

GROWTH!

Background

It is difficult to imagine people living in as pure and holy a condition as Adam and Chava before the sin. Their every need was taken care of; they were put into Gan Eden with the sole task of growing and reaching perfection. They began at a point so lofty that normal physical drives didn't exist within them. The *Siforno* explains that the reason they were naked and not embarrassed was that to them, the act of physical relations was so pure and holy that there was nothing to be ashamed of; it was the equivalent to our eating. When they ate from the *Eitz Hadas* (Tree of Knowledge), they radically changed the entirety of existence and became much more comparable to members of the animal kingdom with all of the drives and desires that one finds there.

Questions

The *Siforno* is telling us that the reason that HASHEM made them garments and actually dressed them was that HASHEM was afraid (if it could be) that when they left Gan Eden, if they were to clothe themselves, they would take it as a sign that they were now conducting themselves on a higher level. They would be acting modestly, which they hadn't done when they were in Gan Eden.

How is it possible for them to make such a mistake? They knew that they sinned. They knew that their sin radically changed the creation and themselves, and they knew that because of those changes, they were now on a much lower level, to the extent that they now were operating much more like the animal kingdom – with desires and temptations. Therefore, they had a need for clothing. How is it possible that they could mistake this new state for growth when it is clearly a much lower state of being?

ספר בראשית פרק ב

כה) וַיְהִי שְׁנֵיהֶם עֲרוּמִים הָאָדָם וְאִשְׁתּוֹ
וְלֹא יִתְבַשְּׁשׁוּ

And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and they were not embarrassed.

ספורנו עה"ת ספר בראשית פרק ב פסוק כה

כה) ערומים ולא יתבוששו. כי אז היו כל פעולותיהם וכל איבריהם לעשות רצון קונם בלבד לא להשיג תענוגות נפסדות כלל באופן שהית' פעולת הזיווג אצלם כפעולת האכילה והשתיה המספקת ובכך היה ענין איברים ההם אצלם כמו ענין הפה והפנים והידיים אצלנו

All of their actions and all of their limbs were exclusively to serve their Creator, not for attainment of pleasure. This went to the point that to them, a man being together with his wife was the equivalent of eating and drinking. Therefore, these organs were to them as the face or the hands are to us.

ספר בראשית פרק ג

כא) וַיַּעַשׂ יְיָ אֱלֹהִים לְאָדָם וּלְאִשְׁתּוֹ
כְּתָנוֹת עוֹר וַיַּלְבֵּשֵׁם

And HASHEM created for man and his wife a cloak of leather, and HASHEM dressed them.

ספורנו עה"ת ספר בראשית פרק ג פסוק כא וילבישם. שלא יגרשם ערומים פן בלבשם אחר כך בהשתדלותם יחשבו שהוסיפו מעלה

And HASHEM dressed them so as not to send them out naked, for if that would happen, they would dress themselves and feel that they were conducting themselves on a higher level (acting with tzinus/modesty).