that the creation of worlds makes no change in Him, whatsoever, the creation and life of worlds cannot come directly from Him. Rather, it must come through a myriad of stages and levels that conceal His Infinite Light until only a “Radiance of His Name,” the level of Malchus, is able to serve as the direct source of the creation.

וְזֶהוּ "מַלְכוּתָהּ מַלְכוּת כָּל עוֹלָמִים", הֵינּוּ
שֶׁ"כָּל עוֹלָמִים" אֵף שֶׁהֵן "אֶלֶף אֲלָפִים"
וְ"רְבוֹא רַבָּן", כְּמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב (איוב כה, ג):
"הֵישׁ מִסְפָּר לְגִדּוּדָיו", וְ"מִן הָאָרֶץ לְרִקִּיעַ"
מִהֶלֶךְ ת"ק שָׁנָה כו"י¹⁰. עַם כָּל זֶה הֵם אֵין
עֲרוֹךְ כָּלֵל לְגִבּוֹי אוֹרוֹ כו', שֶׁהוּא בְּחִינַת
אֵין-סוּף מִמֶּשׁ.

This is the meaning of “מַלְכוּתָהּ-Your Malchus/Kingship is the kingdom of all worlds:” All of the worlds, even though there are “thousands and millions,” and “hundreds of millions” of spiritual worlds, (Daniel chapter 7) and actually “there is no limited number¹¹ to His legions of angels,”

¹⁰ (חֲגִיגָה יג, א).

¹¹ By saying that there is no limit to His legions of angels, it is implied that there is some aspect of infinity. If so, then how are we saying that only His Light is Infinite? There are several ways to answer this question.

Here are a few:

- 1- The worlds themselves are numerous but not infinite, however they can be subdivided infinitely. Therefore, there can be, in potential, an unlimited amount of variations of different types of angels that Hashem can have.
- 2- In “Infinite,” there are many levels, and everything from amongst the created beings that is described as “unlimited,” just means that it is unlimited in some particular aspect. However, in another aspect, it is limited. For example, an idea is

(Iyov 25:3) and, “from the earth to the heaven is a distance of 500 years of traveling,” (Chagiga 13a) nonetheless, they are all completely incomparable to His Light, which is literally Infinite.

As is known, that even one out of a hundred million has value, since it is a small amount that has relative value when compared to the larger amount. However, a hundred million compared to true Infinity has no relative value whatsoever.

Since the angels understand all of the above concepts, they are always totally awestruck before Hashem, who is Infinite.

When a person will think into all of the above concepts with deep concentration, then, automatically, he will come to ‘run’ in yearning for Hashem when reciting the Shema, to fulfill “You shall love Hashem with all of your heart” and leave all of the spiritual **מְצָרִים**-limitations and boundaries of this world.

Since all creations are limited, even the heavens have a limitation of “500-year travel distance,” both the physical and the spiritual creations are limited, and they cover over and conceal Hashem’s Light, causing us to see the world as though it has its own independent existence and is not

וכנוֹדע, שְׁאִפִּילוּ אֶחָד לְגַבִּי רְבּוּא רַבְבֵּן יֵשׁ לוֹ עֶרֶךְ - שֶׁהוּא חֶלֶק קָטָן מִמֶּנּוּ. אֲבָל רְבּוּא רַבְבֵּן לְגַבִּי בְּלִי-גָבּוּל, בְּבַחֲיִנַת אֵין סוֹף מִמֶּשׁ - אֵין עֶרֶךְ כָּלָל.

וְעַל יְדֵי שְׁמִשְׁיָגִים אֶת כָּל הַנֶּ"ל, עַל יְדֵי זֶה הֵם בְּבַחֲיִנַת בֵּיטוּל תָּמִיד

וְעַל יְדֵי הַתְּבוּנָנוּת כָּל הַנֶּ"ל בְּעוֹמֶק הַדַּעַת, אֲזִי מִמִּילָא יָבֵא לְבַחֲיִנַת רְצוּא בְּקִרְיַת-שֹׁמֶעַ, לְהִיּוֹת "וְאֶהְבֶּתָּ אֶת ה'וְיָהּ אֶלְקֶיךָ בְּכָל לִבְבְּךָ" (וְאֶתְחַנֵּן ו, ה), לַעֲצֹאת מִן הַמְצָרִים וְגָבּוּלִים.

שְׂכּוּלָם הֵם בְּבַחֲיִנַת גָּבּוּל, כְּמוֹ "מִהֶלֶךְ ת"ק שָׁנָה" - הֵן בְּגִשְׁמִיּוֹת הֵן בְּרוּחָנִיּוֹת - הוּא בְּבַחֲיִנַת מִצָּר וְגָבּוּל, הַמְכַסִּים וּמַסְתִּירִים לְהִיּוֹת נִרְאָה לִישׁ וְדָבָר בְּפָנָי עֲצָמוֹ; רַק לְדַבָּקָה בּוֹ כִּי, שֶׁהוּא בְּלִי-גָבּוּל, בַּחֲיִנַת אֵין-סוֹף מִמֶּשׁ.

“unlimited” in time. It can exist forever. But, it is limited in context, as to what it applies to.

Thus, the only true Infinity is Hashem, and His Light is a reflection of His Infinity.

just an expression of Hashem's true Existence; **rather the only thing a Jew should want is to connect to Hashem Himself, who is truly Infinite.**

וְזֶהוּ נִקְרָא 'יְצִיאַת מִצְרַיִם' - לְצֵאת מִן
הַמִּצְרַיִם וּגְבוּלֵיהֶם כֵּן"ל.

This is the inner meaning of "Leaving מִצְרַיִם-Mitzrayim:" to leave all מִצְרַיִם-limitations and boundaries, as explained above.

וְזֶהוּ שֶׁבְּגָלוֹת מִצְרַיִם נֶאֱמַר בְּפָרְעָה (שְׁמוֹת
ה, ב): "לֹא יָדַעְתִּי אֶת ה'" - שֵׁשׁ הָיוּהָ,
שֶׁהוּא הָיָה הוּא וְיָהּ בְּלִי שִׁינוּי - "לֹא
יָדַעְתִּי", רַק שֵׁם 'אֱלֹקִים' - הַמְכֻסָּה
וּמְסֻתָּר לְהִיּוֹת יֵשׁ וְדָבָר בְּפָנֵי עַצְמוֹ
דְּיוֹקָא.

This is why, in the Exile in Mitzrayim, Pharoh said, "I do not know הָיוּהָ-Havayah," (Shemos 5:2) meaning the name of Havayah, that Hashem was, is, and will be without any changes, this name he doesn't know. Rather, he only knows the Name Elokim, which causes Hashem to hide and conceal Himself so that the world should have its own seemingly independent existence.

The four-letter name of Hashem - Yud, Hei, Vav, Hei, - is referred to in Chassidus as the name הָיוּהָ-Havayah, which contains the same letters as the four-letter name but in a different order, since due to its great holiness, it is forbidden to be pronounced in the order that it is written in. This name, Havayah, represents Hashem as He is to Himself, beyond being the source of creation for worlds or any relation to the worlds whatsoever. The name Elokim represents how Hashem conceals Himself in the process of creation. Pharoh said that he only knows about Hashem, as He is within the creation of the world, but refused to accept that there is any Being who is completely beyond worlds. This limited understanding is the spiritual idea of Exile (aside from the physical Exile the Jewish People endured). Leaving that perspective, one of only seeing Elokim and not Havayah, is spiritual liberation.

וְזֶהוּ "לֹא יָדַעְתִּי אֶת הָיוּהָ" - שֶׁהִדַּעַת הָיָה
בְּבַחֲיִנַת גָּלוּת.

This is why he said, "I don't know Havayah," since the idea of Exile is that the knowledge of Havayah is hidden.

וְזֶהוּ שְׁחוּתֵם בְּקִרְיַת־שֹׁמֶעַ: "אֲנִי הוֹיָה
אֶלְקֵיכֶם אֲשֶׁר הוֹצֵאתִי כו' - "אֲנִי הוֹיָה"
דְּוָקָא.¹²

This is why we end Krias Shema by saying, "I am Havayah, your G-d who took you out of Mitzrayim," meaning that it is specifically the level of "I am Havayah" that takes us out of Exile.

Summary of Chapter 1:

The word "וּסְפַרְתֶּם-and you shall count" the Omer, is an expression of "סְפִירוֹת-radiance," meaning we need to shine Hashem's Light into us to enable our self-refinement. Pesach is a time of running away from spiritual limitations in our yearning for Hashem. Shavuot is the time of the Giving of the Torah, when we bring Hashem's revelation back down into our world. Between these two times, we need to count the Omer to refine the animal soul, just like the Jewish People, who ran away from Mitzrayim with a strong animal soul intact, needed to refine their animal soul before receiving the Torah. On Shavuot, Hashem's Essential Will was revealed to us when He descended on Mount Sinai to teach us the Torah.

We have to remember the idea of Leaving Mitzrayim every day. This happens when we say Shema properly, which ends with saying, "I am Hashem who took you out of Mitzrayim."

We have a spiritual Leaving Mitzrayim by awakening a love for Hashem during prayer. This happens when think about the fact that all of the angels bow to Hashem and are totally overawed by Hashem's exaltedness. They realize that all of the life

¹² קיצורים אלו מהצ"צ על ד"ה וספרתם דף לה ב נדפסו באוה"ת ויקרא ג תתסו-ח

א) וספרתם לכם, וספרתם הוא לשון בהירות, הנה פסח הוא יצ"מ, והוא בחי' רצוא וחג השבועות מתן תורה הוא בחי' ושוב, וביניהם צ"ל ספירת העומר ויצ"מ בחפזון יצאת, שנגלה עליהם ממ"ה וגאלם בבחי' חפזון ולע"ל כתיב כי לא בחפזון תצאו כו', (הגהה: ואפ"ל כיון יצ"מ הוכרח להיות בחפזון שלא נתברר עדיין נה"ב ע"כ לתקן זה צ"ל ספה"ע ז' שבועות שעי"ז מתברר נה"ב עד שמתן תורה הוא דוגמת כי לא בחפזון, עד כאן) ושבועות גילוי רצונו למטה וירד ה' על הר סיני. והנה כתיב למען תזכור את יום צאתך מאמ"צ כל ימי חיך, שצ"ל יצ"מ בכל יום, שמע ישראל וחזתם אשר הוצאתיך מאמ"צ, והיינו כשיתבונן איך שכל צבא השמים משתחוים כו' ע"י שמשיגים כי מלכותך מלכות כל עולמים כו' לא כמו שהנשמה מחיה את הגוף כו' הם אין ערוך כלל לגבי אורו כו' שהוא בחי' א"ס (הגהה: אפ"ל שזהו ג"כ בחי' מלכותך הוא בחי' א"ס ואצ"ל מהו"ע ית', וע"ל לק"ת בשם"ש ד"ה קול דודי) כי דבר שהוא בגדר מספר אין לו ערוך כלל לגבי א"ס כו' וע"י שמשיגים את כל הנ"ל הם בבחי' ביטול תמיד כו' ולכן ע"י התבוננות האדם בכל הנ"ל בעומק הדעת יבא לבחי' רצוא בק"ש להיות ואהבת כו' לצאת מן המיצרים כו' (וע' בלק"ת פרשת ואתחנן ד"ה ענין ק"ש אחד ואהבת ושם פ"ב גבי וכשישים האדם אל לבו בחי' אחד זה בק"ש אזי יהי' ואהבת בכל לבך בבחי' יחידה שבנפש כו') וזהו שבגלות מצרים נאמר לא ידעתי את הוי'.

of the world is only from Hashem's Malchus, a mere "Radiance of His Name," that is far removed from Hashem's Essence, unlike the soul, which is directly invested in the body. They further understand that all the myriad spiritual levels are like nothing compared to Hashem, since even Hashem's Light is infinite, which is totally incomparable to the highest number. This is unlike the relativity between a small number and a large number, which can be very distant, but are related inasmuch as they are both numbers.

By coming to this understanding, and awakening a love for Hashem, a Jew experiences a spiritual "Leaving Mitzrayim."

This is why Exile is associated with "not knowing Havaya," since spiritual exile means not perceiving the real truth of Hashem, and redemption means to come to a yearning for the Essence of Hashem, who is beyond all worlds and limitations.

ב. Chapter 2

וְזֶהוּ מֵאִמֶּר רַז"ל¹³: "תְּפִלוֹת אָבוֹת
תִּקְנוּם":

This is the meaning of the saying of our Sages (Brachos 26b), "The daily prayers were instituted by our Forefathers, Avraham, Yitzchok, and Yaakov."

On a simple level, this means that Avraham prayed in the morning, establishing the Shachris morning prayer; Yitzchok prayed in the afternoon, establishing the Minchah afternoon prayer; and Yaakov prayed in the evening, establishing the Maariv evening prayer.

The Alter Rebbe will interpret this on a deeper level:

פִּירוּשׁ: "אָבוֹת" הֵם חֶסֶד-גְּבוּרָה-
תִּפְאֶרֶת-

Meaning: the "Forefathers" represent the three attributes of Hashem in Atzilus, known as Chesed-Kindness, Gevura-Severity, and Tiferes-Beautiful Blending of opposite traits,

שֶׁנִּמְשָׁךְ מֵהֶם אֱהָבָה וְיִרְאָה וְרַחֲמָנוּת;

From which are derived our love and fear of Hashem, and mercy for

¹³ (בְּרֵכוֹת כו, ב.).

our Divine soul, which is trapped in physicality.

שֶׁהֵם אֲבֹרָהִם, יִצְחָק וְיַעֲקֹב.

These three holy emotions are embodied in Avraham, who embodied love of Hashem, Yitzchak, who embodied fear of Hashem, and Yaakov, who embodied arousing mercy on our Divine soul.

וְהֵינּוּ, שְׁכָל הַתְּפִלָּה הִיא בִּג' מִיָּנִי פְסוּקִים:

Thus, the meaning of saying that “Our ‘Forefathers’ instituted the prayers” is that every prayer consists of three types of verses corresponding to the three Forefathers; Avraham, Yitzchok, and Yaakov.

הֵינּוּ פְסוּקִים שֶׁל חֶסֶד שְׁנַעֲשָׂה מֵהֶם בְּקִרְיַת־שֹׁמֶר "וְאַהֲבָתָ כו'", עַל יְדֵי הַהִתְבּוֹנְנוֹת כֵּן, שֶׁהוּא בְּחִינַת "אַבְרָהָם אוֹהֵבִי" (יִשְׁעִיָּה מֵא, ח), לִהְיוֹת גִּילּוֹי הָאַהֲבָה בְּנֶפֶשׁ בְּחִינַת רְצוּא.

Meaning, that there are verses describing Hashem's Kindness to us, which help us produce a feeling of love for Hashem when reciting Shema, which corresponds to “Avraham, who loved Me [Hashem]” (Yeshaya 41:8). These verses help to reveal the love for Hashem hidden in the Divine soul, which is expressed in a manner of running in yearning to connect to Hashem.

וְעַל יְדֵי זֶה אַחֲרַי כֶּן (וְאַתְחִנּוּ ה, ריז): "וְהֵינּוּ הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה אֲשֶׁר אֲנִכִּי מְצֹוֶה [. . .] וְדִבַּרְתָּ בָּם כו'".

Through this awakening of love for Hashem, this leads afterward to the fulfillment of the verse, “And these words of the Torah that I [Hashem] command you today, should be on your heart, and you shall speak of them...” (Devarim 6:6-7)

When someone loves Hashem, he will express that love in connecting to Him by studying Torah.

וְאִף שֶׁבְּפֶרֶשׁ שְׁנִיָּה כְּתִיב (שָׁם, יד):

Even though, in the second passage of the Shema, (entitled “Vehaya Im

,"וְאַסְפֹּת דָּגָנְךָ," Shamoa”) it is written, “**And you will gather in your grain**” (ibid. verse 14),

This implies that even after experiencing love for Hashem in Shema, he will still be involved in material occupations, like farming. So, if the love of Hashem can only be expressed in learning Torah and fulfilling Mitzvos, how can we say that he truly loves Hashem? Seemingly, after experiencing true love of Hashem, he should have no interest in any material pursuits?

עַם כָּל זֶה נַעֲשֶׂה "תּוֹרָתוֹן קִבֵּעַ וּמִלְאכָתוֹן עֲרָאִי"¹⁴.

Nonetheless, one is still expressing his love for Hashem, despite his material occupation, since he **“has made his Torah study of primary importance and his mundane work of secondary importance.”** (See Brachos 35b)

Since he is passionate about his Torah study and deep down this is what he is thinking about all day, the fact that he must be involved in material matters for many hours a day doesn’t take away his love for Hashem.

וְזֶהוּ "כִּי הָאָדָם עֵץ הַשָּׂדֶה" (חקת כ, יט):

This idea is also expressed in the verse, **“For a man is like a [fruit-bearing] tree of the field.”** (Bamidbar 20:19)

שֶׁהוּא כְּמוֹ אֵילָן הַצּוֹמֵחַ בָּאָרֶץ, שֶׁהַעֵיקָר הוּא הַפְּרִי שֶׁעָלָיו, עִם כָּל זֶה יֵשׁ גַּם קוֹצִין וְעֵלָין, וְגוֹף הָאֵילָן וְהַעֵיקָר הוּא רַק הַפִּירוֹת כו' -

Meaning that just like a tree that grows from the ground, whose primary purpose is the fruit it produces, even though it also has thorns and leaves and a trunk, but its primary purpose is just for its fruits.

כְּמוֹ בֶן הָאָדָם, הַעֵיקָר הוּא הַפְּרִי הַיֵּינוּ תּוֹרָה וּמִצְוֹת. כְּמֵאֲמַר רַ"ל¹⁵: 'מַאי פְּרִי? מִצְוֹת'. וְזֶהוּ עֲנִין "תּוֹרָתוֹן קִבֵּעַ". וְשֶׁאֵר כָּל צְרִכֵי גּוּפוֹ הֵם כְּמוֹ הָעֵלִים לְגִבֵּי הַפָּרִי.

So too, with regard to a person, whose primary purpose is his “fruit,” meaning his Torah and Mitzvos. As our Sages say (Sotah 46a), **“What are a person’s main ‘fruits?’ His Mitzvos.”** This is the idea of

¹⁴ (בְּרִכּוֹת לָה, ב).

¹⁵ (סוֹטָה מו, א: "מַאי פִּירוֹת ? .. אֵלָא מִצְוֹת").

“establishing one’s Torah study as primary.” He must view the remainder of his bodily needs as being like “leaves” compared to the “fruit.”

In other words, establishing whether something is primary or secondary is not dependent on quantity, but on quality. Most of the tree is its trunk and roots and the leaves. The fruits are very small compared to the rest of the tree. Nonetheless, the entire importance of a fruit-bearing tree is the fruit it produces. So too, a person who truly appreciates the value of Torah and Mitzvos will view them as being of primary importance, even though the majority of his day he is involved in material matters.

וְזֶה נַעֲשֶׂה הַכֹּל מִבְּחִינַת "וְאַהֲבַת כו",
שֶׁהוּא בְּחִינַת אַבְרָהָם.

This entire change of perspective comes from one’s love of Hashem, which corresponds to the aspect of Avraham.

וְכֵן יִצְחָק - בְּחִינַת גְּבוּרָה, שֶׁנַּעֲשֶׂה מִזֶּה
בְּחִינַת יִרְאָה בְּנַפֶּשׁ - "פֶּחַד יִצְחָק" (ויצא
לא, מב).

Similarly, Yitzchok corresponds to the Gevurah-Severity of Hashem, which produces a fear of Hashem in a person’s soul, which is the aspect of “the fear of Hashem of Yitzchok.”
(See Bereishis 31:42)

When someone sees how Hashem uses severity to punish the wicked, this inspires one’s fear of Hashem. The verses in prayer describing how Hashem uses His might to punish the wicked help a person reveal his soul’s aspect of “Yitzchok,” the innate fear of Hashem.

וּבְחִינַת יַעֲקֹב הוּא בְּחִינַת רַחֲמָנוּת.

The aspect of Yaakov corresponds to “awakening mercy from Hashem on his Divine soul.”¹⁶

¹⁶ The maamar mentioned previously that Chesed-Kindness corresponds to Avraham and love of Hashem; Gevurah-Severity corresponds to Yitzchok and fear of Hashem; and Tiferes-Beautiful Blending of opposites corresponds to Yaakov and the service of awakening mercy on one’s soul. The connection between Hashem’s Kindness and His Severity, and our corresponding love and fear of Him is understandable, since we are reflecting the type of attribute Hashem is showing.

However, what is the connection between Tiferes-Beautiful Blending of opposites and awakening mercy on one’s soul?

דְּהֵיִינוּ מִי שֶׁלִּבּוֹ כָּלֵב הָאֶבֶן, שֶׁאֵף
שְׁמַתְבוֹנֵן בְּכָל הַנֶּ"ל לֹא יָבֹא לְבַחֲנִית
וְ"אֶהְבֶּתָּ" שֶׁבְּקִרְיַת־שֹׁמֶעַ,

This refers to one whose heart is hard as a stone, and despite contemplating Hashem's Kindness, as described above, he does not experience a love of Hashem when reciting Shema.

מִחֲמַת שֶׁקְשׁוֹר מְאֹד בְּהֶבְלֵי הָעוֹלָם
לְהִיּוֹת יֵשׁ וְדָבָר בְּפָנֵי עֲצָמוֹ, וּמִחֲמַת זֶה
לִבּוֹ כָּלֵב הָאֶבֶן -

This is due to his strong connection to the vanities of this world that cause him to feel his ego as though he is separate from Hashem, causing his heart to be as hard as a stone.

אֲזִי הָעֵצָה לָזֶה הוּא, לְעוֹרֵר רַחֲמִים רַבִּים
עַל נַפְשׁוֹ.

Then, the only advice for this person is to awaken great mercy on his Divine soul that is trapped in the coarse materialism of his animal soul.

וּכְמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב לְ"יַעֲקֹב אֲשֶׁר פָּדָה אֶת
אַבְרָהָם" (יִשְׁעִיָּה כט, כב).

This is the meaning of the verse, "Yaakov who has redeemed Avraham" (Yeshaya 29:22), as will be further explained in the maamar.

וְזֶהוּ עַל יְדֵי פְסוּקֵי רַחֲמָנוּת שֶׁבְּתַפִּלָּה,

This is accomplished through the verses in prayer that request Hashem's mercy,

וְהוּא¹⁷: "הַמֶּלֶךְ הַמְרוֹמֵם נוֹי, בְּרַחֲמֶיךָ
הַרְבִּים רַחֵם עָלֵינוּ"; "אֲבִינוּ אָב הַרְחֵמֵן
רַחֵם עָלֵינוּ, וְתֵן בְּלִבֵּנוּ בִּינָה לְהִבִּין
וּלְהַשְׁכִּיל [. .] וְלֹא נִבּוֹשׁ [. .] לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד."

Such as, "Exalted King, in your great mercies have mercy on us," and "Our Father, Merciful Father, have mercy on us, and place in our heart understanding to know and

Mercy itself is a blend/combination of kindness and severity. Pure kindness is the desire to give to all, even those who are totally undeserving. Severity demands that only those completely worthy receive kindness. Mercy balances these two and asks that anyone who will truly benefit from kindness should receive it, excluding only those who take kindness to use it for something bad, but including those who are not truly worthy, but would still benefit from the kindness. This aspect of mercy is called "beauty," since the combination of opposite attributes is "beautiful," just as a combination of many colors makes a garment or painting more beautiful.

¹⁷ (בְּרִכּוֹת קְרִיאַת שֹׁמֶעַ).

discern, perceive, learn, teach, practice, and fulfill all of the teachings of Your Torah with love...so that we will not be embarrassed or ashamed forever.” (The Blessings before the Shema)

פירוש: The meaning of asking to “not be embarrassed forever,” is:

כִּי הֵנָּה כְּתִיב (תשא לג, כ): "כִּי לֹא יִרְאֵנִי הָאָדָם וְחִי, וְאָמְרוּ רֵז"ל¹⁸: "בְּחַיֵּיהֶם אֵינָם רוֹאִים, אֲבָל בְּמִיתָתָם רוֹאִים". כִּי "בְּחַיֵּיהֶם" - שֶׁהַנֶּפֶשׁ מְלוּבֶשׁ בְּגוֹף וּמְכֻסָּה וּמִסְתִּיר עָלָיו - לִהְיוֹת נִרְאָה לּוֹ זֶה הָעוֹלָם לִישׁ וְדָבָר בְּפָנֵי עַצְמוֹ.

Now, it is written, “for no man can see Me [Hashem] and live” (Shemos 33:20). Regarding this, our Sages said, “In a person’s life he cannot see Hashem, but when he dies, he can see Hashem” (Kallah Rabasi 3 and other places), because, in a person’s lifetime, his soul is invested in his body, which covers over and conceals it, and causes this world to appear as though it has its own existence independent of Hashem.

אֲבָל בְּצֵאת הַנֶּפֶשׁ מִהַגּוֹף, אֲזִי רוֹאִים שְׂבָאֲמַת מֵהוּתוֹ וְעֶצְמוּתוֹ כִּי -

However, when the soul leaves the body, then he sees that, in truth, the real existence of the world was really nothing other than Hashem’s Very Being and Essence.

הִיָּה הוּא וְיִהְיֶה בְּלִי שׁוּם שִׁינוּי,

This is because Hashem existed before the word was created, exists now, and will exist forever, without any change whatsoever.

The creation of the world made no change in Hashem at all. Before the world was created, He was the only existence. So too now that we see a world, Hashem is the only true existence. Otherwise, there would be a change in Hashem’s Oneness, G-d forbid, by the creation of the world. The fact that there is no change in His Oneness despite the creation of the world is because it is not separate from Him at

¹⁸ (כֻּלָּה רַבְתִּי ג. סִפְרָא וִיקְרָא פֶּרֶק א. וְכֵן הוּא בְּמִדְבָּר רַבָּה סוּף פֶּרֶשֶׁה י"ד. יִלְקוּט שְׁמַעוֹנִי וִיקְרָא רִישׁ רַמְזוֹ תל.א. וְרַאָה זֶהָר חִלָּק א רִיח, ב.)

all, and since it has no independent existence whatsoever, even now Hashem is still the only true existence.

וְאֵין שׁוּם דָּבָר יָכוֹל לְהַלְבִּישׁוֹ כָּלֵל
וְלְהַסְתִּירוֹ, **And nothing can clothe and conceal Hashem at all, when viewed from His perspective, Above.**

Even though we see the world as concealing Hashem, it doesn't hide anything from Hashem at all, and Hashem sees that there is nothing besides for Himself.

וְהָיָה מִקַּח טְעוֹת לְגִמְרֵי מַה שֶּׁהָיָה נִרְאֶה
לֹא הָעוֹלָם לֵישׁ וְדָבָר בְּפָנֵי עַצְמוֹ. **It was completely “false advertising” that he bought into, to look at the world as though it has its own existence, independent of Hashem.**

The world is lying to us by making itself look as though it is separate from Hashem. Since we see this lie all day, every day, we buy into it.

וְאֵי הַבוֹשָׁה גְּדוֹלָה עַד לְמָאֵד, עַל שֶׁכָּל
מַחְשְׁבוֹתָיו וּמִגְמוֹתָיו הָיוּ בְּהַבְלֵי הָעוֹלָם
וּבַעֲסָקָיו, כֹּאֲלוֹ הוּא דָּבָר בְּפָנֵי עַצְמוֹ
מִמֶּשׁ, וְהוּא חוֹצֵף אֶת הָעֵצָה גְּדוֹלָה כִּי. **Then, when a person dies, his embarrassment will be very great, since almost all of his thoughts and pursuits were regarding the vanities of this world and its matters, instead of being primarily focused on Torah and Mitzvos, as though he and the world are totally disconnected from Hashem, and this is extreme brazenness and disrespect to Hashem.**

When someone is in the presence of a king, and he is focused on his own petty matters instead of on the king, this is a great disrespect. Similarly, we are always in Hashem's presence, and “There is no place where He is not.” Hence, it is disrespectful to Hashem to be involved in material matters with no intention of how it will help him serve Hashem. This subtly implies that that place is separate from Hashem, G-d forbid, and that is why he isn't focused on Hashem while he is there.

As the maamar explained before, this doesn't mean that no one should have any material pursuits at all. Instead, he should make the Torah and Mitzvos his main purpose in life, and all his material matters are only secondary, in order to enable him to learn Torah and fulfill Mitzvos. When his thoughts are constantly on serving

Hashem, then even in his material pursuits, he is aware of Hashem and not disrespectful, since his purpose in those matters is also to serve Hashem ultimately.

וְלָכֵן בְּקִשְׁתָּנוּ: "בְּרַחֲמֶיךָ הָרַבִּים רַחֵם
עָלֵינוּ, וְתֵן בְּלִבֵּנוּ בִינָה",

Therefore, we ask Hashem, "In Your great mercies, have mercy on us, and place in our heart understanding."

הֵיִינוּ לְהִבִּין דָּבָר מִתּוֹךְ דְּבָר,¹⁹

Meaning, we ask for help to understand things the way they really are,

הֵיִינוּ, אָף בְּעוֹד שֶׁהִנָּשְׂמָה מְלֻבָּשׁ בְּגוֹף
יְבִין וַיִּשְׁכָּח שֶׁבְּאֵמֶת הַכֹּל בָּטֵל בְּתַכְלִית
כְּמוֹ קוֹדֶם שֶׁנִּבְרָא הָעוֹלָם, בְּלִי שׁוּם שִׁינוּי
מִמֶּשׁ כְּנִל;

so that while our soul is invested in our body, we should understand and perceive how, in truth, everything has no independent existence other than Hashem, just like before the world was created, with no change whatsoever, as explained above.

"וְלֹא נִבּוֹשׁ [. .] לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד - בְּכִדֵּי שְׁלֹא
יְהִי אַחֵר כִּךְ הַבּוֹשָׁה "לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד".

The verse asking for mercy concludes, "And we will not be embarrassed... forever," we are asking for this insight into reality so that we should not be embarrassed "forever," even after we die.

וְזֶהוּ "לִיעֲקֹב אֲשֶׁר פָּדָה אֶת אַבְרָהָם"²⁰.

This is the meaning of "Yaakov (Hashem's mercy) who has redeemed Avraham (love of Hashem)."

¹⁹ (עִירוּבִין ק, ב. וּבִפְרִוּשׁ רִשֵּׁי שָׁם. חֲגִיגָה יד, א. סְנֵהֲדִירִין צג, ב.)

²⁰ [עֵינֵינוּ בְּדַבּוּר הַמִּתְחִיל "מִה יָפוּ פְעַמְיָךְ" לְקַמֵּן שִׁיר הַשִּׁירִים מג, ב.).

²¹ (וְזֶהוּ תַּפְלוּת אֲבוֹת תִּקְנוּם שֶׁהָאֲבוֹת הֵם אֵהוּ"ר וְרַחֲמָנוּת (הַגָּהָה: וַיֵּשׁ מֵאֵן דָּאִמֵּר תַּפְלוּת כִּנְגֵד תַּמִּידִים תִּקְנוּם וְכ"פ הֶרֶמְבֵּ"ם ב'ה' תַּפְלָה וְהֵיִינוּ כִּמְ"פ ש"ג, שֶׁמִּבְחֵי אֲבוֹת נִמְשָׁךְ הַהֲתַפְעֻלוֹת בְּנֵה"א לְבַד, אֲבָל כִּדֵּי שִׁימֻשְׁךָ גַּם הַהֲתַפְעֻלוֹת בְּנֵה"ב הִי אַח"כ סִפְה"ע מֵאֵן אַח"כ מ"ת, וְזֶהוּ מֵאֵן דָּאִמֵּר תַּפְלוּת כִּנְגֵד תַּמִּידִין תִּקְנוּם שֶׁהוּא קָרְבֵן מִן הַבְּהֵמָה א"כ זֶהוּ גַם בִּירוּר נִה"ב, וּמ"מ הֵן מִן הַכֹּבֶשִׂים כִּי כִבֵּשׁ יוֹרֵה ג"כ עַל כֶּתֶר חו"ב חֲגִ"ת שֶׁהוּא עֵנִין בִּיטּוֹל הָעֲלִיּוֹן דִּנְה"א, עַד כֵּאֵן) וְסֹדֶר הַתַּפְלָה יֵשׁ בָּהּ ג' מִיָּנִי פְסוּקִים הֵא' וְאֶהְבֵת וְעִ"ז אַח"כ וְהִיוּ הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה אֲשֶׁר אֲנִי מַצּוֹךְ כו' וּמִלֹּאכֶתֶן עֲרָאִי כו' וְכֵן יִצְחָק בְּחִי' גְּבוּרָה שֶׁנַּעֲשָׂה מִזֶּה יִרְאָה וְבְחִי' יַעֲקֹב הוּא רַחֲמָנוּת כו' דֵּהֵיִינוּ מִי שֶׁלְּבוּ כָלֵב הָאֵבֶן כו' הִעֲצָה הוּא לְעוֹרֵר רַחֲמִים רַבִּים עַל נַפְשׁוֹ כו' רַחֵם עָלֵינוּ וְתֵן בְּלִבֵּנוּ בִינָה כו' וְלֹא נִבּוֹשׁ לַע"ו, וְזֶהוּ לִיעֲקֹב אֲשֶׁר פָּדָה אֶת אַבְרָהָם כו' (הַגָּהָה: וְאַרְז"ל ע"ז פ' בַּחֲקֵתִי בֵּת שֶׁנִּשְׁנֵאת לַמֶּלֶךְ ר"ל הַנִּשְׁוֹאִין שִׁיּוּקֶלֶט הַדַּעַת בַּפְּנִימִי הַלֵּב כִּמְ"שׁ בִּלְק"ת ד"ה עֵינֵי כָל אֱלֹהִים יִשְׁבְּרוּ וּבִד"ה ד' לִי בַּעֲזוּרִי

According to Chassidus (see Tanya chapter 45), the meaning of this verse is that through the attribute of Yaakov, which is awakening mercy from Hashem on our Divine soul, we redeem our hidden love of Hashem, the aspect of Avraham.

Summary of Chapter 2:

This is the idea of saying that “the three daily prayers were established by the Forefathers, Avraham, Yitzchok, and Yaakov.” On a deeper level, the Forefathers represent love and fear of Hashem, and awakening mercy on our soul.

In the prayers, there are three kinds of verses:

- 1- Verses describing Hashem’s Kindness that help us awaken a love for Him in reciting Shema. These correspond to Avraham, who embodied the love of Hashem. This brings a person to want to increase in learning Torah and performing Mitzvos, since Torah and Mitzvos are the way to express his love of Hashem in a tangible and practical way, by connecting to Hashem. Even throughout the day when he is involved in material matters, his inner desire will be to connect to Hashem and his material matters will be secondary to his Torah study and Mitzvah performance.
- 2- Verses describing Hashem’s Might and Power. These help us awaken a feeling of fear and awe for Hashem, corresponding to Yitzchok, who embodied fear of Hashem.
- 3- Verses requesting that Hashem have mercy on our souls, corresponding to Yaakov who embodied the service of awakening mercy from Hashem. The mercy is needed because we are spiritually insensitive to the truth [that there is nothing beside Hashem], and therefore, our hearts are dulled to the love of Hashem. We ask Hashem to open our mind and heart to perceive His true Oneness and experience a true love of Him. This will enable us to be completely dedicated to Torah study and Mitzvah performance as being the main goal of our life. This is the meaning of “Yaakov who redeemed Avraham.” “Yaakov,” which represents awakening mercy from Hashem on our Divine soul, redeems “Avraham,” which represents our love of Hashem.

The Tzemach Tzedek adds: There is another opinion in the Gemara (Brachos 26b) that the three daily prayers correspond to the three daily sacrifices in the Beis Hamikdash. The daily morning offering, the daily afternoon offering, and in the night, they would burn the fats and other designated parts of certain offerings on

the Mizbeiach. The inner meaning behind saying that the daily prayers correspond to the daily offerings in the Beis Hamikdash is that the purpose of the daily prayers is not only to reconnect the Divine soul (descended from the Forefathers) with Hashem. It is also to refine and elevate the animal soul, which is the idea of a korban-offering.

Thus, the daily prayers accomplish two things: 1- Reconnecting the Divine soul with its Source in Hashem; 2- Refining and elevating the animal soul to have a connection to Hashem. These two concepts are the inner meaning behind the two opinions in the Gemara of whether the daily prayers correspond to the Forefathers or to the daily offerings in the Beis Hamikdash.

3 Chapter 3

וְהָיָה כָּל הַנֶּ"ל, שֶׁהוּא בְּחִינַת רְצוּא,
יְצִיאַת מִצְרַיִם, אֵינוֹ אֶלָּא לְנַפְשׁ-
הָאֱלֹקִית בְּלֶבֶד, שֶׁהִיא בְּבְחִינַת גְּלוּת
בְּתוֹךְ מִצְרַיִם וּגְבוּלִים הַמְכַסִּים כּו'.

Now, this entire process of running in yearning to connect to Hashem in the spiritual process of “Leaving מִצְרַיִם-Mitzrayim” is only for the Divine soul, which is in exile in the מִצְרַיִם-limitations and confinements of the animal soul and physical world that cover over it.

וּכְמוֹ שֶׁאָמַר פֶּרַעְה: "לֹא יָדַעְתִּי אֶת הָוִיָּה
כּו'".

As Pharoh, who represents unholiness, said, “I do not know Havaya,” Hashem as He is above the worlds.

וּכְמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב (וַיֵּשׁ מו, ד): "אֲנֹכִי אֶרֶד עִמָּךְ
מִצְרַיִמָּה וְאֲנֹכִי אֶעֱלֶךְ כּו'", שֶׁזֶּהוּ שֶׁנֶּאֱמַר
לְ"יַעֲקֹב", שֶׁהוּא הַנֶּפֶשׁ הָאֱלֹקִית בְּלֶבֶד -
יּוֹדֵ"עַקֵּב;

As it is written, “I [Hashem] will go down with you [the Divine soul] to Mitzrayim, and I will also go back up with you” (Bereishis 46:4). This statement was made specifically to יַעֲקֹב-Yaakov, representing only the Divine soul as it is compacted into a point, like a letter “י-yud,” coming down into the animal soul which is as coarse as the “עַקֵּב-heel” of the body.

The name יַעֲקֹב-Yaakov represents the Divine soul as it must become contracted and diminished and then descend into the body. That is why it is a combination of

the letter “-yud,” representing the soul in its contracted state, and the word “עֶקֶב-heel,” representing the animal soul that is as coarse, compared to the Divine soul, as the heel is, when compared to the brain.

“יַעֲקֹב חָבֵל נִחְלָתוֹ, כִּי חֵלֶק הָיְיָה עִמּוֹ.”²²

In addition, “יַעֲקֹב-Yaakov is like the rope of his heritage,” and, “His people are a part of Havaya.” (Devarim 32:9)

Just like a long rope, which has one end tied to a very high place and the other end tied to a very low place, the Divine soul extends from being “a part of Havaya,” from Hashem as He is beyond creation, all the way down to become invested in the animal soul.

כְּמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב (בְּשַׁלַּח יד, לא): “וַיֵּרָא יִשְׂרָאֵל
אֶת הַיָּד הַגְּדוֹלָה אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה ה'” -
שֶׁ“יִשְׂרָאֵל” בְּלִבָּד, שֶׁהוּא הַנֶּפֶשׁ הָאֱלֹקִית
- כִּי “יִשְׂרָאֵל עָלָה בְּמַחֲשָׁבָה”²³; יִשְׂרָאֵל
- לִי־רֹאשׁ כִּי - וַיִּשְׂרָאֵל בְּלִבָּד רָאוּ “אֲשֶׁר
עָשָׂה הָיְיָה כִּי.”

As it is written, “And Yisrael saw the great ‘hand’ that Havayah used to punish Mitzrayim” (Shemos 14:31). This shows that only the Divine soul, referred to as Yisrael - as in the teaching, “Yisrael came up first in Hashem’s thought,” (Bereishis Rabbah 1:5), and because the name “יִשְׂרָאֵל-Yisrael” is the same letters as “לִי־רֹאשׁ-they are connected to my [Hashem’s] ‘Head’,” - saw how Hashem, on the level of Havayah, punished Mitzrayim.

וּכְמוֹ כֵּן בְּקִרְיַת־שִׁמְעַ, בְּחִינַת רְצוּא,
יִצְיַאת מִצְרַיִם הֵנָּה, “וְאֶהְבֶּתָּ כִי” - אֵינוֹ
אֵלָא לְנֶפֶשׁ־הָאֱלֹהִית בְּלִבָּד,

So too, in Kerias Shema, when we experience running in yearning to connect to Hashem by leaving the ‘mitzrayim-limitations’ of the animal soul through the love of Hashem, this process is only felt in the Divine soul.

אֲבָל נֶפֶשׁ־הַבְּהֵמִית מִכָּל מְקוֹם הוּא
רוֹצֵה לֶאֱכֹל כִּמְעֵשָׂה בְּהֵמָה כִּי.

However, the animal soul still wants to eat and have other physical enjoyments like an animal.

²² (הָאֵינוֹ לֵב, ט בְּשִׁינוֹי הַסֵּדֶר).

²³ (בְּרֹאשִׁית רַבָּה א, ה).

וּבְכִי לְקַבֵּל אֶת הַתּוֹרָה, שֶׁהוּא גִלּוּי
רְצוֹנוֹ יִתְבָּרַךְ בְּבִיכּוֹל, לְמַטָּה, הוֹצֵרָךְ
לְהִיּוֹת מְקוֹרֵם בַּחֲיִינָת בִּישׁוּל נַפְשׁ-
הַבְּהֵמִית גַּם כֵּן.²⁴

וְהֵינּוּ עַל יְדֵי הַנִּפְתּ הָעוֹמֵר וּסְפִירַת
הָעוֹמֵר, כְּמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב (פְּרָשָׁתְנוּ כג, יא):
”וְהֵנִיף אֶת הָעוֹמֵר לִפְנֵי הוֹיָה לְרִצּוֹנְכֶם,
מִמַּחֲרַת הַשֶּׁבֶת יִנִּיפְנּוּ הַכֹּהֵן”:

כִּי הֵנָּה הָעוֹמֵר הוּא מִן הַשְּׁעוּרִים,²⁵
שֶׁהוּא מֵאֵכֶל בְּהֵמָה.

וְכֵמוֹ כֵּן לְמַעְלָה יֵשׁ גַּם כֵּן בַּחֲיִינָת בְּהֵמָה,
וְהוּא הַמֶּרְכָּבָה הָעֲלִיוֹנָה:

To receive the Torah, which is the revelation of Hashem’s Essential Will, as it were, below in this world, first, the animal soul also needs to nullify its ego to Hashem.

This is accomplished through waving the Omer and counting the Omer, as it is written, “And he shall wave the Omer before Havayah to bring Hashem’s goodwill to you, on the day after the first day of Yom Tov, the Kohen should wave it.” (Vayikra 23:11)

Now, the Omer offering was brought from barley flour, which is “**בְּהֵמָה-domesticated animal**” food.

Similarly, Above in the spiritual realm, there is a level of angels referred to as “**animals,**” known as “**the Merkavah-Chariot Above.**”

The prophet Yechezkal was in Exile right before the destruction of the Beis Hamikdash. He had a prophetic vision of Hashem coming in “a stormy wind... and raging fire.” He then perceived four angels who were Hashem’s emissaries to carry out different tasks. These angels were called “**חַיִּוִּת-wild animals.**” These angels are known as the “**Merkavah-Chariot**” of Hashem’s Divine Presence. Just like the King travels around in a chariot on various missions, Hashem accomplishes different things using these angels and the angels under them in spiritual level. These four angels each had four faces: 1- A man; 2- A lion; 3- An ox; 4- An eagle. Even though they all had these four faces, they were each facing a different direction with their “main face,” so that each one had an emphasis on one of the four faces, even though they also had the other three faces, which were less pronounced than the main one.

”וַיְהִי בְשָׁלְשִׁים שָׁנָה... וְאָנִי בְּתוֹךְ הַגּוֹלָה... נִפְתָּחוּ

“It was in the 30th year [of the Yovel (Jubilee)], and I [Yechezkal] was in

²⁴ [וְעֵינַי מֵה שְׁנֵתְבָאָר עַל פְּסוּק “אָדָם כִּי יִקְרִיב כו’, תִּקְרִיבוּ כו” (לְעִיל וַיִּקְרָא ב, ב וְאֵילָךְ). עֵינַי שָׁם].

²⁵ (מְנַחוֹת פֶּד, א).

הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶרְצָהּ מִרְאֹת אֱלֹהִים... וְנֹאֲרָא וְהִנֵּה רֵיחַ
סַעְרָה בָּאָה מִן הַצָּפוֹן עָנָן גָּדוֹל וְאֵשׁ מִתְּלַקַּחַת וְנִגְהָ
לוֹ סָבִיב...]

Exile, the heavens opened and I saw a vision of Divinity... I saw stormy wind come from the north with a raging fire and light surrounding it...

[וּמִתּוֹכָהּ דְּמוּת אַרְבַּע חַיִּוֹת... וְאַרְבַּעַה פָּנִים לְאַחַת
וְאַרְבַּע כְּנָפִים לְאַחַת לָהֶם... וְדְמוּת פָּנֵיהֶם פְּנֵי אָדָם
וּפְנֵי אַרְיֵה אֶל הַיָּמִין [לְאַרְבַּעַתָּם] וּפְנֵי
שׁוֹר מִהַשְׂמֹאוֹל [לְאַרְבַּעַתָּן] וּפְנֵי נֶשֶׁר
לְאַרְבַּעַתָּן]. "(יחזקאל א, א-ו).

From this I saw the image of four [angels resembling] “חַיִּוֹת-wild animals,” each one had four faces and four wings... their faces were: the face of a man; and **the face of a lion on the right side** of all four [angels]; and **the face of an ox on the left side** of these four [angels]; and the face of an eagle on these four [angels].” (Yechezkal 1:1-10)

The Mitteler Rebbe explains that the “four faces” are four aspects of the “Merkavah” angels: The “face of a man” refers to the intellect of these angels; the “face of a lion on the right side” refers to the love of Hashem of the angels; the “face of an ox on the left side” refers to the fear of Hashem of these angels; and the “face of an eagle” refers to the aspect of awakening mercy from Hashem on themselves.

The angels of the Merkavah-Chariot are called “חַיִּוֹת-wild animals,” and barley is food for “בְּהֵמָה-domesticated animals.” So how are we comparing the angels of the Merkavah to barley?

כִּי חַיָּה בְּכָלל בְּהֵמָה²⁶.

The answer is that **the word “בְּהֵמָה-animal,”** which usually refers to domestic animals, **can also include “חַיָּה-wild animals,”** as the Gemara proves from a verse (see Baba Kama 17b).

The Alter Rebbe brings another verse to show how the Divine Presence “stands on” a group of angels referred to as animals:

כְּמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב עַל הָיִם שֶׁעָשָׂה שְׁלֹמֹה
(מְלָכִים א' ז, כה): "עוֹמֵד עַל שְׁנַיִם עֶשֶׂר
בָּקָר, שְׁלֹשָׁה פִּזְוִיִּם צְפוּנָה כו'" שֶׁהִיא

As it is written (Melachim I 7:25) regarding the “יָם-Sea/Pool” that **King Shlomo made** as a Mikvah for the Kohanim to immerse in the Beis

²⁶ (בְּבָא קָמָא יז, ב).

הַמִּרְכָּבָה הָעֲלִיּוֹנָה,

Hamikdash: “It was standing upon twelve statues of cows, three [cows] facing north, three facing west, three facing south, and three facing east...” These twelve cows arranged in four directions represent the angels of the Merkavah Above, who were also facing all four directions,

"וְהָיָם עֲלֵיהֶם מִלְמַעְלָה" (שם), שְׁהִיא
בְּחִינַת 'אֵם הָעֲלִיּוֹן',

and the verse concludes, “and the “אֵם-Sea/Pool” was resting on them [the cow statues] from above.” This “אֵם-Sea/Pool” that was positioned above the cows represented “the Sea Above,” a reference to Malchus of Atzilus.

The sea receives water from the rivers and clouds and doesn't overflow since it recycles that water back into rivers and its water evaporates to make new clouds. So too, Malchus of Atzilus receives all of the Light and Life from the higher Sefiros, but doesn't keep it for itself, since it uses that power to create the world.

בְּחִינַת "בְּהֶמָה רַבָּה",

This level of Malchus of Atzilus is called “בְּהֶמָה רַבָּה-the General Source of Animals,” since it is the all-inclusive source of the angels referred to as “animals.”

שֵׁם ב' ין גִּימְטְרִיא בְּהֶמָה²⁷,

This level of Malchus is called the Name of Hashem that adds up to “ב' ין-52,” which is the numerical equivalent of the word “בְּהֶמָה-animal.”

The letters of Hashem's Four-Letter Name are י=10, ה=5, ו=6, ש=5 which adds up to 26. However, each letter, when spelled out fully, adds up to more, e.g. the letter י-yud spelled out is יוּד=20. There are four ways to fully spell out the letters of Hashem's Four-Letter Name. One of them is as follows: יוּד=20, הוּה=10, ווּ=12, הוּה=10, added up altogether equals ב' ין-52. This Name of Hashem represents

²⁷ (לקוטי תורה להאריז"ל פְּרֻשַׁת שְׁמִינִי רִישׁ דְּבוּר הַמִּתְחִיל "מִצּוֹת בְּדִיקוֹת חַיּוֹת וְעוֹפוֹת". שֵׁם תְּהִלִּים סְעִיף לו. מֵאוּרֵי אוֹר אוֹת ב סְעִיף ז. לְעִיל וְיִקְרָא ג ב).

Malchus. The amount of 52 is also the numerical equivalent of the word “בְּהֵמָה”-animal,” showing that Malchus is sometimes referred to as בְּהֵמָה-animal.”

שְׁהוּא שֶׁרֶשׁ הַמֶּרְכָּבָה ד' פְּנֵי אֲרִיָּה כו".

Malchus is referred to as a בְּהֵמָה-animal,” **since it is the source of the angels of the Merkavah, which have “the face of a lion”** and the other animals mentioned in the verse, quoted above.

וְהַמֶּרְכָּבָה הַנִּזְכָּר לְעֵיל הוּא שֶׁרֶשׁ
וּמְקוֹר לְכָל הַבְּהֵמוֹת, וְנֶפֶשׁ-הַבְּהֵמִית
שְׁלֵמָטָה, שֶׁנִּמְשָׁכִים מִמֶּנָּה.

This Merkavah mentioned above is the source of all of the physical animals, and of the animal soul of the person below, in this world, which are derived from it.

So far, the Alter Rebbe established that Malchus of Atzilus is referred to as “the General Source of Animals,” since it is the source of creation of spiritual animals -angels- and physical animals, as well as our animal soul. Now we will explain the idea that barley is “animal food” as a metaphor for Malchus “consuming” the sparks of Divinity hidden in angels and in our animal soul, which are referred to as “barley:”

וְשַׁעוּרָה – שַׁעוּר ה'28.

The word “שַׁעוּרָה-barley,” is the same letters as “שַׁעוּר ה'-Five aspects of limitation.”

There are five parts of the mouth that enable us to manipulate the air coming out of our vocal cords into twenty-two different letters. Similarly, our mind possesses five aspects of limitation that enable us to take abstract or general knowledge into a detailed, conscious awareness that can be fully understood and explained. These five aspects of limitation produce the “letters of thought” that we use to process the details of information. These letters of thought are the source of the letters of speech. We also have five fingers on each hand that enable us perform detailed processes.

In their spiritual source, these five aspects of limitation are on two levels of Atzilus: Bina-Understanding, and Malchus-Kingship/Divine Speech. When Malchus uses its five aspects of limitation, which it receives from Bina, it is able to create limited finite beings, such as angels and people.

²⁸ (זֶהר חֵלֶק ג' קפח, ב).

These angels and people contain sparks of Divinity (Elokus) from the World of Tohu, which is higher than Atzilus. When Malchus creates angels and people, and then reunites them with Hashem, Malchus itself receives an increase in Divine Revelation from the World of Tohu, which is the ultimate source of several aspects of angels and of the animal soul in people.

This process of reconnecting the creations with their source and receiving additional revelation thereby is similar to the process of eating. By eating, we also elevate the sparks of holiness in the food to their source and thereby receive an increase in life. This is why angels and our animal soul are like barley: Just like barley is animal food, so too angels and our animal soul are like “food” for Malchus, which receives additional revelation by reconnecting both angels and sould (us) to our source Above.

וְהֵינּוּ מִבְּרוּרִים שְׁלֵמָה שְׁנִבְרָרִים
וְנִכְלָלִים בְּבְחִינַת בְּהִמָּה רַבָּה הֵנ"ל.

Meaning that the redeemed sparks of Divinity that come from below in the creations, which become refined out of the coarseness of the creations and become included in Malchus, referred to as the “General Source of Animals,” as mentioned above, these sparks are the “barley” that Malchus, the “General Source of Animals,” can “eat,” as it were.

בְּמֵאמָר²⁹ "יוֹצֵר מְשָׁרְתִים", שֶׁיֵּשׁ
מְלָאכִים שֶׁהֵם בְּטָלִים בְּכָל יוֹם, וְנִבְלָעִים
וְנִכְלָלִים בְּבְחִינַת בְּהִמָּה רַבָּה הֵנ"ל -

As we say in the daily prayers, “He [Hashem] creates ministering angels;” meaning that there are angels which are created new every day and then become nullified, and absorbed and included back into their source in the “General Source of Animals,” which is Malchus, as explained above.

כְּמוֹ הַמֵּאֲכָל שְׁעוֹרִים שְׁנִבְלָע בְּבִהְמָה
שְׁלֵמָה, וְחוֹזְרִים וּמִתְחַדָּשִׁים בְּכָל יוֹם
כּו'.

Similar to how physical barley is consumed by a physical animal here below, and then new barley grows, to be eaten again.

²⁹ (בְּרֵכֶת יוֹצֵר).

וְזֶהוּ "יְנִיפְנוּ הַכֹּהֵן", שֶׁהוּא בְּחִינַת חֶסֶד
הָעֲלִיּוֹן, הָעֶלָּה אֶת בְּחִינַת בְּהִמָּה־רַבָּה
הַנִּלְ"ל³⁰ עַל יְדֵי עוֹמֵר שְׁעוּרָה - שְׁעוּרָה'
הַנִּלְ"ל, "לִפְנֵי הָיוּהָ" - לְמַעַלָּה מִהָיוּהָ
בְּנוֹדָע.

This is the meaning of, "The Kohen shall wave the Omer." This Kohen represents the level of Chesed-Kindness, which elevates Malchus, the "General Source of Animals" described above. This is accomplished through waving the Omer of barley, which is the idea of Malchus that has "Five aspects of Limitation," as described above. This elevation of Malchus, the "General Source of Animals," reaches to a level which is "before Havayah," a level beyond and above the level of revelation of Hashem's Name Havayah, as is known.

Through waving the Omer of barley, which represents Malchus, to the level of Bina, which is higher than Havayah (Ze'eir Anpin here), this empowers Malchus to be able to refine and elevate the created beings afterwards.

וְזֶהוּ "מִמָּחֳרַת הַשַּׁבָּת" וְלֹא "מִמָּחֳרַת
יוֹם־טוֹב" - שֶׁהוּא לְמַעַלָּה מִבְּחִינַת
שַׁבָּת. וְדִי לְמַבִּין.

This elevation of Malchus to Bina, which is higher than Ze'eir Anpin, is represented in the fact that the verse describes the day of waving the Omer as "מִמָּחֳרַת הַשַּׁבָּת" - lit. the day after Shabbos," and not "מִמָּחֳרַת יוֹם טוֹב" - the day after the Yom Tov of the first day of Pesach," since this is a waving process that elevates Malchus up to the level of Binah, which is a level beyond "Shabbos." In this case "Shabbos" refers to Ze'eir Anpin.

There are 10 Sefiros, and from below to above, Binah is the eighth Sefirah. Shabbos is the 7th day, representing Ze'eir Anpin, which completes seven Sefiros, together with Malchus. Thus, Binah, the eighth Sefirah, is represented by "the day after Shabbos," i.e. the eighth day.

³⁰ [עֵינֵי בִזְהֵר פְּרִשְׁת בָּלֶק, דָּף קפ"ח, עמוד ב'].

This answers the famous question: If the day of the barley Omer offering is always the day after the first day of the Yom Tov of Pesach, i.e. the second day of Pesach, then why doesn't the verse simply say that? Why does it call the day of the Omer offering, "מִמּוֹחֶרֶת הַשַּׁבָּת-the day after Shabbos," when it could be any day of the week and not necessarily the day after Shabbos. In fact, our Sages needed to explain that "מִמּוֹחֶרֶת הַשַּׁבָּת" actually refers to the day after Yom Tov, which is also called "Shabbos," since it is also a day of rest, rather than the regular meaning of Shabbos, which is the seventh day of the week.

The answer given here is that the phrase, "מִמּוֹחֶרֶת הַשַּׁבָּת-the 'day' after Shabbos" is a reference to Binah, the eighth Sefirah from below to above. The process of waving the Omer is to elevate Malchus – "the Omer" – to the level of Binah – "the day after Shabbos."

The term 'day' represents kindness, light, and revelation. In this case, day refers to the Sefiros which reveal Hashem's Light.

The Ten Sefiros from below to above:			
	Sefirah:		
	Malchus	1	

The six sefiros of Ze'eir Anpin	Yesod	2	
	Hod	3	
	Netzach	4	
	Tiferes	5	Also connected to the Name of "Havayah"
	Gevurah	6	
	Chesed	7	The seventh 'day'= Shabbos
	Binah	8	The 'day' which is 'after Shabbos' and 'Before/Higher than Havayah'
	Chochmah	9	
	Keser	10	

וְעַל יְדֵי זֶה, אַחֲרֵי כֵן עַל יְדֵי סְפִירַת
הָעוֹמֶר, הָיוּ הַמְשָׁכוֹת מִקִּיפִים
מִלְמַעְלָה-לְמַטָּה: "לְעוֹמֶר כו'".

Through this waving process, it is then possible, by way of the counting of the Omer, to draw down "Makifim-Encompassing Lights" from Above to below, into Malchus, referred to as "the Omer," and from there to our own animal soul.

וְזֶהוּ "הַיּוֹם יוֹם אֶחָד לְעוֹמֶר": "יוֹם" הוּא
בְּחִינַת חֶסֶד,

This is the meaning of "הַיּוֹם יוֹם אֶחָד לְעוֹמֶר"-Today is one day of the Omer:" The word "day-יוֹם" represents Kindness and revelation of Hashem,

כְּמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב (תְּהִלִּים מ"ב, ט): "יוֹמָם יִצְוֶה ה'
חֶסֶדוֹ".

As it is written, "By 'day' Hashem commands to send His Kindness." (Tehillim 42:9)

וְהֵינּוּ בַחֲנִינַת חֶסֶד עָלֵינוּ, לְהַמְשִׁיךְ
מִלְמַעְלָה מַעְלָה לְבַחֲנִינַת עוֹמֵר, כְּדִי
שִׁיְהִיָּה בִיטוּל הָרָצוֹן מִנֶּפֶשׁ-הַבְּהֵמָה
גַּם בֶּן דּוֹקָא.

Thus, the word when we say “Today is one ‘day’ of the Omer,” this ‘day’ refers to Hashem’s **Kindness Above, which we draw down from Above to below** to Malchus, a.k.a. **“the Omer,” in order that this revelation should specifically reach our animal soul as well, and enable it nullify its desires to Hashem.**

וְזֶהוּ "[וְהִנֵּיךְ אֶת הָעוֹמֵר לִפְנֵי ה'] לְרָצוֹנְכֶם",
כְּדִי שִׁיְהִיָּה בִיטוּל הָרָצוֹן שְׁלָכֶם עַל יְדֵי
הַמְשָׁכַת הַמְּקִיפִים הַנִּלְעַל עַל יְדֵי סְפִירַת
הָעוֹמֵר כו'.

This is the meaning of the verse, “And he shall wave the Omer before Hashem ‘לְרָצוֹנְכֶם-for your goodwill,’” meaning that the purpose of waving the Omer was to enable us to nullify the ‘will’ and desires of the animal soul to Hashem, and this is accomplished by drawing down these “Makifim-Encompassing Awareness” mentioned above, through counting the Omer.

The simple meaning of the verse is that offering the Omer brings about a good will from Hashem towards us. The deeper meaning is that ‘לְרָצוֹנְכֶם-for your goodwill,’ is referring to our will and desire. The intention of the Omer offering and subsequent counting is to transform the will and desire of the animal soul to holiness.

What are these “Makifim-Encompassing Awareness?” There are concepts that our animal soul is able to fully grasp. For example, the idea that Hashem gives life to the world like the soul gives life to the body. Then there are loftier concepts that our animal soul is not able to fully grasp, namely, the way in which we are included in our source in Hashem, and there is nothing separate from Hashem at all. This higher level of awareness isn’t fully grasped, but it is understood to a certain extent, and this deep awareness, which is essentially from beyond our realm of direct experience, stays with us and “hovers” over our conscious, logical awareness of reality. This awareness “encompasses” our mind at all times and prevents us from developing an overblown ego, since deep down we know that there is nothing separate from Hashem.

וְזֶהוּ "וּסְפַרְתֶּם לָכֶם", הֵינּוּ לְהַמְשִׁיךְ
הָאֵרֶת הַמְּקִיפִים הַנִּלְעַל, שֶׁהוּא "מִמַּחֲרַת

This is the meaning of “וּסְפַרְתֶּם” lit. ‘And you shall count,’ but here

הַשֶּׁבֶת" דּוֹקָא כִּנְל, "לָכֶם" - לְמִטָּה,
לְהַפּוֹךְ אֶת נַפְשׁ־הַבְּהֵמָיִת גַּם כֵּן, שְׂיִהְיֶה
בִּיטוּל רְצוֹנֵכֶם.

translated as ‘And you shall shine’
לָכֶם-Into yourselves,” meaning to
draw down the revelation of the
“Makifim-Encompassing
Awareness,” which come specifically
from the level of Binah referred to as
“the day after Shabbos,” to come
down “לָכֶם-Into yourselves,” in order
to also transform the animal soul, by
nullifying his selfish desires to
Hashem’s Will.

The level of Binah-Understanding is the source of the “Encompassing Awareness” that help us transform the animal soul’s desires. This means that from a deep understanding of Hashem’s Oneness and True Existence he will be able to change the perspective of the animal soul and his desires. The animal soul thinks that the world, and himself, is separate from Hashem. Therefore, he doesn’t see any problem being passionate about desiring physical things, since he thinks that Hashem is removed from the world. Therefore, physical existence is the most real thing to him. When the animal soul finds out that the world is not separate from Hashem and that Hashem is the True Existence of everything, then he will understand that it doesn’t make sense to get so excited about physicality. The physicality has no substance and value apart from Hashem’s purpose for them. So really Hashem is what he should be excited about.

This is the inner meaning of counting the Omer: To empower us to come to a new understanding of Hashem in such a way that we can change the animal soul’s perspective and feelings.

וְזֶהוּ "מִיּוֹם הֵבִיאֲכֶם אֶת עֹמֶר"
פִּירוּשׁ: מֵאוֹתוֹ יוֹם שֶׁהֵנִיפוּ אֶת הָעֹמֶר,
שֶׁהוּא "לִפְנֵי הָיוּה", אִזִּי "וּסְפַרְתֶּם לָכֶם"
-

This is the meaning of counting the
Omer “from the day when you bring
the Omer offering.” Meaning, from
the ‘day’ (revelation) that you wave
(elevate) the Omer (Malchus) to the
level of “Before Havaya” (Binah),
then “לָכֶם-You can shine
into yourselves,”

תִּמְשִׁיכוּ "לָכֶם" עַל יְדֵי סְפִירַת הָעֹמֶר
שֶׁבַע שָׁבָתוֹת" שֶׁהֵם מ"ט מִדּוֹת.

Meaning that, through counting the
Omer you will draw down “לָכֶם-into
yourselves” a deeper understanding of
Hashem, so that you can refine the

seven emotional attributes of the animal soul, referred to as “seven weeks,” since each emotion includes the other six emotions, and thus, each of the seven emotions has seven aspects, which total in 49 specific emotional attributes.

וְאַזְ הָיָה יָכוֹל לְהִיּוֹת אַחֵר כִּן מִתֵּן-תּוֹרָה
בְּשָׁבוּעוֹת, שֶׁהוּא גִילּוֹי רָצוֹנוֹ מִמֶּשׁ
מִלְמַעְלָה-לְמַטָּה -

Then, afterward, there can be the Giving of the Torah on Shavuot, which is an actual revelation of Hashem's Will, from Above to below.

שֶׁהוּא לְמַעְלָה מִתַּפְלָה, שֶׁהוּא בְּחִינַת
יְצִיאַת מִצְרַיִם, שֶׁהוּא הֶרְצוֹא כִּנָּ"ל,
”וְאַהֲבַת [. . .] בְּכָל לֵבָבְךָ,”

This revelation is higher than that of prayer, which is the idea of “Leaving Mitzrayim-Limitation,” through a running in yearning to connect to Hashem, when we fulfill “and you shall love Hashem with all aspects of your heart, with the emotions of the Divine soul and of the animal soul,” when reciting Shema.

שְׁעָרֵי אֵינוֹ בְּבִחִינַת בִּיטוּל בְּתַכְלִית כִּי
”יֵשׁ מִי שְׂאוּהָב כו'.”

This love of Hashem is not total nullification of ego, since there must be some ego involved in any feeling of love.

מֵה שְׁאִין כֵּן בְּלִימוֹד הַתּוֹרָה - שֶׁהוּא
דְּבַר ה' מִמֶּשׁ בִּפִּי.

This is not the case with the study of Torah, which is Hashem's actual words being said through the person's mouth.

כְּמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב (יִשְׁעִיָּה נ"א, טז): ”וְאֲשִׁים דְּבָרֵי
בְּפִיךָ” - ”דְּבָרֵי” מִמֶּשׁ, ”אֲנִי הַמִּשְׁנָה
הַמְדַּבֶּרֶת בְּפִיךָ.”

As it is written regarding Torah study, (Yeshaya 51:16) “And I [Hashem] have placed My words in your mouth.” Meaning, the actual words that Hashem is saying are coming through the person's mouth, like an angel told Rabbi Yosef Kairo while reciting Mishnayos “I am the Mishna itself speaking through your mouth.”

וּבְמֵאֲמַר רַ"ל³¹: "אֵלּוּ וְאֵלּוּ דְּבָרֵי אֱלֹקִים
חַיִּים כּו', שֶׁהֵם דְּבָרֵי אֱלֹקִים מִמֶּשׁ, גִּילּוֹי
רְצוֹנוֹ מִמֶּשׁ לְמַטָּה.

As our Sages have said (Eiruvim 13b) regarding different opinions of the Sages, "This opinion and the other opposite opinion are 'The words of the Living G-d.'" Meaning that they are actually the words that the Living G-d is saying, which is an actual revelation of His Will, below in this world.

וְזֶהוּ "וּדְבַרְתָּ בָּם" - "בָּם" מִמֶּשׁ. וְהוּא
בְּחִינַת "וּבְכָל נִפְשֶׁךָ" (וְאַתְחַנֵּן ו, ה), הֵינּוּ
לְקִשּׁוֹר מַחְשָׁבָה בְּמַחְשָׁבָה³² כּו'³³.

This is the meaning of the verse, "And you shall speak of them [the words of Torah]." You will be the one to actually say the words of Torah that Hashem says. This is also the level of loving Hashem "with all of your soul," meaning to connect your thought with Hashem by thinking words of Torah.

אֲךָ הִנֵּה אָמְרוּ רַ"ל³⁴: "כָּל הָאוֹמֵר אֵין לִי
אֶלָּא תוֹרָה אֶפִּילוֹ תוֹרָה אֵין לוֹ".

However, our Sages have said, (Yevamos 109b) "Whoever says that he only has Torah study without prayer, then he doesn't even have Torah."

שְׂמֵאֲחֵר שֶׁהוּא יֵשׁ וְדָבָר בְּפָנֵי עַצְמוֹ, אֲזִי
אֶף כְּשֶׁמְדַבֵּר דְּבָרֵי תוֹרָה אֵין זֶה דְּבַר ה'
בָּלָל, וְאֵין זֶה גִּילּוֹי רְצוֹנוֹ בָּלָל.

Since he has an ego and he considers himself as having his own independent existence, separate from Hashem, then even when he speaks words of Torah, it isn't Hashem talking through him at all, and therefore it isn't the direct revelation of Hashem's Will at all.

³¹ (עִירוּבֵין יג, ב).

³² ("וּדְבַר בְּדִבּוֹר וּמַעֲשֵׂה בְּמַעֲשֵׂה" - רֵאָה תִּנְיָא פֶּרֶק מֵה. לְקַמֵּן שִׁיר הַשִּׁירִים מֵד, ב וּבְכֻמָּה מְקוֹמוֹת).

³³ (וְעֵינֵי מֵה שְׁנֵתִבְאָר סוֹף דְּבוּר הַמִּתְחִיל "וְאֶרָא אֶל אֲבֹרָהִם" (תוֹרָה אוֹר נו, א).

³⁴ (וּבְמֹת קט, ב).

רק צריך להיות מקודם בחינת הרצוא,
יציאת מצרים ממטה למעלה כנ"ל.

For that he needs to first have a yearning to connect to Hashem, to “Leave Mitzrayim-Limitations” from below to Above during prayer.

ועל ידי זה "רוח אייתי רוח ואמשיך
רוח"³⁵, כי באתערוותא דלתתא -
אתערוותא דלעילא,³⁶

Through this love for Hashem in prayer, this causes that “A spirit of awakening from below brings a spirit of awakening from Above, to draw down a spirit of revelation,” since “An awakening from man below causes an awakening from Hashem Above,”

ומעורר למעלה המשכת רצונו כביכול
למטה.

and causes an awakening Above to draw down Hashem’s Will down here into this world, as it were, into our words of Torah study.

The maamar established that through an awakening of love for Hashem during prayer, Hashem reveals His Will in our words of Torah and thoughts of Torah. However, in order for this revelation to come down into actual, physical matters, this revelation must come from a very high source. This is why there must first be the Omer offering, where Malchus ascends to receive [from Bina] the power to descend into actual, physical mitzvos and their laws:

אך שיתלבש בדברים גשמיים, כמו
תרומות ומעשרות וקרבנות כו, ו"לאו
אורחא דמלכא לאשתעי במלין
דהדיוטא כו"³⁷ -

However, in order for Hashem’s Will to become invested in physical matters of Torah and mitzvos, like Terumah³⁸ and Maasar and Korbanos, a greater effort is required, since “It isn’t the way of a King to discuss mundane matters,”

³⁵ (ראה זהר חלק ב קסב, ב).

³⁶ (זהר חלק א פח, א. קסד, א. רלה, א. רמד, א).

³⁷ (זהר חלק ג קמט, ב). (ראה לקמן פרשת ראה לב, ב).

³⁸ Terumah=giving a portion of the produce of Eretz Yisrael to the Kohen, Maasar= giving ten percent of the produce of Eretz Yisrael to the Levi, Korbanos=offerings in the Beis Hamikdash.

A king is involved with matters affecting the entire kingdom, and he has no interest in dealing with minor details of the maintenance of his palace, with paying the janitors, etc. There needs to be a special reason for the king to get involved in something that is below his level. Similarly, for Hashem's sublime revelation to be revealed in physical matters of Torah and Mitzvos, there needs to be a special effort from the person in his own personal service of Hashem in transforming his animal soul.³⁹

וְעַל זֶה הָיָה צָרִיךְ מְקוֹדֵם שְׁיִנְיָהּ הַכֹּהֵן
אֶת הָעוֹמֵר, שֶׁהוּא שְׁעוּרָה - שְׁעוּרָה',
מִכֵּלָּא דְּבִהְמָה רַבָּה הֵן"ל, "לִפְנֵי הָיוּה" -
לְמַעַלָּה מִהָיוּה כֵּן"ל.

For this, there first needed to be the process of the Kohen waving the Omer, which is made of “שְׁעוּרָה-barley,” which is the same letters as “שְׁעוּרָה-Limitation consisting of Five aspects,” i.e. Malchus, just like barley is animal food, so too, the beings created by Malchus are called **the “food of [Malchus,] the General Source of all Animals,”** and the Kohen elevates Malchus to the level of Binah called **“Before Havayah,” since this level is higher than the name of Havaya in Ze’ir Anpin.**

The name Havayah, in this context, is referring to Ze’ir Anpin, since in Ze’ir Anpin there is the attribute of Tiferes-Beautiful Blending of opposites, which expresses the name Havayah, which has the power to combine opposite aspects of Kindness and Severity. Since Havayah here refers to Ze’ir Anpin, “Before Havayah” must mean the level higher than Ze’ir Anpin, which is Binah-Understanding.

³⁹ An obvious question on this statement, that “It isn’t the way of the king to discuss mundane matters:” Hashem Himself is everywhere, “There is no place where He is not,” and He is directly involved with every detail of creation. So, what does it mean that it isn’t the way of “the King” to get involved in physical matters?

The answer is that even though Hashem is directly and personally involved in all details of physical existence, this involvement is hidden behind the “veil” of nature. From our perspective, Hashem’s Light is exalted beyond physicality, and we don’t see “the King” revealed in the physical world (for now). In order to overcome that concealment and see “the King” in the physical Mitzvos and in their Torah laws, we need to refine our animal soul and bring about a greater revelation of Hashem to ourselves so that we should see “the King” in the “mundane matters.”

ועל ידי זה אחר כך על ידי ספירת העומר, היה המשכת המקיפים למטה - "לעומר", וספירתם לכם כו' שבע שבתות כו'.

Through this elevation of Malchus to Binah, then afterward, through counting of the Omer, we can bring down the "Makifim-Encompassing Awareness" into Malchus, which is called "the Omer," and from there we draw it down **below into** our animal soul, which is also called "**the Omer,**" fulfilling the Mitzvah of "**וּסְפַרְתֶּם לָכֶם**—**you should shine into yourselves,**" so that we can refine the "**שִׁבְעַת שָׁבוּעוֹת**—**seven 'weeks,'**" i.e., seven emotional attributes, as each emotion has seven aspects.

והיה יכול להיות אחר כך מתן תורה בשבועות, שהוא גילוי רצונו כפי יכולתו במטה באותיות התורה.^{40: 41:}

Through this, we can, afterward, experience the "Giving of the Torah" on Shavuot, which is a revelation of

⁴⁰ [ועיין בזהר פרשת תצוה, דף קפ"ב, סוף עמוד ב'; "וכינן כו'", ודף קפ"ג עמוד א' עד: "אפיק אורייתא כו'".
[ועיין לקמן]

⁴¹ ג) והנה כל הנ"ל שהוא בחי' רצוא יצ"מ אינו אלא לנה"א בלבד, כי יעקב חבל נחלתו, וירא ישראל שהוא הנה"א את ה' הגדולה כי ישראל עלו במחשבה, אבל נה"ב הוא בחי' בהמה, וכדי לקבל את התורה שהוא גילוי רצונו ית' למטה הוצרך להיות מקודם בחי' ביטול נפש הבהמית ג"כ (ע' לקמן ד"ה והניף את העומר רפ"ב, בשטה עליו שזהו ענין עשה רצונו כרצונך כדי שיעשה רצונך כרצונו) כי לא יגורר רע, והיינו ע"י הנפת העומר וספירת העומר כמ"ש והניף את העומר לפני ד' לרצונכם ממחרת השבת יניפנו הכהן כי הנה העומר הוא מן השעורים שהוא מאכל בהמה וכמ"כ למעלה יש ג"כ בחי' בהמה והוא המרכבה העליונה פני ארי' אל הימין ופני שור מהשמאל כי חיה בכלל בהמה וכמ"ש על הים שעשה שלמה עומד על שנים עשר בקר שלשה פונים צפונה כו' שהיא המרכבה העליונה והים עליהם מלמעלה שהוא בחי' ים העליון בחי' בהמה רבה שם ב"ן בגימ' בהמה שהוא שורש המרכבה דפני ארי' [קיצור. יצ"מ רק לנה"א, וכדי לקבל התורה צ"ל תחלה ביטול נה"ב ג"כ וזהו ע"י הנפת העומר שעורים מאכל בהמה, ויש בהמה למעלה שנים עשר בקר, והים עליהם מלמעלה הוא ש' ב"ן בהמה רבה כו'] והמרכבה הנ"ל הוא שורש לכל הבהמות ונה"ב שלמטה שנמשכים ממנה, ושעורה שער ה' והיינו מבידורים שלמטה נבררים ונכללים בבחי' בהמה רבה הנ"ל כמאמר ויצר משרתים שיש מלאכים שהם בטלים בכל יום ונבלעים ונכללים בבחי' בהמה רבה הנ"ל כמו המאכל שעורים שנבלע בבהמה שלמטה וחוזרים ומתחדשים בכל יום.

קיצור. ושעורה שער ה"א, ע"ד ויצר משרתים, כמו שעורה שנכלל בבהמה, יניפנו הכהן, לפני הוי', ממחרת השבת, ועי"ז אח"כ ע"י ספה"ע המשכת המקיפים מלמעלה למטה, היום יום, יומם יצוה ד' חסדו, לרצונכם שיהי' ביטול הרצון (ואולי ענין שיעשה רצונך כרצונו דלקמן בד"ה והניף את העומר פ"ב), ואז ה' יכול להיות אח"כ מ"ת גילוי רצונו, ואשים דברי בפיר, ובכל נפשך לקשר מחשבה במחשבה כו', אך כל האומר אין לי אלא תורה כו' רק צ"ל מקודם יצי"מ רצוא כו' ועי"ז רוח אמשך רוח כו', אך שיתלבש בדברים גשמיים כו' צריך

Hashem's Will here below, as it were, in the letters of the Torah that we physically say.

Summary of Chapter 3:

The experience of “running in yearning” for Hashem on the first day of Pesach is only for the Divine soul. The animal soul is too coarse to be transformed through a revelation from Above. In order to receive the Torah, Hashem's Essential Will, in our physical body and animal soul, we need to transform the animal soul to be receptive to Hashem.

To help us in this, Hashem gave the Mitzvah of waving the Omer in the Beis Hamikdash and counting the days of the Omer. The Omer offering was made of barley, which is animal food. So too Above, there is a level of angels referred to as “animals,” the angels of the “Merkavah-Chariot.” The source of the “animal” angels and of our animal soul is Malchus of Atzilus⁴². The word “שְׁעוּרָה-barley” is the same letters as “שְׁעוּרָה-Limitation consisting of Five aspects.” This is a reference to Malchus, which has five aspects of limitation that it uses to create finite beings. When angels that derive from Tohu are created and reconnected with their source through Malchus, then Malchus itself receives additional Divine revelation. This is similar to the process of eating, in which we receive energy from the spiritual source of the food. This is why Malchus is referred to as “the Omer,” since it is the source of these spiritual “animals” who are like “שְׁעוּרָה-barley,” since they are created using “שְׁעוּרָה- Five aspects of Limitation.” Malchus receives spiritual Light from these “barley angels” which it creates, like an animal that eats barley and new barley grows in its place.⁴³

Thus, the idea of waving the barley Omer offering is to elevate Malchus and ourselves to the level of Binah-Understanding (called “the day after Shabbos,” or “Before Havayah), to be able to receive a new revelation from Hashem. Through the subsequent counting of the Omer, we draw down this new revelation of the

מקורם שיניף הכהן את העומר ועי"ז אח"כ ע"י ספה"ע המשכת המקיפים והי' יכול להיות אח"כ מ"ת.

⁴² In other places it says that Malchus is the source of the Divine soul. Why are we saying here that Malchus is the source of the animal soul? Malchus itself has two aspects: The inner aspect, which receives from the Light of Hashem directly. This is the source of the Divine soul. The outer aspect of Malchus is what descends to create the world. This is the source of the animal soul, and of the “animal” angels of the Merkavah.

⁴³ The idea of “שְׁעוּרָה-barley” having the same letters as “שְׁעוּרָה-Limitation consisting of Five aspects” actually refers to two things: 1- It refers to Malchus, which has “Five Aspects of Limitation” to create finite beings; 2- It refers to the angels and souls that are actually limited and were created using the “Five Aspects of Limitation.”

“Makifim-Encompassing Awareness” of Hashem from the level of Binah-Understanding of Atzilus. This refers to a very deep awareness of Hashem’s Oneness and True Existence - how there is nothing separate from Hashem at all. This awareness is so deep that it “encompasses” the mind to a certain extent, since it cannot be fully grasped and defined in the human mind. It is this deep awareness that comes into Malchus and into us, enabling us to change the perspective and desires of our animal soul.

For two reasons, this transformation of the animal soul is a necessary preparation for Receiving the Torah on Shavuot:

- 1- Only through the “awakening from below” in our efforts of transforming the animal soul is there “an awakening from Above” to bring down His Will to be invested and revealed in our physical words of Torah and actions of Mitzvos.
- 2- Only through nullifying the ego of the animal soul and its materialistic desires, do we become refined and receptive to actually receiving the revelation of Hashem’s Will in ourselves.



Lessons in the Service of Hashem from the Maamar:

- 1- In order to experience “Leaving Mitzrayim-Limitations,” we need to awaken a love for Hashem during prayer, especially when we recite the Shema. As part of this, we describe the service of the angels. They tremble in awe before the infinite greatness of Hashem. Even though the angelic hosts are a great multitude, they are in awe of the tremendous greatness of Hashem’s Malchus-Kingship, which is the actual Elokus-Divinity that is creating all the worlds. This level of Malchus is only Hashem’s “Name,” which He uses to come down to the level of creation. However, Hashem Himself is truly infinite and beyond all possible limitations. One compared to a trillion has a relative value, since a trillion is made of one trillion ones. However, a trillion compared to infinity has no relative value whatsoever. So too, there is a relative value of the smallest creation in this world in comparison to the greatest of the angels in the highest spiritual realms. However, all the angels have no relative value whatsoever in comparison to Hashem’s Infinite Light, since it is an altogether different category of existence. From thinking deeply into these ideas, a person will come to awaken a love for Hashem when they recite Shema.

- 2- Another contemplation that helps awaken love for Hashem: There are verses describing Hashem's Kindness throughout the prayers. When we think about their meaning and Hashem's Kindness to us, it helps us come to feel love for Hashem.
- 3- If someone's heart is hard and insensitive, he should ask Hashem to have mercy on the Divine soul that is trapped in the coarseness of the animal soul. He should realize that there will come a time when he will see that there was never really anything other than Hashem, and this can be very embarrassing to think that we were living a lie our entire life, thinking that the purpose of life is to pursue material gain and pleasure, when it all had no real value for itself, and was only valuable in Hashem's service. We should ask Hashem to have mercy on us and realize the truth that Hashem is everywhere and the True Existence of everything, and the only thing we should want in our lives is to connect to Him through our Torah and Mitzvos. Our material needs should only be whatever is needed to be able to fulfill Torah and Mitzvos in the physical world.
- 4- The inner meaning of "סְפִירַת הָעוֹמֶר-counting the Omer" is to סְפִיר-shine Divine Light into our עוֹמֶר-animal soul. This means to come to a deeper awareness of Hashem's Oneness and True Existence. By developing this deeper awareness of Hashem's Oneness, that there is nothing separate from Him, we can nullify our ego and materialistic desires. This will enable us to truly experience "Receiving the Torah" on Shavuot in a revealed manner, and to feel how Hashem is speaking through our words of Torah, and His Will is truly revealed in our Mitzvos.

Likutay Torah English translation project:

The original text of the maamarim with נקודות and punctuation is presented side by side with a phrase-by-phrase translation and explanation. The translation of the text is in **bold** whereas the commentary is in regular font. The explanations of general concepts that are not directly relevant to understanding the flow of the maamar are in footnotes.

All of the commentary of the Tzemach Tzedek printed with brackets in the original Likutay Torah have been moved to the Hebrew footnotes and left untranslated.

The Goal

The main purpose of this project is to enable the reader to learn the Likutay Torah in the original. By learning the words, structure, and concepts of the maamarim, eventually they should be able to learn it by themselves in the original.

The Ma'amarim of LIKUTEI TORAH and TORAH OR are copyright by the Kehot Publication Society, a division of Merkos L'inyonei Chinuch Inc., and are reprinted here with special permission. To purchase the original visit www.Kehot.com.

I would like to thank: Kehot for permission to use the text of the maamarim, the administrator of the לקוטי תורה מנוקד project for helping with the נקודות and punctuation, to see any Maamar from Torah Or/Likutay Torah with נקודות go to his website www.ChassidutBehirah.com, to R' Baruch Katz for creating and managing the website, and Rabbi Yitzchok Miller for editing.

Sponsored by:

Rabbi Roberto and Margie Szerer,

in loving memory of

Gladys Szerer-Sarah Bat Shalom Z"L

Victor Sasson-Victor Chayim Ben Saul Z"L

Enrique Szerer-Hersh Ben Meyer HaCohen Z"L

Andrea Szerer-Leah Bat Chayim HaCohen Z"L

לעילוי נשמת אבי מורי ר' חיים משה בן ר' אהרן לייב הכהן ע"ה

לזכות כל ילדי החסידים שיתנו חסידישע נחת לכ"ק אדמו"ר ולהוריהם
שיחיוולזכות יוסף יצחק בן ביילא איטא ולאח בת חנה דבורה רייזל וכל יוצאי
חלציהם שיחיו, שיזכו ללמוד חסידות ולילך בדרכי החסידות, ויפוצו
מעיינות אור החסידות

Every maamar from the entire Torah Or/Likutei Torah with nekudos and
punctuation is available on:
www.ChassidutBehirah.comDid you enjoy this maamar? Please consider partnering in this project making
Likutei Torah/Torah Or available to many!To partner by giving monthly (or one time) go to
www.DonorBox.org/LearnChassidusTo view previous maamarim translations, go to www.LearnChassidus.comTo place a hakdasha in an upcoming maamar, contact me
lessonsinlikutaytorah@gmail.com