

BILVAVI

BUILDING A SANCTUARY IN THE HEART

לחיות את הפרשה **LIVING THE PARSHA**

BALAK #455

וַיֹּאמֶר בְּלָק אֶל בִּלְעָם לְקַב אִיבֵי קְרָאתֶיךָ וְהִנֵּה בִּרְכַתְּ בָרֶךְ (במדבר כד, י)

“Balak said to Bilaam, “I called you to curse my enemies, but you have blessed them these three times” (Bamidbar 24:10).

DIRECTING THE STRENGTHS OF THE NEFESH

Our rabbis tell us that there aren't any inherently negative forces in a person, only negative intentions. When one uses a force for a bad intention, it is a curse. When he uses his strengths for positive purposes, it is a *brachah*.

IN PRACTICE

Think about every strength you have and clarify for yourself how this strength can be used in a positive, beneficial manner. Also think about how it appears when one uses this strength in a negative manner? As much as possible, one must direct the strengths of his *nefesh* to use them in constructive, beneficial manners, and to minimize their usage for negative objectives.

◆◆ EXPANDED BASED ON EDITORS UNDERSTANDING ◆◆

DIRECTING THE STRENGTHS OF THE NEFESH

There is a deep lesson, taught in the holy *sefarim*, which reveals that all attributes and *middos* are potentially good. It is all a matter of how one uses them. An example is the attribute of *zrizus*, to do matters swiftly. If one uses this attitude to grasp Torah and *mitzvos*, he is using his attribute in a positive manner. If he will be swift to scold people, or if he will be swift to get to his taavos, he is using the attribute of *zrizus* in a negative manner. The same is with all *middos* and attitudes. They all have a positive side, and a negative side, and it all depends on how it is used.

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Think about every strength you have, and recognize that this is a great force. Used correctly, it will lead you to success in *avodas Hashem*. Use them wrongly, *chalilah*, and they will be a source of harm and distress to yourself, to others, and to Hashem.

Study your strengths, one-by-one, and ask yourself: Am I using this strength to help my fellow man and to serve Hashem, or am I using it in a negative ways? Minimize the wrong usage of the attributes, and increase the proper usage, as much as possible.

ORIGINAL HEBREW
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