



RABBI SHALOM

ROSNER

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The Miraculous Mann – Crystal Clear!

In Parshat Beha'alotcha we encounter Bnei Yisrael complaining about their lack of delicacies. They crave meat. They declare

זָכַרְנוּ אֶת־הַדֶּגֶה אֲשֶׁר־נֹאכַל בְּמִצְרַיִם חֵם אֶת־הַקֶּשֶׂאִים
וְאֶת־הָאֲבִטְחִים וְאֶת־הַחֲצִיר וְאֶת־הַבָּצְלִים וְאֶת־הַשּׁוּמִים:
עֲתָה נִפְשָׁנוּ יִבֶּשֶׁה אֵין כָּל בְּלִיתִי אֶל־הֶקֶן עֵינֵינוּ:

“We remember the fish that we ate in Egypt free of charge, the cucumbers, the watermelons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic. But now, our bodies are dried out, for there is nothing at all; we have nothing but manna to look at.” (Bamidbar11:5-6).

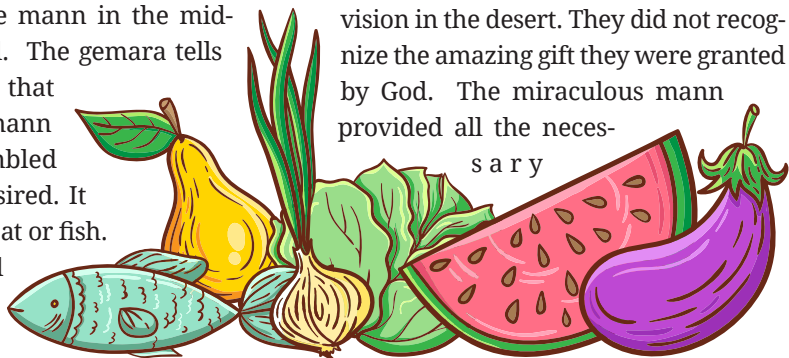
It is a bit strange that they are longing for the food they ate in Egypt as slaves. One would have thought that the meals they were provided were not of such high quality. Furthermore, Bnei Yisrael were provided with the mann in the midbar, gifted by God. The gemara tells us in Yoma (75), that the taste of the mann essentially resembled the flavor one desired. It could taste like meat or fish. If so, then why did the people feel as if they lacked

sufficient sustenance? If they yearned for fish, all they had to do was think of fish when they ate the mann and they would enjoy the taste of fish. What exactly were they lacking?

The Nachlat Tzvi offers an explanation based on a close reading of the pasuk. The complaint of the people is that they *“have nothing but manna to look at”* אֵין כָּל בְּלִיתִי אֶל־הֶקֶן. True they may taste a savory steak or fine fish. The issue was, as top chef’s put it: “it’s all about the presentation.” All they saw before their eyes was the mann and not the texture of fish or steak. As the gemara in Yoma 74b states that a blind person is never satiated because he does not see his food.

The flaw of the people was their tunnel vision in the desert. They did not recognize the amazing gift they were granted by God. The miraculous mann provided all the neces-

sary



nutrition and chazal tell us that it did not even turn into waste. The nation's shortsightedness led them to focus on what was directly in front of them rather than fully appreciate the greater picture.

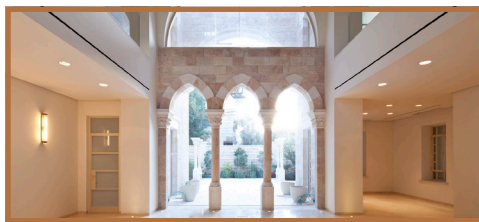
In a similar light, Rav Asher Weiss in his commentary on *zemiroth L'shabbat*, cites the Klozenberg Rebbe who interprets the words ושבנו מטובך – we should be satiated from your goodness. When we recite these words in benching, we are not only thanking Hashem for all he has provided, but requesting that Hashem enable us to recognize all the goodness that He bestows upon us. Only after we recognize that it is all from Hashem, we will be satiated. We have to “see”, understand and comprehend that it was provided by God and only then will we be able to appreciate it fully and be satiated.

Unfortunately, people take things for granted and do not always recognize the effort another invested, or that it is all coming from Above. May we learn a lesson from those that complained about the mann in the midbar. Always see the bigger picture and appreciate all our blessings. Perhaps that is why the mann is described as a crystal כעין הבדולח – so we can see through its appearance and appreciate its essence. ■

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