

BILVAVI

BUILDING A SANCTUARY IN THE HEART

לחיות את הפרשה LIVING THE PARSHA

SHELACH #452

וּרְאִיתֶם אֶת הָאָרֶץ מֶה הוּא וְגו' (במדבר יג, יח)

"See the land – how is it?" (Bamidbar 13:18)

TRUTHFUL SIGHT

Seeing truthfully is to see reality as it actually is. Corrupt vision, in contrast, is seeing what one wants to see. A person interprets reality as he wants to see it. This distortion stems from the *shochad*—the inner bribery of the *nefesh*. Holy sight comes from the radiance of the *menorah*.

IN PRACTICE

A person must purify himself and seek truth, as it truly is. He should train his *nefesh* to set aside his personal interests (*negios*), in every area – even if only to a small degree. Thereby, he will attain a better grasp of what is reality.

◆ ◆ EXPANDED BASED ON EDITORS UNDERSTANDING ◆ ◆

TRUTHFUL SIGHT

Everyone has *negios*, personal desires and wills. These influence how he views life – in many areas. This creates a serious problem because people make important life-decisions based on how they perceive life, and they often do not see things objectively.

For example, when a person looks down at another person or becomes involved in a dispute, this is often based of a distortion and misunderstanding of reality.

What is important in life? Is it wealth? Honor? What should be a person's primary mission in life? These are fundamental questions, and need true answers, tailored for each individual. But when the person has *negios* (personal desires) it is hard for him to know the truth.

The menorah illuminated the light of truth into the world. Therefore, with this light, if one desires truth, he can discover the truth of life.

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

To see truth as it actually is, without distortions or wishful thinking, a person should ask himself: What is truly important in life. What does Hashem want from me? What is pulling me to see the world in the manner I do? Am I being guided by truth or by my own desires?" The more a person is willing to face the truth – even when it hurts - the more clearly he will recognize life, as it truly is. It can be compared to a father who raises his only son with love and joy. So will a person seek to raise and to reveal the light of his *neshamah*, because he knows how vital and helpful this light is for his *avodas Hashem*.

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