

BITACHON PART 3 - LIVING WITH BITACHON/ THE MAASER SHMUZ

Background

Yosef had been sentenced to sit in prison. Two officers of Pharaoh's court, the butler and the baker, were also sent into prison. Yosef rose to a position of power and prominence there. On the same night, both the butler and baker had dreams that no one could interpret satisfactorily. These men were extremely troubled by their dreams. Yosef correctly interpreted the dreams, much to the relief of the butler because his dream meant he would go free. Naturally, the butler would feel a sense of appreciation for this. When the butler was in fact informed that he was to be released from prison and placed back into his position of power, Yosef asked him to mention to Pharaoh that he was unfairly sentenced and to intercede on his behalf.

Questions

We know that we are obligated to act according to *derech hateivah* (the way of the world). It would seem that Yosef did just that -- he made a reasonable *hishtadlus* (effort). After all, he was in prison, and the butler was an important figure in Pharaoh's court who would have daily contact with him. It would seem that he was the right man to ask for help. So where is the lack of *bitachon* that Yosef is being accused of and punished for?

ספר בראשית פרק מ

כג) ולא זכר שר המִשְׁקִים
אֶת יוֹסֵף וַיִּשְׁכַּח

And the butler did not remember Yosef, and he forgot him.

רש"י על בראשית פרק מ פסוק כג

וישכחה. לאחר מבאן
מפני שתלה בו יוסף
לזכרו הוזקק להיות אסור
עוד שתי שנים שנאמר
(תהלים מ) אשרי הגבר
אשר שם ה' מבטחו ולא
פנה אל רהבים ולא בטח
על מצרים הקרוים רהב

"He forgot him," means afterward. Because Yosef relied on the butler to remember him, he had to spend an additional two years in prison, as it says in the posuk, "Praiseworthy is the young man who trusts in HASHEM and doesn't trust in the arrogant." [This refers to] the arrogant Egyptians.