

THE ILLUSION OF REALITY

Background

The Philistines were a constant source of trouble to the Jewish people. At one point, both armies were gathered on opposing mountainsides. In the center, was a large valley. The giant Goliath walked out into the valley and challenged the Jewish army. “Why should we all fight? I will represent the Philistines. Send one man to represent the Jews, and the two of us will battle for our nations.”

Goliath was a giant – huge, powerful, and trained in warfare since his youth. Every Jewish soldier was deathly afraid of him. For forty days, morning and night, Goliath would come out and challenge the Jews, but no one dared accept.

Finally, Dovid appeared on the battlefield, heard the taunts of Goliath, and said, “I will take up his challenge.” When King Shaul was convinced of the purity of Dovid’s motives, he offered Dovid his own armor to wear into battle. Dovid refused, saying, “A miracle won’t come about through these.” He then set out to battle Goliath, unarmed and without armor or a shield. Despite the fact that Dovid was young, scrawny and no match for Goliath, he fearlessly set out to do battle and killed Goliath.

Questions

How did Dovid have the courage to stand up to such a giant without even a sword or shield?

What David did was brave and bold, but wrong. We know that we are not allowed to rely on miracles. Yet Dovid was specifically seeking a miracle when there was a more natural course to follow. How was Dovid allowed to do what he did?

ספר שמואל א פרק יז

לֹט) וַיַּחְגֹּר דָּוִד אֶת חַרְבּוֹ
מֵעַל לְמַדְיוֹ וַיֵּאָל לְלָכֶת
כִּי לֹא נִסָּה וַיֹּאמֶר דָּוִד
אֶל שָׂאוּל לֹא אוֹכַל לְלָכֶת
בְּאֵלֶּה כִּי לֹא נִסִּיתִי וַיִּסְרָם
דָּוִד מֵעַלָּיו:

And Dovid placed the sword over the armor, and he refused to go. And Dovid said to Shaul, “I can’t go because “lo nisiti,” and Dovid took them off.

תרגום יונתן על שמואל א פרק יז פסוק לט

ואמר דוד לשאול לית אנה יביל למיזל באלין ארי לית בהון נסא ואעדינון דוד מעלווהי

And Dovid said to Shaul – “I can’t go with these because there is no miracle with these.” **And Dovid took them off.**