LESSONS IN 120 D2000

DISCOURSE OF THE LUBAVITCHER REBBE

Lag BaOmer

LESSONS IN ספר המאמרים

SELECTED DISCOURSES OF THE LUBAVITCHER REBBE RABBI MENACHEM M. SCHNEERSON זצוקללה"ה נבג"מ זי"ע

גל עיני ואביטה, ה'תשל"ז GAL FINAL V'ABITAH 5737

Translation and Commentary by Rabbi Eliyahu Touger



Kehot Publication Society

770 Eastern Parkway • Brooklyn, New York 11213 5777 • 2017

FOREWORD

On Lag BaOmer, the day of his passing, Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai revealed to his students "holy words" that he had not revealed throughout his life.¹ Every year on that day, the revelation of the teachings of *pnimiyus haTorah* (the lifework and mission of Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai) is renewed and invigorated. Therefore, Lag BaOmer is designated as the Giving of the Torah of *pnimiyus haTorah*.²

In this context, the Rebbe Maharash,³ the fourth Lubavitcher Rebbe, cited the verse,⁴ "Open my eyes and I will gaze at wonders from Your Torah" as an allusion to Lag BaOmer. The verse relates to that day, because the Hebrew word for "open," gal(x), shares the same letters as Lag(x). By teaching pnimiyus haTorah, Rabbi Shimon revealed the wonders of the Torah.

The Rebbe begins the *maamar* that follows by explaining that the Rebbe Maharash derived his insight from a teaching of the Alter Rebbe. The Alter Rebbe taught that the verse, "This mound is witness...," alludes to Lag BaOmer, for the word $gal(\kappa r)$, "mound," transposes the letters Lag(κr).

The Rebbe continues the *maamar* with a question: The connection between the verse, "Open my eyes and I will gaze at wonders from Your Torah" and Lag BaOmer is straightforward: Rabbi Shimon's lifework and mission was to reveal the wonders of the Torah. By contrast, the verse, "This mound is witness...," does not have an obvious connection to Lag BaOmer or Rabbi Shimon. If anything, the opposite is true. The Biblical context of the verse "This mound is witness..." speaks of erecting a divider. However Rabbi Shimon tore down many of the dividers between mankind and mystic truth. How then does the Alter Rebbe's teaching relate to the Rebbe Maharash's insight?

^{1.} Idra Zuta, Zohar, Vol. III, p. 284b.

^{2.} The series of maamarim entitled Yom Tov shel Rosh HaShanah, 5666, p. 219; Sefer HaMaamarim 5704, p. 211.

^{3.} The series of maamarim entitled Chayav Adam Livareich, 5638, sec. 23 (p. 39ff).

^{4.} Tehillim 119:18. The translation is based on Metzudos David.

^{5.} The maamar entitled Eid Hagal Hazeh (Siddur im Dach, p. 304c ff.).

^{6.} Bereishis 31:52.

To answer this question, the Rebbe builds a conceptual foundation to explain how the two verses relate to each other. Firstly, he explains that the verse, "Open my eyes" is a prayer to expand man's capacity to appreciate G-d's wonders. The intent is not that the wonders will be revealed from Above, but that man will be refined until he can perceive the wonders of the Torah within the context of his own makeup.

This emphasis on the refinement of man reflects the motif highlighted by the Giving of the Torah. As the *Midrash* states,⁷

When the Holy One, blessed be He, created the world, He decreed, saying: "The heaven is the heaven of G-d, but the earth He gave to the sons of man." When He sought to give the Torah, He nullified the original decree, saying: "Those who are below shall ascend on high and those on high will descend below. And I will begin," as it is written, "And G-d descended on Mount Sinai."

There is a slight difficulty with the wording of the *Midrash*: Since it was G-d Who took the initiative in nullifying the decree by first descending on Mount Sinai, why does the *Midrash* state "He nullified the original decree, saying: 'Those who are below shall ascend on high and those on high will descend below," when it was "Those on high" who descended first?

In resolution, the Rebbe explains that the ultimate intent of the Giving of the Torah is that "Those who are below shall ascend on high": The goal is that man make himself and this entire material plane, mediums for the revelation of G-dliness. Therefore, when describing the change that the Giving of the Torah brought about, the ascent of "those who are below," the result of man's efforts, receives the primary focus.

Developing this point, the Rebbe explains the difference between the study of the Torah and the observance of the *mitzvos*. The study of the Torah reflects how "those Above" descend below, for the Torah is fundamentally G-dly truth. The *mitzvos*, by contrast, are commandments to man, that give him the opportunity "to refine the created beings." Together, the Torah and its *mitzvos* enable man to integrate spiritual truth into the fabric of his everyday experience, enabling "Those who are below [to] ascend on high."

^{7.} Midrash Tanchuma, Parshas Va'eira, sec. 15; Shmos Rabbah 12:3, et al.

^{8.} Bereishis Rabbah 44:1.

On this basis, the Rebbe explains how the prayer "Open my eyes and I will gaze at wonders from Your Torah" is a request that man perceive the Torah's wonders, its mystic secrets, secrets in a manner that relates to his own makeup, Hence, the wish is these mystic truths be comprehended from "Your Torah," the laws and even the stories of the revealed Torah, for these are the components of the Torah that relate to man's natural makeup.

Having established this conceptual backdrop, the Rebbe explains the connection between Lag BaOmer and the verse, "This mound is witness," which describes how Lavan and Yaakov set up a mound as a divider between them.

There were two dimensions to the mound that separated Lavan and Yaakov. Lavan's spiritual source is a sublime level of G-dliness that is utterly undefined and unlimited. Yaakov, by contrast, represents a lower level of G-dly light, one that it enclothes itself within the definitions and structures of the world of *Atzilus*. On the other hand, in this world, Lavan was lower than Yaakov. The mound thus represents both the separation between the higher dimension of Lavan and Yaakov as well as the separation between Yaakov and the lower dimension of Lavan.

The Rebbe proceeds to correlate the divisions between Lavan and Yaakov with the verse, "Open my eyes...." Through Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai's teachings, these divisions in the spiritual realms were bridged, enabling the sublime lights that transcend *Atzilus* to shine within *Atzilus* and indeed, to descend even to the lower realms and ultimately to our world. This parallels the insight taught by "Open my eyes and I will gaze at wonders from Your Torah," that man, as he exists in this world, be able to perceive the Torah's mystic truths.

There, nevertheless, remains a difficulty with the correlation between "Open my eyes and I will gaze at wonders from Your Torah" and "This mound is witness..." "Open my eyes..." reflects how the divider between the mystic secrets of the Torah and the Torah's revealed dimensions will be bridged, while "This mound is witness..." speaks of the erection of a divider.

This difficulty is resolved by the fact that the fact that the divider referred to by the verse, "This mound is witness" was a mound and not a wall. Initially it was made in a manner that allowed for the possibility that "I will cross to you..." and "you will cross to me."

The theme that the barriers were made to be crossed over is relevant regarding the divisions that exist in the spiritual realms. The intent in establishing a

divider between the higher realms and the lower realms is that ultimately, the Jewish people establish a connection between these realms through their Divine service. The *tzimtzum* which established the division between these realms was intended for the sake of revelation – that the barrier be crossed and the created beings experience a revelation of G-dliness.

Therefore, the fundamental new development highlighted by the verse, "Open my eyes and I will gaze at wonders from Your Torah," is that mankind recognize the wonders of the Torah in a manner consistent with their own makeup. The possibility for human beings on this material plane to to reach such spiritual awareness is dependent on the concept associated with Lag BaOmer alluded to by the verse, "This mound is witness," i.e., man's potential for such an achievement is possible because the *tzimtzum* was intended for the sake of revelation.

The explanation of *pnimiyus haTorah*, the teachings of Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai, in particular, as they have been revealed through the teachings of *Chassidus*, enables them to be understood by a person in a manner consistent with his own makeup. Spreading this spiritual understanding lays the groundwork for the ultimate fusion of G-dliness and material reality that will take place with the coming of *Mashiach*. Then, "The occupation of the entire world will be solely to know G-d..., as it is written,9 'For the world will be filled with the knowledge of G-d as the waters cover the ocean bed." 10

^{9.} Yeshayahu 11:9.

^{10.} Rambam, Hilchos Melachim 12:5.

א) גל עיני ואביטה נפלאות מתורתך^א, וכתב אדמו״ר מהר״ש במאמרו על פסוק זהב, דעל-פי מה שכתוב ב׳סידור׳ שער הל״ג בעומרג שהרמז בתורה על ל״ג בעומר הוא בפסוקד עד הגל הזה, גם הפסוק גל עיני יתבאר על ל״ג בעומר. ועל-פי הידוע שכל הענינים שבתורה הם בתכלית הדיוק, יש לומר, דזה שהענין דל״ג

-1-

בּל צֵינֵי וְאַבִּיטָה "Open my eyes and I will gaze at wonders from נְפַלְאוֹת מְתּוֹרָתֶךְ,
Your Torah."¹

וֹכְתַּב אַדְמוּ״ר מַהְרָ״שׁ The Rebbe Maharash writes in his $maamar^2$ that focuses on this verse

דְעַל-פִּי מַה שֶּׁבֶּתוּב that based on what is stated in the Alter Rebbe's בֹּיִסִידוּר׳ שַׁעַר הַלַ״ג בָּעוֹמֶר Siddur im Dach, Shaar Lag BaOmer³

that the allusion to Lag BaOmer in the Torah is in שֶּהֶרֶמֶז בַּתּוֹרָה עַל לַ״ג the verse⁴ "This mound is witness...," for the word ל"ג, "mound," transposes the letters ל"ג, Lag,

נֵם הַפְּסוּק גַּל צִינֵי the verse "Open my eyes" can also be explained as referring to Lag BaOmer, for it also uses the word ג.

אַכְּל־פִּי הַיָּדוּעַ שֶּׁכְּל Based on the well-known concept that all the הָם הַעְּנְיָנִים שֶׁבַּתּוֹרָה הֵם הַעּבְיָנִים שֶׁבַּתּוֹרָה הֵם בְּעַרְיָת הַדְּיּוּק,

יַשׁ לוֹמַר, דְּזֶה שֶׁהָעִנְיָן דְּלַ״ג it is possible to say that the fact that the allusion to בעוֹמֶר שֶׁבַּפְּסוּק גַּל עֵינֵי גוֹי Lag BaOmer in the verse "Open my eyes"

^{1.} Tehillim 119:18. The translation is based on Metzudos David.

^{2.} The maamar is found in the series of maamarim entitled Chayav Adam Livareich, 5638, sec. 23 (p. 39ff); see also sec. 25 (p. 41).

See the index to that series of *maamarim* which states that sections 23-25 are an independent *maamar*. Note that the *maamar* begins "Open my eyes"; the introductory words "The statement of King David..." were added to connect it to the *maamarim* that preceded it.

^{3.} The maamar entitled Eid Hagal Hazeh (Siddur im Dach, p. 304c ff.).

It could be said that the Rebbe Maharash bases his statement that Lag BaOmer is alluded to by the above verse on the Alter Rebbe's teaching, because, by and large, the Rebbeim would not make allusions of this nature.

^{4.} Bereishis 31:52.

, בעומר שבפסוק גל עיני גו׳ למדין מהענין דל״ג בעומר שבפסוק ׳עד הגל .'מד הגל הזה על-ידי עד הגל עיני גל עיני גר׳ הוא על-ידי

is derived from the allusion to Lag BaOmer in ישבפסוק יעד הגל הזהי the verse "This mound is witness..."

teaches that to reach the revelation of G-dliness לענין גל עיני גו' alluded to by the verse "Open my eyes..."

יער הַגַּל הַזָּה׳. it is necessary that, as a preface, there take place the process of separation, alluded to by "This mound is witness...."

As will be explained in sec. 9, the correlation of the two verses is not merely a coincidence of them both containing the word גל. Instead, the concept derived from the verse "Open my eyes" has its source and depends on the concept derived from the verse "This mound is witness."

SUMMARY

Based on the Alter Rebbe's statement that the verse "This mound is witness..." is an allusion to Lag BaOmer, the Rebbe Maharash states that the verse, "Open my eyes and I will gaze at wonders from Your Torah," alludes to Lag BaOmer. To reach the revelation of G-dliness alluded to by "Open my eyes" it is necessary that, as a preface, there take place the process of separation, alluded to by "This mound is witness..."

ב) רהנה השייכות דפסוק זה לל"ג בעומר יום ההסתלקות דרבי שמעון בן יוחאי (בפשטות) הוא, כי ענינו של רבי שמעון בן יוחאי הוא – שעל-ידו היה הגילוי דפנימיות התורה [וכמבואר בכמה מקומותה, שהגילוי דתורה הנגלית היה על-ידי משה רבינו, והגילוי דפנימיות התורה היה על-ידי רבי שמעון בן יוחאית, ועיקר הגילוי היה ביום הסתלקותו, כדאיתא בזהרו שביום הסתלקותו

-2 -

בֶּן יוֹחָאִי (בְּפַשְׁטוּת) הוּא,

וְהְנֵה הְשַׁיַכוּת דְּפַסוּק (On an obvious level), the connection of the verse, יום ללֵ״ג בַּעוֹמֵר יוֹם "Open my eyes" to Lag BaOmer, the day of Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai's passing, is

– בן יוֹחַאִי הוּא pose was

ל רַבִּי שָׁמְעוֹן that Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai's mission and pur-

דְּפָנִימִיוּת הַתּוֹרֵה

ישֶׁעַל-יַדוֹ הַיָה הַגִּילוּי that he would reveal pnimiyus haTorah.

(וַכַמְּבוֹאָר בְּכַמָּה מְקוֹמוֹת, [As explained in several sources, the revelation of the revealed Torah – the dimension of the Torah that focuses on Jewish Law and practice – was brought about by our teacher Moshe,

and the revelation of pnimiyus haTorah, - the inner, mystic dimension of the Torah – was brought קמעוֹן בֵּן יוֹחַאִי]. about by Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai.]²

Rabbi Shimon's primary revelations were delivered on the day of his passing (Lag BaOmer), ביוֹם הַּסְתַּלְקוּתוֹ,

^{1.} Siddur im Dach, loc. cit. (p. 304b); the maamar entitled Lehavin Inyan Hilulah deRashbi, 5679 (Sefer HaMaamarim 5679, p. 419ff.), et al.

^{2.} It is clearly understood that the Giving of the Torah [which was brought about by our teacher Moshe] also included the giving of pnimiyus haTorah. Nevertheless, until Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai's time, pnimiyus haTorah was concealed and it was Rabbi Shimon who brought about its revelation.

The Giving of the Torah at Sinai also included the inner dimensions of the Torah that will be revealed in the Ultimate Future by Mashiach. Even though Mashiach will reveal entirely new dimensions of the Torah, this will be merely a revelation of what was hidden, for the entire Torah was given at Sinai, "The Giving of the Torah will not be repeated" (Sefer HaMaamarim 5656, p. 356; the series of maamarim entitled Yom Tov shel Rosh HaShanah, 5666, pp. 23, 546; the series of maamarim entitled BeShaah Shehikdimu, 5672, Vol. 1, sec. 366; Sefer HaMaamarim 5679, p. 291; Sefer HaMaamarim 5686, p. 199; Sefer HaMaamarim 5709, p. 57, et al.). See Rambam, Hilchos Melachim 12:2.

גילה לתלמידיו "מלין קדישין" שלא גילה במשך כל ימי חייו (כי הענינים שגילה אז, היו ענינים נעלים ביותר שאפילו רבי שמעון בן יוחאי היה מקודם ירא לגלותם"). ועל-ידי כתיבת ה'מלין קדישין' (על-פי הציווי שלו"), נתגלו אחר-כך לכל ישראל, ועד שנתגלו באופן דיתפרנסון׳, בהבנה והשגה. שגם המשכת

גּּלָה בִּמִשֵׁךְ כַּל יִמֵי חַיַּיו

as the Zohar states,3 on the day of his passing, he revealed to his students "holy words" that he had ימְלִּין קַדִּישִׁין" שֵׁלֹא not revealed throughout his life

פי הענינים שַּבְּלַה (for the matters that Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai אָז, הֵיוּ עְנֵינִים נַעַלִּים revealed then were of such a sublime nature that even he was afraid4 to reveal them previously). דיָה הָיָה הָיָה For the revelation of spiritual truths before the world is prepared to accept them can lead to undesirable מְקּוֹדֶם יֵרֵא לְגַלּוֹתָם). consequences.

וְעַל-יָדֵי כָּתִיבַת Moreover, this revelation was not merely an isolated - בַּימִלִּין קַדְּישִׁין׳ (עֵל event without a lasting effect. Rather, through the tran-פי הַצְּוּוּי שֵׁלּוֹ), scription of these "holy words" (which came about as a result of Rabbi Shimon's explicit instructions),5

they were revealed to the entire Jewish people נְתַגַּלוּ אֲחַר-כַּךְ לְכַל יִשְׂרָאֵל, for posterity.

וַעַר שֵׁנְתְגַּלוּ בְּאוֹפֵן Moreover, they were revealed in a manner that פּרִנְסוּן, enabled the Jewish people to "nurture themselves" from them, i.e., to bring them to a level of

understanding and comprehension so that these teachings would enrich their everyday experience.

^{3.} Idra Zuta, Zohar, Vol. III, p. 284b.

^{4.} See the Idra Zuta (p. 291a) which speaks of "words that I was afraid to reveal."

^{5.} As the Idra Zuta (p. 284b) states, "Rabbi Abba will transcribe." It is possible to explain that among the reasons that Rabbi Shimon instructed that the words he would speak should be transcribed was because sublime concepts of this nature require that they be associated with a specific activity so that they would be connected to this world. To cite a parallel concept: At times, G-d commanded a prophet to perform a particular physical act when delivering a prophecy as a catalyst for the prophecy to become manifest.

^{6.} See Tikkunei Zohar, the end of Tikkun 6, which states "Many men on this earthly plane will derive nurture from your composition (i.e., the Zohar)." Kisei Melech, loc. cit., interprets "derive nurture" as "explain its profound statements... so that they will be understood." See Likkutei Sichos, Vol. 3, p. 873.

גילוי זה (הגילוי לכל ישראל ובאופן דיתפרנסון) היתה ביום הסתלקות רבי שמעון בן יוחאי (על-ידי כתיבתן של ה'מלין קדישין' אז, על-פי הציווי שלו). ולהוסיף, דעל-פי הידועי שביום הסתלקותו של אדם מתגלה הפנימיות של כל עבודתו שעבד במשך כל ימי חייו, מובן דביום הסתלקות רבי שמעון בן יוחאי, נתגלה גם הפנימיות של הסודות שגילה במשך כל ימי חייו. ובכל שנה ושנה, ביום ל"ג

The transmission of this revelation (i.e., the communication of the revelation to the entire Jewish people in a manner enabling them to nurture themselves from it), also

יוֹחָאִי Yochai's passing

took place on the day of Rabbi Shimon bar הַיְתַה בְּיוֹם הַסְתַּלְקוֹת

על-פִּי הַצִּוּוּי שֵׁלוֹ). instruction).

(עַל-יִדֵי כָּתִיבַתַן שֵׁל (through the transcription of these holy words at הַישִין׳ אַד, that time which came about as a result of his explicit

בְּמִשֵׁךְ כַּל יִמֵי חַיֵּיוּ,

דּלְהוֹסִיף, דְּעֵל-פִּי הַיַדוּעַ To add a further point: Based on the well-known שֶׁבְּיוֹם הַסְתַּלְקוּתוֹ שֵׁל concept $^ au$ that the inner dimension of all the Divine service carried out by a person through-ישֵׁל כֵּל עֲבוֹרָתוֹ שֵׁעַבֵּד out his life is revealed on the day of his passing,

it is understood that the inner dimension of the יּשְׁמְעוֹן בֵּן יוֹחָאִי, נְתְגַּלַה mystic secrets that Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai בם הַפּנִימִיוּת שֵׁל הַסּוֹדוֹת communicated previously over the course of his ווֹנינ. שְּגְּלָה בְּמֵשֶׁךְ כַּל יְמֵי חַיֵּיוֹ. life were also revealed on the day of his passing.

בִּיוֹם לַ״ג בַּעוֹמֵר,

. וּבְכַל שַׁנַה וְשֵׁנה Every year, on the day of Lag BaOmer

– הַרָאשׁוֹנָהבַּפַּעַם הָרָאשׁוֹנָה

the revelation that transpired on Lag BaOmer ישֵׁהָיָה בְּלַ״ג בַּעוֹמֵר originally is renewed and aroused again^s –

^{7.} See Siddur im Dach, loc. cit. (p. 304a ff.), Tanya, Iggeres HaKodesh, the explanation of Epistle 27 and Epistle

^{8.} The Hebrew term the maamar uses, chozair venaor, is borrowed from the laws of kashrus. See the Shulchan Aruch of Rav Yosef Caro (Yoreh Deah 99:6).

בעומר. חוזר וניעור הגילוי שהיה בל"ג בעומר בפעם הראשונה"ב - גילוי פנימיות התורה (תורתו של רבי שמעון בן יוחאי). וכמובן גם מהמבואר בכמה מקומות"ג דבל"ג בעומר הוא מתן-תורה" דפנימיות התורה, בדוגמת חג השבועות שהוא זמן מתן-תורה בכלל. דמזה מובן, דכמו שמתן-תורה בחג השבועות הוא בכל שנה ושנה, כמו-כן מתן-תורה דפנימיות התורה בל"ג בעומר הוא בכל שנה ושנה.

i.e., on that day the revelation of pnimiyus haTorah (תוֹרָתוֹ שֵׁל רַבִּי (the teachings of Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai) is ישָׁמְעוֹן בֵּן יוֹחָאִי). renewed and invigorated.

As explained in *Chassidus*, time is cyclical. Every Pesach, in a spiritual sense, the Divine influence that brought about the Exodus is renewed and revealed again. The same holds true for all the other festivals; each year is a renewal, not merely a commemoration of the original spiritual revelation that took place in the distant past.

דְפָנִימִיוּת הַתּוֹרֵה,

דַכְּמוּבֶן גַּם מֶהַמְבוֹאָר This can also be understood from the explanation offered in several sources¹¹ that Lag BaOmer בְּכַמָּה מִקוֹמוֹת דְּבַלַ״ג יב מַתַּן-תּוֹרָה is the Giving of the Torah of pnimiyus ha Torah,"ו בּעוֹמֶר הוּא מַתַּן-תּוֹרָה

like Shavuos which is "the season of the Giving ישהוא ומן מַתּוֹן of the Torah" as a whole. The description of Lag הוֹרָה בְּכְלֵל. BaOmer as "the Giving of the Torah" of pnimiyus haTorah does not apply only to the day of Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai's passing. Instead,

it is understood from this designation that just as "the Giving of the Torah" on the festival of הוא בְּכֵל שַנָה וְשַׁנָה, Shavuos recurs every year,

בָּעוֹמֶר הוּא בִּכָל שַׁנָה וִשַׁנַה.

so too, the Giving of the Torah of pnimiyus ha Torah on Lag BaOmer recurs every year.

^{9.} See Sefer HaMaamarim 5704, p. 13, et al.

^{10.} The series of maamarim entitled Yom Tov shel Rosh HaShanah, 5666, p. 219; Sefer HaMaamarim 5704, p.

^{11.} This wording "the Giving of the Torah" is found in the series of maamarim entitled Yom Tov shel Rosh HaShanah, 5666, loc. cit. Sefer HaMaamarim 5704, loc. cit., speaks of "the Giving of Pnimiyus HaTorah." Seemingly, the intent is the revelation of *pnimiyus haTorah*. See footnote 2 above.

וזהו שענין ל"ג בעומר מרומז בפסוק גל עיני ואביטה נפלאות מתורתך, כי נפלאות שבתורה הוא פנימיות התורה^{טי}, וענין גל גו' נפלאות, הוא גילוי (גל מלשון גילוי^{טי}) הנפלאות דתורה (פנימיות התורה) שנמשך בג"ל (בל"ג בעומר).

ווהר שָׁעִנְיֵן לַ״ג בְּעוֹמֶר On this basis, the allusion to Lag BaOmer in the יאָבִי לַ״ג בְּעוֹמֶר מְּלִּמְוֹ מִיּמְיֹם מְּלָּמִים מִּלְּמִים מִּלְּמִים מִּלְּמִים מִּלְּמִים מִּלְּמִים מִּלְּמִים מִּלְּמִים מִּלְּמִים מִּלְּמִים מִּתּוֹרָה, from Your Torah" can be understood:

"The wonders of the Torah" refer to pnimiyus haTorah"

and "open[ing] my eyes to the wonders" refers to revelation

(בְּלִימְיִנְיוֹ בַּלְ גוֹי נִפְּלָאוֹת, יבּפְלָאוֹת מִּמְּלְמִיוֹ בְּלִּמִייִּת (indeed, the word גילוי, meaning "revelation").

The wonders of the Torah (pnimiyus haTorah), are elicited on the day numerically equivalent to גּל (i.e., Lag BaOmer).

SUMMARY

The verse "Open my eyes..." is connected to Lag BaOmer, the day of Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai's passing, because Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai's mission and purpose was to reveal *pnimiyus haTorah*. Rabbi Shimon's primary revelations were delivered on Lag BaOmer, the day of his passing. Moreover, this revelation was not merely an isolated event without a lasting effect. Rabbi Shimon instructed that his words be recorded for posterity so that the Jewish people would derive inspiration from them for all time.

^{12.} See *Rambam's* Introduction to his Commentary to the *Mishnah* which associates gazing at the wonders of the Torah with the verse (*Shir HaShirim* 4:11): "Honey and milk will be under your tongue,"* which, as explained in Tractate *Chagigah* 13a,** refers to *Maaseh Merkavah*, the Talmudic term for the Torah's lofty mystic secrets [*Or HaTorah* (*Yahel Or*) to *Tehillim* on this verse, (p. 461)].

^{*}In his Introduction to his Commentary to the *Mishnah*, *Rambam* interprets the verse "Open my eyes and I will gaze at the wonders of Your Torah" as a prayer to G-d that He reveal to the person the Torah's "hidden secrets." The "hidden secrets" of the Torah can also refer to *Maaseh Bereishis*, a lower level of mystic knowledge, [since even it may not be expounded upon in public (*Rambam*, *Hilchos Yesodei HaTorah* 4:10)]. Therefore, the *Tzemach Tzedek* specifically quotes *Rambam*'s of the "wonders" as "honey and milk," as referring to *Maaseh Merkavah*, the highest level of the Torah's mystic secrets.

^{**}See Rambam, Hilchos Yesodei HaTorah, the end of ch. 2, which interprets this verse in a similar manner.

^{13.} See Metzudos Tziyon to the verse.

Lag BaOmer is described as "the Giving of the Torah" of *pnimiyus haTorah*. Just as "the Giving of the Torah" on the festival of Shavuos recurs every year, so too, every year, the revelation that originally transpired on Lag BaOmer is renewed.

On this basis, the allusion to Lag BaOmer in the verse "Open my eyes and I will gaze at wonders from Your Torah" can be understood, for "the wonders of the Torah" refer to *pnimiyus haTorah*.

ג) ומבארה (פנימיות התורה) שתי דרגות. והענין הוא, דאיתא בזהריה שבתורה יש לבוש, גוף, נשמה ונשמה -לנשמה. גליא דתורה הוא הלבוש והגוף דתורה -הסיפורים דתורה לבוש,

— 3 **—**

שָׁתֵּי דַרְגוֹת.

וּמְבַאֵּר בְּהַמַאָמַר, In the maamar cited previously,1 the Rebbe Maharash explains that there are two levels of "the (פַנִימִיוּת הַתּוֹרָה) wonders of Torah"2 (i.e., pnimiyus haTorah).

נְשַׁמָה לִנְשַׁמָה לַנְשַׁמָה the soul."

יהָענִין הוא, דְאִיתָא בַּוֹהַר To explain: The Zohar³ states that the Torah pos-, גוף, גוף, שַבַּתוֹרָה יֵשׁ לְבוּשׁ, גוּף, sesses a garment, a body, a soul, and a "soul of

A garment is a foreign entity, not the person himself. A body is part of the person's own being, but it is merely his external dimension. It is, by way of analogy, a "garment" for the soul, for in and of itself, the body does not reflect the person's identity, who he truly is.

The soul is a person's "I," the source of his energy, feelings, and thoughts. However, within the soul itself, there are two general levels: the soul, which controls the person's conscious functioning, and the "soul of the soul," which is his inner G-dly core, the ultimate source of every dimension of his being.

The revealed dimension of the Torah is the דַּלְבוּשׁ וְהַגּוּף דְּתוֹרָה Torah's garment and body.

[The stories of the Torah are its garment, while , והַהַלְכוֹת דְתוֹרָה – הַגוּף], the Torah's laws are its body.]

The stories of the Torah relate G-dly truth as reflected in the events that transpired in the world. Thus, they involve external entities. Hence, they are described as garments. The Torah's laws express G-d's will and wisdom. 4 However, they express His will and wisdom in physical terms, as they relate to our physical reality, not as they exist in their source. Accordingly, they are described as the Torah's body.

^{1.} The series of maamarim entitled Chayav Adam Livareich, 5638, sec. 23 (p. 39).

^{2.} Thus, the plural form of "wonders," niflaos, is used.

^{3.} Zohar, Vol. III, p. 152a.

^{4.} Tanya, chs. 4-5.

וההלכות דתורה – הגוף], והנשמה דתורה היא פנימיות התורה, שנחלקת בכללות לשתי דרגות. רזין דאוריתא (סתים) – נשמתא, ורזין דרזין (סתימא דכל סתימין) - נשמתא לנשמתא. והבקשה גל עיני ואביטה נפלאות מתורתך (נפלאות לשון רבים) היא, שיראה את שתי הדרגות דנפלאות שבתורה, רזין ורזין דרזין. ומבאר, ש'נשמתא' היא בחינת נפש-רוח-נשמה. ו'נשמתא לנשמתא' היא בחינת חיה-יחידה.

The soul of the Torah is pnimiyus haTorah, the ,פְּנִימִיוּת הַתּוֹרָה Torah's inner mystic dimensions.

לשתי דרגות.

It too subdivides into two levels:

(סַתִּים) – נְשָׁמַתָא, soul,

דָיִין דְאוֹרֵיְתָא The Torah's secrets (its hidden dimension) – its

נשמתא לנשמתא.

מְתִימָא and its secrets of secrets (what is hidden beyond - (דְבֵל סְתִימִין all hiddenness) – "the soul of the soul."

וָהַבַּקשָה גַּל צִינֵי וְאַבִּיטָה The request, "Open my eyes and I will gaze at ענפְלָאוֹת מְתּוֹרָתֵךְ (נִפְּלָאוֹת מְתּוֹרָתֵךְ (נִפְּלָאוֹת מְתּוֹרָתֵךְ (נִפְלָאוֹת wonders from Your Torah" (using the plural, לשון רבים) היא, "wonders") reflects the wish

רַזִין וְרַזִין דְּרָזִין.

to see the two levels of wonders in the Torah, both ,דְנַפַלְאוֹת שֶׁבַּתוֹרָה, the secrets and the secrets of secrets.

ומבאר, ש'נשמתא' היא In the maamar, the Rebbe Maharash proceeds to בְּחִינֵת נֵפְשׁ-רוּחַ-וְשְׁמֵה, explain, that "the soul" is identified with the dimensions of the soul referred to as nefesh, ruach, and neshamah, the soul's conscious dimensions.

Nefesh refers to the dimension of the soul that governs a person's actions. Ruach reflects the source of his emotions, and neshmah, that of his intellect. These dimensions of the soul are enclothed in the body and affected by it.

דִינִשְׁמַתָא׳ לְנִשְׁמַתָא׳ הִיא The "soul of the soul" is identified with the dimensions of the soul referred to as chayah and yechidah,

i.e., the inner dimensions of the soul that transcend its conscious functioning. They are above being enclothed in the body and are not affected by whatever changes the body undergoes.

ואולי יש לומר, שהענינים דפנימיות התורה שגילה רבי שמעון בן יוחאי במשך כל ימי חייוי הם בחינת נשמתא דאוריתא, והענינים שגילה ביום הסתלקותוי הם בחינת נשמתא לנשמתא.

והנה ברשימות ה׳צמח צדק׳ לתהלים, על הפסוק גל עיני ואביטה נפלאות מתורתך°, מביא מאמר הזהר הנ"ל שבתורה יש לבושא וגופא ונשמתא ונשמתא לנשמתא. ומבאר, שהבקשה 'גל עיני ואביטה נפלאות' היא שיראה לא רק הלבוש לבד אלא גם

soul of the Torah⁵ במשך כל ימי חייו הם בָּחִינַת נִשְׁמֵתָא דְּאוֹרֵיִתָא,

Perhaps it is possible to say that the aspects of דְּפָנִימִינת הַתּוֹרָה שֵׁנְּלֵה pnimiyus haTorah that Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai revealed over the course of his life reflected the

נִשְׁמֶתָא לְנִשְׁמֶתָא.

and those aspects that he revealed on the day of his passing reflect "the soul of the soul."5

הַפַּסוּק גַּל עֵינֵי וְאַבִּיטַה from Your Torah," נָפַלַאוֹת מְתּוֹרַתֶּדְּ,

והְנֵה בְּרְשִׁימוֹת הַ׳צֵּמֲח In the Tzemach Tzedek's gloss to Tehillim,6 on the verse "Open my eyes and I will gaze at wonders

ונשמתא לנשמתא.

he quotes the teaching of the Zohar quoted previously that the Torah possesses a garment, a body, מ "soul," and a "soul of the soul," and a "soul of the soul,"

יּמְבָאֵר, שֶׁהַבַּקְשָׁה יַּגַל and explains that the request, "Open my eyes and עינֵי וְאַבִּיטָה נִפְּלָאוֹת׳ I will gaze at wonders"

^{5.} One of the differences between the dimensions of the soul referred to as *nefesh*, *ruach*, and *neshamah* (the soul) and those referred to as chayah and yechidah (the soul of the soul) is that the nefesh, ruach, and neshamah are enclothed in the body, while the *chayah* and *yechidah* transcend being enclothed in the body. It is possible to relate this concept to the uniqueness of the teachings revealed by Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai on the day of his passing. When a soul passes away, it rises above the limitations of the vessels of the body. In a general sense, that means that it functions on the level of chayah and yechidah that transcend being enclothed in the body. When Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai "desired to pass from this world" (Zohar, Vol. III, p. 284b), this dimension of the soul shined forth for him (even though then, his soul was still enclothed in his body). Therefore, he revealed the soul of the soul (of the Torah) at that time.

^{6.} Or HaTorah (Yahel Or) to Tehillim, p. 459ff.

נשמתא. ובהמשך הענין מביא פירוש השל״הכיא ד׳אביטה נפלאות׳ הוא כוונת המצוות. ולאחרי שמביא פירוש השל"ה, ממשיך לבאר ש'נפלאות' הוא פנימיות התורה, נשמתא דאוריתא. וצריך להבין, דלכאורה היה צריך תחלה לסיים ביאור הפירוש ש'נפלאות' הוא נשמתא דאוריתא, ולאחרי-זה להביא עוד פירוש ש'נפלאות' הוא כוונת המצוות, ומזה שמביא פירוש זה באמצע הביאור ש'נפלאות' הוא נשמתא דאוריתא.

reflects the desire that one should see not only the .לְבַר אֵלַא גַּם נְשִׁמֵתא garment – this includes also the body, for the body is a garment for the soul – **but also the soul** of the Torah.

פֵּירוּשׁ הַשָּׁלַ״ה דִּ׳אַבִּיטַה

וּבְהֵמְשֵׁךְ הַעְנִין מֵבִיא In the course of his explanation, he quotes the interpretation of Shalah,7 that "gazing at the . נְפַלֵאוֹת׳ הוּא כַּוְנַת הַמְצוֹת. wonders" involves comprehending the intentions that motivate the mitzvos.

הַתּוֹרַה, נִשָּׁמַתָא דְּאוֹרַיִּתָא.

אַחַרִי שַׁמֵּבִיא פֵּירוּשׁ After quoting the interpretation of Shalah, the דבאַר לבאַר השׁלַ״ה, מַמְשִׁיךּ לְבַאֵּר Tzemach Tzedek proceeds to explain that the "won-ש'נפלאות' הוא פנימיות ders" of the Torah refer to pnimiyus haTorah, the "soul" of the Torah.

באור הפירוש ש׳נפלאות׳ הוא נִשְׁמַתַא דְּאוֹרֵיָתַא,

בּיִן, דְּלְכְאוֹרָה Explanation is necessary. Seemingly, after stating that the Torah possesses a garment, a body, a soul, and a "soul of the soul" in his explanation of the verse, "Open my eyes," the Tzemach Tzedek should have concluded the explanation by first stating the interpretation that the "wonders" of the Torah refer to the soul of the Torah

הוא כַּוַנַת הַמִּצְוֹת,

and then quote a different explanation of the term עוֹד פֵּירוּשׁ שֵׁ׳נְפָלַאוֹת׳ "wonders" – that the "wonders" refer to the intentions that motivate the *mitzvos*.

וּמָזָה שַׁמַּבִיא פֵּירוּשׁ זָה בָּאָמָצַע הַבָּאוּר שֵׁ׳נִפָּלַאוֹת׳

The fact that the Tzemach Tzedek cites this interpretation in the midst of his explanation that the הוא נְשְׁמַתָּא דָאוֹרֵיְתָא, "wonders" refer to the soul of the Torah

^{7.} In the beginning of that text, p. 2a.

משמע. שהפירוש ש'נפלאות' הוא כוונת המצוות. נוגע לביאור והבנת הפירוש ב'אביטה נפלאות' הוא שיראה נשמתא דאוריתא.

נְשְׁמָתָא דְאוֹרֵיִתָא. soul of the Torah.

indicates that the interpretation that the wonders ישֵׁינִפְלַאוֹת׳ הוא כַּוַנַת of the Torah refer to the intention that motivate the mitzvos relates to the explanation – and the comprehension – of the interpretation that יִפְלָאוֹת׳ הוא שֵירְאָה "gaz[ing] at wonders" refers to appreciating the

SUMMARY

The Zohar states that the Torah possesses a garment, a body, a soul, and a "soul of the soul." The stories of the Torah are its garment, while the Torah's laws are its body. The "wonders of the Torah" (pnimiyus haTorah) comprise two levels, the Torah's soul and its "soul of the soul." The request, "Open my eyes and I will gaze at wonders from Your Torah," (using the plural, "wonders") reflects the wish to see the two levels of wonders in the Torah, its soul and its "soul of the soul."

Over the course of his life, Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai revealed the aspects of pnimiyus haTorah that reflected the soul of the Torah. Those aspects that reflect its "soul of the soul," he revealed on the day of his passing.

The Tzemach Tzedek explains that the request, "Open my eyes and I will gaze at wonders" implies a desire to see not only the garment, but also the soul of the Torah. In the course of his explanation, he quotes the interpretation of Shalah, that gazing at the wonders means comprehending the intentions that motivate the *mitzvos*. Explanation is necessary to clarify why he interweaves the interpretation of the Shalah in midst of his interpretation that the "wonders" of the Torah refer to the soul of the Torah.

ד) **ויובן** זה בהקדים מה שכתוב גל עיני גו' שמבקש מהקב"ה שיפקח את עיניו, דלכאורה, כיון שהסיבה לזה שעל דרך הרגיל אין רואים את הנפלאות דתורה הוא (לא מצד החסרון דהכלים, אלא) לפי שהנפלאות הם מכוסים ונעלמים ןויש לומר, שההעלם דבחינת נשמתא דאוריתא הוא מפני שהיא מלובשת בגוף דתורה (גליא דתורה) שמעלים על הנשמה. וההעלם דבחינת נשמתא לנשמתא דאוריתא הוא

— 4 **—**

The above concepts can be understood by pref-מְּבֶּתוּב גַּל עֵינֵי גוֹי acing an explanation of the request "Open my eyes...."

The wish is that the Holy One, blessed be He, ישֵיפָקַח אָת עֵינַיו, enable his eyes to see.

The implication is that David is saying that his eyes are flawed and he is asking G-d to correct their flaw.

הרגיל אין רואים את הנפלאות דתורה הוא

On the surface, the reason why ordinarily one does not see the "wonders of the Torah" is

(ולא מְצֵּד הַחְפַרוֹן דְּהַכֵּלִים, (not because of the inadequacy of the vessels, i.e., it is not that man's "eyes," his capacity to understand, is flawed.

הם מכסים וגעלמים

שׁהַנְפִּלָאוֹת but) because the "wonders" are concealed and hidden in and of themselves as a result of their transcendent nature.

ניש לומַר, שַהַהִעְלֵם [It is possible to say that, the hiddenness that characterizes the soul of the Torah is because its concepts are enclothed in the body of the Torah (the revealed dimensions of the Torah), בגוף הְתוֹרָה

שמעלים על הַנְשֵׁמַה, which hides its soul.

דה היעלם דבחינת נשמתא The hiddenness that characterizes the "soul of the אורית הוא לְנְשׁמַתַא דָּאוֹרֵיָתֵא הוא soul" of the Torah comes

(לא שהיא מלובשת באיזה דבר שמעלים עליה, אלא) שמצד-עצמה היא בהעלם, העלם שלמעלה מגילוי], הוה-ליה לבקש שהקב״ה יגלה את הנפלאות דתורה בי, ומהי הבקשה 'גל עיני' שהקב״ה יפקח את עיניו. ונקודת הבאור בזה, על-פי מה דאיתא במדרש גל

לא שָהִיא מְלַבֶּשֶׁת בְּאֵיזֶה (not because it is enclothed in another entity that ,דְּבָר שָׁמַּץלִים עָלֶיהָ conceals it

אָלָא) שֶׁמִצֵּד-עַצְמְה but) because it is inherently hidden, הָיא בְּהַעְלֵם,

i.e., it is characterized by **hiddenness** that inherently transcends revelation.]

It reflects a darkness that is above light, a level so utterly sublime that it cannot be revealed.

הַנְה-לֵיהּ לְבַקּשׁ שֶּהַקְּבְּ״ה Accordingly, David should have requested that the יְּגַלֶּה אֶת הַנִּפְּלָאוֹת דְּתוֹרָה, Holy One, blessed be He, reveal the wonders of the Torah.

To cite a parallel, we find the promise, "I will show [the people] wonders" which implies that the Holy One, blessed be He, will reveal the wonders, i.e., the revelation will come from Above, not as a result of repairing any of man's deficiencies.

ימַהִי הַבַּקְשָׁה ׳צֵּל עֵינַי׳ Why then does David request "open my eyes," i.e., אָת עֵינָיו. that the Holy One, blessed be He, enable his eyes to see, implying that the flaw lies in his eyes?

דּנְקַבַּת הַבֵּאוּר בְּזֶה, עֵל-פִּי The core of resolution of this issue can be מַה דְּאִיתָא בַּמְּדְרֵשׁ, explained based on the statement of the *Midrash*:²

In the preceding section, the Rebbe explained that Lag BaOmer marks "the Giving of the Torah" of *pnimiyus haTorah*. Accordingly, the spiritual character of this day can be understood through an explanation of how the Giving of the Torah marked a turning point in the world's spiritual history. To refer to our Sages' words:

^{1.} *Michah* 7:15. Significantly, in their explanations in *Or HaTorah* to *Tehillim*, *loc. cit.*, and in the series of *maamarim* cited above, sec. 25, the *Tzemach Tzedek* and the Rebbe Maharash explain that "I will gaze at wonders" resembles "I will show [the people] wonders."

^{2.} Midrash Tanchuma, Parshas Va'eira, sec. 15; Shmos Rabbah 12:3, et al.

משל למלך שגזר ואמר בני רומי לא ירדו לסוריא, ובני סוריא לא יעלו לרומי. כך כשברא הקב״ה את העולם, גזר ואמר השמים שמים לה׳ והארץ נתן לבני אדם כד, כשביקש ליתן התורה, ביטל הגזירה ואמר, התחתונים יעלו לעליונים והעליונים ירדו לתחתונים, ואני המתחיל. שנאמרכה וירד הוי' על הר סיני. וכתיבכי ואל משה אמר עלה אל הוי'.

קשָל לְמֵלְךְּ שֵׁגָּוַר וְאָמֵר בְּנֵי To cite an analogy, it is like a king who issued a decree, saying "The inhabitants of Rome shall not descend to Syria, nor shall the inhabitants of Syria ascend to Rome."

נְהַן לְבְנֵי אַרַם, sons of man."3

So too, when the Holy One, blessed be He, creat-אָת הַעוֹלְם, גַּזֵר וְאַמֵּר ed the world, He decreed, saying: "The heaven is the heaven of G-d, but the earth He gave to the

, בְּשֵׁבְּקֵשׁ לְחֵן הַתּוֹרָה, When He sought to give the Torah, He nullified the original decree, saying: בְּטֵל הַגְּוֵרָה וְאַמֵּר,

ואַנִי הַמַּתְחִיל, begin,"

"Those who are below shall ascend on high and , וְהַעֵּלְיוֹנִים יֵרְדוּ לַתְּחָתּוֹנִים, those on high will descend below. And I will

as it is first written, "And G-d descended on על הַר סִינֵי, Mount Sinai," i.e., "those on high descended below,"

and only later it is written:5 "To Moshe, He said עלה אל הוני. 'Ascend to G-d,'" i.e., "those who are below ascended on high."

There is a slight difficulty with the wording of the *Midrash*: Since it was G-d Who took the initiative in nullifying the decree by first descending on Mount Sinai, why does the Midrash state "He nullified the original decree, saying: Those who are below shall ascend on high and those on high will descend below," when it was "Those on high" who descended first?

^{3.} Tehillim 115:16.

^{4.} Shmos 19:20.

^{5.} Ibid., 24:1.

ומבואר במקום אחרי, דהטעם שאומר ׳התחתונים יעלו לעליונים׳ לפני ׳והעליונים ירדו לתחתונים', אף שירידת העליונים למטה היתה קודם, 'אני המתחיל', הוא, כי תכלית הכוונה דמתן-תורה הוא ׳התחתונים יעלו לעליונים׳ [שיהיו כלי לגילוי אלקות, ויתירה מזה שגם המשכת הגילוי בהם תהיה מצד ענינם ועל-ידי עבודתם]. אלא

לעליונים׳ לפני ׳וָהַעליונים descend below" יֵרָדוּ לַתַּחָתּוֹנִים׳,

וּמְבוֹאָר בְּמֵקוֹם אַחֵר, In another source,6 it is explained that the reason the Midrash states "Those who are below יהַתַּחְתוֹנִים יַעֵּלוּ shall ascend on high" before "those on high will

אַף שֶּיְרִידַת הָעֶלְיוֹנִים even though, chronologically, the descent of "those יתה קוֹבֶם, on high" came first,

as G-d said, "I will begin," אַנִי הַּמַּתְחִילי.

is because the ultimate intent of the Giving of the Torah is that "Those who are below shall ascend יהַתַּחְתּוֹנִים יַצֵּלוּ לָעֶלְיוֹנִים' on high," [that mankind – and through man, this entire material plane,

שְּיָהִיוּ כְּלִי לְגְּלֹוּי אֱלֹקוּת, become mediums for the revelation of G-dliness,

and, moreover, that this revelation of G-dliness be drawn down to them based on their own makeup ,[עבוֹדָתָם] and as a result of their own Divine service].

Our Sages relate⁷ that G-d created this world because He "desired a dwelling in the lower realms." That expression implies that G-d not only desired that there be a revelation of G-dly light so powerful that it encompass this material world, but that the created beings themselves become refined and identify with their inner G-dly core.

The difference between these two motifs – revelation from Above and man's own refinement and identification with G-dliness – can be explained on several levels. To illustrate by analogy: Take, for example, sunlight shining into a room. Although the light illuminates the room, its effect is limited to the time that it actually shines within the room. If the sunlight is prevented from entering the room, the room will revert to its previous state without having undergone any change whatsoever.

^{6.} Likkutei Sichos, Vol. 8, p. 23.

^{7.} See Midrash Tanchuma, Parshas Naso, sec. 16; Tanya, ch. 36.

שבכדי שיוכל להיות עליית התחתונים למעלה הוא על-ידי ירידת העליונים למטה.

Obviously, in such a motif, the second purpose, the elevation of the material plane, has not been achieved.

To use another analogy: A student goes to a lecture and is fascinated by his teacher's exposition. He commits it to memory and relates it to others with joy and excitement. However, he uses his teacher's words and not his own. Although he identifies with the idea that he has been taught, he cannot take it beyond the form in which it was communicated to him. Ultimately, then, it is not his own.

There are many levels and degrees regarding the extent to which man identifies with and internalizes his appreciation of G-dliness. The Rebbe encapsulates the emphasis on this motif with two phrases: "that those below" a) "become mediums for the revelation of G-dliness," i.e., not only do they perceive the revelation of G-dliness, it becomes their own truth, to the extent that they communicate it to others, and b) that "the revelation of G-dliness be drawn down to them based on their own makeup and as a result of their own Divine service," i.e., G-d, as it were, sees them worthy of receiving revelation.

Why is it important that the revelations to man be drawn down "as a result of their own Divine service"? To return to the analogy of a teacher-student relationship. Often, the process through which a teacher communicates knowledge is self-expression; he is sharing the way he thinks. When, however, a student is fully immersed in the subject matter and presses the teacher for further explanation and a deeper understanding of the matter at hand, the teacher feels the need to probe beneath the surface, to reach the very core of the concept, in order to answer his student's questions. The knowledge he then shares stems from a deeper level in his own understanding and is internalized more thoroughly by the student. So too, in the analogue, when the Divine service of the created beings is such that G-d relates to them "measure for measure,"8 the intent of the world becoming a dwelling for G-d is fulfilled to a greater degree.

To emphasize that the ultimate purpose is the elevation and refinement of our material plane, the Midrash states, that "Those who are below shall ascend on high" first.

יָרִידַת הָעֵלִיוֹנִים לְמַטַּה.

אַלָּא שֵׁבְּכְדֵי שֵׁיוּכַל Nevertheless, in order that it be possible for "Those who are below shall ascend on high," it is first necessary that "Those on high descend below" שהיא ההתחלה וה׳נתינת-כח׳ על עליית התחתונים למעלה. ועל-דרך-זה הוא במתן-תורה דפנימיות התורה שבל"ג בעומר, שהכוונה בביטול הגזירה והמחיצה בין עליונים ותחתונים בנוגע לפנימיות התורה היא, שהגילוי דפנימיות התורה שנמשך להאדם יהיה (גם) מצד האדם. וזהו גל עיני ואביטה נפלאות מתורתך, שהקב״ה יפקח את עיני האדם, ויראה את הנפלאות שבתורה (לא רק על-ידי שהנפלאות יהיו בגילוי,

for the revelation of G-dliness serves both as the של עֵליַת beginning and grants potential for "Those who מַשְעַלַה. מַפּ below" to "ascend on high,"

Without a revelation of G-dliness from Above, man would neither be inspired nor have a starting point from which to begin his own efforts of refinement.

שַׁבַּלַ״ג בַּעוֹמֶר,

-וְעַל-הֵרֶך-וָה הוּא בְּמַתַּן Similar concepts apply regarding the Giving of the Torah of pnimiyus haTorah on Lag BaOmer:

לפנימיות התורה היא,

The Divine intent in nullifying the decree and the בין עליונים barrier between those below and those on high יַתְחְתּוֹנִים בְּנוֹגֵעֵ with regard to pnimiyus haTorah is that

the revelation of *pnimiyus haTorah* that is drawn להאַדִם יָהְיָה down to man will (also) be dependent on man, .נַבּם) i.e., not only that it be able to be internalized within man's understanding, but that it will result from his own efforts.

יוֵהוּ גֵּל עֵינֵי וְאַבִּיטָה On this basis, we can understand the verse, "Open ,נְפְלָאוֹת מְתּוֹרַתֵּךּ, my eyes and I will gaze at wonders from Your Torah,"

the request being that the Holy One, blessed be He, שֵׁהַקְבַּ״ה יִפְּקַח אֵת enable man's eyes to see, so that he will perceive the wonders in the Torah. The intent is

(not only that the wonders of the Torah, the Torah's mystic secrets be revealed, שֵׁהַנְפַלֵאוֹת יָהִיוּ בְּגְלוּיִי,

אלא גם) מצד ענינו של האדם.

ועל-פי-זה יש לבאר מה שכתוב בהמאמרכה דפירוש 'גל עיני ואביטה נפלאות מתורתר׳ הוא שראיית הנפלאות דתורה (נשמתא דאוריתא ונשמתא לנשמתא) תהיה מתורתך, מתורה הנגלית. דלכאורה, הרי העיקר הוא שיראה הנפלאות דתורה, ומהו היתרון בזה שיראה אותם על-ידי הענינים שבגליא דתורה. ויש לומר הביאור בזה, דכל הענינים שבעולם ושבאדם, התחלתם הוא בתורה כיי.

אָלָא גַּם) מְצֵּד עְנְיֵנוֹ but also, that) the revelations come about based on של הַאַרַם. man's **own makeup** and service, thus, reflecting how he has internalized them.

דַעל-פִּי-זָה יֵשׁ לְבַאֵּר Based on the above explanations, it is possible to explain the statement in the Rebbe Maharash's דְּפֵירוּשׁ יְגַּל עֵינֵי וְאָבִּיטָה maamar that the interpretation of the verse, ינְפַלֵאוֹת מְתּוֹרְתֵּךְ׳ הוּא "Open my eyes and I will gaze at wonders from Your Torah," is

that the perception of the "wonders of the Torah"

וְנִשְׁמַתָא לְנִשְׁמַתָא)

(the "soul" of the Torah and its "soul of the soul")

come from "Your Torah," i.e., from nigleh, the revealed dimension of the Torah.

On the surface, what is fundamentally important is that one see the wonders of the Torah.

וּמָהוּ הַיִּתְרוֹן בֵּזָה שֵׁיִרְאָה What is the advantage that "the wonders" be per-אוֹתֶם עַל-יְדֵי הַעְנַיַנִים ceived through their being enclothed in the stories and laws that are in the revealed Torah?

ונש לומר הבאור בזה, It is possible to resolve this question as follows:

דבל הַעניַנִים שֶׁבַּעוֹלְם The starting point for everything that occurs in the world at large and in the individual world of every הוא בַּתּוֹרָה. person is found in the Torah.10

^{9.} Sec. 23 (p. 40).

^{10.} This concept is reflected in the teaching (Zohar, Vol. II, p. 161a) that G-d "looked into the Torah and created the world."

ולכן, על-ידי שראיית הנפלאות דתורה (דהאדם) היא על-ידי ענינים אלה שבגליא דתורה, היינו שהגוף והלבוש דתורה עצמו מגלה את הנשמה וה׳נשמה לנשמה׳ דתורה, על-ידי-זה נעשה על-דרך-זה גם בהאדם העוסק בתורה, דזה שרואה את הנפלאות דתורה הוא (גם) מצד ענינו דהאדם.

היא על-ידי ענינים אלה revealed Torah – שַׁבַּגַלִיַא דְתוֹרַה,

דּלָכֵן, עַל-יִדִי שֵׁרְאַיַּת Therefore, when (a person) sees the wonders of the Torah through the stories and laws in the

אָת הַנְשַׁמַה וָהַ׳נִשַּׁמַה לנשמה׳ דתורה,

i.e., the body and the garment of the Torah reveal the soul and "the soul of the soul" of the Torah – דתוֹרָה עַצְמוֹ מְגֵּלֶה

הַעוֹסֵק בַּתּוֹרָה,

-על-יְדִי-טָה נַעֲשֶׂה עַל-יְבי- this serves as a catalyst for a similar process to סכנד ווה גם בָּהָאָרָם occur within the person who studies the Torah.

He is thereby able to perceive the wonders of the Torah (even) within the context of his own ענינוֹ דְהַאַרַם. human circumstances.

The revealed dimension of the Torah relates to man's life within his everyday realities. Seeing how the Torah's mystic dimensions are enclothed in those teachings enables a person to perceive such profound spiritual truth within the context of his ongoing, everyday life experience.

SUMMARY

The request "Open my eyes..." is a wish is that G-d enable the person's eyes to see. On the surface, the reason a person cannot appreciate the wonders of the Torah is not because of his eyes' inadequacy, but because these wonders are sublime in nature, above the level of man's perception. Seemingly, the request should be that G-d reveal the wonders, i.e., draw them down to a level on which they can be understood.

This issue can be resolved through an explanation of the concept mentioned in the preceding section, that Lag BaOmer is "the Giving of the Torah" of pnimiyus haTorah.

The Giving of the Torah brought about a change in the spiritual dynamics that char-

acterize the world. Before the Torah was given, there was an unbridgeable gap separating the spiritual and the physical, as intimated by the verse, "The heaven is the heaven of G-d, but the earth He gave to the sons of man." When G-d gave the Torah, He made possible an interaction between the two; in the *Midrash's* words: "Those who are below shall ascend on high and those on high will descend below. And I will begin," i.e., G-d took the initial step and entered this lowly realm by descending on Mt. Sinai.

The *Midrash* states "Those who are below shall ascend on high" before "those on high will descend below" even though, chronologically, the descent of "those on high" came first, because the ultimate intent of the Giving of the Torah is that "Those who are below shall ascend on high," that mankind – and through man, this entire material plane – become mediums for the revelation of G-dliness. Nevertheless, for that goal to be accomplished, it is necessary that there first be a revelation of G-dliness within the world. Hence, the nullification of the decree began with G-d's descent.

Similar concepts apply regarding the Giving of the Torah of *pnimiyus haTorah* on Lag BaOmer. The Divine intent in bringing about the revelation of *pnimiyus haTorah* is that it be internalized within man's understanding and come about as a result of his efforts.

For this reason, the request "Open my eyes" places the emphasis on man's eyes. For the ultimate intent is that the Torah's mystic secrets be internalized within man.

The above explanations enable us to understand the Rebbe Maharash's statement that the request "Open my eyes and I will gaze at wonders from Your Torah," is that the perception of the "wonders of the Torah" come from "Your Torah," i.e., from nigleh, the revealed dimension of the Torah. The revealed dimension of the Torah relates to man's life within his everyday realities. Seeing how the Torah's mystic dimensions are enclothed in those teachings, enables a person to perceive such profound spiritual truth within the context of his ongoing life experience.

ה) והנדה שני הענינים הנ"ל שבביטול הגזירה והמחיצה בין עליונים לתחתונים שנתחדשו במתן-תורה, הם בכללות יותר - תורה ומצוות. דענין ירידת העליונים למטה שנתחדש במתן-תורה, הוא בעיקר בתורה. וענין עליית התחתונים למעלה שנתחדש במתן-תורה, הוא בעיקר במצוותל. והענין הוא, דמהחילוקים בין תורה למצוות הואלא, דהתורה היא דבר ה', חכמתו של הקב"ה, אלא שירדה

— 5 **—**

וֹהְנֵינִים הַנַּ״ל In a more general sense, the two dimensions that characterize the nullification of the decree and the barrier between the higher realms and ,שְּנְתְחַדְּשׁוּ בְּמֵתַן-תּוֹרָה the lower realms – that "Those who are below shall – הֶם בְּכְלַלוּת יוֹתֵר ascend on high and those on high will descend below" - that were introduced at the Giving of the Torah are reflected in

the Torah and its mitzvos.

בְּמַתַּן-תּוֹרָה,

דּיִנְיַן יִרִידַת הַעֵּלְיוֹנִים The "descent of those on high" that was intro-למַטָּה שֶׁנְתְחַדֵּשׁ duced by the Giving of the Torah

is reflected primarily by the Torah,

בְּמַתַּן-תּוֹרַה,

יוענין עלית התחתונים while "the ascent of those who are below" that was introduced by the Giving of the Torah

. הוא בְּעִיקֵר בְּמְצִוֹת is reflected primarily by the *mitzvos*,

As is well known,1 the Torah involves drawing down G-dliness from Above, while mitzvos involve the ascent of the created beings - man and the material entities with which the mitzvos are observed - upward.

דֹהַעְנֵיֵן הוּא, דְּמֵהַחְלוּקִים To explain this concept: Among the differences בין תּוֹרָה לְמְצִוֹת הוֹא, between the Torah and its mitzvos is²

that the Torah is "G-d's word," the wisdom of the הָקְבֶּ״ה, Holy One, blessed be He.

^{1.} Torah Or (p. 2a), et al., explained at length in Likkutei Sichos, Vol. 9, p. 65.

^{2.} With regard to the concepts that follow, see Sefer HaSichos 5748, Vol. 1, p. 213 and Vol. 2, p. 666.

למטה ונתלבשה בשכל אנושי בכדי שהאדם יוכל להבינה ולהשיגה. והמצוות שהם ציוויים להאדם, הכוונה והמבוקש בהם היא (לא הציווי עצמו, אלא) קיום הציווי שהאדם מקיים. וזהו שהענין דירידת העליונים למטה הוא בעיקר בתורה,

אַלָּא שֵׁיַרְדָה לְמַטָּה Nevertheless, it descended to this lowly plane יְנְתְלַבְּשֵׁה בְּשֵׂכֵל אֵנוֹשִׁי and enclothed itself in mortal wisdom and concerned itself with material reality

so that man could understand and comprehend it. להבינה ולהשיגה.

The Torah exists on an abstract spiritual plane, beyond connection to material reality, for it is G-d's wisdom. To explain by analogy, just as a person can sit alone, detached from the world, and conceive intellectual concepts, so too, the Torah existed before the world,³ i.e. it is G-d's truth that exists independently, above material reality.4

Nevertheless, to enable man to grasp these truths, G-d enclothed His Torah in concepts and a thought system that man is capable of comprehending. Even after that process, however, the Torah essentially remains G-dly truth, fundamentally bound up with Him.

> וָהַמְּצְוֹת שֶׁהֵם By contrast, the *mitzvos* are commandments to ,צְוּוּיִים לְהַאַדַם, **man.**

Their intent and objective is (not the command-היא (לא הצווי עצמו, ment itself

אַלָא) קייִם הַצְּוּוִי but that) the commandment be fulfilled by man. . שׁהַאַדַם מְקֵיִם Thus the existence of man and the world in which he lives is integral to the *mitzvos*' fundamental being.

רַוָהוּ שֵׁהָעְנָיָן דְּירְיַבַת On this basis, we can understand the concept that הוא הוא העליונים למטה הוא "the descent of those on high" primarily concerns ,בּעַקַר בַּתּוֹרָה, the Torah.

^{3.} Thus, our Sages state that the Torah existed before the world. See Bereishis Rabbah 8:2; Midrash Tanchuma, Vayeishev, sec. 4: Zohar, Vol. II. p. 49a.

^{4.} See the maamar entitled Issa BeMidrash Tehillim, Sefer HaMaamarim 5708, p. 273.

דהתורה, שהיא חכמתו של הקב"ה, מקומה למעלהלב, וזה שהתורה ניתנה למטה ונתלבשה בשכל אנושי ובדברים גשמיים, הוא ענין ירידת העליונים לתחתונים (מה-שאין-כן בנתינת המצוות למטה, אין מודגש כל-כך הענין דירידת העליונים למטה, שהרי אדרבה, ענינם של המצוות (ציוויים) הוא שהאדם יקיים אותם). וענין ׳התחתונים יעלו לעליונים׳ הוא בעיקר במצוות. דבתורה, כיון שגם לאחרי שירדה למטה היא דבר ה', לכן גם בלימוד ועסק התורה דהאדם נרגש בעיקר ההמשכה מלמעלה,

For the natural place of the Torah, inasmuch as it יה, מְקוֹמָה לְמֵעְלָה, is G-d's wisdom is "on high," in the spiritual realms,5

,וּכְדָכַרִים גַּשְׁמִיִּים, material realities

and the fact that the Torah was given on this וֹנְתְלַבְּשָׁה בְּשֵׂכֵל אֵנוֹשִׁי lowly plane and enclothed in mortal wisdom and

הַעֶּלְיוֹנִים לַתַּחָתּוֹנִים

דוא ענין ירידת represents the descent of "those on high" below.

מַה-שֵּׁאֵין-כֵּן בְּנְתִינַת (מַה-שֵּׁאֵין-כֵּן בְּנְתִינַת By contrast, through giving of the *mitzvos* on this lowly plane, הַמְצְוֹת לְמֵטָה,

אין מֵדְנִשׁ כַּל-כַּךְ הַעְנִין the descent of "those on high" below is not , דירידת העליונים למטה, emphasized to that same degree.

ַּטָהָאָדָם יִקְיֵּם אוֹתָם). fulfill.

For on the contrary, the purpose of the mitzvos is that they are (commandments) that man must

נענין 'הַתַּחְתּוֹנִים Conversely, the motif of "those who are below יַעַלוּ לַעֵלְיוֹנִים׳ הוּא will ascend on high" is expressed fundamentally בּעִיקַר בְּמְצִוֹת. through the mitzvos.

With regard to the Torah, since even after it descended to this physical plane, it remains G-d's word,

therefore, even in man's learning and study of the Torah, the primary emphasis is on the Torah as it is drawn down from above, הַהַמְשַׁכָה מְלְמֵעְלַה,

^{5.} See Tanya, ch. 4 (p. 8b), which states that "The Torah descended from its place of honor."

^{6.} Squiggle brackets { } are used here, because the main text employs two sets of parentheses, one inside the other.

שהתורה שהיא חכמתו של הקב"ה נמשכת ומתלבשת בשכלו של האדם, ולא הבירור והזיכוך דשכל האדם. והענין ש׳התחתונים יעלו לעליונים׳ מודגש בעיקר במצוות, דכיון שענין המצוות (ציוויים) הוא שהאדם יקיים את המצוות (כנ״ל), והכוונה בזה היא בכדי לצרף את הבריות ל, בכדי לברר ולזכך ולהעלות הכחות והאברים של האדם שמקיים את המצוה, וגם את הדברים שבעולם שבהם מקיימים את המצוה ולעשותם כלים לאלקות, ענין המצוות הוא עליית התחתונים למעלה.

ים, בֿשָׁכַלוֹ שֵׁל הַאַדַם, in man's mind.

that the Torah, which is the wisdom of the Holy שֵׁהַתּוֹרָה שֶׁהִיא חָכְמַתוֹ שֵׁל One, blessed be He, is drawn down and enclothed

. דשכל האדם mind.

ולא הַבֵּרוּר וְהַזְּכּוּף . The emphasis is not on the refinement of man's

True, when a person understands a Torah concept, he develops and refines his mind. However, ultimately, the emphasis is on what he has grasped, that his mortal mind has comprehended G-d's truth.

בְּעָקַר בַּמְצְוֹת, mitzvos,

נהַעְנֵין שֵׁ׳הַתַּחתוֹנִים Conversely, the motif of "those who are below יַעַלוּ לַעַלִיוֹנִים׳ מַדְגַשׁ will ascend on high" is reflected primarily in the

יָקַיֶּם אֶת הַמְּצִוֹת (כַּנַ״ל),

For the objective of the mitzvos (commandments) שַהָאָדָם is that man fulfill them (as explained above),

the intent being, in our Sages' words,7 "to refine the יוֹת, כּבְרִיוֹת, created beings,"

שֶׁמְקַיֵּם אֵת הַמְּצְוָה,

so that the powers and limbs of the person who הברים של האבם fulfills the mitzvah are refined and elevated,

שַבַּהֶם מָקַיִּמִים אָת הַמְּצְוָה mitzvah is fulfilled

and also that the material entities with which the

, וְלַעֲשׁוֹתַם כֵּלִים לְאַלקוּת, are transformed into mediums for G-dliness.

ענין המצות הוא עלית Thus, the mitzvos reflect the motif of the ascent ס הַתַּתְתוֹנִים לְמֵעְלַה. of those below on high, for through the observance

^{7.} Bereishis Rabbah 44:1.

ועל-פי מה שנתבאר לעיל (סעיף ד) שעיקר הכוונה בביטול הגזירה דמתן-תורה הוא שה'תחתונים יעלו למעלה', וכמו-כן הוא בנוגע לביטול הגזירה והמחיצה בנוגע לפנימיות התורה (גל עיני ואביטה נפלאות מתורתך) שהעיקר הוא העליה מלמטה למעלה, צריך לומר, דב׳אביטה נפלאות מתורתך׳ נכלל גם ענין המצוות כמו שהם

> of the mitzvos, man and his material environment are connected to levels of G-dliness to which they could otherwise not relate.

. לעיל (סעיף ד)

ן מָה שֶׁנְתְבָּאֵר Based on the explanations above (sec. 4)

that the fundamental intent in the nullification of the decree separating the higher realms and the lower realms that was brought about by the Giving of the Torah

יעלוּ לְמֵעְלַה׳, that

was that "those below ascend on high," it follows

similar concepts apply with regard to the nullification of the decree and the barrier separating the higher realms and the lower realms that existed regarding pnimiyus haTorah

(צל עֵינֵי וְאַבִּיטַה (which is reflected in the request "Open my eyes and נפלאות מתורתד) I will gaze at wonders from Your Torah").

שָהָעְקֵר הוּא הָעֵלְיָה What is of fundamental importance is the ascent מלמטה למעלה, from below, that man as he exists in his own frame of reference identify with *pnimiyus haTorah*.

בּרִיךְּ לוֹמֵר, דְּבִיאֲבִּיטָה Accordingly, it is necessary to say that the new development alluded to by "I will gaze at wonders בם ענין הַמְצוֹת כְּמוֹ שֵׁהֶם from Your Torah" must include mitzvos, which as מצר נְשְׁמַתָא דְאוֹרֵיְתָא. explained above, reflects the dimension of the Giving of the Torah that relates to man, as they are reflected in the soul of the Torah.

מצד נשמתא דאוריתא. ולכן מביא ה׳צמח צדק׳ פירוש השל״ה ד׳נפלאות מתורתך׳ הם כוונת המצות. והענין הוא, דבכדי שקיום המצוות יהיה כדבעי - הוא על-ידי לימוד התורה, דתלמוד מביא לידי מעשהלי. ויש לומר, דבכדי שמעשה המצוה (הגוף

וְלֶכֵן מֵבִיא הַ׳צֶּמַח Therefore, the *Tzemach Tzedek* cites the interpretation of *Shalah*, which explains

ידְינִפְּלָאוֹת מִתּוֹרְתֶּךְּ that the "wonders from Your Torah" refer to the ... הַם בַּוְבַּת הַמִּצְוֹת. intentions that motivate the *mitzvos*.

On this basis, the Rebbe resolves the question raised in sec. 3. There, it was asked: Why in the midst of the explanation that *pnimiyus haTorah* reveals the soul and "the soul of the soul" of the Torah did the *Tzemach Tzedek* cite the interpretation of *Shalah*, that the "wonders from Your Torah" refer to the intentions **that motivate** the *mitzvos*?

Explaining that the request, "Open my eyes" places the emphasis on not merely revealing the Torah's mystic secrets from Above, but that they affect man's "eyes," his way of perceiving and understanding reality, enables us to understand why there must be a connection to *mitzvos*. For *mitzvos* reflect how "those below ascend on high," i.e., how man rises to a level beyond his own reach.

יָהְעָּנְיָן הוּא, To explain **the concept**, i.e., how the intentions **that motivate** the *mitzvos* relates to the soul and "the soul of the soul" of the Torah:

דְּבְּכְבִי שֶׁקְּיּוֹם הַמִּצְוֹת The observance of *mitzvos* in a desirable manner comes about through the study of the Torah, as יְבִי לְמִּוֹד הַתּוֹרָה, our Sages commented,*

. אְיֵדִי מַעֲשֶׂה "Study leads to action."

Now, every *mitzvah* has a body, the actual deed of the *mitzvah*, and a soul, its spiritual intent. The observance of the *mitzvos* in a desirable manner obviously involves both these dimensions, a precise observance of the actions required by the *mitzvah* and a thoughtful and heartfelt appreciation of its intent.

^{8.} Kiddushin 40b, Bava Kama 17a.

^{9.} See *Tanya*, ch. 38; *Shalah*, p. 249b. See also the sources cited in the *Mafteiach Passukim U'Maamarei Chazal* in *Tanya*, p. 90, note 11.

של המצוה^{לה}) יהיה כדבעי - הוא על-ידי לימוד גליא דתורה (הגוף דתורה). ובכדי שכוונת המצוות (הנשמה דהמצוות^{לה}) תהיה כדבעי - הוא על-ידי לימוד פנימיות התורה (נשמתא דאורייתא).

וניש לוּמַר, דְּבְּכְבֵיי It is possible to explain that the possibility for the שַׁמַּצְשֵׁה הַמִּצְנָה (הַגּוּף שֶׁל deed of the *mitzvah* (the "body of the *mitzvah*") יהי, הַכְּבְעִי ל be performed in the desired manner comes about through the study of the revealed הוליבה (הַגּוּף דְּתוֹנְה). דְתוֹנְה (הַגּוּף דְּתוֹנְה) and the possibility for the intentions that motivate the *mitzvos* (the soul of the *mitzvos*) to be a desired

הוא עַל-יְבִי לְמוּד פְּנִימִיּוּת comes about through the study of *pnimiyus* הוא עַל-יְבִי לְמוּד פְּנִימִיּוּת *haTorah* (the soul of the Torah).

On this basis, the statement of *Shalah* can be understood, for the study of *pnimiyus haTorah* enhances one's intent in the observance of the *mitzvos*, which reflect the motif of "those below ascend on high."

SUMMARY

The two dimensions that characterize the nullification of the decree and the barrier between the higher realms and the lower realms – that "Those who are below shall ascend on high and those on high will descend below" – that were introduced at the Giving of the Torah are reflected in the Torah and its *mitzvos*. The "descent of those on high" is reflected primarily in the Torah, while "the ascent of those who are below" is reflected primarily in the *mitzvos*. For the Torah is "G-d's word," whose natural place is on high, and yet, it descended to this lowly plane and enclothed itself in mortal wisdom.

The *mitzvos*, by contrast, are commandments to man, whose objective is not the commandment itself, but that man fulfill it and in that way, elevate himself and the material realm in which he lives.

The fundamental intent in the nullification of the decree separating the higher realms and the lower realms that was brought about by the Giving of the Torah was that "those below ascend on high." Similarly, with regard to the nullification of the decree separating the higher realms and the lower realms that existed regarding *pnimiyus*

haTorah, what is fundamentally important is the ascent from below, that man as he exists within his own frame of reference identify with pnimiyus haTorah. Therefore, the new development alluded to by "I will gaze at wonders from Your Torah" must include mitzvos, which focus on man's refinement, as reflected in the soul of the Torah. Therefore, the Tzemach Tzedek cites the interpretation of Shalah, which explains that the "wonders from Your Torah" refer to the intentions that motivate the mitzvos.

Every *mitzvah* has a body, the actual deed of the *mitzvah*, and a soul, its spiritual intent.

The *maamar* explains *Shalah*'s teaching as implying that the study of *pnimiyus haTorah* enhances one's intent in the observance of the *mitzvos*.

התורה ומכל-שכן בפנימיות התורה (אפילו בנגלה דתורה, ומכל-שכן בפנימיות התורה) יש ריבוי מדרגות עד אין קץ, כמו-כן הוא בקיום המצוות, אפילו במעשה המצוות ומכל-שכן בכוונת המצוות, שיש בזה ריבוי מדריגות. ועל-פי-זה יובן מה שידועלי שממעשה המצוות נעשים לבושים להנשמה בגן-עדן התחתון, ומכוונת המצוות

-6-

In this and the following section, the Rebbe correlates the statement of the Rebbe Maharash explained at the end of sec. 4 - that ideally, the Torah's mystic secrets should be perceived in the course of one's study of the revealed dimensions of the Torah – with the emphasis on the intentions that motivate the mitzvos explained in sec. 5.

דהנה כמו שבלמוד החורה. For just as regarding the study of the Torah,

בַּפְנִימִיוּת הַתּוֹרֵה)

(צְּפִילוּ בְּנְגְלֵה (even in the revealed dimensions of the Torah, and how much more, in *pnimiyus haTorah*)

ישׁ רְבּוּי מַדְרֵגוֹת there are numerous, indeed, an infinite amount ער אין קץ, of levels,

- so too, regarding the observance of the mitzvos פמוֹ-כֵן הוא בַּקייום הַמִּצְוֹת,

this refers even to the actual observance of the וֹמְכַּל-שֵׁבֵן בְּכַנְוַת הַמְּצִוֹת, mitzvos, and how much more so to the intentions that motivate and accompany the performance of the mitzvos -

there are a multitude of levels.

וצַל-פִּי-זֵה יוּבֵן מַה Based on the above, it is possible to understand שַּיְדוּעַ שֵׁמְמַצֵּשֵׂה הַמְּצִוֹת the well-known concept¹ that the actual observance of the mitzvos produces garments for the soul in the lower level of Gan Eden בְּגַן-עֵבֶן הַתַּחְתּוֹן,

אווע נּעֲשִׂים while the intentions one has while performing the לְבוּשִׁים בְּגַן-עֵבֵן הָעֵלִיוֹן. *mitzvos* produces garments for the soul in the upper level of Gan Eden.

^{1.} Tanya, Iggeres HaKodesh, Epistle 29 (p. 150b); Torah Or, p. 53c, et al.

נעשים לבושים בגן-עדן העליון. דלכאורה, הרי גם בגן-עדן התחתון עצמו, וכן בגן-עדן העליון עצמו, יש ריבוי מדריגות^{לו}, ואיך אפשר שבכל המדריגות יהיו אותם הלבושים. והביאור בזה, דבמעשה המצוות וכן בכוונת המצוות יש ריבוי מדריגות כנ״ל.

Our Sages teach² that in *Gan Eden*, the incorporeal world in which the souls abide after passing from this world, "the souls of righteous derive pleasure from the radiance of the Divine presence." Now, a soul – even when divested from its body – is a created being. Therefore, to "derive pleasure from the radiance of the Divine presence," it must have "garments" that enable G-d's infinite light to be assimilated within a created being's limited makeup. Those "garments" are the *mitzvos* that the soul performed during its lifetime, for the *mitzvos* are one with G-d, as the *Zohar* states,³ "The Torah and the Holy One, blessed be He, are all one." Nevertheless, they reflect how His infinite will has enclothed itself in the limits of material existence. Hence, they serve as mediums through which a soul derives pleasure from G-d's light in *Gan Eden*.

On the surface, even in the lower *Gan Eden* itself, אֲרֶה, הֲרֵי גַּם בְּגַן-

וְבֵּן הָעֶלְיוֹן עַצְמוֹ, and similarly, in the higher $Gan\ Eden$ itself,

יש רבוי מַדְרֵגוֹת, there are a multitude of levels.4

ן אָפְשָׁר שֶׁבְּכָל How, then, is it possible for these same garments to serve the same function on all these levels? Seemingly, the loftier the spiritual rung, the loftier the garment it requires.

The resolution of this matter is that, as explained above, there are many levels both in the actual בְּשִׁרְבְּוֹת בַּבְּיֵנַת הַמְּצְוֹת בַּנֵּ״ל.

performance of the *mitzvos* and in the intentions that motivate the *mitzvos*.

Observing a *mitzvah* in a more meticulous manner and with a loftier intention provides a soul with the garments with which to assimilate the loftier rungs of revelation.

^{2.} Berachos 17a.

^{3.} Zohar, Vol. I, p. 24a, Vol. 2, p. 60a; cited in Tanya, ch. 4.

^{4.} Torah Or, p. 32d; see the sources cited in Toras Menachem, Sefer HaMaamarim Melukat, Vol. 3, p. 224, note 36.

והנה הגם שכונת המצווה היא נשמת המצוה ששייכת בכלל לנשמתא דאורייתא, מכל-מקום כמה וכמה ענינים דכיונת המצוות הם גם בנגלה דתורה. הן בנוגע הכוונה הכללית^{לה} דמצוות (שבכל המצוות בשוה) לקיים רצון ה' – דכוונה זו היא גם על-פי נגלה דתורה (אלא שעל-ידי לימוד פנימיות התורה, הכוונה והרצון דהאדם לקיים רצון נגלה דתורה (אלא שעל-ידי לימוד פנימיות התורה,

וְהַנְּהַ שֶּׁכַּוְּנַת הַמְּצְוָה Although the intentions that motivate a *mitzvah* – the soul of the *mitzvah*s –

שֵׁשֶּׁבֶּת בִּכְלָל as a whole relates to pnimiyus haTorah, the soul of לְנִשְׁמֵתְא דְאוֹרַיָתָא, the Torah,

לְּכְּלְּחֶ כַּמָּה וְכַמְּה there are, nevertheless, many aspects of the עְנְיִנִים דְּכַנְּתַה הַמִּצְוֹת intentions that motivate the *mitzvos* taught in the revealed dimension of the Torah.

As explained in *Chassidus*,⁶ in the observance of every *mitzvah*, one must have two intents: a general intent that motivates the observance of all the *mitzvos* and a particular intention relevant to each *mitzvah* individually.

The revealed dimension of the Torah provides instruction both

a) regarding the general intention that motivates הַן בְּנוֹגֵעַ הַכּוְנָה the observance of the *mitzvos*

(שֶׁבְּכֶל הַמְּצִוֹת בְּשָׁוֵה) (which is shared by all mitzvos equally) –

-ים רצון ה' i.e., to carry out G-d's will;

- דְּכַוְּנָה זוֹ הִיא גַּם שֵל this intention is also mandated by the revealed פִּי נְגְלֶה דְּתוֹרָה dimension of the Torah

(it is only that through the study of *pnimiyus* אָלָא שֶׁעַל-יְדֵי לִמּוּד haTorah, a person's intent and desire to carry out יְהָרָצוֹן דְּהָאָדָם לְקַיֵּם רְצוֹן G-d's will is expressed in a loftier manner),⁷

^{5.} Tanya, ch. 38.

^{6.} See Toras Menachem, Sefer HaMaamarim Melukat, Vol. 4, p. 15, and the sources cited in note 25 there.

^{7.} The above statement can be understood on the basis of *Tanya*, ch. 39 (p. 53b): "A person will not do anything for another person to fulfill his will unless he loves him or fears him. Similarly, it is impossible to genuinely act for G-d's sake, solely to fulfill His will, without remembering and arousing the love and fear of Him." And the path to attain the love and fear of G-d is the study of *pnimiyus haTorah* (as is also reflected by the statements of *Rambam*, *Hilchos Yesodei HaTorah* 2:2).

ה' הוא באופן נעלה יותרלט), וגם הכוונות הפרטיות שבכל מצוה בפרט, הרי הטעם והכוונה דכמה וכמה מצוות נתפרש גם בנגלה דתורה, גם על-פי דרך הפשט [ועד שהטעם דכמה וכמה מצוות מפורש בקרא], ומכל-שכן על-פי דרך הרמז והדרוש, אלא שהטעם והכוונה דהמצוות שעל-פי דרך הסוד (פנימיות התורה) הוא נעלה הרבה יותר,

and also b) regarding the particular intentions⁶ ,שַבְּכֵל מִצְוָה בִּפְרָט, that exist for each individual mitzvah.

The motivating rationale and the intent for many יבַמָּה מִצְוֹת נְתִּפָּרֵשׁ mitzvos is explicitly stated in the revealed dimen-אם בַּנְגְלָה דְתוֹרָה, sion of the Torah,

נֵם צַל-פִּי הַרֶּהְ הַפְּשָׁט even according to the simple meaning ($\it pshat$) of the Torah

וַעֵר שֶׁהַטַּעֵם דְּכַמָּה וַכְמָה (indeed, the motivating principle for many ,מְצְוֹת מְפּוֹרָשׁ בַּקְרָא], mitzvos is explicitly stated in the Torah itself, for example, we are commanded to dwell in sukkos, "so that your [coming] generations will know that I caused the Children of Israel to dwell in sukkos when I took them out of Egypt."8]

ארפי הַּרֶבּ How much more so is this true according to the approaches of remez (allusions) and derush (homiletics) within Torah. These two approaches to study are also aspects of nigleh, the Torah's revealed dimensions.

אַלָּא שֵׁהַטַעַם וְהַכּוּנַה It is only that the motivating rationale and the intent for the *mitzvos* according to the approach of sod (the Torah's mystic dimension, i.e., pnimiyus הוא נַעֵּלֶה הַרְבֵּה יוֹמֵר, haTorah) is much loftier,

There, Rambam writes:

What is the path [to attain] love and fear of Him? When a person contemplates His wondrous and great deeds and creations and appreciates His infinite wisdom that surpasses all comparison, he will immediately love... [Him], yearning with tremendous desire.... When he [continues] to reflect on these same matters, he will immediately recoil

Based on these concepts, I will explain important principles regarding the deeds of the Master of the worlds to provide a foothold for a person of understanding to [develop] love for G-d.

^{8.} Vayikra 23:43. See the Alter Rebbe's Shulchan Aruch 425:1.

ועל-ידי-זה מיתוסף עומק וכו׳ גם בהטעם שעל-פי נגלה. ויש לומר, דכמו שבנוגע לראיית הנפלאות דתורה, הבקשה 'גל עיני ואביטה נפלאות מתורתך' היא שראיית הנפלאות דתורה (נשמתא ונשמתא לנשמתא) תהיה 'מתורתך', מענינים אלה שבגליא דתורה, מהגוף דתורה וגם מהלבוש דתורה (כנ"ל סעיף ד), על-דרך-זה הוא בנוגע לכוונת המצוות, שהנפלאות דכוונת המצוות [כוונות האריז"ל, ולמעלה יותר]

מיתוֹפֶּף and moreover, it enriches and contributes depth to the rationale explained according to the revealed עוֹמֶק וְכוּ׳ גַּם בְּהַטַּעֵם שַׁעַל-פִּי נִגְלַה. dimension of the Torah, enabling one to view those rationales in a new and more refined light.9

וְיֵשׁ לוֹמֵר, דְּכְמוֹ שֲׁבֵּנוֹגֵעַ It is possible to say that just as regarding the per-,לְרְאַיֵּת הַנְּפְלָאוֹת דְּתוֹרָה ception of "the wonders of the Torah,"

the request, "Open my eyes and I will gaze at wonders from Your Torah" is that the perception נְפָלָאוֹת מָתּוֹרֶתֵּךְ׳ הִיא ישראיַת הַנְפְלֵאוֹת דְּתוֹרָה of "the wonders of the Torah"

לנשמתא)

(the Torah's soul and "the soul of its soul")

should come about from "Your Torah," from the ,אֵלֶה שֶׁבְּגַלְיָא דְתוֹרָה teachings of the revealed dimension of Torah,

לבוּשׁ מַהַלְבוּשׁ from the body of the Torah, its laws, and also from its garments, its stories, (as explained in sec. 4),

על-בֶּרֶךְ- נֶה הוּא בְּנוֹגֵעַ so too, similar concepts apply with regard to the ילבונת הַמְצוֹת, intentions that motivate the mitzvos.

The "wonders" of the intentions that motivate the הַמְצְוֹת הָאַרִיזַ״ל, mitzvos, [the intentions taught by the Arizal, and פיתרן even loftier intentions,]

^{9.} See Kuntres Inyono shel Toras HaChassidus, where the Rebbe explains how the explanation of Modeh Ani according to Chassidus enriches and contributes depth to the rationales given by the other approaches of pshat, remez, derush, and sod. See Likkutei Torah, Vayikra, p. 4a ff., which compares pnimiyus haTorah to salt and nigleh, the revealed dimensions of Torah to "bread and meat." Just as salt flavors bread and meat, pnimiyus haTorah adds depth and clarity to one's understanding of nigleh.

צריכים לראותם מתוך הכוונות שעל דרך הפשט, ויתרה מזה – מתוך הכוונות על דרך הפשט המובנים ל'בן חמש למקרא' [שהם דוגמת לבושא דאורייתא, הסיפורים דתורה, שגם תינוקות לומדים אותם].

אַרִיכִים לְרָאוֹתֶם מְתּוֹךְ must all be perceived through the intentions ,הַפּשַׁט, taught according to the Torah's simple meaning.

ויתרה מזה – מחוד הפונות Moreover, these lofty intentions must be perceived על הֵרֶךְ הַפְּשָׁט הַמוּבָנִים through the intentions taught according to the לִיבֵּן חָמֵשׁ לִמְקַרַא׳ Torah's simple meaning that can be understood by a young child, to borrow an expression of our Sages, 10 "a five year-old who studies the Written Law."

ַ study.] דְּתוֹרָה, שֶׁגַּם תִּינוֹקוֹת לוֹמָדִים אוֹתַם].

[שֵׁהֶם דּוּגְמֵת לְבוּשָׁא [Such intentions resemble the garments – i.e., the stories – of the Torah, which even young children

SUMMARY

There are numerous levels in the actual observance of the *mitzvos* and in the intentions that motivate and accompany their performance. In general, the intentions that motivate a mitzvah - the soul of the mitzvah - relate to pnimiyus haTorah, the soul of the Torah. There are, nevertheless, several aspects of the intentions that motivate the *mitzvos* taught in the revealed dimension of the Torah. This applies both regarding the general intentions that motivate the mitzvos, the commitment to carry out G-d's will, and the particular intentions that exist for each individual mitzvah. It is only that the motivating rationale taught by pnimiyus haTorah is much loftier, and moreover, it enriches and contributes depth to the rationale explained according to the revealed dimension of the Torah.

Just as, ideally, the perception of "the wonders of the Torah" should come from, "Your Torah," from the teachings of the revealed dimension of Torah, so too, "the wonders," the lofty mystic intent for the mitzvos, must be perceived through the intentions taught according to the Torah's simple meaning.

ז) רלהוסיף, דבכוונת המצוות, נוגע ענין זה [שענינים הכי נעלים, ידעו מענינים אלה כמו שהם בפשטות] עוד יותר מאשר בתורה. כי היתרון בזה שידיעת הנפלאות היא מהענינים שבפשטות. הוא שעל-ידי-זה תהיה ידיעת הנפלאות דהאדם גם מצד ענינו (כנ"ל סעיף ד), וכיון שענין המצוות הוא לצרף בהן את הבריות (כנ״ל סעיף ה), לפעול בירור וזיכוך בהאדם המקיים את המצוה, ודעיקר הבירור

— 7 **—**

To add a further point: Regarding the intent motivating the mitzvos, there is more pressing relevance to the above concept

(שֵׁעְנְיָנִים הַכִי נַעֵּלִים, [i.e., that even the loftiest truths should be com-יֵרְעוּ מֵענֵינִים אֵלֵה prehended from the understanding of the ideas יהם בְּפַשִׁטוּת] in their simple sense,]

עוֹד יוֹתֵר מֵאֲשֵׁר בַּתּוֹרָה. than regarding Torah study.

הַנְּפָלָאוֹת הִיא מֶהַעְנֵיָנִים

For the positive virtue in "the wonders of the Torah" being comprehended from the simple שבּבּשְׁטוּת, meaning of the Torah's teachings

יִדִיעַת הַנְּפָלַאוֹת דְהַאַדֵם גַם מָצֵּד עִנְיַנוֹ (כַּנַ״ל סִעִיף ד),

is that through this process, man's knowledge of "the wonders of the Torah" will be internalized and will relate to his own understanding (as explained in sec. 4 above).

וְכֵיוָן שֶׁעִנְיַן הַמִּצְוֹת הוּא לְצָרֶף בָּהֶן אֵת הַבִּרִיּוֹת (כּנ״ל סעיף ה),

The purpose of *mitzvos* is to refine the created beings (as explained in sec. 5 above),

i.e., to bring about refinement in the person סbserving the mitzvah הַמְקַיֵּם אֶת הַמְּצְוָה,

רוּעַקַר הַבֵּרוּר וְהַוָּכּוּךְ הוּא

[the fundamental dimension of that refinement יַנְירֵי כַּנְיַתְ הַמְּצְוֹת, is achieved through the intentions that motivate the mitzvos,1 for that affects a person's mind and feelings;

^{1.} See Sefer HaMaamarim 5702, p. 53.

והזיכוך הוא על-ידי כוונת המצוות", וכל שהכוונה היא נעלית יותר, הבירור והזיכוך הוא נעלה יותר], לכן בענין המצוות נוגע עוד יותר שידיעת הנפלאות דכוונת המצוות תהיה מתוך הכוונות שבפשטות. ועל-פי-זה יש לבאר מה שמביא ה׳צמח צדק׳ במאמר ׳שרש מצות התפלה׳מא הלשון אני מתפלל לדעת זה התינוק. דלכאורה, במאמר שרש מצות התפלה' מבאר ענין התפלה [בכלל, וגם כמה ענינים פרטיים דתפלה]

מול שהפונה היא געלית and the loftier the intention motivating the mitz-יוֹמֶר, הַבֶּרוּר וְהַזְּכּוּך vah, the more comprehensive the refinement it ,[הוא נעלה יוֹתֵר], will bring about].

עוֹד הַמְצִוֹת נוֹגֵעַ עוֹד Therefore, emphasizing that the comprehension יוֹתֵר שֵׁיִדִיעַת הַנְּפְּלֵאוֹת of the "wonders," i.e., the mystic dimensions of the intentions that motivate the mitzvos are to be per-. הַכַּוֹנוֹת שֶׁבְּפַשְׁטוּת ceived through the intent

motivating the *mitzvah* as understood on a simple level, is even more pressingly relevant regarding mitzvos than the similar thrust with regard to Torah study. For the internalization of these mystic truths will enable the person's refinement to be more complete and encompassing.

רַבַּאַר יֵשׁ לְבַאֵּר On this basis, it is possible to explain why, in מה שֶׁמֵּבִיא הַ׳צֵּמַח the the maamar entitled Shoresh Mitzvas HaTe-צַדְק׳ בַּמַאָמֵר ׳שׂרָש filah ("The Core of the Mitzvah of Prayer"), the מצות הַתְּפַלָּה׳ הלשון Tzemach Tzedek cites the expression:

זָה הַתִּינוֹק.

אני מתפלל לדעת "I pray with the intentions of a young child."

פּמַאַמֵּר On the surface, it is not appropriate to include that ישׂרֵש מִצְוַת הַתְּפִלָּה׳ statement in the maamar, Shoresh Mitzvas HaTe-קבאר ענין התפלה filah. That maamar explains the concept of prayer

יים דְתָפַלָהן of prayer,]

[as a whole, as well as several particular aspects] [בּכְלַל, וְגַם כַּמַה עְנֵינִים

^{2.} Sec. 8 (Derech Mitzvosecha, p. 118a).

על-פי קבלה, ועוד יותר – על-פי חסידות, ומה מקום במאמר זה להביא הענין ד'אני מתפלל לדעת זה התינוק׳. ויש לומר, שבזה מרמז, שהכוונות דתפלה בדרגות הכי נעלות, צריכות להיות קשורות עם ענין התפלה כמו שהיא לדעת התינוק, הן בנוגע לכללות ענין התפלה – שידיעת ענין התפלה בדרגות הכי נעלות תהיה גם מענין התפלה כמו שתינוק מבין, והן בנוגע לביאור הענינים (הפסוקים, בקשות וכו') שאומרים בתפלה. שהביאורים הכי נעלים צריכים להיות בהתאם וועד שידיעתם

על-פִּי קַבַּלָה, וְעוֹד according to Kabbalah, and furthermore, accord-יוֹתֵר – עַל-פִּי חַסִידוּת, ing to *Chassidus*, which reflects an even loftier approach.3

ינוֹק׳. child"?

וּמַה מַקוֹם בְּמַאֲמֶר וַה In such a maamar, how is it fitting to cite the statement, "I pray with the intentions of a young לָהָכִיא הַעְנַיֵן דִּ'אֲנִי מְתְפַּלֵּל

It is possible to say that by doing so, the Tzemach שהכונות התפלה Tzedek alludes to the concept that even the most sublime intentions of prayer בדרגות הכי נעלות,

עם ענין הַתִּפְלַה כִּמוֹ שהיא ׳לדעת התינוק׳,

must be connected to the concept of prayer as understood by a young child.

ענין התפלה whole,

This includes both the concept of prayer as a

that the knowledge of the loftiest levels of prayer should be characterized by the approach to prayer of a young child, the artless call of the child to his Father in heaven, כמוֹ שֵׁתִּינוֹק מֵבִין,

וָהֶן בִּנוֹגֵעַ לְבֵאוּר הַעִנְיַנִים שָׁאוֹמָרִים בַּתִּפְלַה,

and also, the explanation of the words (the verses, the requests, and the like) recited in prayer.

Even the loftiest explanations of the prayers must שניכים לְהִיוֹת בְּהֵתְאֵם [וְעַר be aligned with [and, indeed, the awareness of them should come from] the simple meaning of the words of prayer פֵירוּשׁ הַמְּלוֹת דְּתְפַלַה

^{3.} See Kuntres Inyono shel Toras HaChassidus, sec. 6.

תהיה מתוך] פירוש המילות דתפלה כמו שתינוק מבין. והגם שענין זה הוא בכל הענינים שבתורה, מכל-מקום כיון שענין התפלה היא העלאה מלמטה למעלה, בירור וזיכוך האדם, לכן בתפלה ענין זה נוגע יותר (על-דרך שנתבאר לעיל בנוגע למצוות). ולכן, במאמר ׳שרש מצות התפלה׳ מובא הענין ד׳אני מתפלל לדעת זה התינוק׳.

as understood by a young child. כְּמוֹ שֵׁתִּינוֹק מֵבִין

וְהַגַּם שֶׁעְנְיָן זֶה הוּא בְּכְל Although this approach is relevant to all aspects הָאנְיִנִים שֶׁבַּתּוֹרָה, of the Torah,

מְכֶּל-מֶקוֹם כֵּיוָן שֶׁעִנְיַן nevertheless, since prayer involves man's ascent הַאָבְלָאָה הִיא הַאֲלַאָה from below, מלמטה למעלה,

i.e., his personal refinement,

לֶבֶן בַּתְּפָלֶה עִנְיָן therefore, this approach is more relevant with יוֹמֵר regard to prayer

עַל-דֶּרֶךְ שֶׁנְתְבָּאֵר (in a way similar to the explanations given above לְצֵיל בְּנוֹגְעַ לַמְצִוֹת). regarding *mitzvos*).

וְלָכֵן, בַּמַּאֲמָר ׳שֹׁרֶש מִצְוַת Therefore, the maamar, Shoresh Mitzvas HaTe- הַּתְּפַלָּה׳ מוּכָא הָעִנְיִן דְּ׳אֲנִי filah cites the statement, "I pray with the מְתְפַּלֵל לְדַעַת זֶה הַתִּינוֹק׳. intentions of a young child."

Towards the end of sec. 4, the Rebbe stated:

The starting point for everything that occurs in the world at large and in the individual world of every person is found in the Torah. Therefore, when (a person) sees the wonders of the Torah through the stories and laws in the revealed Torah – i.e., the body and the garment of the Torah reveal the soul and "the soul of the soul" of the Torah – this serves as a catalyst for a similar process to occur within the person who studies the Torah. He is able to perceive the wonders of the Torah (even) within the context of his own human circumstances.

A person should perceive that the different approaches to Torah study, *pshat*, *remez*, *derush*, and *sod* – i.e., all the levels ranging from the simple, down-to-earth understanding to the loftiest mystic truths – are not discrete disciplines but part of one organic whole. In sections 5-7, he explained one should view *mitzvos* with

the same approach; indeed, such an approach is more relevant with regard to *mitzvos*, for *mitzvos* relate to man as he exists in his own context. On this basis, in the sections to come, the Rebbe explains how the difference between the spiritual and the physical that characterizes the world at large reflect only the world's initial state. Ultimately, man's Divine service will reveal how G-d's oneness pervades all existence and the spiritual and the physical are both integral dimensions of a single unity.

SUMMARY

The concept that even the Torah's loftiest spiritual truths should be understood from the simple understanding of the ideas is particularly relevant with regard to *mitzvos* because the purpose of *mitzvos* is to bring about refinement in the person observing the *mitzvah*.

On this basis, it is possible to explain why, in the the *maamar* entitled *Shoresh Mitz-vas HaTefilah*, the *Tzemach Tzedek* cites the expression: "I pray with the intentions of a young child." By doing so, the *Tzemach Tzedek* alludes to the concept that even the most sublime intentions of prayer must be connected to the concept of prayer as understood by a young child. Since prayer also involves man's self-refinement, the perception of the integration between the spiritual meaning and intent of the prayers and their simple meaning is particularly relevant.

ה) רוקר הקשר דשני הפסוקים שבהם מרומז הענין דל"ג בעומר, גל עיני ואביטה נפלאות מתורתך, ו'עד הגל הזה', כי הגל שבין לבן ליעקב הוא דוגמת הגזירה והמחיצה בין העליונים להתחתונים שהיתה קודם מתן-תורה. ומבואר ב׳סידור׳ שער הל״ג בעומרמב, דבהגל שבין לבן ליעקב, שני ענינים. הגל שבין לבן

— 8 **—**

On the basis of the above concepts, it is possible to understand the connection between the two verses הַעניַן דְּלַ״ג בַּעוֹמֵר, which allude to Lag BaOmer:

"Your Torah נפלאות מתורתף,

בּל צֵינֵי וְאַבִּיטַה "Open my eyes and I will gaze at wonders from

מוער הגל הזה', and "This mound is witness..." which relates how Lavan and Yaakov set up a mound as a divider between them.

די הַגַּל שָבֵין לְבַן The mound that separated between Lavan and אַנעַלְב הוּא Yaakov is

similar to the decree and the barrier that separated between those on high and those below that existed before the Giving of the Torah.

שַער הַלְ״ג בַּעוֹמֶר, is explained

וֹמְבוֹאֵר בַּ׳סִידוּר׳ In the Siddur im Dach, Shaar HaLag BaOmer,¹ it

that there were two dimensions to the mound that . לְיַעֵּקֹב, שָׁנֵי עְנֵיְנִים separated between Lavan and Yaakov.

The exposition to follow reflects the approach encapsulated in an adage coined by the sages of the Kabbalah:2 "The Torah speaks in the sublime realms and alludes to this lowly [earthly] plane," i.e., primarily, Torah is mystic truth that reveals a higher spiritual reality. That spiritual reality is subsequently reflected in the events and laws recorded in the Torah as it exists on this earthly plane. Certainly, all the people whom the Torah mentions are real historical figures and the events described actually

^{1.} Siddur im Dach, p. 304c ff. See also Toras Chayim, Bereishis, p. 37a; the series of maamarim entitled Be-Shaah Shehikdimu, 5672, Vol. 1, sec. 107, (p. 206ff.).

^{2.} Asarah Maamaros (the maamar entitled Chikur Din, sec. 3, ch. 22); Shalah (p. 13b ff., 161a ff.).

העליון (שלמעלה מיעקב) ליעקב, והוא הפרסא שבין עולמות האין-סוף שלמעלה -מאצילות ואצילות. והגל שבין יעקב ולבן התחתון, הפרסא שבין אצילות לבריאה

transpired.³ Nevertheless, their lives and the stories about them are representative of and mirror the activity and interaction of correspondent forces in the spiritual realms above. Indeed, the activity in the spiritual realms is of primary importance.

These concepts are reflected in the relationship between Yaakov and Lavan. Lavan is understood in Chassidus4 as a two-dimensional figure. His source is a sublime level of G-dliness, loven haElyon, "the sublime whiteness," a degree of spirituality that is utterly undefined and unlimited. Yaakov, by contrast, represents a lower realm, the realm of Tikkun, which finds its consummate expression in the world of Atzilus, a realm where the lights are limited to the extent that they can be enclothed in keilim, "vessels." Thus, there is a

a mound, a separation, between the sublime dimen-(שֵׁלְמַעְלָה מִיַּעַקֹב) sion of Lavan (which is above Yaakov, for Yaakov represents G-dliness as it has already adapted itself to the limitations of the Spiritual Cosmos) and Yaakov.

This separation constitutes the parsa ("the cur-דה שׁלְמֵעְלַה tain") between the infinite realms that transcend מאַצִילוּת וַאַצִילוּת. Atzilus and Atzilus.

In the transcendent realms above Atzilus, G-dly light is revealed in an undefined and infinite manner. In Atzilus, by contrast, each of the sefiros radiates G-dly light within the context of a defined identity. Chochmah ("wisdom") is thus distinct from Binah ("understanding"); Chessed ("kindness") is distinct from Gevurah ("might"), etc. The transition G-d's light undergoes so that it can be enclothed in a defined realm of this nature is great. The sages of the Kabbalah used the metaphor of a curtain to describe the spiritual forces that bring about the transition within His light, because when light passes through a curtain that is only partially translucent, the light that emerges is of a different nature than the light that shined originally.

דהגל שבין יעלב The second dimension of the mound between Yaakov ,וְלַכֶּן הַתַּחְתּוֹן, and Lavan reflects a division between Yaakov and Lavan below. In this physical realm, Lavan was a wicked man, divorced from his spiritual source.

^{3.} See Rashba, Vol. 1, responsum 416.

^{4.} Torah Or, p. 23a ff.. et al.

יצירה-עשיה. והרמז דל״ג בעומר בפסוק זה הוא, שעל-ידי רבי שמעון בן יוחאי נתברר

דהַפַּרְסָא שֶׁבֵּין אֲצִילוּת. This division between Yaakov and the lower level of . לְבְרִיאָה-יְצִירָה-עֲשִׂיָּה. Lavan is a reflection of **the** *parsa* **between** *Atzilus* and the worlds of *Beriah*, *Yetzirah*, and *Asiyah*. ⁵

The transition undergone by G-d's light as it descends from *Atzilus* to *Beriah*, *Yetzirah*, and *Asiyah* is also of a fundamental nature. The *sefiros* of *Atzilus* are subsumed within G-d's light to the extent that they are totally identified with G-dliness and do not see themselves as independent entities. In contrast, the created beings of *Beriah*, *Yetzirah*, and *Asiyah* are considered as *yesh me'ayin*, new entities coming into being from nothingness, each one with an individual identity other than G-dliness. To highlight the difference: The *Chessed* of *Atzilus* is the radiation of *G-d's* love and kindness. In contrast, the *Chessed* of *Beriah* is reflected in the *angels'* love for G-d.

The transition between *Atzilus* and *Beriah*, *Yetzirah*, and *Asiyah* is of such a radical nature that, here too, the sages of the *Kabbalah* use the metaphor of a curtain to describe the spiritual forces that bring about this transition, because in this instance, as well, the light that emerges after passing through this "curtain" is of an entirely different nature than the light that shined originally.

Thus, the mound which Yaakov and Lavan erected represents two points of transition: the transition between the infinite light that transcends *Atzilus* and the limited realm of *Atzilus*, and the transition between the G-dliness that characterizes *Atzilus* and the realms below it that are characterized by *yeshus*, an awareness of individual identity.

קהָרֶמֶז דְּלַ״ג בְּעוֹמֶר The allusion to Lag BaOmer in this verse is that בְּפַסּוּק זָה הוּא,

through Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai's teachings, שֶׁעַל-יְבִי רַבְּי שִׁמְעוֹן this mound and divider was refined. This change הַגַּל וְהַמְּחִיצָה, הַגַּל וְהַמְּחִיצָה, affected both

^{5.} There are two dimensions of Asiyah, one, a spiritual realm, and the other, our material world.

^{6.} The series of maamarim entitled Chayav Adam Livereich, 5638, sec. 25 (p. 42). In that source, it is explained that this parallels the concept implied by the verse (Devarim 32:39): "I wounded (מַחצתי) and I will heal," which will be manifest in the Ultimate Future. מַחצתי, translated as "I wounded" can also be understood as "I created a divider (מַחִיצַה)." See Koheles Rabbah 1:4, which comments on this verse: "The divider that I made between those above and those below... in the Ultimate Future, I will heal it."

הגל והמחיצה שבין יעקב לבן העליון ליעקב, וגם המחיצה שבין יעקב ללבן התחתון. הינו, שגם בבריאה-יצירה-עשיה, ועד בעולם העשיה יהיה גילוי האצילות, וגם גילוי האור-אין-סוף שלמעלה מאצילות. וענין זה הוא גם התוכן דפסוק השני שמרמז על ל"ג בעומר. גל עיני ואביטה נפלאות מתורתד. שגם בענינים שבנגלה דתורה

the divider between the sublime Lavan – the transcendent revelations of G-dliness above Atzilus – and Yaakov - Atzilus.

and also the divider between Yaakov and Lavan יַעַקֹב לְלַבֵּן הַתַּחַתּוֹז. on the lower plane.

-היצירה בַּבְרִיאַה בַּבְרִיאַה This enabled even in the worlds of Beriah, Yet עשיה, וער בעולם העשיה zirah, and Asiyah, including even the world of Asiyah,5

the world of Atzilus to be revealed, i.e., Yaakov will be able to communicate with the lower Lavan, Beriah. Yetzirah, and Asiyah.

קוב גְּלוּי הָאוֹר-אֵין-סוֹף Moreover, even the revelation of G-d's infinite light שלמעלה מאצילות. that transcends Atzilus

will extend into these worlds. For when both dividers - the divider between the light that is above Atzilus and Atzilus and the divider between Atzilus and the lower realms - no longer present obstacles, the light that is above Atzilus can descend and reach even the lowest levels.

This concept – the revelation of G-d's infinite light so that it reaches even the lowest levels – is also the יעל לַ״ג בעומר. inner meaning of the second verse that alludes to Lag BaOmer:

נֵל עֵינֵי וְאַבְּיטָה "Open my eyes and I will gaze at wonders from , וְפַלְאוֹת מְתּוֹרֶתְּךְ, Your Torah," which was interpreted (sec. 3) as meaning that

ישבּנגלה דַתוֹרָה of the Torah

even in the teachings of the revealed dimensions

(בריאה-יצירה-עשיה), וגם בלבושא דאורייתא, בסיפורים דתורה (עשיהמד), יהיה בגילוי ה'נפלאות' דתורה, בחינת נשמתא דאורייתא (אצילות), וגם בחינת נשמתא דנשמתא (למעלה מאצילות).

(which correspond to the realms of Beriah, Yetzirah, and Asiyah)

and even in the garments – the stories – of the Torah (which correspond to the realm of Asiyah)

i.e., the soul of the Torah, (which correspond to the realm of Atzilus,)

i.e., the soul of the Torah, (which correspond to the realm of Atzilus,)

and also "the soul of the soul," (which correspond to the transcendent lights above Atzilus).

and also "the souve Atzilus).

and also "the souve Atzilus).

SUMMARY

On the basis of the above concepts, it is possible to understand the connection between the two verses alluding to Lag BaOmer: "Open my eyes and I will gaze at wonders from Your Torah" and "This mound is witness...," which relates how Lavan and Yaakov set up a mound as a divider between them. The mound that separated between Lavan and Yaakov resembles the decree that separated between those on high and those below that existed before the Giving of the Torah.

There were two dimensions to the mound that separated between Lavan and Yaakov. Lavan's spiritual source is a sublime level of G-dliness that is utterly undefined and unlimited. Yaakov, by contrast, represents a lower realm, the realm of *Tikkun* which finds its consummate expression in the world of *Atzilus*. On the other hand, Lavan

^{7.} See *Likkutei Torah*, *Vayikra*, p. 5a, which quotes *Pri Etz Chayim* (*Shaar Hanhagas HaLimud*) which states that the *Talmud* and the *Mishnah* correspond to the realms of *Beriah* and *Yetzirah* and Scripture corresponds to *Asiyah*. In the development of that concept (p. 5b), it is explained that the stories of the Torah are "matters that cannot be enclothed in wisdom and intellect on this lowly plane at all." From this, it can be understood that the primary expression of the concept that Scripture corresponds to *Asiyah* is found in the stories of the Written Law. The above explanation concerning Yaakov and Lavan serves as an example of the concept stated before that the deepest secrets of the Torah can be perceived in its stories.

With the explanations the Rebbe provides here, he exemplifies the concept he is expressing. The story of the interaction between Yaakov and Lavan - a narrative that a child can relate to - is explained as reflecting the deepest mystical concepts,

as he existed in this world was lower than Yaakov. The mound thus represents both the separation between the higher dimension of Lavan and Yaakov as well as the separation between Yaakov and the lower dimension of Lavan.

Through Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai's teachings, this divider was refined, enabling the sublime lights that transcend *Atzilus* to shine within *Atzilus* and indeed, to descend even to the realms of *Beriah*, *Yetzirah*, and *Asiyah*.

This parallels the inference to be taken from "Open my eyes and I will gaze at wonders from Your Torah," that "the wonders of the Torah" will be apparent when studying the revealed dimensions of Torah Law and even within the Torah's stories.

ט) ולהוסיף, דעל-פי הידוע שכל הענינים שבתורה הם בתכלית הדיוק, צריך לומר, דזה שהפסוק 'עד הגל הזה' [שמדבר בענין הגל והמחיצה שבין לבן ליעקבן מרמז על ל"ג בעומר שענינו הוא בירור הגל והמחיצה, הוא כי זה . שעשו גלי אוי היה שלי אליך גו׳ אתה לא תעבור אלי׳ גו׳ היה שעשו גל

— 9 **—**

דּלְהוֹסִיף, דְּעֵל-פִּי הַיַּדוּעַ To add a further point: Based on the well-known שָּבַּתּוֹרָה שֶׁבַּתּוֹרָה כoncept that all the concepts in the Torah are extremely precise in nature, הם בְּתַכְלִית הַדְּיוּק,

explanation is necessary regarding the interrelation of the verses, "Open my eyes and I will gaze at wonders from Your Torah" and "This mound is witness...." For "Open my eyes..." reflects how the divider between the mystic secrets of the Torah and the Torah's revealed dimensions will be bridged, while "This mound is witness..." speaks of the erection of a divider.

True, when one looks superficially, the verses share a commonality; both refer to a divider. But when one seeks a precise correlation between them, a difficulty arises because one verse reflects the bridging of a divide, while the other speaks of creating one.

צָרִיךְ לוֹמַר, דְּזֶה שֵׁהַפֶּסוּק It is necessary to say that the concept that the עד הגל הזה' verse, "This mound is witness..."

לַבַן לִיצֵקֹבן

שְׁמְדֵבֶּר בְּעִנְיַן הַגַּל [which speaks about the erection of a mound and לוהמחיצה שבין divider between Lavan and Yaakov

מְרַמֵּז עֵל לַ״ג בַּעוֹמֵר alludes to Lag BaOmer which is characterized by שענינו הוא ברוּר the refinement of the mound and the divider so that a bridge of communication could be established

הוא כִּי וֵה שֶׁהַסִּימֵן וְהַעֵּדוּת stems from the fact that the sign and the testi-על 'אַנִי לא אַעֵבוּר אֵלִיךְ mony chosen to indicate that "I am not to cross to גוֹ׳ אַתָּה לֹא תַעֲבוֹר אֵלַי׳ you... and... you are not to cross to me"י was that גו'י הַיָה שֵׁעֲשׂוּ גַּל, they erected merely a mound

^{1.} Bereishis 31:52.

ולא שעשו חומה, הוא לרמז שעשיית המחיצה מלכתחילה היא באופן שיש נתינת מקום שיהיה 'אני אעבור אליך ואתה תעבור אלי'מה. והיינו, שהכוונה בעשיית המחיצה בין העליונים והתחתונים מלכתחילה היא בכדי שאחר-כך יהיה החיבור דעליונים ותחתונים. וזה שבתחלה היה צריך להיות המחיצה בין העליונים להתחתונים הוא,

, ולא שַעשׁר חומה, but did not make a wall. A wall represents a more significant barrier, one that prevents passage. A mound, by contrast,

הוא לְרַמֵּז שֵׁעֲשִׂיַת alludes to the concept that the divider was from the very outset made הַמְּחִיצָה מִלְכַתְחָלָה הִיא

ואַתַה תַעַבור אַלִי׳.

in a manner that allows for the possibility that "I שֵיהָיָה ׳אָנִי אֵעֲבוֹר אֵלֵיךְ will cross to you..." and "you will cross to me."2

To apply these concepts to the analogue: When a bond is established between two inherently separate entities, the connection they share is novel, running contrary to their innate tendencies. When, by contrast, initially, the intent in establishing a divider between "those above" and "those below" is

so that afterwards, there would be a bond established between "those above" and "those below," .וְתַּחְתּוֹנִים the connection that is ultimately established between them can be internalized within their own being. True,

הַעֵּלִיוֹנִים לְהַתַּחָתּוֹנִים הוּא,

initially, it was necessary that there be a divider להיות הַמְּחִיצֵה בֵּין between "those above" and "those below"

^{2.} See Likkutei Sichos, Vol. 5, p. 129ff. That source states that when Lavan and Yaakov erected the mound, they stated that there would be an opportunity that "I will cross..." and "you will cross." Indeed, they explicitly stipulated "you are not to cross... for evil," which Rashi interprets as meaning: "But you may cross for commercial purposes."

כי הכוונה דדירה בתחתונים היא שהדירה תהיה בתחתון שאין תחתון למטה ממנומי, ולכן היתה התהוות התחתונים על-ידי מחיצה, דלא רק שבפועל אין מאיר בהם הגילוי דהעליונים, אלא שישנה מחיצה ביניהם שהיא סימן ועדות שיהיה ׳לא אעבור אליך ולא

תחתון למטה ממנו,

לי הַכַּנְנָה דְּדִירָה because G-d's intent and desire for a dwelling in the lower realms is that the dwelling be in the lowest realm, below which there is none lower.3

Hence, a divider had to be established to create a further distance between the higher realms and the lower realms. Nevertheless, the divider also served a positive purpose. Without it, there would be no relationship at all between the lower realms and higher realms. Like parallel lines that never intersect, they would have been discrete planes of existence with no connection between them.

Therefore, the lower realms were brought into הַתַּחְתּוֹנִים עַל-יִדֵי מְחִיצֵה, being through a divider.

By establishing a divider (issuing a decree) separating the higher realms from the lower ones, G-d established a relationship between them. True, initially, the relationship was a negative one; indeed, it created an even greater separation than would have existed had this divider not been established.

אין מֵאִיר Not only in actual fact does the revelation of the הָבֶּהֶם הַגִּלְּוּי דְּהָעֵלְיוֹנִים, higher realms not shine within the lower realms,

> אַלָא שֵׁישְׁנָה but there is a divider that creates separation מְחִיצָה בֵּינֵיהֶם between them.

קימן וְעֵדוּת For the divider serves as a sign and testimony that שָּיִּהְיֶה ׳לֹא אֶשֶבוֹר אֵלֶיךְ "I am not to cross to you... and you are not to וְלֹא תַעֲבוֹר אֵלַי׳, cross to me."

To refer to the wording of the Midrash (cited in sec. 4 above), G-d "decreed, saying, 'The inhabitants of Rome should not descend to Syria, nor should the inhabitants of Syria ascend to Rome."

^{3.} Tanya, ch. 36.

תעבור אלי׳מו. בכדי שעל-ידי העבודה דישראל יהיה החיבור גם דתחתונים אלה ושיש גזירהמח שלא יתחברו עם העליונים) עם העליונים. וזהו שהרמז דל"ג בעומר הוא בפסוק 'עד הגל הזה', כי זה שרבי שמעון בן יוחאי בירר הגל והמחיצה, הוא שעל-ידו נתגלה ענין הפנימי דהצמצום עצמומט, שהכוונה בהצמצום [שהיא ענינו הפנימי] היא רשריל הגילוי

The ultimate purpose of the divider, however, is that through the Divine service of the Jewish people, there will be a bond between even such lower נֵם דְּתַחְתּוֹנִים אֵלֵה realms.

ישֵׁישׁ גְּוֵרָה שֵׁלֹא [realms for which there is a decree⁴ that they not יְתְחַבְּרוּ עִם הָעֵלְיוֹנִים] be connected with the higher realms,]

עם הַעֵּלִיוֹנִים. with the higher realms.

Although initially, the divider (decree) that G-d established between the higher and lower realms brought about a greater degree of separation between them, nevertheless, the fact that it established a relationship between them enables the Jewish people to ultimately bridge that gap through their Divine service.⁵

רוֹהוּ שֵׁהָרֵמֵז דְּלַ״ג בָּעוֹמֵר This is the implication of the allusion to Lag הוא בַפַּסוּק ׳עֵר הַגֵּל הָזָה׳, BaOmer in the verse, "This mound is witness."

יוֹחַאִי בֵּרֵר הַגַּל וְהַמְּחִיצֵה, mound and the divider

פי זה שרבי שמעון בּן Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai's refinement of the

made it possible that through his efforts the inner intent of the tzimtzum itself would be revealed,6

היא בשביל הגלוי.

i.e., that the purpose, [i.e., the inner intent,] of נשׁהִיא עְנַיֵנוֹ הַפְּנִימִי] the tzimtzum is for the sake of revelation.

Since this is the inner intent of the *tzimtzum*, the bond between the higher realms

^{4.} To refer to the words of the Midrash cited previously.

^{5.} True, at Sinai, it was G-d Who initiated the bridging of the gap; in the words of the Midrash cited in sec. 4, "I will begin." Nevertheless, as explained in that section, the consummation of the interrelation of the higher realms and the lower realms is through the service of the Jewish people ("Those who are below shall ascend on high").

^{6.} See the series of maamarim entitled BeShaah Shehikdimu, 5672, Vol. 2, p. 932ff. (see also loc. cit., p. 995ff.) and Toras Menachem, Sefer HaMaamarim Melukat, Vol. 3, p. 193ff., et al.

וזהו שהרמז דל"ג בעומר בפסוק גל עיני ואביטה נפלאות מתורתך, למדין מהרמז דל"ג בעומר שבפסוק 'עד הגל הזה', כי עיקר החידוש והעילוי ד'גל עיני ואביטה נפלאות מתורתך׳ הוא, שראיית הנפלאות דתורה תהיה (לא רק מפני שהנפלאות יהיו בגילוי, אלא) על-ידי גל עיני, שהקב״ה יפקח את עיני האדם, ויראה האדם את הנפלאות דתורה מצד ענינו של האדם (כנ"ל סעיף ד), ובכדי שהאדם

and the lower realms can be internalized to the extent that the connection is entirely natural, an inherent part of the being of the lower realms, and not a new development that runs contrary to their nature.

רוֶהוּ שֶׁהָרֶמֶז דְּלַ״ג בָּעוֹמֵר On this basis, it can be explained why the allusion to Lag BaOmer in the verse, "Open my eyes and I עוֹרָתֶּךּ, לְמֵרִין will gaze at wonders from Your Torah," is derived from the allusion to Lag BaOmer in the verse, "This mound is witness." The connection between the two verses is not just that coincidentally each use the word גל.

יהַעְלּוּי וָהַעְלּוּי For the fundamental new development and ascent alluded to by the verse, "Open my eyes and נְפַלְאוֹת מְתּוֹרֶתֶּךְ׳ הוֹא, I will gaze at wonders from Your Torah," is

לאוֹת הַנְּפְּלָאוֹת that the perception of the "wonders of the Torah" will result הַתְּרֶה מִּהְיֵה

(not only because the wonders will be revealed לא רַק מִפְנֵי שֶׁהַנְפְּלָאוֹת) יָהִיוּ בְּגְלוּי, – i.e., a revelation from Above, one that runs contrary to man's inherent tendency -

אָלָא) עַל-יְרֵי גַּל עֵינִי, but rather,) that it come about by opening man's eyes

that the Holy One, blessed be He, will open the עיני הָאָדֶם, eyes of humanity enabling

mankind to recognize the wonders of the Torah in a manner consistent with their own makeup (as explained in sec. 4 above).

התחתון יוכל לראות הנפלאות דתורה מצד ענינו, הוא על-ידי הענין דל"ג בעומר המרומז ב"עד הגל הזה" – גילוי ענינו הפנימי דהצמצום, שהצמצום הוא בשביל הגילוי.

דּבְּכְבִי שֶׁהָאָדָם הַתַּחְתּוֹן The possibility for human beings on this lowly, material plane to recognize the wonders of the Torah in a manner consistent with their own makeup

ו דְּבִייג בְּעוֹבֶי הָעְנְיֵן is dependent on the concept associated with Lag BaOmer alluded to by the verse, "This mound is בְיעֵד הַגַּל הַזָּה' בְּעִרְבֶּי הַפְּנִימִי the inner intent of the tzimtzum be revealed and it be manifest

| שְׁהַצִּמְצוּם הַפִּנִימִי that the tzimtzum was intended for the sake of revelation.

SUMMARY

Explanation is necessary regarding the interrelation of the verses, "Open my eyes and I will gaze at wonders from Your Torah" and "This mound is witness...." For "Open my eyes..." reflects how the divider between the mystic secrets of the Torah and the Torah's revealed dimensions will be bridged, while "This mound is witness..." speaks of the erection of a divider. The correlation of the two stems from the fact that the divider referred to by the verse, "This mound is witness" was a mound and not a wall, i.e., initially it was made in a manner that allows for the possibility that "I will cross to you..." and "you will cross to me."

Similarly, in the analogue, the intent in establishing a divider between the higher realms and the lower realms is that ultimately, the Jewish people establish a connection between these realms through their Divine service, i.e., the *tzimtzum* which established the division between these realms was intended for the sake of revelation – that the created beings experience a revelation of G-dliness.

On this basis, it can be explained why the allusion to Lag BaOmer in the verse, "Open my eyes and I will gaze at wonders from Your Torah," is derived from the allusion to Lag BaOmer in the verse, "This mound is witness." The fundamental new development alluded to by the verse, "Open my eyes and I will gaze at wonders

from Your Torah," is that the perception of the "wonders of the Torah" will result (not only because the revelations will be revealed from Above, but rather,) that it will come about by opening man's eyes. Thus mankind will recognize the wonders of the Torah in a manner consistent with their own makeup.

The possibility for human beings on this material plane to recognize the wonders of the Torah in a manner consistent with their own makeup is dependent on the concept associated with Lag BaOmer alluded to by the verse, "This mound is witness," i.e., that the *tzimtzum* was intended for the sake of revelation.

י) **ועל-ידי** לימוד והפצת פנימיות התורה, תורתו של רבי שמעון בן יוחאי, ובפרט כמו שנתגלתה בתורת החסידות, גילוי באופן דיתפרנסון, הבנה והשגה, ועד שהשכל דהאדם הלומד נעשה 'חד' עם הענין שלומדי [שהוא על-דרך המבואר לעיל בענין גל עיני, שראיית הנפלאות דתורה היא מצד ענינו של האדם עצמו],

-10 -

The previous section emphasized that the ultimate purpose of creation is that man perceive the wonders of Torah in a manner consistent with his own makeup.

וְעֵל-יְדֵי לְמוּד וַהְפָּצַת Through the study and spreading of *pnimiyus* ,קּנִימִּיּוֹת הַתּוֹרָה, *haTorah*,

תּוֹרֶתוֹ שֶׁל רַבִּי the teachings of Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai, שַׁמְעוֹן בַּן יוֹחָאי,

יּבְפְּרֶט כְּמוֹ שֶׁנְתְּגֵּלְתָה in particular, as they have been revealed through , דּבְפְּרָט בְּמוֹ שֶׁנִתְגַּלְתָה the teachings of Chassidus,

אלוּי בְּאוֹפֶן דְיִתְפַּרְנְסוּן, which is a revelation in a manner that man can derive nurture from them, i.e., that they be presented in a manner that enables them to be understood and comprehended of the comprehended of t

יְעַד שֶׁהַשֶּׁכֶל דְּהָאָדְם to the extent that the mind of a person who studies יחַד׳ בְּעֲשֶׂה יחַד׳ ies becomes one with the teachings he studies² עם הַעְּנֵין שֱלוֹמֵד

[שהוא עַל-דֶּרֶךְ הַמְבוֹאָר [- this correlates with the concepts explained לְצִיל בְּעָנִין גַּל עֵינֵי, above with regard to the verse, "Open my eyes,"

י הַּנְּפְלָאוֹת that the perception of the wonders of the Torah accord with man's own makeup –] י שׁל הַאַרַם עַצְמוֹן, ישׁל הַאַרַם עַצְמוֹן,

^{1.} See Kisei Melech, as cited in sec. 2, footnote 10.

^{2.} See Tanya, sec. 5 (p. 9b).

Such understanding is possible only because of the concept mentioned in the previous section: That the *tzimtzum* was intended for the sake of revelation. Otherwise, it would be impossible for man, a created being, to become utterly one with spiritual concepts that reflect essential G-dliness.

זוכים לגילוי פנימיות התורה שיהיה לעתיד-לבוא, שהגילוי אז יהיה נוסף על מצד מלמעלה אלא שזה יהיה ענינו דהעולם, כמו שכתב הרמב״םנא ולא יהיה עסק כל העולם אלא לדעת את ה' בלבד כו'יב שנאמריג כי מלאה הארץ דעה את ה' כמים לים מכסים, בגאולה האמיתית והשלימה על-ידי משיח צדקנו, בקרוב ממש.

שוֹרָה פְּנִימִיּוּת הַחּוֹרָה we merit the revelation of pnimiyus haTorah in ,שֵיהֵיה לֶעֲתִיד-לַבוֹא, the Ultimate Future.3

שָׁהַגָּלוּי אָז יִהְיֵה גוֹפַף עַל In that era, not only will there be a revelation from מצר מלמעלה אלא שזה Above, but also the awareness of spiritual truth will ,יהְיֵה עְנְיֵנוֹ דְּהָעוֹלֶם, accord with the very nature of our material world,

לדעת אַת ה׳ בַּלבד כוּ׳

as Rambam writes: "The occupation of the entire יָהְגָה עֲסֵק כַּל הַעוֹלָם אֵלָא world will be solely to know G-d...

The term Rambam uses, עסק, "occupation," implies that "the knowledge of G-d" will be the "business" of the world. Just as a businessman lives and breathes his business 24/7,5 so too, in the era of Mashiach, all humanity will be wholly occupied with the knowledge of G-d.

ים מְכַסִּים, ocean bed."

as it is written, "For the world will be filled with the knowledge of G-d as the waters cover the

This will be manifest in the true and ultimate Rede-על-יֵדִי מִשִּׁיחַ צִּדְקֵנוּ, meption, led by our righteous *Mashiach*;

may it take place in the immediate future.

SUMMARY

Through the study and spreading of pnimiyus haTorah, the teachings of Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai, in particular, as they have been revealed through the teachings of Chassidus, which enables them to be understood by a person in a manner consistent with his own makeup, we will merit the revelation of pnimiyus haTorah in the Ultimate Future. Then, "the occupation" of all humanity "will be solely to know G-d."

^{3.} See Tanya, Iggeres HaKodesh, Epistle 26, which explains the statement of the Zohar, Vol. III, p. 124b, "In the future, Israel will taste the Tree of Life [the teachings of pnimiyus haTorah]... and [as a result,] be redeemed from the exile with mercy."

^{4.} Hilchos Melachim 12:5, the conclusion of the Mishneh Torah.

^{5.} See Likkutei Sichos, Vol. 28, p. 271, based on the gloss of Bach to Orach Chayim 47:3.

^{6.} Yeshayahu 11:9.

- *) יצא לאור בקונטרס ל"ג בעומר תנש"א, "לקראת ל"ג בעומר .. יום ה', ל"ג בעומר, ה'תנש"א". (*
 - א) תהלים קיט, יח.
 - ב) שבהמשך חייב אדם לברך תרל"ח פכ"ג (ע' לט ואילך)*. וראה שם פכ"ה (ע' מא).
 - ג) ד"ה עד הגל הזה (דש, ג ואילך).
 - ד) ויצא לא, נב.
- ה) סידור שם (דש, סע"ב). ד"ה לה"ע הילולא דרשב"י עטר"ת (סה"מ עטר"ת ס"ע תיט ואילך). ועוד.
- ו) מובן בפשטות, שבמתן תורה [שהי׳ ע״י משה רבינו] ניתן גם פנימיות התורה**, אלא שהגילוי דפנימיות התורה הי׳ ע״י רשב״י.
 - ז) אד"ז בזח"ג רפד, ב.
 - ח) ראה אד"ז שם (רצא, סע"א) "מלין דדחילנא לגלאה".
- ט) ראה אד"ז שם (רפד, ב) "ר" אבא יכתוב". ויש לומר, דמהטעמים שצוה לכתוב הדברים שאמר אז דוקא הוא, כי בענינים נעלים צריר פעולה מיוחדת שיהיו שייכים להעולם.
- י) ראה תקו"ז ת"ו בסופו "כמה ב"ג לתתא יתפרנטון מהאי חיבורא דילך כו". ובכסא מלך שם, דפירוש "יתפרנטון" הוא "יפורשו מאמריו העמוקים כו' שיבינו כו". וראה לקו"ש ח"ג ע' 873.
 - יא) וסימן כח (קמח, א). ראה סידור שם (דש, סע"א ואילך). וראה אגה"ק ביאור לסימן ז"ך (קמז, סע"א) וסימן כח (קמח, א).
 - יב) ראה סה"מ ה'תש"ד ע' 13 ואילך. ובכ"מ.
 - יג) המשך תרס"ו ע' ריט. סה"מ ה'תש"ד ע' 211.
- יד) כ״ה הלשון (״מתן תורה״) בהמשך תרס״ו שם. ובסה״מ ה׳תש״ד שם ״הנתינה דפני׳ התורה״. ולכאורה הכוונה היא להגילוי דפני׳ התורה – ראה לעיל הערה 6.
- *טו) ראה הקדמת הרמב״ם לפירוש המשניות (ד״ה אחר כן ראה), דאביטה נפלאות הו״ע דבש וחלב תחת לשונך (שה״ש ד, יא), ובמס׳ חגיגה (יג, א)** דדבש וחלב הו״ע מעשה מרכבה אוה״ת (יהל אור) לתהלים עה״פ (ע׳ תסא).
- אהחלת, שלכאורה, שלראורה, התחלת בפני עצמו. ולהעיר, שלכאורה, התחלת (* המאמר הוא"גל עיני", אלא שניתוסף בתחילתו" וזהו שאמר דהע"ה" בכדי לקשרו עם המאמרים שלפניו.
- **) כולל גם פנימיות התורה שתתגלה לע״ל. וכידוע שמתן תורה לא יהי׳ עוד הפעם (סה״מ תרנ״ו ע׳ שנו. היתש״ט המשך תרס״ו ע׳ כג. שם ע׳ תקמו. תער״ב ח״א ע׳ שסו. סה״מ עטר״ת ע׳ רצא. תרפ״ה ע׳ קצט. ה׳תש״ט ע׳ 57. ועוד).
 - טז) מצודת ציון עה"פ (תהלים קיט, יח).
 - יז) פכ"ג (ע' לט).
 - יח) ח"ג קנב, א.
- יט) מהחילוקים בין נר"נ (נשמתא) לח"י (נשמתא לנשמתא) הוא, דנר"נ הם מלובשים בגוף, וח"י הם למעלה מהתלבשות בגוף. ויש לומר, דענין ההסתלקות הוא שהנשמה יוצאת מהגבלת כלי הגוף, דבכללות הו"ע ח"י שלמעלה מהתלבשות בגוף. וכאשר רשב"י "בעא לאסתלקא מן עלמא" (לשון הזהר שבהערה 7), (הגם שנשמתו היתה בהתלבשות בגוף), האירה אצלו בחינה זו, ולכן גילה אז בחינת נשמתא דנשמתא (שבתורה).
 - כ) אוה"ת (יהל אור) לתהלים ס"ע תנט ואילך.
 - כא) בתחלתו (ב, א).
- כב) וכמו "אראנו נפלאות" (מיכה ז, טו) שהקב"ה יראה את הנפלאות. ולהעיר מהמבואר באוה"ת לתהלים שם ובהמשך הנ"ל שם פכ"ה, דאביטה נפלאות הוא כענין "אראנו נפלאות".
 - כג) תנחומא וארא טו. שמו"ר פי"ב, ג. ועוד.
 - כד) תהלים קטו. טז.
 - כה) יתרו יט, כ.
 - כו) משפטים כד, א.
 - .23 לקו"ש ח"ח ע' 23.
 - כח) פכ"ג (ריש ע' מ).

- כט) ע"ד אסתכל באורייתא וברא עלמא (זח"ב קסא, איב).
- ל) להעיר מהידוע (תו"א בתחלתו (ושם ב, א). ובכ"מ. ובארוכה בלקו"ש ח"ט ע' 65) דתורה היא המשכה מלמעלמ"ט ומצוות העלאה מלמטלמ"ע.
 - לא) ראה ספר השיחות תשמ"ח ח"א ע' 213. ח"ב ע' 666.
 - לב) וראה תניא פ"ד (ח, ב) "התורה ירדה ממקום כבודה כו"".
 - לג) ב״ר רפמ״ד. וש״נ.
 - לד) קידושין מ, ב. ב"ק יז, א.
- לה) ראה תניא רפל״ח. של״ה רמט, סע״ב. וראה בהנסמן במפתח פסוקים ומחז״ל בתניא (קה״ת תשמ״ה) ע׳ צ הערה וו
 - לו) אגה"ק סכ"ט (קנ, ב). תו"א שמות נג, ג. ובכ"מ.
 - לז) תו"א מקץ לב, ד. ובכ"מ. וראה בהנסמן בתו"מ סה"מ אייר ע' רכד הערה 36.
- לח) ראה תו"מ סה"מ תמוז ע' טו, ובהנסמן שם הערה 25, שבקיום המצוות צ"ל שתי כוונות, כוונה כללית וכוונה פרטים
- לט) להעיר מתניא פל"ט (נג, ב) "כמו שאין אדם עושה דבר בשביל חבירו למלאות רצונו אא"כ אוהבו או ירא ממנו, כך אי-אפשר לעשות לשמו ית' באמת למלאות רצונו לבד בלי זכרון והתעוררות אהבתו ויראתו" – והדרך לבוא לאהבתו ויראתו היא לימוד פנימיות התורה (כמובן גם מרמב"ם הל' יסודי התורה פ"ב ה"ב).
 - מ) להעיר מסה"מ ה'תש"ב ע' 53.
 - מא) פ״ח (בסהמ״צ להצ״צ קיח, א).
 - מב) דש, ג ואילך. וראה בארוכה תו״ח ויצא לז, א ואילך. המשך תער״ב ח״א פק״ז (ע׳ רו) ואילך.
- מג) המשך חייב אדם לברך תרל״ח הנ״ל פכ״ה (ע׳ מב). ושם, שזהו ע״ד ענין מחצתי ואני ארפא (האזינו לב, לט. וראה קה״ר פ״א. ד) שיהי׳ לע״ל.
- מד) ראה לקו״ת ויקרא (ה, סע״א) מפע״ח (שער הנהגת הלימוד), שתלמוד ומשנה הם בבריאה וביצירה, ומקרא הוא בעשי׳. ובהמשך הענין שם (ה, ב), שהסיפורים דתורה הם ״דברים שלא ניתנו להתלבש למטה בחכמה ושכל כלל״. ומזה מובן, שעיקר הענין ד״מקרא בעשי׳״ הוא בסיפורים דתורה שבכתב.
- מה) ראה גם לקו״ש ח״ה ע׳ 136. ושם, דזה שיש נתינת מקום שיהי׳ ״אעבור״ ו״תעבור״ התנו בפירוש בדיבור שלהם בענין הגל לא תעבור גו׳ לרעה, ובפי׳ רש״י שם: אבל אתה עובר לפרקמטיא.
 - מו) תניא רפל״ו.
 - מז) ובלשון המדרש (הובא לעיל ס״ד) ״שגזר ואמר, בני רומי לא ירדו לסוריא ובני סוריא לא יעלו לרומי״.
 - מח) ראה הערה הקודמת.
 - מט) ראה המשך תער"ב ח"ב ס"ע תתקלב ואילך. תו"מ סה"מ ניסן ס"ע קצג ואילך. ובכ"מ.
 - נ) ראה תניא פ״ה (ט, ב).
 - נא) בסיום וחותם ספרו.
 - נב) היינו, שזה (ידיעת ה') הוא העסק (והענין) דהעולם.
 - נג) ישעי׳ יא, ט.



