

→ > Weekly Torah Journal By Yehuda Z. Klitnick € +

Parshas Balak 5779

Year 9, #353

פרשת בלק תשע"ם

The strength of Klal Yisrael is in their Prayer וַיַּרָא בָּלָק בֶּן צִפּוֹר אֵת כָּל אֲשֶׁר עָשָׁה יִשְׂרָאֵל לָאֱמֹרִי. וַיְּנֶר מוֹאָב מִפְנִי הָעָם מְאֹד כִּי רַב הוּא: (כב: ד)

"And Balak the son of Tzipor saw all that Bnei Yisrael had done to the Emorites. And Moav was very afraid of the people, because they were many." (22:4) The Noam Elimelech quotes the following Rashi (22:4): "When Moav saw the Jewish nation winning their wars in a supernatural way, they said, 'Their leader [Moshe] was raised in Midian. Let's ask Midian to describe his specialness.' Midian replied, אין כוחו אלא בפה 'His strength is in his mouth.' Moav said, 'If so, we will come to them with someone whose power is in his mouth'" — Bilaam. The Noam Elimelech quotes this Rashi as another indication that Moav was afraid of the Jewish nation because of their power of tefillah. Klal Yisrael took this tactic, throughout all the generations, to survive and thrive in all circumstances. To elaborate upon this insight: the Posuk says they were afraid of the people בי רב הוא because they were many. The Gemara Berachos 16b brings many of the prayers that the Amoraim said after Shemoneh Esrei. One of the prayers, recited by Rav, is familiar to all of us, as we recite this special prayer when we bless the Chodesh. רב, בתר צלותיה, אמר הבי: After his prayer, Rav said the following: יָהִי רָצוֹן מִלְפָנֵיך, יִי אֱלֹקֵינוּ ואלהי אַבוֹתֵינוּ, שֶׁתְחַדֵּשׁ עָלֵינוּ אַת הַחָדַשׁ הַזָּה לְטוֹבָה וִלְבָרֶכָה, וְתְתֵּן לֵנוּ חַיִּים אַרוּכִים, חַיִּים שֵׁל שָׁלוֹם, חַיִּים שֵׁל מוֹבָה, חַיִּים שֵׁל בְּרַכָּה, חַנִּים שֵׁל פַּרְנָסָה, חַיִּים שֶׁל חִלּוּץ עַצְמוֹת, חַיִּים שֶׁנִשׁ בָּהֶם יִרְאַת שָׁמַיִם וְיָרָאַת חֵטָא, חַיִּים שֵּאֵין בָּהֵם בּוֹשָה וּכְלְמָּה, חַיִּים שֵׁל עְשֵׁר וְכָבוֹר, חַיִּים שֶׁהְחֵא בֶנוּ אַהֲבַת תּוֹרָה וְיִרְאַת שָׁמֵיִם, חַיִּים שֶׁיְמַלֵּא יְיָ מִשְּׁאֲלוֹת בין מַלָּה רָב", אָמֵן מַלָּה: May it be Your will, Lord our God, that You grant us long life, a life of peace, a life of goodness, a life of blessing, a life of sustenance, a life of freedom of movement from place to place (where we are not tied to one place), a life of fear of sin, a life without shame and disgrace, a life of wealth and honor, a life in which we have love of Torah and reverence for Heaven, a life in which You will fulfill all the desires of our hearts for good. We conclude the prayer: "in the merit of Rav". This prayer says it all. This was the prayer , בי רב הוא, because they were many, -the prayer of Ravthat caused Moav to fear Klal Yisrael. (Yehuda Z. Klitnick)

Moshe Rabbeinu's strength was humility

וַיֵּלְכוּ זִקְנֵי מוֹאָב וְזִקְנֵי מִדְיָן וּקְסָמִים בְּיָדָם וַיָּבֹאוּ אֶל־בּּלְעָם וַיְדַבְּרוּ אֵלְיוּ

"The elders of Moav and the elders of Midian went, with magic charms in their hands, and they came to Balaam and conveyed Balak's message to him." (22:7) Rashi explains: What is the meaning of "the magic charm"s of Midian? Rashi answers: They took an omen. We can elaborate upon this as follows: Moshe Rabbeinu was raised in Midian, and everyone in Midian knew of his greatness and humility. Now, when they had to put up a champion to fight the Yidden, they had to find someone who had the same Middoh of humility as Moshe. Their omen was to test Bilaam. If, when they would ask him to come with them, he would agree to come with them even though they were commoners that would be a sign of his humility. However, when they asked Bilaam to come with them, his answer was: "I can't go with such common people." That was a clear indication to Midian that Bilaam would not be able to fight Moshe and the Yidden. Therefore, the elders of Midian left. The people of Moay, however, didn't care what traits Moshe had. They were content to find anyone who could challenge the Yidden, and therefore were happy at having Bilaam to go up against the Yidden. (כרם צבי גולדברג)

STORY OF THE WEEK (By Yehuda Z. Klitnick)

**** The Lemberger Rav, Rav Yosef Shaul Natanson, praises the tzedaka of the Rebbe of Viznitz ****

Rav Baruch Sternschuss was among the prominent Chasidim of Harav Menachem Mendel Hager, known as the Tzemach Tzaddik of Viznitz (1830 - 1884). He related this story that happened to his uncle, Rav Chaim Sternschuss. Rav Chaim was a merchant and had business ties in many countries, and therefore traveled a lot. He was blessed with wealth, and also didn't waste his time. He made sure to toil in learning, and was a Talmid Chacham. This contributed to his success, as he was well

respected by the merchants, and he frequently told over "a nice Dvar Torah." Lemberg, a major city, was always thriving with fairs and markets, and as such, Rav Chaim frequently traveled there. The Rav of Lemberg at the time was the great **Rav Yosef Shaul Natanson**, author of Responsa **Shoel Umeishiv**, as well as of **Divrei Shaul** and other seforim (1800- 1875). Rav Chaim went to the shul where Rav Yosef Shaul davened, and it came about that they immersed themselves in a discussion in learning.

Being Talmidei Chachamim, they spoke for a few hours in heated debate. Rav Yosef Shaul asked a question, Rav Chaim answered, and so forth. After a few hours had gone by, without realizing the time frame, Rav Yosef Shaul the merchant and asked Rav Chaim: who was his Rebbe? He answered that he was a Chosid of the Viznitzer Rebbe. Rav Yosef Shaul smiled and said: "I will tell you a beautiful story showing the greatness of your Rebbe."

Rav Yosef Shaul continued: "In Lemberg there is a resort area where many Rabbonim and Rebbes come to rest and use the warm spas. I have noticed that some Rabbonim don't necessarily go just for pleasure. Many Yidden who come there are relaxed and ready to discuss anything. This is the perfect time for bringing them closer to Hashem with Divrei Chizuk and Mussar, which really works wonders! A wealthy Yid from Russia, a Talmid Chacham, was at the resort at the same time as the Viznitzer Rebbe, and they really connected to each other in learning. The Yid was so excited with the time spent with the Rebbe, that he made sure to come every year to the resort at the same time that the Viznitzer Rebbe came.

One year, someone proposed a shidduch for the daughter of the Russian Yid. Since he was wealthy, a very good boy from Lemberg was offered to his daughter, and a large dowry was set. Being wealthy, he had no problem in promising such a dowry. The Yid met the boy and saw that he was a good learner and the shidduch was made. The contract was written up, and the dowry and presents were to follow in due time.

The Yid came home with the good news that his daughter was engaged to a special boy from Lemberg. He told his wife that the dowry and presents would be forthcoming soon. Hashem had other plans however, and slowly he began to lose money in his dealings, until he lost all his money!

Meanwhile, the boys father began to inquire when the presents and dowry would to be delivered to them in Lemberg. However, the letters were not answered, and therefore a warning letter was sent, stating that they would cancel the shidduch if there was no response! The Yid from Russia had no choice, and answered that he would be'ezer Hashem, bring the dowry and presents to the wedding, and the plans for the wedding should proceed. The boys father was satisfied, as he knew the Yid was a

wealthy and prominent Talmid Chacham, and he answered that he would be setting a day for the wedding. The date of the wedding was appproaching. The Yid felt that since he was very close to the Viznitzer Rebbe, and the Rebbe was known to be a big Baal Tzedaka, he would make a stop in Viznitz on the way to Lemberg, and the Rebbe would help him out with the expenses of the wedding. The family came along, and while in Viznitz they went to a hotel to rest, and the Yid went to visit the Rebbe, who was excited and glad to see him and immediately they began a discussion in learning. After a while, the Yid told the Rebbe that he was on the way to Lemberg for the wedding of his daughter and that he must come up with the dowry and presents; however he is now a poor man and has no money to give for the wedding! The Rebbe asked how much he needed, and he answered. The Rebbe gave him a warm bracha and told him to go

The Rebbe gave him a warm bracha and told him to go "l'chaim ul'eshalom! The Yid was led out of the room, totally in shambles. How could the Rebbe do this to him? But then, something told him that the Rebbe would definitely be of help, and he calmed down. He now decided to make the trip to the wedding, and Hashem would help him. The Yid picked up his family from the hotel and went to get the train to Lemberg. It was a long trip. When the family embarked from the train, the Yid heard that someone was looking for him. He inquired who it was, and he noticed two young Chassidim waiting for him.

He introduced himself to the Chassidim, and they told him to meet them at the Shul in Lemberg. The Yid had no idea what they had in mind; however he went to the Shul. They told him, that they were Viznitzer Chassidim and the Rebbe sent them a message to deliver a package! When he opened it, he noticed that there was a large sum of money inside, and he thanked the Chassidim for the money.

At the hotel in which he stayed, he counted the money, and to his astonishment, the money was enough for the dowry and presents, as well as some extra! The Yid went straight to the Mechuten and paid the dowry and gave other the presents. The wedding was performed with Mazel. On his way back, he went to thank the Rebbe for his kindness.

The Lemberger Rav concluded: To such a Rebbe, who knows how to give Tzedaka in a discret manner, I would travel to him too!

The place to buy that unique gift. A rare sefer, a letter from a Rav or Rebbe.

A publication of Seforim World. 1000's of seforim: new, old and out of print, and Rabbinical Letters for sale. As a new service, we will accept, upon examination, your used seforim and English books. 4403 16th Ave. Brooklyn N.Y. 11204 U.S.A. www.seforimworld.com or pardesyehuda1@gmail.com 718 438 8414 718 633 5500 Hours are Sun. - Thurs. 11:30 - 7:30 pm, Fri till 1:30 pm For sale: Handwritten notes of the Shela Hakadosh. A Gemora signed by the Peleh Yoetz Reb Eliezer Papo, A nice letter from the Kovna Rav, the Dvar Avraham, and another Rav in Kovna, Rav Chazkel Levenshtein A sefer which belonged to the Malbim, a sefer which belonged to Rav Pam. Sefer that belonged to the Tiferes Shlome of Radomsk. A set of seforimthat belonged to Rav Avigdor Miller. There is very limited distribution of the Gilyon in the Summer. It is ready for Pickup on Wednesday. We will accomodate you with copies to be brought up to the mountains We sell Silver coins for Pidyon Haben, as well as all coin holders.

This Gilyon is dedicated to a bachur loved by all, Yochi Ruby ע"ה בן ר' יחזקאל בנימין רובי נ"י נפ' י' סיון תשע"ם. ע"ה