SEEING HASHEM IS BELIEVING

MAKING HASHEM A REALITY IN OUR LIVES

# RENA 05/18/2016 yud-alef iyar 5776

Rena started with asking a question that Rav Shimshon Pinkus zt’l asks: We see today that we do mitzvos on a level that our grandparents could only dream about. In years gone by, a whole shipment of esrogrim would arrive and they would be all banged up, so the town was left with only 1 esrog for all to share; or there were towns where the people did not have the money for esrogrim and they had to share one; the level of kashrus today is unsurpassed; the foods we can get with a hechshar has never before been seen in the Jewish world. The Rav’s question is: if this is all true, one would think that our Yiddishkeit would be on a higher level than our grandparents. Yiddishkeit is so much easier for us to keep, to embellish than it was for them. But he says, we see that it is not the case. Our Yiddishkeit is definitely not on a higher level than theirs. And the question is why not? The answer he says is the following: Because to us Hashem is not as real as he was to our ancestors. We shake the esrog and lulav, but do we really feel that connection to Hashem? Do we really feel, that he controls everything in our lives? That he is ‘tov v’hamtiv? That he truly loves us and pampers us.

So how do we get back that close connection to Hashem? And to answer that question, Rena brought down from Rav Avigdor Miller zt’l-that it is not enough for us to ‘just hear’ about the greatness of Hashem, to hear how much he does for us each and every day, but we need to ‘SEE’ it with our own eyes and internalize the message.

How do we see it? Rena says the world is full of examples-every blade of grass, every flower, every leaf speaks to the wonder of Hashem, one need only look. The fact that we carry our own oxygen tank with us etc.

To show us Hashem’s wonders, she spoke about fruit, the peel, the inside of the fruit, and she spoke about seeds. But these are only small examples. She cajoled us to take a look around our world and to see Hashem’s greatness in everything. The Chovos Halevovos tells us that it is not just that it is important to this but it is a ‘chiyuv’ an obligation of each and every Jew to make Hashem a reality in her life. If we do, then we will love Hashem the way we are supposed to and do mitzvos correctly. Hashem, Rena says, put his trademark stamp on everything in this world-THE WORLD IS HASHEM.

We need to believe 2 things: that Hashem is a mighty G-d, he is ‘kol yochol’ there is nothing he can not do and secondly that Hashem is full of chesed, compassion, caring, kind and understanding. If you know these 2 things intellectually but do not feel these 2 things in your bones, in your heart-then it is not ‘emes l’amito’ it is not truth to you and Hashem is not real to you.

She says, we can look at fruit and see Hashem’s wonders in it. She went into detail, but in short, how each fruit is constructed for what it needs to accomplish. First the fact that fruit is green till it ripens to its beautiful colors. Why? So we should know that it is not ready to be eaten yet. Hashem is protecting us-don’t eat the fruit just yet, have patience, give it more time, to develop its natural sweet flavors, so you can really enjoy it. And so the apples turn a beautiful red, the oranges a beautiful orange and then it is ready to be eaten. And why are the insides of the fruit not colored i.e. an apple, a pear is white inside-becaonce the outside is ready to be eaten, the inside color is not important any more.

The watermelon on the other hand stays green all the time, the watermelon has a thick rind to protect the big fruit that is within it. That is what it needs. And why does it not turn to a beautiful color inside and yet its’ inside is a beautiful bright red. A beautiful thought- the individual fruits, fruits we eat by ourselves-Hashem keeps green till they are ready and once they are ready they turn to beautiful colors because Hashem is telling us, ‘my children, my fruit is ready for you to eat now.’ But the big fruits-the melons, the ones that are not for individual consumption-they are a non-color-the whole melon family-there the message Hashem is telling us-have patience, don’t open yet, wait till you have a group of people together and then open my delicious melons and you will see a potpourri of colors-beautiful red for watermelon, beautiful orange for cantelopue.

Hashem knows that people have a sweet tooth-so he makes his fruits naturally sweet. With seeds grow-some fast, some slow. They fall anywhere, they may sprout. If we open our eyes and looks, everything points to ‘Ma Rabu Maasacha Hashem’.

Bananas-Hashem’s snack food for us. Beautiful strong peel to cushion them if they fall, you can have one now, save some for later, easy to grip and to take along with you.

If we did not have a tongue, we would have to tilt our heads backwards to get the food down our throats. If we did not have saliva in our mouths, it would be hard to chew our food and break it down before it goes down our bodies. Our noses are positioned close to our mouths, so even before we eat, we can smell the yummy smell of all the different foods. And the fact that each fruit, vegetable, cooked dish gives over its own unique inviting smell-is all because of Hashem’s tremendous chesed for us, because Hashem loves us and doesn’t only want us to eat-he also wants us to enjoy his world-all stamped with ‘Love’

This world is Hashem’s classroom. It is so easy to see Hashem in the world-the rain, the wind everything points to Hashem but Rena says, we are not looking. Learn to see Hashem through his creations, so that when Moshiach comes, we will already know the lessons well and we will recognize the teacher when we see him.

The point is, that the more we SEE Hashem, the more we understand that Hashem creates a beautiful world every day, that Hashem controls the world, controls our lives with chesed everyday-the more we will come to totally trust him. The more we trust Hashem and let him lead us, the question of how much ‘hishtadlus’ we need to do jumps out at us. Because the equation is-the more we trust Hashem=the more Hashem does for us. If we do not realize that Hashem makes things happen for us-brings us the shidduch, the job etc and we want to micro-manage our own lives-Hashem says ‘fine, I’ll step back and you do what you want’. But if we willingly give over the reins to Hashem, understanding that he knows what is best for us, then how much ‘hishtadlus’ do we need to do? The more we relegate to Hashem, the less we have to do.

Rena is not saying we don’t have to do ‘histadlus’. We do. But how much, depends on our spiritual level and it is something we should be aware of.

There were 2 ½ million Yidden who stood at Har Sinai and accepted the Torah. This Torah has been with us for all these years. If you go to Yemen, to Africa, To China-it is the exact same Torah. Go to a museaum, look at their siddurim, their haggadas-the exact same one we have today. This is a chesed of Hashem.

If we look around and see Hashem everywhere, then we will attain true simcha. We need not worry, because we will feel that Hashem is right next to us, he is holding our hands all the time.

If we do this, we will be preparing ourselves for the final Geula, and may it come speedily.