Miller’s Musings פרשת בְּהַר

Forewarned in this week's Parsha, the punishment of exile is now a reality we as a nation have endured for far too long. Yet no matter how long it goes on, we are obligated to believe that Moshiach will arrive at any moment. The difficulty presented by the Chofetz Chaim is in reconciling this with another axiom of Judaism that every generation further away from Sinai is a generation on a lower spiritual level than that which preceded it. If so then how can we ever imagine that we have the requisite merit to bring Moshiach if those giants before us were unable to?

When the Jewish people were exiled it was due to a tremendous spiritual deficit that had been brought about by our unrepentant sins over many years. To be able to make ourselves once again worthy of being reinstated in our homeland required enough merit garnered by the Jewish people, to return us to our previous status. Although it is certainly true that the deeds of former generations ebbed away some of the debt, it was evidently still not enough, and requires our, admittedly limited input, to tip us over the edge towards our ultimate redemption.

It is a challenge for us all to truly focus on our impending deliverance and make it a significant part of our lives. To sincerely anticipate its arrival requires a determined and definite attempt to make it a part of our consciousness. But it is incumbent upon us to do so at least once a day and we must know that however much we may not value ourselves and the role we can play, it may just be that one small act that we perform that is the one that brings the world into its perfection. By reminding ourselves that Moshiach is just around the corner, we should be simultaneously reminding ourselves of the significance of even the smallest act of virtue. Standing on the shoulder of giants may enable us to accomplish the achievements that even they couldn’t reach.

May this week's Shabbos observance bring us that one step closer to Moshiach.

לעילוי נשמת לאה בת אברהם