

The Mystical Key to Relationships – Tomer Devora

Chapter 12: Which You have sworn to our fathers:

Some people are unworthy, yet the Holy One, Blessed Be He, has compassion for all. On the verse: "I will have mercy and show kindness to whomever I desire" (Shemos 33:19), the Talmud comments:

The Holy One, Blessed Be He, says, "this storehouse is for those who are unworthy." But there is another storehouse – of grace – from which the Holy One, Blessed Be He, bestows grace on the righteous as an unearned gift. For the Holy One, Blessed Be He, said, "Behold, they have the merit of their fathers. I made an oath to the Patriarchs, so even if they are unworthy, they will merit, because they are of the seed of the Patriarchs, to whom I swore. Therefore, I will lead them and guide them until they are perfected" (Brachos 7a; Shemos Rabbah 45)

This is also how a person should conduct himself. Even if he meets wicked people, he should not behave cruelly towards them or abuse them and so on. Rather, he should show them compassion, saying, "Ultimately, they are the children of Avraham, Yitzchak and Ya'akov. Although they may not behave properly, their fathers were upright and worthy. Hence, one who despises the sons despises the fathers, too. I do not wish their fathers to be despised because of me!" Thus, he should conceal their disgrace and improve them as much as he can.

- **Main Point: Even if someone does evil, FIND A SMALL PLACE in your heart for them.**

Chapter 13 From Days of Old:

This is the attribute with which the Holy One, Blessed Be He, conducts Himself towards the people of Israel when their merit and all else fail, and they are unworthy. What, then, does the Holy One, Blessed Be He, do? The verse states: "I recall My kindness towards you in your youth, My love for you on the day of your marriage.." (Yirmeyahu 2:2). The Holy One, Blessed Be He, recalls the days of old and the love He felt towards the people of Israel, and His compassion is aroused. This way, He remembers all the commandments they have fulfilled since their birth and all the good qualities with which the Holy One, Blessed Be He, conducts His world. From all these, the Holy One, Blessed Be He, fashions a special treasure with which to show them compassion. This attribute includes all the others, as explained in the "*Idra*".

So, too, should a person improve his conduct towards others. For even if he cannot find a reason for showing love and compassion to his fellows from amongst those mentioned previously, he should say: "There was surely a time when they had not yet sinned, and in that time or in former days they were worthy." For their sake, he should recall the love of "...those just weaned from milk and torn away from the breast" (Yeshayahu 28:9). This way, he will not find a single person unworthy of kindness, prayers or compassions.

Until now, we have explained the 13 Attributes in which a person should emulate his Creator. These are the Supernal Attributes of Mercy and their special property is that just as a person conducts himself here below, so will he be worthy of opening up the channel of the same Supernal Attribute Above for himself. Exactly according to his behaviour will the outflow of mercy be bestowed from Above, and he will cause this attribute to shine in the world. For this reason, he should not ignore these 13 Attributes or allow these verses to depart from his mouth. Rather, they should be a constant

reminder to him when the occasion for making use of one of these attributes arises. He should remember and say to himself, "This situation requires this particular attribute. I will not budge from it, lest this attribute become concealed or disappear from the world."

► **Main Point: We do not know what brings a person to do evil. FOCUS on where a person came from, where they are going, and have COMPASSION.**