

EMUNAH - FAITH BULLETIN # 21

**WHO IS WEALTHY? THE ONE WHO
IS HAPPY WITH HIS PORTION (PIRKE AVOT)**

THE RAMCHAL EXPLAINS THE FOUNDATIONS OF EMUNAH IN HIS SEFER DAAT TEVUNOT

...However, one who believes in God's oneness and understands its implications must believe that the Holy One, Blessed be He, is one, single, and unique, being subject to no impediment or restraint whatsoever in any manner whatsoever, He alone dominating all. And not only is there no power contrary to His (God forbid), but He himself is the Creator of good and evil, as stated (Isaiah 45:7): "I fashion light and create darkness, make peace and create evil. I, the Lord, do all these." There is no other beneath Him who exercises any dominion in the world. That is, there is no deputy or secondary power, as the idol worshippers imagined. And, what is more, He alone supervises all of His creatures individually, and nothing transpires in His world except through His will and agency — not through chance, not through nature, and not through constellation; but He governs all of the earth and all that is in it, decreeing all that is to be done in the higher and lower spheres, through all of the levels of the entire creation. And it is the very oneness of His dominion which negates the existence of any external force or pressure whatsoever, all of the ordinances and laws which He decreed being subject to His will, and He being entirely independent of them. When He so desires, He subjects His will, as it were, to the deeds of men, as we learned (Avot 3:19); "and all is in accordance with the preponderance of deed." And when He so desires, He pays no heed whatsoever to deeds, and, in His goodness, benefits whom He will, as He revealed to Moses of blessed memory (Berachot 7a on Exodus 33:19): " 'And I shall be gracious to whom I shall be gracious' — though he not be deserving." And (Job 35:6): "If you sin, how will you affect Him? And [if your offenses increase — what will you do to

"Everything Hashem does, He does for good." (Berachot 60b)

Our sages said (Chulin 7b), "A person does not bruise his finger unless it was decreed in Heaven,"