

BUILDING A SANCTUARY IN THE HEART



Core of Coronavirus

The Release of The “50th Gate of Impurity” Into Our World Today

Let us try to understand a little, with *siyata d’shmaya*, about the way Hashem is running the world today.

Anyone can see that there is a certain inner force which has penetrated into our world so that there can be an equal counterbalance between the forces of good (holiness) and evil (impurity).

The Sages teach that “The world was created with 50 gates of understanding (*shaarei binah*), and all of them were given to Moshe, except for one.”¹ According to some views, Moshe merited the “50th gate of understanding” at the time of his death. This means that at the end of his life, Moshe received the 50th gate of understanding, the highest level of holiness, and this is a hint that in the final days, in the time directly preceding Moshiach’s arrival, the “50th gate of understanding” will become available to us.

In the final days, where the 50th gate of understanding becomes revealed in the world, there must be an equal counterbalance between good and evil, and therefore the 50th gate of understanding is countered in the final days by the **50th gate of impurity, the *shaar haNun d’tumah*, which is essentially the “war of Gog and Magog.” When the “50th gate of impurity” reaches its total and absolute level, the “light of Moshiach” comes.**

Each of the “50 gates”, both in the sides of holiness and impurity, have another set of gates within them, and each of those 50 gates contain another 50 gates within them. In the “50th gate of impurity”, the first 49 gates are at one level, while the 50th gate within the 50th gate of impurity is at an entirely different level. The first 49 gates within the “50th gate of impurity” are logical to understand, while the 50th gate within the 50th gate of impurity is so hidden and concealed that it is **totally** beyond comprehension. It

is a kind of *tumah* that goes beyond logical understanding. The 50th gate within the 50th gate, both in the side of holiness and in the side of impurity, cannot be logically understood. They are beyond our level of comprehension.

The 50th gate within the 50th level of impurity is otherwise known as the force of “*Erev Rav*”, the mixture in this world. It is also known as the evil kind of *daas*, the mixture of good and bad *daas* which was contained in the *Eitz HaDaas*, and it is a kind of *daas*, a kind of knowledge, which is illogical.

Media Use Is The “50th Gate of Impurity”

Anyone who is aware of the situation in the world today can recognize this quite well. The world today is a terrible and disturbing mixture of the worst kinds of influences, with everything bombarding us all at once. **The entire world, especially since the year 5760 and even more so in the recent years**, has become enveloped in a certain spiritual darkness that has come into the world. It is all the presence of *tumah*, an invisible but spiritually present force of defilement, which surrounds everything in Creation, bringing confusion with it to everything that it touches. It all affects us, in the depths of our souls. It supersedes anything else that came before it.

The confusion and mixed-up values created by all of the *tumah* has entered into the places of Torah, penetrating even into our innermost circles where people are the most careful to observe Torah and *mitzvos*. It has entered into our once-sheltered society in the sneakiest way possible, and it destroyed everything. From a spiritual standpoint it has destroyed the entire generation already.

Without getting into all the details, this is all a general force known as the “50th gate of impurity” (*shaar HaNun d’tumah*). It’s all the media and all of the “smart” devices which have entered our environment and into our direct social circles, and into our homes. Some people have a

¹ Talmud Bavli Rosh HaShanah 21b

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“*hechsher*” on their use of social media, by using filters to make it “kosher”, but any sensible person understands that although this was well-intentioned, all it has done is totally uproot Jewish *neshamos* from within.

Anything in the world of social media, all of the communicating, all of the messages and all of the videos and all of the terrible *peritzus* (obscenities) that people can view today through it, has reached an abysmally low point.

The recent epidemic has now forced people to stay in their homes, resembling the verse, “Go my nation, come into your rooms, close the doors behind you, reflect for a moment, until the wrath passes”², and all places of Torah (*yeshivos* and *shuls*) have been closed, forcing everyone to stay at home. And what happened now? There are places where *bochurim* in yeshiva can go to so that they can hear *shiurim* on the Internet being given by their *Rebbeim*, so that they shouldn’t miss any *shiurim*....!

It’s true! The generation today has become so spiritually deadened!!

This is all the “50th gate” within the 50th gate of impurity itself, the lowest point to be on. The wonder is that things have been like this for a while yet Hashem didn’t send us any wake-up calls like this until now.

What Hashem is sending us now is all *rachamei* Hashem, it is all in Hashem’s great compassion for us that He has sent us this! The generation simply cannot continue the way it is. It is all filled with the influences of *tumah* coming from all directions.

The Sages teach that at the time when the *Beis HaMikdash* was destroyed, every rooftop had an idol on it. Today it is the same idea: there is *tumah* everywhere. And now that people are being forced to stay in their homes, what is everyone remaining with? **People are remaining with nothing but their smart devices and their connection to social media, and that’s all they have in their life right now!** Naturally, people can’t be alone, they can’t feel so separated from the rest of the world, so they are spending all of their time now communicating through internet and media. This is all the 50th gate of impurity.

At The Core of the Coronavirus

It is clear to anyone that the world will not return afterwards to the way it was before. There have been easier times and harder times that we have seen, but the world simply will not go back to the way it was, for now the “50th gate of impurity” has been released full force. That changes everything. It is no longer hidde! It is obvious, that there has never been anything like this before.

The “Coronavirus” is not the problem. Rather, it is just a physical manifestation, an outer appearance, of a deeper issue. The real issue here is that the entire world has become infected by the widespread influence of the most depraved elements possible, which is called the “*Keser d’kelipah*”. The world today is a “generation entirely deserving of destruction”³ as the Sages said long ago regarding the final generations.

All that is left for a person now, for one who has become so infected by the impurity of the world today, is to be stuck his house where he can be connected to the “50th gate of impurity”. Connected to the media, which supplies all of his news, all of his communication, and all his needs....

Even when people learn Torah from the internet, it is all coming from the most impure source possible, the “*Erev Rav*”. It is all a Torah being nursed forth from the *Erev Rav*! The *Erev Rav* stood far away from Har Sinai at the time of the giving of the Torah, as the Ramban says. But in our generation, it is not that way. Today the *Erev Rav* is mixed right with us.

People are secluded in their homes and still connected to the internet and to the media, connected to the deepest filth of the “50th gate of impurity” within the “50th gate of impurity” itself, on varying different levels, whether they know it or not.

The Way Out

But ultimately, it is all being countered by **the light of Hashem that is shining strongly now.**

There is a verse, “My soul desires You at night”⁴, which refers to the inner depths of holiness of the soul that are

³ Talmud Bavli Sanhedrin 97a

⁴ Yeshayahu 26:9

² Yeshayahu 26:20

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available now, in the darkest times. Even when where we are at the lowest spiritual level possible, we have the opportunity to attain **extraordinary** closeness with Hashem.

The innermost point of our soul is called “*Yechidah l’yachdecha*”, (a “*yechidah*”, to declare Your oneness”.⁵ We have a soul in us which contains a *nefesh*, *ruach*, *neshamah*, *chayah*, and *yechidah*. The Sages teach that the *nefesh* is seated in the liver, the *ruach* in the heart, the *neshamah* in the brain, the *chayah* rests on one’s clothing, and the *yechidah* is accessible through one’s home. The verse, “Close the doors behind you...until the wrath passes”⁶, the entire idea of being secluded in our homes, is really the light of Moshiach that counters the “50th gate of impurity”.

How long will this period last? That is unknown, because “Matters of the heart are not revealed by the mouth”⁷. But one thing is certain: **During this period, a person can connect to Hashem more strongly than ever, through being secluded in their house. It is the opportunity to reveal the depths of our *neshamos*, to become connected in our souls, earnestly and simply, with Hashem. To recognize how *Ain Od Milvado*, that there is nothing else other than Him.**

Throughout our history, there were always times of joy and times of crises. The *Gemara* says that *tzaros* come to in order to awaken us to do *teshuvah* and return to Hashem and to pray to Him for salvation. But the *teshuvah* which Hashem wants from us now, and the kind of *tefillah* which He wants from us now, is the kind of *teshuvah* and *tefillah* which is usually not accessed by most people. **The kind of *teshuvah* that Hashem wants to see from us now is that we should choose a kind of life that is eternal, to choose what we want our souls to become forever connected to, for all of eternity.**

There are two sides of the coin before us. Now is the time in our world when we are bombarded by the worst kinds of *tumah*, the availability of knowledge and media connection which is all the “*daas* of the Serpent”, the terribly harmful mixture of the *Erev Rav*, the evil knowledge contained in the *Eitz HaDaas*. But on the other hand, **we are being given now the chance to have eternal life, the chance to live forever, the *Eitz HaChaim*.**

What We Need Now Is Teshuvah, Tefillah, and Deeper Connection to Hashem

This is the deep choice which each person has now, to be able to choose to live our life for Hashem. The first step we need to do is *teshuvah*, and the second step is *tefillah*. But we also need to reach a third step: **To attain a deeper and absolute bond with Hashem!**

If one does this, one will pass through all of this in the correct way, and he will see miracles beyond miracles, of seeing Hashem’s Divine Providence! We will pass it all with the light of Hashem accompanying him, going through this entire ordeal while being connected with Hashem! This is what it means to merit eternal life, the light of Moshiach, the light of the resurrection of the dead and the state of the World To Come.

Understanding Seriousness of Today’s Situation

It is a grievous mistake if a person thinks that this is just another difficulty we are facing, and he attempts to make some improvements, being *mechazeik* (strengthening) himself in certain areas where he knows he can use *chizuk* in. That is nice, and it is a truthful thing to do, but he must understand that merely making improvements in our life is just the first step. If one takes a more truthful look at the situation in the world today, he will see that this is not just another *tzarah* happening to us. Nothing like this has ever happened!

People are so connected with *tumah* all over the world with an unbridled desire to know everything as quickly possible. This has unleashed this epidemic which has quickly swept through the entire world.

We should understand that Egypt was being stricken with plagues right before we got out of Egypt and we left Egypt amidst wonders and miracles. We were almost in the “50th gate of impurity”, and we wouldn’t have been able to escape from Egypt had we remained one more moment. In our times, we are indeed in the “50th gate of impurity”, as the Ohr HaChaim says, but we still have the power of the Torah with us, something we did not have with us in

⁵ a term recited in the Hoshanos on Succos

⁶ Yeshayahu 26:20

⁷ Midrash Shochar Tov 9:2

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Egypt. The power of the Torah can take us out of even the 50th gate of impurity, which is essentially **the pleasure that one can find in G-dliness. This “50th gate of holiness” can take a person out of the 50th gate of impurity.** This is what lies behind the test that we are going through in these times.

If someone today is totally superficial, they are busy only with what to do practically: What to eat, where to get food, where to get household items from, what to do with all of his time so that he shouldn't be bored, etc.. Someone a little more inner oriented will look to strengthen themselves in some area. Although this is truthful, it doesn't get a person to the root. A person may want to recite 100 berachos a day, recite *Ketores* (incense) every day, avoid speaking *lashon hora*, increasing love to other Jews, thinking about Divine Providence each day. All of this is good to do and it is all true - but this alone doesn't get to the root of this *tzarah* (plague).

One needs to know the depth of the *tzarah* we are in and then one can know the depth of how to come out of it. Hashem is yelling to us from every direction, that the entire lifestyle of the last couple years is unacceptable [to Him, and for us]. The entire connection that people have to the whole world, to all of the entertainment and restaurants and social mingling, all under the name of “kosher” entertainment, is really all *sheker* (falsity). It is like a *sheretz*, an impure insect, which we cannot ever make *tahor* (pure) no matter how many reasons we can come up with. The entire way of life today, even amongst the Torah observant, in which people have become too connected to the way of life of the world today, is totally unacceptable! It just cannot exist by us!

Hashem has shown every person now that he cannot depend on anything, not on his money in the bank, not on his doctors, not on the army. How can an army fight an epidemic!? There is nothing we can depend on now, other than Him. There is an awesome revelation taking place today, for anyone who doesn't stubbornly refuse to see it, in which we can see that the entire way of living of the last couple of years is totally against Hashem's will, period. Hashem doesn't want us to live in the way we are living, because He finds it totally unacceptable.

Weddings Today

There are endless details that we can elaborate on, but here is one example which happened this week.

Many people could not make *chasunahs* (weddings) normally. People who made weddings had to find 10 people to make a *minyana*, and that was it. [If you think about this, this was to show us that] all of the *chasunahs* being made today are really *sheker*. There is too much extravagance, too much food, too much materialism, and terrible *peritzus* in the clothes that people wear at *chasunahs* today. All of the food at weddings today is kosher, but the sheer abundance of it and the variety of food today at weddings, is not.

There is no *simchah* by any of these *chasunahs*. The entire way in which weddings were done is all against what Hashem wants, and Hashem has no *simchah* in these *chasunahs*. One of the seven blessings by a *chasunah* is that there be “joy in His abode”, but Hashem does not rejoice at a wedding that goes against His will.

Separating From Extravagant Lifestyles

Today everything centers around restaurants, which are usually of the strictest kashrus standards, and now Hashem has come and shut them all down. The magazines were filled with advertisements to spend Pesach in hotels in countries like Cyprus and Greece, and people think, why not? Is there anyone who thinks that this is the will of the Creator?? The wonder is that all of this falsity was able to continue until now, not that everything has suddenly been halted.

Anyone with the heart of a Jew, with a heart that is open to the spiritual, can feel and think how, in the last couple of years, our hearts can bleed over Jewish souls who have been lost. “Unknowingly, we have been sold, me and my nation, to be killed and destroyed.”⁸ It is like when everyone enjoyed the party of Achashveirosh. Hashem is telling us, **“Stop everything! Think!”**

And don't go now into your rooms where you can be alone so that you can connect to all of the media! Disconnect from it already!! A person thinks that he will get everything he needs from there, all of his guidance and all of his security. Woe to the person who thinks that his

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yeshuah will come from there! As if Torah will come from there- as if everything that *Klal Yisrael* needs to know will come to them through the use of the media!

Hashem is showing us now that “That is not how I think. This is all the thinking of the Serpent, the thinking of the *Erev Rav*”.

Hashem has given each person the opportunity to be secluded in his house. True, it’s not always easy to be home all day with the kids and to have some quiet and calm. But it is the house where a person can find his “*Yechidah*”. It is there where a person can be in solitude and reflect, and to understand that the Jewish people are a “nation that dwells alone.”

When the Jewish people entered *Eretz Yisrael* they needed to conquer the seven nations living there because they needed to become a nation that dwells alone. The Torah was given in the desert, precisely because it is far from civilization, and it was given at Har Sinai, from the word *sinah* (hatred) because it is there that we gained a sense of revulsion towards the nations of the world.

There is a separation between us & the other nations! There is a *mechitzah* between us and them! There is a life of *kedushah* for us! There is such a thing as the reality of Hashem’s presence in our heart! There is a bond that we can have with the Almighty G-d! That is what our soul really needs to look for now.

The deepest choice is now being given to each and every one of us. Each of us has gone through many choices in our lives, and it seems that we don’t know how long this period will last for. But, we now have the *bechirah*, the power of choice, which is being given to us in the Final Days.

This is the choice: Will a person choose eternal life, a life of the World To Come, in which there will be no eating and no drinking, just the *tzaddikim* enjoying the rays of the *Shechinah*? Or will people just hold onto whatever they have now and keep enjoying whatever they can still enjoy...?

To enjoy the radiance of the *Shechinah* is what a Jew is supposed to want to live for! Any physical pleasure is only for the purpose of calming our body a bit so that we can

immediately return to serving the Creator (as the *Mesillas Yesharim* teaches).

If one wants to see the salvation of Hashem and to see the redemption, to see the return of the light of Hashem (which really shines within us), one must return to the power of free will, by separating and distancing himself from everything that he has been used to until now. It was all going to fall apart anyway. And if a person *chas v’shalom* isn’t prepared to cut off from all of it, it means that he is trying to hold onto the innermost level of *tumah* within the “50th gate of impurity” itself...

One must recognize and reflect on the absolute falsity that has been with us for so many generations and to disconnect from all connections with falsity, and to return to the ways of Moshe, Aharon, Dovid and all other *tzaddikim*. One needs to connect to the depths of the Torah and to HaKadosh Baruch Hu, with a true bond, to recognize that there is no power in control other than Hashem, as the *sefer Nefesh HaChaim* describes.¹⁰ This is the simple thought that one needs. But that is not the end. The goal of this thinking is to form a deep bond in our soul with the Creator. If we do this, we can become a *ben Olam HaBa* already now.

Conclusion - The Rav’s Blessing

May Hashem merit us to separate from all of the falsity in the world, and that we should not wish that the epidemic should go away so that “everything can return to normal again”. **That would be an absolute curse, if the world would go back to the way it was before. That would be much worse for the world, than the situation we have now.**

May the Creator merit us to see the light of Hashem, and that He should stop the epidemic today, by destroying the innermost level of the 50th gate of impurity. And may we merit to be in the category of the verse “*Upon you, the light of Hashem shines*”¹¹, that the light of Hashem should shine, where there will be the revelation of Moshiach, when our eyes will see the return of Zion. Amen, and may Hashem will this to be.

¹⁰ *sefer Nefesh HaChaim*: Gate III: Chapter 12

¹¹ *Yeshayahu* 60:2

Q & A

Q Recently there has been an epidemic outbreak in China called Coronavirus which is quickly spreading and which has already killed thousands of people in China. How should a Jew view this? Are we supposed to be happy that the destruction of the wicked brings joy, as it says in *Mishlei*, or should we look at it as... suffering does not come to the world only for the sake of *Klal Yisrael*, meaning that we need to strengthen ourselves in some area. And if we do need to strengthen ourselves in some area, what should it be?

A Since it is not primarily killing sinners, we cannot apply the rule of “The destruction of the wicked brings joy”. Rather, it is because “Suffering comes to the world only for the sake of Yisrael.”

In the past, when an epidemic would spread, the effects were smaller. Diseases would only spread through a village, or city, or to a nearby country. But in our times, the entire world has tuned into “one small village” where something can spread very quickly throughout the entire world. This is the first major epidemic since the time in which the world has become entirely turned into a “small village” where everyone is mingled with each other, and therefore this epidemic is unique.

It is in the category of “*Keser*” in the side of the *kelipah* (impure).

It is called “Corona”, which in Hebrew is spelled קור-נה, a combination of the word *kor* (קור) and the letters *heh* (ה) and *nun* (נ). The word *kor* means “cold”, implying distance, as opposed to heat, which implies connection. The hebrew letters *heh* (ה) and *nun* (נ) are both letters that have no “companion” letter [as opposed to all other letters of the hebrew alphabet, which each have a companion letter], as taught regarding the verse, “They (הן) are a nation that dwells alone¹.”

This [Coronavirus] is therefore a deep revelation that the power of connection found in the world today is not a connection of warmth, but a “cold” kind of connection,

the coldness that represents Amalek. (As in the verse regarding Amalek, “They met you along the way”² – the words “they met” is “*korcha*”, from the word *kor*, cold). This is because the primary form of connection in the world today is not face-to-face, but back-to-back, by sending messages and information through various forms of social media. That is the main level of the generation today, where people all share a “cold” connection with each other.

The root of rectifying this [epidemic of Coronavirus] is to become connected with good, purified people each person on his own level, and to have warm connections [with such people whom it is appropriate to connect with]. This is also the secret of Mashiach (משיח), who contains the hebrew letters *yud* and *ches*, an acronym for the words “*yesh cham*”, which means “There is warmth”.

Q What did the Rav mean in the recent response about Coronavirus that it is coming because of all of the cold connections today that people have to each other and how is that worse than sin itself? How can it be worse than sinning?

A I will now go more into the root of the matter this time and I will elaborate a bit with *siyata deshmaya*. Hashem has created His world with an inner layer and an outer layer to everything. The inner layer is always the spiritual light, the *ohr*, which is contained in it and this corresponds to the soul, to the *neschama*. The outer layer is the container that is within everything and that corresponds to the body. In other words there is a soul and there is a body to everything in the creation.

There are two different ways of internal connection. There is a connection that one has to himself, which is called self-love, loving oneself, and this is a cold kind of connection. When two beings come together, there is warmth. There is a connection of warmth. Where there is an internal connection, when one is connects to himself, that is called cold connection. When a person is inwardly connected to himself, this is using the power of

1 Bamidbar 23:9

2 (Devarim 25:18)

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cold for *kedusha*, the holy use of the power of coldness. This is not an egoistic kind of self-love. It is a holy kind of self-love and it comes from using the power of cold for *kedusha*.

However, when this power becomes twisted by the side of evil, it is the power of Amalek, who has the power of evil coldness. This causes people to connect with people in a cold manner.

There is also an evil way to use the power of heat, the power of warmth, which is when a person becomes passionate and heated when he is on his way to committing a sin, such as forbidden relations. When a person only has a superficial connection to himself, this is the evil force of heat.

And when a person has an egoistic self-love to himself, this is the evil use of the power of cold. Being cold is not a sin. But it is the root of all sins because it prevents a person from doing *mitzvahs* and it causes a person to commit any sin. When a person is cold and he is indifferent to *ruchnius*, that is the power of Amalek, the power to be cold and indifferent towards the spiritual and just as a person's *middos* are the inner roots behind his *mitzvahs* and his Torah learning, so is heat and warmth a root to all of one's connections that one has.

Q Why would this cause people to be deserving of death? Is it similar to the situation of the second *Bais HaMikdosh* when there was rampant *sinas chinam*, baseless hatred? Or when the three cardinal sins were being committed? Or is this something new which has developed in our generation which is all considered like one small village connected together?

A When a person is connected to coldness itself, it is death. It is a connection to the very concept of death because a living person is warm whereas a dead person is cold. This Coronavirus, which is being caused by cold relationships between people, is a new development which has developed in our generation. We will now elaborate on this, with *siyata deshmaya*.

The three cardinal sins, the sins of murder, elicit relations, and idol worship, are the root of all sins. However these three root sins essentially get their power from the sin of *sinas chinam*, baseless hatred. In this generation, the generation of the *ikras demoshicha*, the generation directly proceeding Moshiach's arrival, the inner root of *sinas chinam* is being revealed. And the very root of *sinas chinam*, the very root of baseless hatred, is the power of *pirud*, disparity, separation. It is a world of disparity that is being revealed in our times. In the period of the second *Bais HaMikdosh*, when *sinas chinam* was rampant, it was more of a chance kind of a disparity. It was a kind of a disparity where people were still able to bond with each other, in spite of the disparity. It countered the *chaya* level of the soul. In the era of the first *Bais HaMikdosh*, the presence of three cardinal sins corresponded to the *nefesh*, *ruach* and *neschama* of the soul. But in today's generation, the disparity of the world today, is the evil force which counters the *yechida* level of the soul, the highest level of the soul.

The *yechida* level of the soul corresponds to the holy power of coldness, which is essentially the power of a person to become alone in solitude with Hashem. In the side of evil, this power is countered by the power of evil coldness, the power of disparity, the power of Amalek. *Yechida*, the soul's power to be cold, to become alone and attached to Hashem, is really the holy manifestation of *keter*. This is being countered by the Coronavirus, which is really the *keter* on the side of evil.

We need to understand very well that until the year of תשע"ט, 5779, we still had another 221 years left until the end of the world which is the year 6000. From this year onward, with 5780, the 221 years have now been shortened. The number 221 is equal to the word ערך, which hints to the *midda* of Hashem that is called אף מאריך, when Hashem slows down His anger. And now that the 221 years have been shortened, it has also minimized on some level Hashem's conduct of slowing

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his anger. Therefore, from this year onward, the entire world is going through changes, especially in *eretz Yisrael* and things will not become totally calm until the coming of Moshiach.

According to the non-Jewish calendar, the year is 2020, which is the number 20 twice. The number 20 עשרים is equal in *gematria* to the word כתר *keter*. This is the revelation that is taking place now, the *keter deketer*, the innermost level of the *keter*, which is *keter* twice, equal to 20 and 20, which is a hint to the non-Jewish year of 2020. Therefore, a state of solitude has come into the world, an impaired kind of being alone, where nobody can come within the *daled amos* of another person. This is because the *daled amos* of a person, the space of a person, is hinting to the *yechida* level of the soul and right now nobody is allowed to interfere with another person's space. It is also causing people to remain secluded in their homes. And as it is known, the *nefesh* level of the soul is in the liver, the *ruach* is in the heart, and the *neschama* is in the brain, the *chaya* is on the person's clothing and the *yechida* is in the house. Therefore, one has to be secluded in the house due to the *yechida* revelation which is taking place in the world today.

Understand that Hakadosh Baruch Hu has now erased any connection to *tuma*, to all of the restaurants, to all of the mingling, all of the vacations and all of the entire world of falsity that has been here for the last couple of years. However, just as when we left Egypt, we remained with the idol that was called *Baal Tzefin*, the root of all idols, so too are we remaining now with the very innermost level of *tuma*, the very core of the *shaar hanun detuma*, which is otherwise known as the media, the internet. Now people are secluded in their homes but their entire connection to the world is still being enabled through the media and the internet, which is the *shaar hanun detuma*, the internet.

It is the most difficult *kelipa* which has not yet been shattered. The innermost gate of this *shaar hanun detuma*, the *keter deketer* on the side of evil, is dominant now without any restraint. The way to get rid of this *kelipa* is by shining the light of Moshiach, which is found with

us already now. This is the light of the *keter deketer* on the side of *kedusha*. When the media will disappear, Moshiach will come. But until Moshiach comes, the innermost level of the *shaar hanun detuma* dominates in the world and it contains a mixture of *kedusha* and *tuma*, from the highest level of *kedusha* all the way down to the lowest level of *tuma*. That is why everything has become mixed and confused in a disturbing way, in this generation which our logic cannot comprehend. This will not change until the coming of Moshiach.

Q The Rav has said that there are two parts for us to improve at this time, to connect to people who are good and pure and to attain connection of warmth with other people. Why isn't it enough to just have warm connection with people? Won't this alone fix all of the cold connections that people had with others? Also why do we need to physically befriend people who are pure and good.

A On one hand, a person needs to build warm relationships with other people to counter all of the cold relationships that there are in the world. This is the holy use of the power of warmth. But that is not the main part that we need right now. The main thing we need right now is to find our power of holy coldness, which is essentially the *yechida* level of our soul, and that is the main revelation taking place now. This is achieved by becoming attached and integrated with Hashem, with the belief and the trust that there is no one in control except for Hashem. We need to review the *segula* of the Nefesh HaChaim that when a person believes that no one has any control other than Hashem, he is protected from all harm. This is the true and only way to pass through this period, where the *kelipa* of the *shaar hanun detuma* has become physically manifest throughout the world. Therefore, a person needs to attach his soul to Hashem with love and with fondness for Hashem, and to feel a sense of bitul and to feel nullified to Hashem. Through this a person can live a life of delighting in Hashem and in His Torah. This is the general way of living a life of truth but all the more so, in this generation, and especially in the current period, which we are in now, it is our hope and our *tefilla* that the *kelipa* of the *shaar hanun*

Q & A



detuma, which is the media, should become shattered and that Moshiach should become revealed now so that he can illuminate the entire world with the *yechud* that will reveal the individuality of Hashem because there is nothing besides Hashem, *ein od milvado efes zulosoi*.

Q Now that all of the yeshivas and the shuls have been closed because of all those fears about the epidemic of Coronavirus what shall we focus now in our *avodas* Hashem? What is upon us to do, that Hashem should save us from this?

A Every period has an *avoda* which corresponds to that particular period. As with many other troublesome times, people have to do *teshuva* and cry to Hashem and give *tzedaka*. Besides for this, our current period that we are going through necessitates another *avoda*. The period we are going through now is not simply another period which is part of the chain of events throughout the history of the world. Rather this period that we are going through now is the final stage of the exile but we don't know for how long this period will last. The period that we are in now is the revelation of the innermost level of the *shaar hanun detuma*, the fiftieth gate of impurity, so that there should be an equal counterbalance between good and evil in the world. We need to view the epidemic of Coronavirus from an inner perspective as something deeper and not just simply an epidemic. The epidemic itself is nothing but a revelation of something deeper which is behind it. The essence of this period is depicted by the statement in *Chazal*, therefore "man was created individual". Throughout most of the world, and most of the world was considered like the entire world, people are becoming secluded in their homes and becoming individuals. This is showing to us that each person needs to become an individual. On the most external level, it means that a person has become secluded, away from everybody else. On the inner level, it means that a person needs to recognize their uniqueness and that there is no other person in the world who is exactly similar to him, in Torah learning or in *middos*. And the innermost level of this is that a person needs to develop a bond with Hashem and to his Torah learning in which

he is like an only child to Hashem, a *ben yachid*. That is the depths of the spiritual illumination which is shining now during this period. If a person merits to do this *avoda* properly, he will merit to see completely the face of Moshiach. It is very proper at this time to reflect about these words, to first contemplate these words and understand them intellectually, and then to let these words settle on our heart. And then accordingly, one will know what his inner *avoda* should be during this period. It is our prayer and our hope that this period of the *shaar hanun detuma* should be as short as possible and that the *shaar hanun dekedusha*, the fiftieth gate of holiness, should prevail over the *shaar hanun detuma* so that Moshiach can immediately come.

Q I read the Rav's response about the root of what is causing the Coronavirus and what we need to work on now. In addition to various *kaballas* that I made, *bli neder*, my wife and I took upon ourselves to increase giving *tzedaka*, to try to house people who are in need of *kiruv*, in order that we can create relationships of warmth with others. I understood this from the Rav's words about what we need to improve right now. I am also trying to *daven* now about the situation. My problem though is that I feel like a fly on the wall when it comes to everything that is going on which is being labeled as a pandemic. Is the average simple Jew like me really able to do anything in the world right now will my prayers really help? And since this is a message of Hashem to *klal Yisrael*, as a whole, how can some individual person really make a difference? I would be happy if the Rav could please guide me through these issues that I mentioned and if the Rav agrees to the *kaballas* which we have made upon ourselves.

A Everything contains an external and an internal layer to it. Everything has a body to it. And a soul to it. The act of giving *tzedaka* and hosting guests is all the external part of what we need to do. It is the container, the body.

Q & A

We also need the inner part, which is the soul. This inner part of becoming more connected with others is to have a true and an inner bond with others. However, we need to be careful about who we connect to, and therefore we should only connect to those who are pure, to do this as much as we can, and at our own levels. In the inner recesses of our soul, we need to connect ourselves to the root of all the *neshamas* of *Klal Yisrael*, to feel a connection to *Klal Yisrael* as a whole and to each Jew individually. But that is only one side of the coin and it counters the Coronavirus, which is from the word *kor*, which means cold, and that is by increasing warmth and love in our relationships with others by becoming more connected with others.

But the other side of the coin is that we also need to use the power of *kor*, the power of coldness, for *kedusha*. And that is by becoming secluded with ourselves to become secluded with the Creator. This is the secret of revealing the highest part of the soul which is called the *yechida*, which means individual. The Coronavirus is really the *kelipa*, the shell, which counters the *yechida* level of the soul, which is shining strongly now during this current period. And it is essentially the light of the redemption, may it come speedily. *Tefilla*, *davening*, praying, always helps in any situation. Sometimes *davening* can totally erase a decree and sometimes *davening* will not take away a decree but it will lighten the intensity of the decree. But even if *chas v'shalom* there is a decree which cannot be nullified through *davening*, which is what the people thought at the times of Purim, it is still possible to lessen the intensity of the decree through *davening*, through praying. The main kind of prayer which is needed now by the Jewish people specifically and also by everyone who inhabits the world in general, is to pray that everybody should return completely to G-d and that everyone should recognize that G-d is showing everyone that He does not want this false and this superficial kind of connection that people have with each other. The connection that people have with each other by eating out together in restaurants, through vacations, through

night entertainment, through places of social mingling, through using social media to send out information and videos to each other, etc... All of this is falsity, it is all *sheker*. And it is all founded on the *shaar hanun detuma*, the fiftieth gate of impurity, where *keter* becomes *sheker*, where connection becomes falsity - it is the innermost level of the *shaar hanun detuma* itself. It is *sheker* itself.

By recognizing this truth and by returning in complete *teshuva* to Hashem, the innermost gate of the fiftieth gate of holiness will become revealed. In no circumstance should a person *daven* that the epidemic should stop so that everything will return to the way the world was before everything started. If the world continues as it was, it will actually be worse than death since the world is filled today with *tuma* in every direction. The heart of any Jew that is pure today is able to feel broken from the very presence of all the depravity and all the *tuma* that is in our world. Even as the epidemic is taking place with people secluded in their homes they are becoming even more attached to the internet and to social media outlets instead of connecting to the *yechida* level of their soul and becoming alone with their *neshama* and with their Creator. This is the very depth of the tragic fall into the innermost level of the *shaar hanun detuma* that people are getting their main *chius* from the media.

At this time the verse of "מ' לה' אלי", whoever is for Hashem, come towards me. This applies to us more than ever. Each person right now has the awesome choice of either becoming connected to Hashem, to the Torah, and to one's *neshama* or *chas v'shalom* fall into the depths of the *shaar hanun detuma*, the most depraved spiritual level possible. That is what we truly need to daven about. For this reason, our *tefilos* at this time need to come from the depths of our *neshamas*, each person on his own level, from the deepest place within yourself that you are in touch with. What we daven for the most shows what is bothering us the most, at this innermost level of our being.

Q & A



The following is the question and answer session after the weekly shiur on the Encyclopedia of *Avodas Hashem* given Wednesday 22 Adar 5780

Q

The Rav said in the drasha that the world has right now reached the state of a counterbalance between good and evil. I am taking from this that we are currently in the war of Gog and Magog.

A

We are in the intensity of it.

Q

How can we deal with all of the *tuma*, of all of the impurity, which is coming from the *shaar hanun detuma* today, and how can we go against the rest of the world?

A

There are two parts of how Hashem will redeem the Jewish people by the final *geula*. One part of it depends on how much Hashem wills it to be through His choice. If Hashem redeems us through *middos hadin*, through strict justice, then of this it is said, "which living one can be found righteous by You?" If that is the case, *chas v'shalom*, then it will be like the words of the *sefer Chesed l'Avraham* who states that there will only be 7,000 people alive at the time of the *geula*. There is also another way in which Hashem can bring the *geula*. And that is when He is like an elderly King who is full of compassion, Where Hashem will awaken all those from within to be able to recognize Him. And through this, everyone will immediately do *teshuva* and return to Hashem and then everyone will merit the *geula*.

What exactly will happen? None of us can know. It is the *avoda* of every individual now to use the illumination which is being shined upon our souls during this time, to use the spiritual light of the *shaar hanun dekedusha*, the fiftieth level of holiness. All a person needs to do now is to resemble the verse, "and I have cleaned out the house". And then one will feel the inner light which is shining clearly now.

As to your question about how to go against of the world, *Chazal* teach on the verse, Avraham *Halvri* that Avraham was on one side of the world while the rest of the world was on the other side. There is a fundamental difference between what happened with Avraham and what is taking place today. Simply speaking, Avraham gave to each of us the ability as his descendants to go against the rest of the world. But on a deeper level, Avraham attained all of his levels in a hidden manner until Hashem showed Himself to him after all of his exertion to recognize the Creator. But we are found at a point where Hashem's light is already beginning to shine for us. And it is just that there is a point which is concealing it from us. If one manages to remove that obstacle even slightly, the light of Hashem will shine for him. So it is really not that difficult to go against the rest of the world today because there is an equal counterbalance between good and evil. Between holiness and impurity. And if there is so much impurity in the world today, there is just as much holiness available which can counter it. Which we are able to gain access to. It is the intense light of Hashem which is shining strongly and clearly now.

Q & A

Q

The Rav has said that there is now an opportunity for us to reach *netzach nitzachim*, to reach eternity. Does this mean that there is an opportunity to become inspired?

A

This is the opportunity to reach eternal life. And it is the depth of our power of *bechira*, our power of free will, where each person can choose where he wants to become connected to for eternity.

Q What should we do practically speaking? Should we do *hisbodedus*? Should we meditate and personally reflect?

A

To meditate is just the lower aspect. To meditate really means to be cut off emotionally and also in an actual sense from all of the humdrum and the movement of the world today which is entirely and deeply entrenched in the *shaar hanun* within the *shaar hanun detuma*, the innermost level of defilement.

Q

Is all that is going on today coming from Hashem? Or can we say that it is coming from the *sitra achra*? Hashem has closed all the shuls and all the *beis medrash*, so how should we view this? Is it from Hashem and what does Hashem want from us?

A

Everything in creation is all being run with the *hashgacha*, with the divine providence, of Hashem. Sometimes this *hashgacha* can be openly seen as Hashem's divine *hashgacha* and sometimes it is closed by the *sitra achra*, by the other side, which conceals Hashem's *hashgacha*.

The situation in the world right now looks totally like the *sitra achra* but that is only the garment that clothes Hashem's divine providence. Due to the inner spiritual light that is shining strongly now, it can all be clearly seen as the light of Hashem. If a person gets passed all of the *tuma* of the *erev rav* today, he can see clearly how it is all the light of Hashem.

Q

What is going to happen to the media?

A

This is the last thing which they will cut off from. This is what they live from. The media is not able to cut off. Hashem will be the one to cut it all off.

Q

What is our *avoda* now?

A

Again, it is to erase our emotional connection that we have with the world, to feel separated from it in our soul. As much as we can. And also, to cut off from the world in the practical sense by disconnecting ourselves from all that is going on in the world and to instead connect ourselves only to Hashem and to His Torah and nothing else.

In depth we need to become connected to the *neshamos* of all the people of *klal Yisrael*. and in the actual sense, we should become connected only to those who are as close as possible to *kedusha*, to holiness.

Q

Is there a need to do anything to prepare for this emergency? Or is there no need for this? And

Q & A



what about shopping and stocking up for other things? And for how long of a period should we prepare for?

A There is no one answer to this question. It is the same age old question of how much *bitachon* and how much *hishtadlus* a person needs to have. Nobody knows what will be. Everyone should prepare somewhat and do *hishtadlus* in buying what he needs for the house, but as for how much a person needs to buy, that all depends on how much *bitachon* a person has. There is no one answer to this question. Everyone needs to prepare by buying some food for the house, but how much a person needs to buy is a matter that depends on their level of *bitachon* one personally has.

Q What is the way to view our social distancing now from others?

A The fact that Hashem has caused everyone now to become distant from others is not only for the purpose of maintaining our health. It is to show us that we need to maintain our inner health, which is by emotionally disconnecting from the world. We can all see with our own eyes that it was too difficult for anybody to disconnect from interacting with the world today, and now Hashem has come and He has separated the world from everything.

By closing down all of the avenues of entertainment in the world, all of the restaurants in the world, all of the restaurants and hotels and places of entertainment, by doing so Hashem has quickly silenced all of the 49 levels of *tuma* that are in the

world. But the only thing that remains which Hashem did not take away yet is the *shaar hanun detuma*, the fiftieth gate of defilement. A person today now has a choice. To either separate from everything in the world and to become alone like when Yaakov *Aveinu* was alone, to become the nation that dwells alone, and to feel totally dependent on Hashem, which is the true life to live, or a person is choosing to connect to the media, to the internet, which is the *shaar hanun detuma*.

Q The Rav said that if the world returns to the way it was before then it will actually be a curse for the world, so what should we *daven*?

A We should ^{daven} that the *shaar hanun dekedusha* should overcome the *shaar hanun detuma*. On the external level we should daven that this will cause the epidemic to go away. On the internal level we should *daven* that *kedusha*, that holiness, should prevail over *tuma*, over defilement. It is not simply like davening for any illness to go away.

Q Will the hisorerus of the Jewish people now bring the *geula*?

A There are two kinds of *hisorerus*, awakening. There is an awakening from below and there is an awakening from above. When we left Egypt and needed to be saved from the Egyptians who were chasing after us, there was first an awakening from below.

Q & A

Everyone was trapped by the desert on one side and by the sea on the other side. And our only hope was to jump into the sea and rely on a miracle from Hashem. As soon as we went into the sea, which began with Nachshon ben Aminadov, we began the awakening from below which merited us to receive salvation from Hashem. The final redemption will reflect the exact state of affairs as the first redemption, which was when we left Egypt. It will be an awakening from below which will come from our *mesiras nefesh*, from our willingness to dedicate our will for Hashem. And this awakens Hashem's will to redeem us. That is the simple understanding. That our *mesiras nefesh* awakens Hashem's will and this is the normal way of events in which there is first an awakening from below which arouses Hashem's salvation for us.

However, from a deeper perspective, there is also the Infinite light of Hashem in which Hashem first brings us an awakening from above to initiate the process of redemption since it is His original will that we should be redeemed. Also, we are currently at the end of this world and entering into the state of the next world. Therefore, that creates two different viewpoints right now. From the perspective of ending this world, we need *mesiras nefesh* to merit the *geula*. This is all an awakening from below. But from the perspective that we are entering into the next world, we can have an awakening from above and merit our salvation from Hashem's will itself.

Q

What are the exact parameters of *mesiras nefesh* during this time?

A

There is practical *mesiras nefesh* which one needs to

do and there is also emotional and inward *mesiras nefesh* which a person needs to do. In the practical sense, a person can take one thing a day which he has a hard time with, and overcome it. On the emotional inward level, a person should cut off deeply from all that is going on in the world and to feel a sense of separation from the entire world. A person can activate this *mesiras nefesh* by thinking how long will all of this go on for?

Look how Hashem has changed the world so quickly. A person can see that the whole world is shaking now. And that alone can get a person to see how much he needs to cut off the world right now because he sees how the entire world is *sheker*, it is all falsity and that Hashem is able to change things so quickly.

Q

How long will this process take?

A

How long did the Holocaust take? It was six years. We cannot know how long this period will last for. This is not an issue of how much time it is going to take.

Q

How can we deal with everyone in the family right now, now that we are stuck in our house for such a long period of time?

A

One needs to reveal *ahavas yisrael* towards them to reveal a genuine relationship with them, and to understand that all other relationships are from the world of falsity. We need to reveal a true connection to our family members.

Q & A



Q

Is the world a pure place right now?

A

There are two sides to the coin. On the one hand, Hashem has put an end to the 49 levels of *tuma* in the world by closing everything down, all of the eateries, all of the hotels, all of the entertainment outlets.

On the other hand, the *shaar hanun detuma*, the fiftieth level of impurity, has still remained and has actually gotten stronger because people are in their houses now surfing the internet all day. They are getting all of their vitality in life from the internet and from media.

On one hand, we are very happy that so much evil has gone away from the world now. but on the other hand, we can be very pained and troubled that the strongest kind of evil, the great *tuma* which is the media and internet, has only gotten stronger. However, in spite of this, there is also the light of Hashem which is shining strongly now, which can counter all of that.

Q

Will the Jewish people be hit by all of what is going on in the world right now?

A

We are not dealing here with the external effects of what is going on now, and nobody knows what will happen in this aspect. That should not be our concern. We should be interested now only in the inner ramifications that this has for the Jewish people. From an external perspective, the Jewish people are being hit along the rest of the world.

But from the inner perspective, the Jewish people are not being hit. Wondering about situation of the world right now and all that is happening in the world and all that is going to happen to the world is exactly the kind of thing we want to avoid thinking about right now. There should be no difference to us of what will happen at the end of all of this, We are only interested in *netzach nitzachim*, in eternity. Wondering about our physical safety should be a very small question compared to the real issues which we should be wondering about.

Q

What will be when all of this is over?

A

The world will not go back to the way it was before. **And that is clear.** Whether this period lasts for a long time or for a shorter time, it is clear that the world will never return to the way it was before.

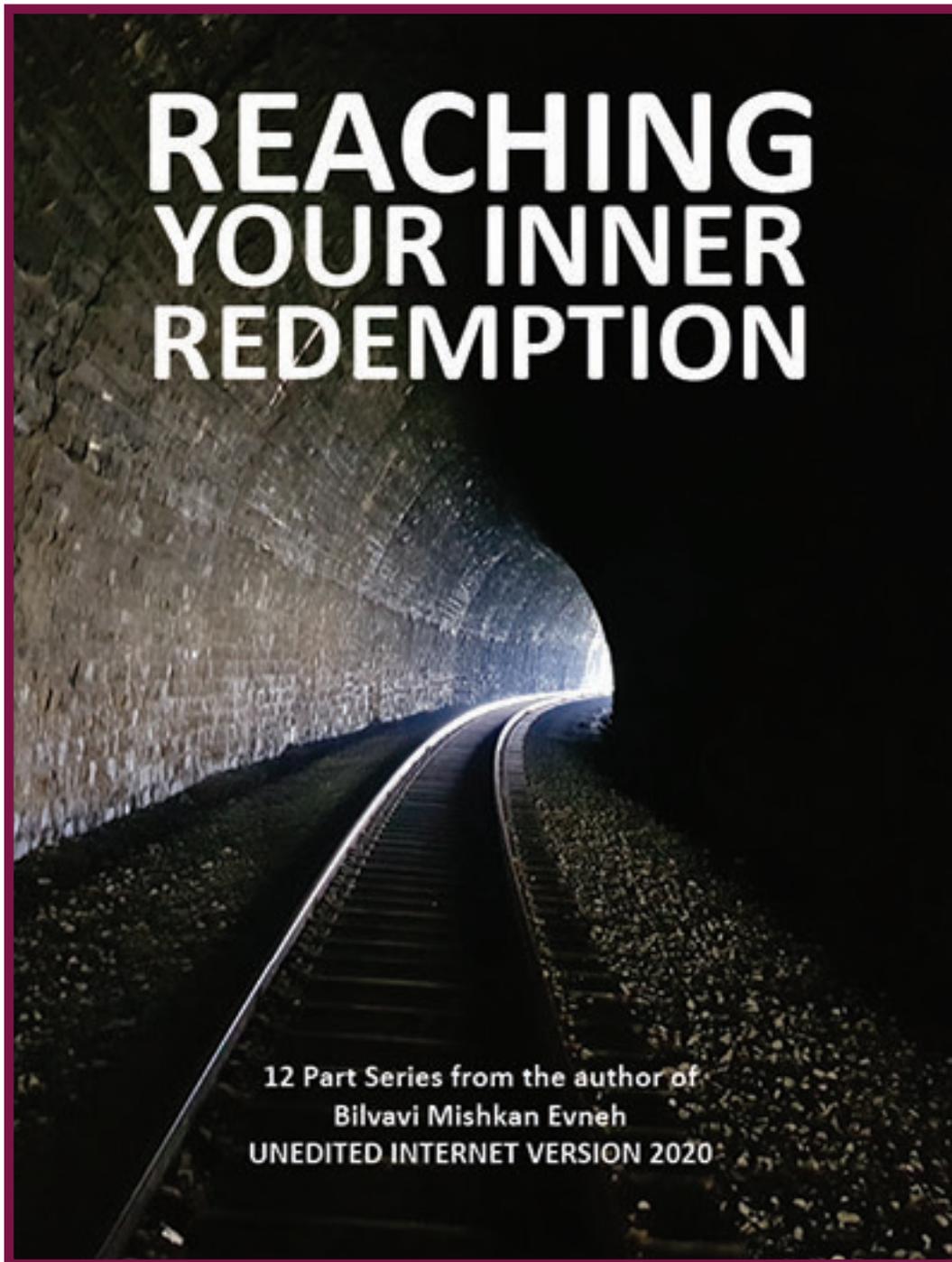
Q

What is going to be, are we not supposed to think at all of what is going to be in the world?

A

The very thought of what is going to be is really coming from a desire in a person to stay attached to this world. It should make no difference what is going to us. Hashem will run the world as He sees fit. This same question of what is going to be was asked by the 4/5ths of the Jewish people who died out in Egypt in the plague of darkness.

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