

crooked cannot be made straight: this refers to one who neglected to read the morning *Shema'* or the evening *Shema'*,¹ or he neglected the morning prayer² or the evening prayer. '*And that which is wanting cannot be reckoned*'; this refers to one whose fellows resolved³ on [the performance of] a religious act and he would not be reckoned with them.

Bar Hé-Hé said to Hillel: *Then shall ye again discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth Him not.*⁴ '*The righteous*' is the same as '*he that serveth God*'; '*the wicked*' is the same as '*he that serveth Him not*'!—He answered him: He that serveth Him and he that serveth Him not both refer to such as are perfectly righteous; but he that repeated his chapter a hundred times is not to be compared with him who repeated it a hundred and one times.⁵ Said [Bar Hé-Hé] to him: And because of once he is called '*he that serveth Him not*'?—He answered: Yes, go and learn from the mule-drivers' market; ten *parasangs* for one *zuz*,⁶ eleven *parasangs* for two *zuz*.

Elijah⁷ said to Bar Hé-Hé, and others say, to R. Eleazar: What is the meaning of the verse: *Behold I have refined thee but not as silver; I have tried thee in the furnace of affliction?*⁸ It teaches that the Holy One, blessed be He, went through all the good qualities in order to give [them] to Israel, and He found only poverty.⁹ Samuel said, and others say, R. Joseph: This accords with the popular saying: Poverty befits Israel like a red trapping a white horse.¹⁰

(1) A biblical reading consisting of Deut. VI, 4-9 and an additional sentence; ibid. XI, 13-21; Num. XV, 37-41; the name is derived from its first word—*ywsh*. V. P.B. pp. 40-42. (2) The prayer par excellence, called also *Amidah* ('standing prayer') and the 'eighteen (really nineteen) blessings'. V. P.B. pp. 44f. (3) Lit., 'reckoned themselves'. (4) Mal. III, 18. (5) Possibly a pun is intended here: the initial letters of *עכד אלהים לאשר* ('he that serveth God and he') = 101; and of *עכד לא אשר* ('serveth Him not') = 100. V. Marginal Gloss. in cur. edd. (6) A silver coin, quarter of a shekel, and equal to a *denar*, v. Glos. (7) For Elijah in Rabbinic literature v. J.E. vol. V, pp. 122f, espec. p. 124f. Cf. also *supra* pp. 17f. regarding the Angel of death. (8) Isa. XLVIII, 10. (9) The word for 'affliction' (*ענין*) also means poverty. (10) V. Lev. Rab. ss. 13 and 35 for parallel readings.

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אָחֶשׁ שְׁלֹחַ לִקְרֵיט אָתָּה רְשֻׁבּוּתִים רְדוּ נָצִיר
 תְּהִלָּתְךָ עֲשֵׂה דְּשֵׁבַע בְּעוֹבוֹ. וְעַד שְׁלֹחַ גָּלַע כֵּל כְּלִים
 שְׁלֹמֹן גָּזָע מְבָעַשְׁנִי. וְשְׁלֹשְׁזְבָעַל לְמַמָּם אָתָּה הַצָּגָר
 הַדָּיוּנָם קָצָר בְּאֶמְתָה וּמְשָׁגָל לְשָׁמָה נִפְשָׁע בָּהּ עַיִּינָה
 הַדָּיוּנָם. בְּגָדוֹת הַדָּיוּנָה בְּנַחֲלוֹת הַדָּיוּנָה כָּלָא
 אָרְעַשָּׁה אָתָּה עַלְיָהָה עַלְיָהָה עַלְיָהָה
 מִפְּרָטִים וְאַבְתָּה כְּבָדְלִי אָתָּה עַזְּהָה צְדָקָה שְׁלֹחַ
 בְּמִלְעָמָה הַיְלָה בְּשְׁמָחָה אָמְתָה בְּסִבְרָה שְׁלֹחַ
 בָּהּ וְחִדְקִים בְּמִלְעָמָה רְשֻׁבּוּתִים שְׁלֹחַ

פרק טו ב' ב' ח' צידיק :

צִדְקָה לְרָשָׁע בֵּין עֲזָבָד אַלְדוּם
 לְאַשְׁר לֹא עֲבָז שְׁהָדָפְשָׁר בֵּין עוֹבֵד אַלְדוּם
 הוּא שְׁעָבָד הוּא לְשִׁין הוּא שְׁהָא בְּאַבְתָּא
 שְׁהָא הַבְּלָהָרָה עַמְּדָה הַדָּבָר עַלְיָהָה
 כְּבָדָע קְשָׁבָה שְׁלָא וְתְּלָבְשָׁה בְּאֶמְתָה
 עַבְדָּה עַזְּבָל מַלְאָכָה שְׁמָה חַנְנָנוּנָה.
 אַל תָּצִיק נִקְרָא עַבְדָּה יְשָׁמֵם חַנְנָר
 אָמֵל שְׁכָבָר גַּעַשְׁתָּה כְּבָר בְּמַשְׁמָה
 גַּמְבָּר עַבְדָּתָה הַמְּלָהָם שְׁמָמָה
 וְלָלָבָר עַבְדָּתָה בְּקִרְבָּתוֹ. וְבְבִנְיָנָה
 עַבְדָּתָה כְּלָמָדָה כְּלָמָדָה
 עַבְדָּתָה כְּלָמָדָה כְּלָמָדָה
 שְׁאַפְשָׁר לְקִימָן וְתְּלָמָתָה כְּבָנָגָן כְּלָמָדָה
 פְּמָזָה מִזְרָמָה עַמְּדָה כְּמַלְחָמָה עַמְּדָה
 לְזָהָר עַזְּבָל נִשְׁאָרָה שְׁבָכוֹתָה
 הַשְּׁלִיחָה עַל הַלְּבָב כְּנָל מְפִזְבָּה שְׁאָזָן יְצָרָה
 עַמְּדָה לְגָנוֹן כְּלַבָּשָׁה

• Chapter 15

his part in an effort to uphold the oath—namely, the struggle against his evil nature administered to him, “Be righteous,” and in an effort to gain mastery over it and to banish it from the “small city,” that it should not vest itself in the organs of the body. Verily it entails much effort and toil to wage constant war with it. This is the *benoni*.

The *tzaddik*, however, is designated “Servant (*oved*) of G-d,” which is a title already earned, as the title “sage” or “king” is bestowed on one who has already become a sage or king. So is this person who accusoms himself to despise evil, it will to some extent become despicable in truth; similarly, when he accusoms himself to gladden his heart in G-d, through reflection on His greatness—for self-impulsion induces heavenly inspiration.¹⁶ With all come a spirit from above will descend upon him, and he will merit something of the spirit (*nruah*) that is rooted in some *tzaddik* that will attach itself to him, so that he may serve G-d with true joy, as is written, “Rejoice, O ye *tzaddikim*, in G-d.”¹⁷ Then will in truth be fulfilled in him the avowed oath: “Be righteous,”

[16] Zohar II, 135b. [17] Ps. 97:12. disposition, as subsequently explained.

[4] Ch. 12.

Chapter 15

[1] Mal. 3:18. [2] Cf. supra, ch. 1.

[3] In the sense that he requires little or no effort, by virtue of his natural

oved)

• 23 Teveth ▲ 29 Teveth ▲ I Shevat

לכטת מוחהו ועבורה נזק לדרם עט כל
כון שרו מתריד במלודן מלחמתה על דן
תבורת המורה שורה ובן או ה מלחה כהארות
נשות מבני שושן מצון במלבדו ובן בשאר חנוני עזרה
היא מושר הרגה הנאה במלבדו ולכך אין זיך להרבנות
כלך בגדתנה ה לדוד צד רוחה תען ואותה תְּהִנָּה
במזה קחצטן עבורה על מזזה לא תְּהִנָּה וכל אלא
בלבך לדקה בם בקומו וה'ת' בנד כל אל
די זו באחדת מטרותך אשר בלב כל אלה
שענין אהובי שמי הילן און נרא עבד כל מ-
ארבה או הרסורה איניה פערתנו ועבורה כל אלה יא
הרשות כאותה לכהן ישיאל ובמ"ש קלמן וכנ
את מ' שאטן מהמר במלחו במלבדו רק שדרני עט
לכטת בהרבותה גודלה ונעשה הדיגל לו מבע שונ
לו באברה ממותה גודלה והרהור מהריגת
בזה יון מ"ש בגדתנה דעבך אליהם הינו מי שוננה
פרק מאה פעומים ופ"ד לא עבד חיטנו מ' שוננה
פרק מאה פעומים שם שמיום היה
הניזוק לשלוט כל פרק מאת פיעמים כבודה
בנימה כל שזק של חיטום ששבירם לעיש פרט
בזה ואחד עשר פרט בהרי וו' מפער שדווא
ווער מילודם ולבע זאת דעתם האותה היזקה עט
הניזוק שדרגן מבעריו שקלחה כנבר כלה עט
יבור שאותה ירע עט נקרא עבור אליהם
מפני שכיר לשונות בעז מדרת הדיגלה זיך עט
ארבה ל' ע"י שמתבונן בוגדלוות ה' בכוח לשונ
על דמעה שבחל הושטאל דבעל דם תנטש הבדמות
שמדוקיפת

in an attempt to distract him from study and prayer, and he is consequently never obliged to wage war against it. Thus, for example, is the case of one who is by nature an assiduous student because he is organically so disposed, and is likewise free from conflict with regard to sexual desire by reason of his frigid nature, and similarly with the other mundane pleasures wherein he naturally lacks any feeling of enjoyment. Hence he does not need to concentrate so much on the greatness of G-d to consciously create a spirit of knowledge and fear of G-d in his mind, in order to guard himself against violation of the prohibitive commandments; or to arouse the love of G-d in his heart to induce his attachment to Him through the fulfillment of the [positive] commandments and the study of the Torah which balances everything else. For him suffices the hidden love that is in the heart of all Jews, who are called "The lovers of His name."⁵ Therefore he is in no wise called "One who is serving," inasmuch as this latent love is not of his making or accomplishment by any means, but it is our inheritance that has come down from the Patriarchs to the whole community of Israel, as will be discussed further.⁶

So, too, is one who, although by nature not an assiduous student, has yet accustomed himself to study with great dili-

gence, so that the habit has become second nature with him; for him, too, suffices the innate love, unless he wishes to study more than his wont. This will explain the statement in the *Gemara* that "One who is serving G-d"⁷ refers to him who reviews his lesson 100 times, while "One who serves him not" refers to him who repeats his lesson no more than 100 times.⁸ This is because in those days it was customary to review each lesson one hundred times, as, indeed, illustrated in the *Gemara, ibid.* by the example taken from the market, where donkey-drivers used to hire themselves out at a rate of ten *parasangs*⁹ for a *zuz*, but for eleven *parasangs* charged two *zuzim*, because that exceeded their customary practice. For the same reason, the rosi revision, which is beyond the normal practice to which the student had been accustomed since childhood, is considered equivalent to all the previous one hundred times put together, and even surpassing them in endurance and effort, hence entitled him to be called "One who is serving G-d." For in order to change his habitual nature, he must arouse the love of G-d by means of meditation in his mind on the greatness of G-d, in order to gain mastery over the nature that is in the left part [of the heart] which is full of blood of the animal soul.

[5] Ps. 60:37. [6] Ch. 18, 19, and 44. [7] Chagigah 9b. [8] Persian miles.

שְׁמַרְקִיפָּה שְׁמַמָּה תֹּא דְּבֻעָה זוּ הָא עֲבֹרָה רָתָה
לְבָנָה אֵלֶּא לְעָדָה אֵת האַדְבָּה הַמְּבָטָה שְׁבָלָבָן
לְמַשְׁלָע עַל יְהָה עַל הַשְּׁבָע הַשְׁמָאָל שְׂוֹ נְקָרָא
בְּכָבְדָה עַל כָּלָם עַם דְּמַבְּבָע וְחַצְנָא עַי שְׁמַעְעָרָה
הַאֲבָדָה הַמְּפָטוֹתָה בְּלִבָּנו מְשָׁאָב בְּשָׁאוֹן לְ
כָּל אַדְבָה וְמַז עַצְמָה נְקָרָת עַבְדוֹת בְּלִלָּה
פְּרָק פְּזָן הוּא כָּלָל בְּעַבְדוֹת הַלְּבָנָנוֹת הַעֲזָק
לְמַשְׁלָע גַּדְלָה בְּעַבְדוֹת הַלְּבָנָנוֹת הַעֲזָק
לְמַשְׁלָע זָהָבָרָה לְמַשְׁלָטָה גַּעַל הַעֲזָק
שְׁבָלָל הַשְׁמָאָל עַי אֹר הַמְּאָר לְנַפְשׁ זָהָבָרָה
שְׁבָמָרָן לְשְׁלָמָה עַל הַלְּבָב שְׁמַמָּה בְּמִזְחָה
בְּנִרְוָה תְּהִלָּה דָעַתְנוּ וְיָתָת הַבְּמוֹתָה כָּל שְׁלָמָה
בְּחַשְׁקָרָה כָּל הַיּוֹמָנִי אָסָטָה כָּל שְׁלָמָה
דְּבָרִתָּה תְּזָה אַהֲבָה הַבְּלִבָּב בְּחַלְל הַיּוֹמָנִי
תְּפִזְזָה לְדִבְרָה מִבְּקוֹם הַמִּצְרָא אַרְתָּחָא הַרְבָּבָן
תְּזָה לְדִבְרָה מִבְּקוֹם הַמִּצְרָא אַרְתָּחָא הַרְבָּבָן
וְתָהָרֶת עַבְגָּד כָּלְלָה וְתָהָרֶת עַל כָּן זָדָך לְדִעָה כָּלְלָה
בְּעַבְדוֹת הַלְּבָנָנוֹת שְׁמָם אֶם אָז יְשָׁעָלָה בְּנִינָת
שְׁמַחְתָּה לְהַזְרָה אַהֲבָה הַבְּרַתְגָּלָה לְבָנָשׁוֹהָה בְּעַזְרָה
כְּרִישָׁ אֲשׁ וְתָזִין בְּחַפְיצָה וְחַשְׁקָה מְתַרְמָשָׁה
בְּלִבָּב לְדִבְרָה מִזְמָרָה בְּמִזְמָרָה וְחַעֲלוּכָה
לְכָן דְּהַיָּנוּ שְׁאַלְבָּמְבָן
בְּרָהָה הַמְּבָטָה וּבְגַיְעַמְמָרָה
גַּרְולָה אֶס בְּהָדְכָוָל אֶס
קְפָה כָּלָא חַשְׁבָּמְמַשְׁא
אֲשֶׁר עַל כָּן אַהֲרָה לוֹ יְתָבָר
שְׁהַבָּה אַלְזָן כָּל
לְהַבָּקָר וְהַבָּלָג בָּאָזָן
תְּמַגְשָׁא רַגְגָא אֲשֶׁר בְּקָרָב
לְזָנָתָה

• Chapter 16

This, then, is the important principle regarding the Divine Service for the *benonim*: The essential thing is to govern and rule the nature that is in the left ventricle [of the heart] by means of the Divine light that irradiates the divine soul in the mind.¹ That is to say, to rule the heart by means of meditation in the mind on the greatness of the blessed *En Sof*, whereby his understanding will beget a spirit of knowledge and fear of the Lord in his mind, to make him turn away from the evil condemned by the Torah, or by the Rabbis, even from a minor Rabbinic prohibition, Heaven forbid; and [at the same time arousing] the love of G-d in his heart, in the right part, with a fervour and desire to cleave to Him through the fulfillment of the precepts of the Torah, with a fervent desire

Note: The reason for this is that the vitality of this person's intellect and nefesh, ruach and neshamah, is derived from the so-called ibbur ("conception") and concealment within the [Supernatural] understanding, and not from the quality of birth and revelation—as it is known to those familiar with the Esoteric Discipline.

[1] In this case—without changing his nature; only keeping it in check. [2] Neshamah to in the "Hidden love in the brain and the recesses of the heart," just as mentioned.

[1] Cf. supra, ch. 13. [2] Neshamah is omitted here, for it is already alluded to in the "Hidden love in the brain and the recesses of the heart," just as mentioned.