

The Dveykus factor

Posted by commando612 - 12 Mar 2010 01:20

Here goes my first posting on this forum. I'll try to tie together some Torah thoughts which I heard/read over the years together with my own reflections. Comment/arguments/discussions are welcome.

We're taught that there are 5 levels of our soul, with each level closer to G-d. Weekdays we can access the lower three levels, corresponding to the 3 weekday prayers. Shabbos and Yom Tov we can access the 4th level of our souls, so we also have Musaf. Yom Kippur we access the fifth and highest level (the level of Yechida-unity) so we have Neilah.

The Maharal taught that each of the five restrictions of Yom Kippur correspond to a different level of the soul. And the one that corresponds to the highest level of the soul is marital relations.

This sounds exactly like the theme of Shir Hashirim, where the connection between us and G-d is represented by physical intimacy. We're taught that "all the Shirim are Kodesh (Holy), but Shir Hashirim is Kodesh Hakadoshim (Holy of Holies)". And what was in the actual "Kodesh Hakadoshim" in the Beit Hamikdash ? The Keruvim - male and female. So Shir Hashirim parallels the Kodesh Hakadoshim. The Kohein Gadol could only go there once a year, on Yom Kippur. And we're taught the famous Arizal's teaching that Yom Kippur is "Yom Kippurim" - almost as high as Purim. Purim is the day of the year when we're strongly encouraged to use the physical (e.g. wine) to get to a higher state of spiritual consciousness. So male-female intimacy is the bridge between the physical and the spiritual.

The paradox of our battle is that if we always suppress our sexual desires instead of redirecting them, we're killing the very passion which we need to serve G-d. The Gemorah says that when our Sages temporarily killed the desire for immorality, they couldn't find a "baeya" - which literally means an egg - but the Chassidic interpretation was that they couldn't find a "prayer". And in another Gemorah where G-d said "I've created the evil inclination, and I've created Torah as a spice (tavlin)" - a seemingly unusual word because a spice is never the main thing - Chassidus teaches that we should serve G-d mainly with the enthusiasm of the evil inclination. This is the same message we say twice a day in Shma "to serve G-d with all your heart = with both your hearts". Total suppression can work for a while (and maybe it's the only path that works for most of us at the first stages of the battles) but I don't think it's meant to last forever. Maybe this is the difference between Yesod and Malchut, between Yosef Hatzadik and Dovid Hamelech.

Sometimes there's a category of acting out which is associated with the highest spiritual feelings. Someone can be feeling an intense yearning for a connection and it feels like the only way to connect is to do something forbidden. When a person is in this emotional state, the word lust isn't an accurate description at all. A feeling of Dveykus (rapture?) is probably a more accurate description.

Here's an idea I've been thinking about. It seems intuitive to me (but I haven't seen it anywhere) that the ten tehillim of the Tikkun Haklali parallel ten different emotional states which can lead to sin. Each one of these tehillim is teaching the tikkun for that particular state, and when we recognize ourselves overcome by any of these emotions, we can redirect our emotions instead of acting out. For example Tehillim # 42 - "like a hart yearns for springs of water" - corresponds to the feeling of Dveykus I mentioned above, which could be redirected to thirsting towards G-d and doing something intense which you never would have done otherwise. Here's my tentative list of possible emotions corresponding to these Tehillim. I'm sure I'm wrong for some of them, so if you like my general theory then please let me know if you have any other ideas:

Tehillim # 16 - optimism vs. pessimism

Tehillim # 32 - depression because of sins

Tehillim # 41 - deprivation, sickness

Tehillim # 42 - dveykus (see above)

Tehillim # 59 - fear, loneliness ?

Tehillim # 77 - personal misfortune, sadness

Tehillim # 90 - ? feeling of years wasted ?

Tehillim # 105 - self-esteem

Tehillim # 137 - mourning

Tehillim # 150 - pure joy/ecstasy

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Re: The Dveykus factor

Posted by the.guard - 12 Mar 2010 14:26

Wow, commando. That was beautiful. I quoted you in Shemiras Ainayim E-mail #370... Here is what I brought (see my notes at the end)...

BTW. Why Commando612 and not 613?

Holiest of Holies

By "Commando" on the forum:

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another Gemorah where G-d said "I've created the evil inclination, and I've created Torah as a spice (tavlin)" - a seemingly unusual word because a spice is never the main thing. To explain this, Chassidus teaches that we should serve G-d with the same enthusiasm of the evil inclination. This is the same message we say twice a day in Shma "to serve G-d with all your heart = with both your hearts".

Some Notes on the above:

At our level, we can teach ourselves how to "pray" to Hashem and redirect our passion to Him by learning how to suppress our desires.

Very holy people, who are on the level of "Yom Kippur", can actually use the pleasure in marital relations to get to a higher level of spiritual consciousness, like we do on Purim - by using the physical to reach the highest levels. This is the state that will exist when Moshiach comes, and that is why the Pasuk implies (and Chazal explain) that although the other Yomim Tovim won't be the same when Moshiach comes, Purim will never be annulled.

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Re: The Dveykus factor

Posted by commando612 - 12 Mar 2010 17:51

Guardureyes,

Wow, thanks ! I liked your additions to my post.

The reason why 612 and not 613: The gematria of Bris is 612, and that's where my battles are.

(And maybe we can say that since 612 comes right before 613, the Bris is the foundation - "Yesod" - of keeping the Taryag Mitzvos. And since the Gematria of Torah is 611, we first need Torah in order to reach the level of 612).

Good Shabbos !

Commando612

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Re: The Dveykus factor

Posted by the.guard - 14 Mar 2010 14:48

Bris is 612. That's interesting. So one who is shomer the bris is like he kept the whole Torah, besides for one Mitzva. Which one? Hmm... food for thought. I'm sure we can come up with an

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Re: The Dveykus factor

Posted by DovInIsrael - 14 Mar 2010 16:33

how about:

Bris = 612

Marriage Relations = additional mitzvah.
interesting vort on this. Anyone want to give it a try?

ifirst we learn how to connect with ourself -

and only thereafter, do we learn how to connect with another

dov in Israel

small gematria of bris is: 9 emett

any thoughts as to why?

maybe our challenge in life is to find the true path?

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Re: The Dveykus factor

Posted by Ineedhelp!! - 14 Mar 2010 21:21

[guardureyes wrote on 14 Mar 2010 14:48:](#)

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Theres an idea that Gematria can be off by one. The source is from the Pasuk: "Efrayim uMenasheh kiReuvein v'Shimon yi'h'yu li". The Gematria of Menasheh is 395, for Efraim is 331. Together they are 726. Reuvein is 259, Shimon is 466, together they are 725. So we see that the Gematria of these two pairs are one off from each other yet Yaakov tells us that they are the same. So this is the source that you can be one off in Gematria.

The same can apply here. Bris is 612, but if you are Shomer Bris, its like you kept all 613

-Yiddle

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