



Adapted from the sefer חמין במוצאי שבת a collection of maamarim on
תנא דבי אליהו given by the Tolner Rebbe shlita at Melave Malka

Melave Malka Parshas Bereishis 5762

The Rebbes of Chabad, recount that when the Baal Hatanya was imprisoned, he was interrogated by the assistant of a government minister. This assistant had studied Judaism extensively, and was well versed in both Tanach and Jewish practice. He asked the Rebbe about the *pasuk* in Bereishis. ויקרא ה' אלוקים אל האדם, ויאמר לו איכה (Hashem Elokim called to Adam and said to him, Where are you?). "How could it be", asked the interrogator, "that Hakadosh Baruch Hu, didn't know the whereabouts of Adam HaRishon?"

When the Baal Hatanya provided Rashi's explanation, (Hashem knew where Adam was, but wanted to begin the conversation gradually), the interrogator replied that he was familiar with Rashi's *peirush*, but he wanted to hear the Rebbe's own *peirush*.

The Baal Hatanya told him that when a man reaches a certain age, for example...(the Rebbe specified the officer's exact age!), Hashem asks him, *Ayeka?* Where are you? Have you fulfilled the purpose for which you were created? The officer was amazed both by the *Ruach Hakodesh* of the Baal Hatanya, and by the depth of his *peirush*.

No one should remain unmoved by this story. Hakadosh Baruch Hu calls out to each of us asking *Ayeka?* Where are you? What have you done to fulfill your *tafkid* in your world? Often, a person doesn't realize that he hasn't actually been living the life he was meant to live. It's as if he walks along the banks of the river that is his life, but never dives in because he is so preoccupied with himself, and his own comfort.



[1]

© כל הזכויות שמורות למכון 'המאור שבחורה' שע"י מוסדות טאלנא עיה"ק ירושלים תובב"א

The editor is solely responsible for any mistakes and omissions

If you would like to be added to our mailing list, or for any comments, please email us at

hamaortolna@gmail.com

Let me illustrate this with one, small example. Grocery stores in our communities sell only products with the best *hechsheirim*, because their customers maintain very high standards of *kashrus*. It is shocking that those same stores often print notices begging people to return the many shopping carts that have been taken, and never returned to the store. Even though they repeatedly publicize these requests no one responds! This is terrible! These customers never intend to steal, *chas v'shalom*. They are simply so self-centered that they don't even notice that they are actually thieves, *gazlanim*, *Rachmana Li'tzlan*.

Each of us has to wake up and ask himself Hakadosh Boruch Hu's question, *Ayeka?* Where am I? We need to pause and take a few minutes to introspect and realize that we are often concerned only with ourselves, our issues, and our comfort. Even our *teshuvah* on Yamim Noraim, pounding our chest as we say *Al Cheit*, apologizing, davening, are all driven by our own self-interest *Rachmana Li'tzlan*.

Once someone came to *Harav Hakadosh R. Shimon of Zelichov* ז"ל ה"ד, the Mashgiach of Yeshivas Chachmei Lublin, and said איך וויל תשובה טוען (I want to do *teshuvah*). R. Shimon answered sharply, לייג אוועק דיין איך, און (Set aside your *Ich*, your ego, and do *teshuvah*!).

We need to transition from a life of constant self-involvement, to a life focused on answering the call of *Ayeka*. That will enable us to focus on what aspects of our mission have been accomplished, and what needs to be done next. If we learn to live that way, we will fulfill the *tafkid* we were created for, and serve Hashem willingly and energetically,
אמן כן יהי רצון.



[2]

© כל הזכויות שמורות למכון 'המאור שבועון' שע"י מוסדות טאלנא ע"ה"ק ירושלים תובב"א

The editor is solely responsible for any mistakes and omissions

If you would like to be added to our mailing list, or for any comments, please email us at

hamaortolna@gmail.com