



SIMCHAT SHMUEL

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Our Sedra this week opens with the familiar *pasuk*:

'Re'ay Anochi notein lifneichem hayom, bracha uklala-See, I set before you today, a blessing and a curse..."

The Chasidic Masters offer a number of beautiful interpretations of our verse.

The **Mei HaShiloach, the Ishbitzer Rebbe zy'a**, explains:

Everything is from Hashem. In times of trouble it is the man's nature to shout and cry out to Hashem, "what have You done to me?" Yet at the time when Hashem bestows His goodness man's eye is clouded from seeing that it is from the master of the world. Then he says, "my power and the strength of my hand has made me this wealth [Devarim, 8:17]," therefore Hashem shows him, "See! I give before you," meaning that everything is indeed from Hashem.

According to the Rebbe of Ishbitz, the fundamental message to learn from this

verse is that everything we experience, everything we can and do accomplish, everything we witness around us-everything comes from *HaKadosh Baruch Hu*.

Rabbi Kalonymous Kalmish Shapira hy'd, zy'a, The **Piaszeczna Rebbe**, offered a more novel interpretation of our verse.

Re'ay Anochi notein lifneichem hayom, bracha uklala - See I, give Myself to you Hayom-Today and everyday....which can be a blessing or chas v'shalom a curse.

The greatest blessing that a Jew can experience, explains the Rebbe, is the comfort in realizing that *Hashem* is there with us **HaYom-Today and everyday**-even when we are experiencing trauma or pain, and the worst curse that one could ever experience is to imagine even for one day that *Hashem* is absent from our lives, that *Hashem* is not there with us always in joy and triumph as well as in sadness and difficulties.

Re'ay Anochi notein lifneichem hayom, Hashem, Anochi, gives himself to us **HaYom-today and everyday**.

Rabbi Yisrael Grossman zt'l notes that we must understand this verse as presenting us with the potential inherent within every single day.

Re'ay Anochi notein lifneichem hayom-Hashem has given us **Hayom-Today-this day**-to either bring blessing into the world through our actions, or *chas v'shalom* to bring further harm and damage into this world through inappropriate or destructive choices and behavior.

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The **Kedushat Levi, Reb Levi Yitzchak of Berditchev zy'a**, offers a similar interpretation of our verse, developing this important idea even further. **Hashem** gives us **HaYom-each day**- **Hashem** gives us each day as an opportunity through our actions, to be a source of blessing in this world, or through our failings, *chas v'shalom*, to bring consequences into this world. However **Reb Levi Yitzchak** explains that the greatest *chesed* is that this opportunity is renewed each and every day. Yesterday I may have come up short, but **HaYom-Today**, I get another opportunity to indeed bring blessing into this world through my deeds and actions.

Yehi Ratzon, may we all merit to heed these powerful teachings, and to experience these blessings today and everyday....
Shabbat Shalom ■

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