



SIMCHAT SHMUEL

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In *Parshat Mishpatim* we are introduced to the important concept- *Midvar Sheker Tirchak*-Distance yourself from a word of falsehood...

In his beautiful commentary on the *Chumash*, the saintly and beloved, recently departed **Rabbi Dr. Abraham J. Twerski ztvk'l** asks a fundamental question on this verse:

“Just what is meant by ‘Distance yourself? It means that one should act in a way that there will be no need to lie!...The Talmud (Tamid 32a) says that a wise person is one who can envision the outcome... Wisdom consists of seeing the long term consequences of one’s actions rather than just the immediate effects.

Distancing oneself from falsehood not only prevents one from transgressing the prohibition of lying, but also results in behavior that is both ethical and profitable...” (Twerski on Chumash,pgs 154-155)

Rabbi Shlomo Zalman Horowitz, the Patiker Rav, zy’a, points to the statement in the last *mishna* in *Eduyot*, to further explain our verse:

“The mishna in Eduyot states: Eliyahu will come to make distant those that are close, and to bring close those who are distant. This is an allusion to our verse midvar sheker tirchak- since the letters in the word sheker (false) are close to one another, while the letters in the word for truth-emet- are distant from one another sequentially. Eliyahu will come and push aside, and make distant all the falsehood in the world, and bring close- bring us all closer to see the ultimate truth....

Yehi Ratzon, may we each merit to strive to take to heart each of these two beautiful insights, and me we soon merit to enter the era we long for, when indeed the world will be free of falsehood, and we will all come together to embrace the ultimate truth and goodness that the world so desperately needs..... ■

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