

BILVAVI

"...OVER THESE, I WEEP"

NINE DAYS 5785

A terrible report has come in, in fulfillment of the verse that depicts the current time of the year (Bein HaMitzarim/ 'between the straits'): "All those who pursued her and reached her, between the straits" (Eichah 1:3), and specifically, regarding the fact that scores of Yeshiva students have breached a necessary boundary – by leaving behind their Torah surroundings, which they had previously been immersed in, day and night, and instead, they have left it to pursue the 'empty wells' of the world, connecting themselves to this evil called the 'Skull'¹, and all that's similar. With this, they trampled upon the boundaries set forth by our predecessors, connecting to the impurity of 'the Serpent, which breaks through the boundaries of the world'.

Let us should understand that as long as the Light of the holy Torah was shining properly amongst those who learn the Torah, it protected them from trouble. But as the material world entered more and more, step by step, into the surroundings of those who learn the Torah, accordingly, it has weakened the Light of the holy Torah.

The breaches committed now were many, and they are too many too enumerate. These breaches have been explained to us throughout the last several decades – but until now, there had always been at least some external "system", more or less [to be sheltered within]. But as of this year, several things have breached the boundaries of that external system – we will mention here just a few them.

Many large Torah communities allowed their Mosdos (schools and organizations) to be overseen by the religious government. This gave almost complete power to the government to take control over the schools/organizations. Until now this had always been unthinkable, especially during a time when there is a steady war against the entire Chareidi Jewry – that the things that are most dear to us should be given over to their control. This greatly weakened their entire attitude of being separate from the government and from those who don't keep the Torah, weakening the morale of both themselves and all of Klal Yisrael.

And weighing even heavier upon us is the Draft Law which had never been enforced until now. If not for Hashem helping us, there would have been a 50% drafting of Yeshivah students - which the religious parties of the government agreed to. Even if their intention was to eventually back out of this law, still, the very agreement to such a thing - besides for being such a tremendous Chilul Hashem - has greatly weakened the morale of those who learn Torah day and night – because it made the weak-minded ones among us think that it's "normal" for half of the Torah world to sit and learn Torah and the other half of the Torah world to serve in the army. This thing weakened many people, who had already become very weakened in their ruchniyus, from all of the outside influences that have lately entered the Torah world. It weakened their morale so much to the point that they even think that some of the Gedolim agree to half of the Bnei Torah leaving the Beis Midrash to go to the army.

This latest cold indifference is a 'final-hammer blow' to all of that has happened until now, which has been weakening the morale of the Bnei Torah before us. In the situation that we have now reached, scores of Yeshiva students have, Chas V'shalom, uprooted themselves physically, emotionally, and spiritually from the Beis Midrash, to go 'graze in strange, evil fields'.

The Nine Days of 5785, will always be remembered as the time of our history where such a terrible breach was committed even upon our most basic boundaries - and we knows where it will further lead to?

Gather the strength to bind your souls to Hashem and to His Torah. And with this, save yourselves from the "50th Gate of Impurity", and sanctify yourself with the "50th Gate of Holiness": to Hashem and to His Torah.

¹**The** current drafting crisis is called Project Kodkod, which means "skull". On the side of holiness, "skull" is called Gulgolet, and in Aramaic it is called Galgulta, and in terms of the Ten Sefiros, corresponding to the Sefirah of word for Keser and all that is associated with this high spiritual sphere. Countering it on the side of evil is the evil skull, Kodkod.