**Parshas Pikudei-כאשר צוה ה' את משה**

**Taking the ME Out of the Equation**

The refrain, כאשר צוה ה' את משה, is repeated in these Parshios, over and over again. In this Parsha, Moshe Rabbeinu is giving the final okay on every detail of the vital work of building the Mishkan. This was work that Moshe himself closely supervised, throughout the entire process. R’ Elchonon Wasserman, Hy”d, noted that Moshe took no credit for himself. As Moshe is writing these words, it seems as if he speaking of this fellow Moshe, who was given instructions by Hashem. There is no “like Hashem commanded HIM” and there is no “like Hashem commanded ME”.It wasn’t about Moshe personally. It was the Moshe who gave over the Dvar Hashem, and no more.

R’ Elchonon went to visit the Mashgiach of his Yeshiva, R’ Yisroel Yaakov Lubchanski zt”l, who had taken ill. The Mashgiach, in his typical humility, turned down the offers of the Bachurim who wished to help in his care. R’ Elchonon gently chided him. “If you are thinking about yourself, you can say you don’t want. However, you have to consider, that this is for the Mashgiach of the Yeshiva. It’s only right that Bachurim should tend to the needs of their Mashgiach. Even the Mashgiach has to want the Mashgiach to get better in any way possible, for the good of the Yeshiva.”

Taking the ME out of the equation, is one of Purim’s most important lessons. Haman, Achashveirosh and all their minions, were incapable of doing anything to harm Klall Yisroel, unless it was Ratzon Hashem. They were empowered to put the decree of destruction in motion, only כאשר צוה ה'. Haman thought he had it all figured out. All the loose ends were tied up and he seemed to hold all the cards. All the astrological and mystical signs pointed his way. Like all the Hitlers, Stalins and their ilk, Haman arrogantly danced with destiny and lost. Teshuva, Maasim Tovim and Netzach Yisroel won out. Every step Haman took, ended up putting everything into place to save the Yidden and pave the way for his own downfall, כאשר צוה ה'.

This is one of the ideas of drinking wine by the Purim Seuda, עד דלא ידע. Drinking, even a bit more than your normal capacity, renders you that much less capable of controlling your movements and blunts your ability to make cogent decisions. Rational thought and deliberate action are no longer in control. All this, to demonstrate that, in fact, nobody – not ourselves, nor anyone who helps us or stands against us, is actually capable of being a master of our fate, anytime. The story of Purim is the story of every Yid and all Klall Yisroel, in every generation and in any Matzav. It can only happen, כאשר צוה ה'. How people interact with you, where you go and what you achieve, is all and only, כאשר צוה ה'. This is the secret of Purim’s unbridled joy. If we live, כאשר צוה ה', then the whole world is open before us. We can hope for every ישועה. We need not fear anything or anyone who stands in our way. It can only be כאשר צוה ה'.

Rav Yitzchok Hutner zt”l, explained the ענין of עד דלא ידע, in a memorable מאמר, captured on tape, at the Purim Seuda. Our yearning for closeness with the Eibishter and the all too brief butintense joy of Purim,is like a Yid who was traveling on business, far from home. At a quick stopover in a “Kretchma” - a busy, roadside inn, he spots an old and very close friend who he hadn’t seen in years. They had so much to catch up on. Time passed as they reminisced and dredged up fond memories. The Yid’s wagon driver was impatient and anxious to get on their way. He kept interrupting their reunion. Not wanting to let this special moment pass, the Yid bought his driver a round of drinks, to distract him. For hours on end, he kept plying his nudgy driver with drinks, so the guy would fall asleep and let him enjoy spending time with his old friend. He allowed himself to forget his endlessly pressing affairs and busy schedule, as he gratified himself with happy memories of the good ol’ days.

Get that nudgy driver of the daily grind off your back for a little while. Enjoy reconnecting your Neshama to an old Friend, in high spirits, כאשר צוה ה'.

Have a wonderful Shabbos and a Freilichen, YeshuadikChodesh, לחיים טובים ולשלום.

חזק חזק ונתחזק

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