



Toras Avigdor Junior

Adapted from the teachings
of Rav Avigdor Miller z"l

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פרשת עקב

Visiting Our Father

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Visiting Our Father

There was once a very wealthy king who had a son that he loved dearly. Because he wanted his son to be happy, he gave him a very big allowance, and the prince was always able to buy whatever he needed.

At the start of each year, the prince would come to visit his father and stay with him for Shabbos. Before the prince would leave to go home, his father would give him a huge sack full of gold coins. “Here’s what you’ll need for the coming year — there’s more than enough! Enjoy it!” And the king was right — there was more than enough. The prince had more than enough money to last him the whole year. He would just reach into the big sack of gold coins his father had given him, and there was always enough money there.

What do you think happened? I’ll tell you. The prince stopped visiting his father during the year. He was always way too busy and had one excuse or another.

But of course, there was one time in the year he would always come to visit. Can you guess when? That’s right—the first Shabbos of the year! When the money ran out and it was time to pick up a new sack of coins, this prince was always there. By hook or by crook, he made sure to be there for that Shabbos. And I’m sure he even called a few extra times that week to see how his father was doing.

But that was only once a year. One time a year he came to get his money. And the king missed his son! His son was his favorite person in the world, and he loved seeing him and talking to him. So what did the king do? He decided to change the way he gave his son money.

He emptied out the big sack and divided the money into a lot of smaller bags. And he told his son that from now on, he would have to come get his allowance every day instead of once a year. He would still get all of his money, but he would have to come back every morning to pick up that day's money. And sure enough, the prince found the time to visit his father every day.

In Parshas Eikev, we read about how Moshe Rabbeinu davened to Hashem. Now, it wasn't a davening like we do. It wasn't even like the way we daven on Yom Kippur. He davened for forty days and forty nights straight! That's some davening!

But there's a big question here: Why did Moshe Rabbeinu daven so much? Maybe an hour, or even a few hours — that we could understand. But forty days and nights?! That's almost a thousand hours! Why so long?



The answer is that Moshe Rabbeinu knew this story, this mashal, of the king and the prince. And not only did he know the mashal, he understood the nimshal, the lesson behind the story.

Hashem would love to give us everything. He would be so happy to give you good health, and all the money you want — everything He would love to give you. And He could! If He wanted to, He could! But Hashem knows that the best thing for you in this world is not money and not good health. Of course, those are both very important to have, but they're not the most important.

The most important thing for you to have in this world is Hashem. The reason why you're in this world is for Hashem — to talk to Him, and to think about Him all the time.

If Hashem would give us everything, then we would be like the prince who began to forget about his father who was giving him the huge sack of gold. When you don't need somebody it becomes easy to forget about him. Hashem made this world in a way that you always need something. Maybe you have a toothache. Or you want a new bike. Whatever it is, we all have things we need from Hashem. And so Hashem makes us come back every day for more. Three times every day, and all the time in between, we need to ask Hashem for the things we need.

“Hashem, please help me do well this year in school.” “Hashem, please help me clean up my room in time for Shabbos.” “Hashem, please heal my sore throat.” And on and on and on. Ask Hashem for everything!

Hashem is our father who is making sure that we always have to come back to him to visit. And by talking to Hashem whenever you can, you're accomplishing something great in this world. You're following in the footsteps of Moshe Rabbeinu, who understood that there's nothing better in this world than making Hashem your best friend.

Have a Wonderful Shabbos!

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