

JEWS HAVE FAITH ONLY IN HASHEM **BULLETIN 35**

**FROM THE SEFER SHAARE ORA
BY RAV YITZCHAK BLAZER ZTKL
STUDENT OF RABBI ISRAEL MI SALANT**

Man must always be prepared to defend himself against the assault launched by the evil inclination, which seeks to swallow him into the bottomless depths of worldly desire and pleasure. Our enemy is a great and powerful king, who is free of all distractions. The yetzer hara has no wife and children and does not have to worry about supporting a family. Neither is he distracted by the vanities of this world. He does naught but fulfill the obligation for which he was created, He executes his tasks with extreme efficiency, with. no sign of laziness or weariness.

What of man? He is weak like a worm, overwhelmed with toil and an unending workload. Because of this, his mind is confused and his intellect thick, and he is immersed and trapped in the arms of laziness.

Through the call of base material desires, he is stricken with blindness and confusion. How can he face his enemy and not fall slain, at his feet in the heat of battle? What is the strategy to end the raging war against the evil inclination, and the secret to stop the spirit of desire that constantly troubles him like a churning sea?

Man's only hope is to fortify himself with the fear of the Almighty God and His punishment. This fear is an impregnable fortress that can deliver him from every enemy and attack. It is mighty enough to bind his desires and prevent the evil intentions of his heart from becoming a destructive force. Only fear can serve as a valorous right arm to still the wild tempest of the evil inclination and allow man to emerge victorious in battle. All of this was revealed to us by the wisest of men, Shlomo HaMelech. It was he who taught us that the only effective weapon. in the battle against the *yetzer hara* is the fear of Hashem.

...This is the entire purpose of the evil inclination's machinations. All of its considerable efforts are directed towards casting a deep slumber on man, and

thereafter insuring that he will not awaken to know good and evil and extricate his soul from its bonds, Therefore, it overburdens man's heart with constant, arduous labor, so that he will not have a moment to contemplate and reflect on the path he is taking, as is written in the *Mesillas Yescharim*. It is self-evident that Mussar study is a painful thorn in the eyes of the evil inclination, for through it, all his counsel and wisdom are uprooted. Indeed, the fruits of Mussar study are the consideration of the world's account and the contemplation of Heavenly fear. Moreover, if a person resolves to set a fixed, daily time for Mussar study, then all the evil inclination's efforts to keep him from finding the way to the tree of life will be in vain — for when man's soul is impassioned with the fear of Hashem and he contemplates his path, the fortress of the evil inclination will be destroyed and its bonds will be torn asunder. Then the road will be open before him to flee and escape for his life — to be saved like a deer from the hunter, to regret his evil and return to Hashem, It is thus self-evident that the evil inclination marshals all of its energies to fight against Mussar study. It does not hesitate from utilizing all available means to turn man's heart away from this study — whether with empty but enticing arguments, or with any other effective tactic. It does everything within its power to block his way and strew his trail with hewn stones, so that his feet cannot traverse the upright path.

IT IS BETTER FOR A PERSON TO BE CONSIDERED A FOOL THROUGHOUT HIS ENTIRE LIFE BY MAN, THAN TO BE CONSIDERED WICKED FOR ONE MOMENT IN THE EYES OF G-D (MISHNA EDUYOT 5:6)

DID YOU NOTICE THAT THE FURTHER PEOPLE ARE FROM THE TRUTH THE MORE THEY CONSIDER SOMEONE WHO TURNS AWAY FROM EVIL TO BE A FOOL? REBBE NACHMAN, SEFER HA MIDDOT, EMET