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Parshat Beshalach

FISCHER'S OBSERVER

Rabbi Shimon said, "The shade spread over us by these trees is so pleasant! We must crown this place with words of Torah.

- (Zohar, 2:127a)



THE
TU B'SHVAT
EDITION

A TU BISHVAT MESSAGE FROM THE ROSH HAYESHIVA, IN MEMORY OF HIS FATHER'S YAHRZEIT R' YAKOV MORDECHAI BEN HARAV ZEV YEHUDA V'CHANA

One of a person's biggest frustrations in life comes when he doesn't see success in the places where he's putting forth effort]. Whether it's stopping to do something you know is not good for you, whether it's a relationship with someone who you are trying so hard to repair, whether it's learning more Torah and trying to spend more time in the Beis Medrash, or whether it's just trying to be happy. Whatever it may be - you're trying and trying and it's just not working. You think to yourself, "I put so much time and effort and I don't see any fruits to my labor."

What happens as a result is usually blaming others, or quitting, or plain and simple feeling down about yourself and life. This is normal for everyone at different stages of life - no matter what age. Anyone who is a growing person will face this many times in his life.

The question is, what can one do to change this attitude and to not feel this way? To be able to appreciate the "process" the "journey" - to have a better perspective on oneself during times like this.

There are many different ways to approach this most fundamental and very important problem that we all face. I think one approach is very very important, and could possibly be more significant than one can imagine - and that is PATIENCE. The word for patience in Hebrew is the word סבילות which comes from the word to be סובל - to endure, to carry, to hold a heavy load, to be able to withstand pain.

How long does it take to be happy? How long does it take to repair a relationship? How long does it take to want to learn Torah and daven? How long does it take a person to get rid of anxiety? To have great relationships, to have a better connection with Hashem... Anything worth anything valuable takes much more time than we think. And the more valuable it is - the more time it takes...

So maybe this could be a first step before you "throw in the towel" or get frustrated with ANYTHING or ANYONE. I would ask someone who has already accomplished what you're looking to accomplish this question - "How long is this supposed to take to accomplish?" Something tells me that you will be very surprised with the answer. And that may change your whole perspective and level of frustration of what you're dealing with and how you're dealing with it. Think about it: you're not going to get frustrated if it takes you 45 minutes to get from the Moshav to Yerushalayim - but you will get frustrated if you expect it to take you ten minutes...

I specifically wanted to share this in regards to Tu B'Shvat because it always bothered me as to why we celebrate Tu B'Shvat, the new year for trees - what does a tree have to do with me? And then I saw the following a few years ago:

"The Chinese bamboo tree spends FIVE YEARS underground with no growth whatsoever...but in the fifth year it grows over 80 feet tall!!!"

Now imagine if a person stopped watering his bamboo tree after what HE thought was too long.

If we can try and learn to have more patience in life, it's guaranteed that one day you will see much success from all the hard work that you put in. As the Gemara in Megillah says, **יגעת ומצאת תאמין יגעת, ולא מצאת אל תאמין !**

And also important to remember - try and have patience with yourself learning to have patience with yourself :)

A BRIEF INTERVIEW

WITH SHALOM TANNENBAUM, TOP BOCHUR IN THE ROSH YESHIVA'S SHIUR AND HAS A GREAT LAUGH

The man was halfway down the street before he realized who was watching him intently. Or better yet, what was watching him. "Excusez-moi, si-"

FO: Hey Shalom, thanks so much for joining us! Why did I hear you singing Mazel Tov a minute ago?

ST: Well, myself and my shiur-mates in the Rebbe Reb Berg's shiur just finished the 5th perek in Kesubos.

FO: That's incredible, wow! Sooo...

ST: *blank stare*

FO: Yeah, we totally didn't have time to prepare for this.

ST: Yep.

FO: Have you traveled anywhere cool lately?

ST: Nope.

FO: Yeah, us neither.

THE REAL CELEBRATION

WITH ARI WALKIN

I heard an amazing piece of Torah from Rabbi Kalish.

טו בשבט is coming. It's the time when we celebrate the trees, and of course the fruit they produce for us. But why would we celebrate now? It's an awkward time for trees. The precise time when everyone is noticing them - they're bare, half dead and have no fruit. Shouldn't we celebrate the trees in the summer when they are beautiful, healthy, producing?

The answer is something that we all can take with us. Although you can't see the greatness of the trees now, underneath the surface the roots are starting to stretch, and sap is beginning to flow through. They are coming alive, doing the real work - although no one can see it. This is the work that it takes to sprout their branches, leaves, and fruit. The underground foundation that no one can see.

This is what we are celebrating.



TEFILLAH FOR A GOOD ESROG

A tefilla composed by the B'nei Yissachar, in which we ask for the Esrog trees, and all other fruit trees, to grow well.

תפילה לאתרוג נאה

יהי רצון מלפניך ה' א-להינו וא-להי אבותינו, שתברך כל אילנות האחרוג להוציא פירותיהם בעתם, ויוציאו אחרוגים טובים יפים ומהדרים ונקיים מכל מום, ולא יעלה בהם שום חזזית, ויהיו שלמים ולא יהיה בהם שום חסרון ואפילו עקיצת קוק, ויהיו מצויים לנו ולכל ישראל בכל מקום שהם, לקיים בהם מצות נטילה עם הלולב בחג הסוכות שיבא עלינו לחיים טובים ולשלום, כאשר צויתנו בתורתך על ידי משה עבדך, ולקחתם לכם ביום הראשון פרי עץ הדר כפות תמרים וענף עץ עבות וערבי נחל" – ויקרא: כ"ג, מ

ויהי רצון מלפניך ה' א-להינו וא-להי אבותינו, שתעזרנו ותסיענו לקיים מצוה זו של נטילת לולב הדס ערבה ואתרוג, כתקנה בזמנה בחג הסוכות שיבא עלינו לחיים טובים ולשלום בשמחה ובטוב לבב, ותזמין לנו אתרוג יפה ומהדר ונקי ושלם וכשר כהלכתו



FAITH IN THE PROCESS

WITH MOISHE KAUFMAN

It is now 12:09 a.m. I lean back in my chair, staring at my laptop screen, thinking about the year that has passed. After high school, many teenagers attend college, while others go directly to work. Others may choose to take a gap year, but I want to grow. Another country, halfway around the world, a 12-hour flight, and a different time zone. I found a place in a moshav off the beaten road that I call Yeshiva. I arrived in the year 2020, which is now two years ago. With all of the changes that have occurred, it feels like a decade has passed. See, 2020 wasn't just any year; it was the year of the Covid. When we arrived in the land, we were met with quarantining.

The year passed by quite strangely. At times it seemed to speed up, while at other times it seemed to slow down. Israel, according to the stories I'd heard, began to feel like a myth from the past. The legends of the Shuk, town's infamous hock, even Mike's was barely hopping. Some of us wandered to the beis because we had nothing better to do. Rabbi Fischer showed me the meaning of life, and Rabbi Tawil taught me to be real with myself and execute self discipline. I studied with a large number of chavrusas, gained some torah knowledge, and grew more trust in Hashem. I went on a couple of trips, and Rabbi Varon provided amazing tours. The boys really made the year special. Some old buddies, some new friends and many older role models all contributed to making my first year in Israel so incredible. I made lifelong memories and I discovered new hobbies and passions. I was able to completely transform my life, call it "Fischers' Dreams. Purim was a 5 day party, Pesach seder at the Rav's house was incredible, and then finally suddenly the year was over. Enter self doubt. Have I realized all of my aspirations and dreams? Was it all worthwhile to leave the United States? Life was pleasant back then right? I was simultaneously satisfied with my conveniences and dissatisfied with life itself. Amazon, Uber, and Uber Eats, my own bed, and always-on electricity? Why did I decide to leave? Am I a normal person?

So I sat down and wrote down my thoughts on a pad. I observed my reflection in the mirror. I'm a different person now, and I'm not lying when I say that. I know I work hard and give it my all every day. I'm Tryin'. Life now has meaning for me, and I wouldn't trade anything for it. The old me was curious; the new me is satisfied. Some of the questions remain, but that's fine; we'll deal with them later. I found a family, a sense of belonging, and a sense of purpose at Fischer's. Now that I'm in second year, it's all been well worth it. My life has changed dramatically since then, and I've made numerous positive improvements.

There is still one lesson to take. Have faith in the process. The jigsaw pieces may appear to be all middles of the same hue, with no corners or even ends visible. G-d, on the other hand, owns the box we arrived in and knows exactly where each piece goes and when the best time is to put them together.

Happy Birthday to me, I turn 20 on Shabbos day. Wishing you all an amazing Shabbos!

FISCHER'S 1ST YEAR BIKING TRIP



FISCHER'S

2021 IN REVIEW



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2021 IN REVIEW

