

## OVERCOMING LAZINESS

### Background

The three *Molochim* (angels) came to the city of Sodom to tell Lot that they were sent to destroy the city. Lot fully accepted what they said and then proceeded to ready himself to leave. However, he delayed. The *posuk* tells us that really he should have been killed for delaying, but since it wasn't out of rebellion that he delayed, but rather out of laziness and a confused state of thinking, HASHEM had further mercy upon him and he was saved.

#### ספר בראשית פרק יט

טז) וַיִּתְמַהֲמָה וַיַּחֲזִיקוּ  
הָאֲנָשִׁים בְּיָדוֹ וּבְיַד  
אִשְׁתּוֹ וּבְיַד  
שְׁתֵּי בָנֹתָיו בְּחַמְלַת  
יְדֹד עָלָיו וַיִּצְאֶהוּ וַיִּנְחָהוּ  
מִחוּץ לְעִיר

*And [Lot] delayed, and the men grabbed his hand, the hand of his wife, and the hands of his two daughters because of the mercy of HASHEM upon him.*

#### ספורנו עה"ת ספר

#### בראשית פרק יט פסוק טז

טז) בחמלת ה' עליו. אף על פי שבזכות אברהם היה נמלט כאמרו ויזכור אלהים את אברהם וישלח את לוט מתוך ההפכה הנה כיון שהיה מאחר ומתעכב אחר אזהרת המלאכים היה ראוי להיות נספה אבל היתה החמלה עליו כי לא במרד ולא במעל היה עכובו אלא מצד עצלה ונפש נבהלה

*Even though it was in the merit of Avraham that he was saved, because he delayed after the warning of the Molochim, it was fitting that he should be destroyed. However, "mercy" intervened since it wasn't from rebellion that he delayed, but from laziness and a confused state of mind.*

### Questions

The Sifrono is telling us that there were two reasons that Lot delayed: laziness and a confused state of mind. Under these circumstances, those two motives seem contradictory. If, in fact, he was in a confused state of mind, it was because he recognized the gravity of the situation. A *Moloch Chavaloh* (destroying Angel) just told him that the entire city and all it contained would be completely destroyed. The fact that he understood the power of such a spiritual being explains why he was in a confused state of mind. However, if he understood the imminent danger, how is it possible that he delayed because of laziness? Could we imagine a man trapped in a burning building being too lazy to look for a way to save himself?