Quarantine 4: Rabbi Nachman of Breslev

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Likutei Moharan 52:1:1-5:4

- (1) Rabbi Chanina the son of Chachinai said: *HaNeior Balaylah* (He Who Stays Awake at Night) and who goes on his way alone and makes room in his heart for empty thoughts—he is liable for his own soul. (Avot 3:4)
- (2) There are heretics who say that the world is a necessary reality. Based on their evil and erroneous opinion it seems to them that they have proofs and examples of this, God forbid, from the way the world functions. But in fact their mouths spew foolishness. For the truth is that the world and all it contains are a contingent reality.
- (3) Only the Holy One must necessarily exist. However, all the worlds and all they contain need not necessarily exist. God created them *creatio ex nihilo*. For God had the ability, the power and the alternative to create them or to not create them. Therefore the world and all it contains are certainly a contingent reality.
- (4) Yet what is the basis of this mistake that makes it possible for people to incorrectly conclude that the world is a necessary reality, God forbid? Know, this stems from the fact that now, after the souls of Israel have already been issued and brought down-now the world is certainly in the aspect of necessary reality. For the world and all it contains were created only for Israel, as is known. And Israel rules the world. So certainly now, after the souls of Israel have been issued and created, God is obliged, so to speak, to create and maintain the world. It was on account of this that He issued the souls of Israel, in order to create for them all the worlds. But the souls of Israel themselves, when they were issued, they and all the worlds that are dependent upon them were all a contingent reality. This is because He had the alternative to issue and create them or to not create them.

ליקוטי מוהר'ן נ"ב:א":א'-ה":די

- (א) רַבִּי חֲנִינָא בֶּן חֲכִינַאי אוֹמֵר: הַנֵּעוֹר בַּלִּיְלָה, וְהַמְהַלֵּךְ בַּדֶּרֶךְ יְחִידִי, וּמְפַנֶּה לְבּוֹ לְבַטָּלָה – הֲרֵי זֶה מִתְחַיֵּב בְּנַפְשׁוֹ: (אבות פ"ג)
- (ב) כִּי יֵשׁ אֶפִּיקוֹרְסִים שֶׁאוֹמְרִים, שֶׁהָעוֹלְם הוּא מְחָיַב הַמְּצִיאוּת, וּלְפִי דַּעְתָּם הָרָעָה הַמְשֻׁבֶּשֶׁת, נִדְמֶה לָהֶם, שֶׁיֵשׁ עַל־זֶה רְאָיוֹת וּמוֹפְתִים, חַס וְשָׁלוֹם, מִמְנְהַג הָעוֹלְם. אֲבָל בָּצֵמֶת הֶבֶל יִפְצֶה פִּיהֶם, כִּי בָּאֱמֶת הָעוֹלְם וּמְלוֹאוֹ הוּא אֶפְשָׁרִי הַמְצִיאוּת,
- (ג) כִּי רַק הַשֵּׁם יִתְבָּרַךְ לְבַד הוּא מְחֻיַּב הַמְּצִיאוּת, אֲבָל כָּל הָעוֹלְמוֹת עִם כָּל אֲשֶׁר בָּהֶם הֵם אֶפְשָׁרִי הַמְצִיאוּת, כִּי הוּא יִתְבָּרַךְ בְּרָאָם יֵשׁ מֵאַיִן, וּבִיכָלְתּוֹ וְכֹחוֹ וְאֶפְשָׁרוּתוֹ יִתְבָּרַךְ הָיָה לְבָרְאָם אוֹ שֶׁלֹא לְבָרְאָם, עַל־כֵּן בְּוַדַּאי כָּל הָעוֹלְם וּמְלוֹאוֹ הוּא אֶפְשָׁרִי הַמְצִיאוּת.
- (ד) אַך מֵאַיִן נִמִשַׁך הַטַעוּת, שַׁיָכוֹלִין לְטִעוֹת, ָחָס וָשַׁלוֹם, שָׁהַעוֹלַם הוּא מְחָיַב הַמְּצִיאוּת, חַס וְשַׁלוֹם. דַע, שֵׁוֵה נִמְשַׁךְ מֵחֲמַת שֵׁבֵּאֵמֵת עַתַה שַׁכָּבַר נַאָצַלוּ וַנְמַשְׁכוּ נַשְׁמוֹת יִשְׂרָאֵל, עַתָּה בְּוַדַּאי הָעוֹלָם הוּא בִּבְחִינַת מִחִיַּב הַמָּצִיאוּת. כִּי כַּל הַעוֹלַם וּמָלוֹאוֹ הַכֹּל לֹא נָבָרָא אֵלָּא בִּשִׁבִיל יִשְׂרָאֵל כַּיַּדוּעַ, וִישִּׁרָאֵל מוֹשָׁלִין בַּעוֹלַם, וְעַל־כֵּן בְּוַדֵּאי עַתַּה אַחַר שַׁנֵאַצְלוּ וְנָבָרָאוּ נִשְׁמוֹת יִשְׂרָאֵל, כָּבַיַכוֹל הוּא יִתִבָּרַךְ מַכָרַח לְבִרֹא וּלְקַיֵּם הַעוֹלַם, כִּי עַל־מַנַת כַּן הָאָצִיל נִשְׁמוֹת יִשְׂרָאֵל, כָּדֵי לְבָרֹא בִּשָׁבִילַם כַּל הַעוֹלַמוֹת. אַךְ נִשְׁמוֹת יִשְׂרָאֵל בָּעַצְמָן כִּשֵׁנֵּאֵצְלוּ, הַיוּ הֵם בִּעַצְמָן עִם כַּל הַעוֹלַמוֹת הַתִּלוּיִים בַּהֵם, הַכֹּל הַיָה אֵפְשַׁרִי הַמָּצִיאוּת, כִּי הָיָה בָּאֵפִשַׁרוּתוֹ לְהַאַצִילַם וּלְבַרַאַם אוֹ שֵׁלֹא לְבַרַאַם.

- (5) Yet as soon as the Holy One resolved to issue the souls of Israel, then the entire world took on the aspect of necessary reality. For after the souls of Israel were issued, He was then obliged, so to speak, to bring the world into being. It was on account of this that their souls were created, so that all the worlds would be created for them and they would rule over everything. Understand this well.
- (6) And from this evolves and develops the mistake of the heretics who say that the world is a necessary reality, God forbid. But in truth only God alone is a necessary reality, whereas all things are a contingent reality, as explained above.
- (1) **2.** Now the main intention behind His creating the entire world for Israel was so that Israel should carry out His will, and so that they should return and cleave to their Source—i.e., that they should return and be encompassed in God, Who is a necessary reality. It was for this that everything was created.
- (2) We see then that whenever Israel does the will of the Omnipresent and is enveloped in its Source, Who is a necessary reality, through this the entire world, which was created for them, is encompassed in necessary reality. This is the primary purpose for which the world was created. And only because of this is God obligated, so to speak, to create and maintain all the worlds for Israel; so that they should carry out His will, as explained above.
- (3) And so it is specifically then, when they carry out His will, that the world is encompassed in the aspect of necessity reality. For the more they carry out His will, the more they are encompassed, together with all the worlds that are dependent upon them, in necessary reality. For by doing His will they return and are encompassed in Him, He being a necessary reality, and so all the worlds that are dependent upon their souls are encompassed together with them in necessary reality, as explained above.
- (1) **3.** However to merit this, to be encompassed in one's Source—i.e., to return and be encompassed in the oneness of God, Who is a necessary reality—is possible only through *bitul* (self-negation, transparency). A person has to make himself totally transparent, until he is encompassed in the oneness of

- (ה) אַך תֵּכֶף כְּשֶׁנְתְרַצָּה הַקְּדוֹשׁ־בָּרוּךְ־הוּא לְהַאֲצִיל נִשְׁמוֹת יִשְׂרָאֵל, אֲזִי הָיָה כָּל הָעוֹלָם בְּבְּחִינַת מְחָיֵב הַמְּצִיאוּת, כִּי מֵאַחַר שֶׁנֶּאֶצְלוּ בִּבְּחִינַת מְחָיָב הַמְּצִיאוּת, כִּי מֵאַחַר שֶׁנֶּאֶצְלוּ נִשְׁמְוֹת יִשְׂרָאֵל, אֲזִי כִּבְיָכוֹל הוּא מְחָיָב לְהַמְצִיא הָעוֹלָם, כִּי עַל־מְנָת כֵּן נֶאֶצְלוּ נְשְׁכִילְן, וְהֵם נִשְׁמְתַן, שֶׁכֶּל הַעוֹלְמוֹת יִבְּרְאוּ בִּשְׁבִילְן, וְהֵם יִמְשָׁלוּ בַּכֹּל, וְהַבֵן הֵיטֵב.
- (ו) וּמָזֶּה נִשְׁתַּלְשֵׁל וְנִמְשֶׁך הַטָּעוּת שֶׁל הָאֶפִּיקוֹרְסִים, שֶּאוֹמְרִים שֶׁהָעוֹלָם הוּא, חַס וְשֶׁלוֹם, מְחָיַב הַמְּצִיאוּת. אֲבָל בֶּאֶמֶת רַק הַשֵּׁם יִתְבָּרַךְ לְבַד הוּא מְחָיַב הַמְּצִיאוּת, אֲבָל כָּל הַדְּבָרִים הֵם אֶפְשָׁרִי הַמְּצִיאוּת כַּנַ"ל:
 - (א) וְעִקַּר הַכּּוָנָה שֶׁבָּרָא כָּל הָעוֹלֶם בִּשְׁבִיל יִשְׂרָאֵל הָיָה כְּדֵי שֶׁיִשְׁרָאֵל יַעֲשׁוּ רְצוֹנוֹ, וְשֶׁיַחְוֹרוּ וְיִדְבְּקוּ בְּשָׁרְשָׁו, דְּהַיְנוּ שֶׁיַחַוְרוּ וְיָכְלְלוּ בּוֹ יִתְבָּרַךְ, שֶׁהוּא מְחֻיַּב הַמְּצִיאוּת, וּבִשְׁבִיל זֶה נִבְרָא הַכֹּל.
- (ב) נִמְצָא כָּל מַה שֶׁיִשְׂרָאֵל עוֹשִׁין רְצוֹנוֹ שֶׁל מָקוֹם, וְנִכְלָלִין בְּשֶׁרְשָׁם, שֶׁהוּא מְחָיֵב הַמְּצִיאוּת, עַל־יִדִי־זֶה נִכְלָל כָּל הָעוֹלְם שֶׁנְבְרָא בִּשְׁבִילָם בְּחִיּוּב הַמְּצִיאוּת, כִּי עִקְּר הַתַּכְלִית שֻׁנִּבְרָא הָעוֹלָם הוּא בִּשְׁבִיל זֶה, וְרַק בִּשְׁבִיל זֶה מְחָיָב הַשֵּׁם יִתְבָּרַךְ כִּבְיָכוֹל, לִבְרֹא וּלְקֵיֵם כָּל הָעוֹלָמוֹת בִּשְׁבִיל יִשְׂרָאֵל כַּנַּ"ל, כְּדֵי שֶׁיַּעֲשׁוּ רְצוֹנוֹ כַּנַּ"ל,
- (ג) וְעַל־כֵּן אָז דַּיְקָא כְּשֶׁעוֹשִׁין רְצוֹנוֹ, נִכְלָל הָעוֹלְם בִּבְחִינַת מְחֻיַּב הַמְּצִיאוּת כַּנַּ"ל. כִּי כָּל מַה שֶּעוֹשִׁין רְצוֹנוֹ יוֹתֵר, הֵם נִכְלָלִין בִּיוֹתֵר עִם כָּל הָעוֹלָמוֹת הַתְּלוּיִים בָּהֶם בְּחִיּוּב הַמְצִיאוּת, כִּי עַל־יְדֵי שֶׁעוֹשִׁין רְצוֹנוֹ יִתְבָּרַהְ, הֵם חוֹזְרִין וְנְכָלָלִין בּוֹ יִתְבָּרַהְ, שֶׁהוּא מְחֻיַּב הַמְצִיאוּת, וְאָז נִכְלָלִין עִמְהֶם כָּל הָעוֹלָמוֹת הַתְּלוּיִים בְּנַפְשָׁם בְּחִיּוּב הַמְצִיאוּת כַּנַּ"ל:
- (א) אַך לְזְכּוֹת לָזֶה לְהָכָּלֵל בְּשָׁרְשׁוֹ, דְהַיְנוּ לַחֲזֹר וּלְהִכָּלֵל בְּאַחְדוּת הַשֵּׁם יִתְבָּרַךְ, שֶׁהוּא מְחָיֵב הַמְּצִיאוּת, זֶה אִי אֶפְשָׁר לְזְכּוֹת, כִּי־אִם עַל־יְדֵי בִּטוּל, שֶׁיְּבַטֵּל עַצְמוֹ לְגַמְרֵי, עַד שָׁיִּהְיֶה נִכְלָל בְּאַחְדוּתוֹ יִתְבָּרַרְ.

God.

- (2) And the only way to attain bitul is through hitbodedut. By secluding himself and speaking at length with his Master, through this a person merits negating all his physical desires and bad character traits to the point where he merits negating all his corporeality and is encompassed in his Source.
- (3) But the main [time] for *hitbodedut* is at night, when people are free of the preoccupations of this world. For during the day, because people chase after the things of this world, this disturbs a person and prevents him from cleaving and being encompassed in God. Even if he himself is not preoccupied, still, since most people are preoccupied then and are chasing after the vanities of this world, as a result it is difficult to attain *bitul* then.
- (4) In addition, the *hitbodedut* should take place in a special place—i.e., away from the city, on a secluded road, in a place not frequented by people. For a place frequented during the day by people who chase after this world, even if at present they are not there, nonetheless disturbs the *hitbodedut* and he is unable to attain *bitul* and be encompassed in God. Therefore a person has to go alone at night on a secluded road, in a place where no one else is, and there engage in *hitbodedut*, emptying his heart and mind of all worldly matters. He should negate everything, until he truly merits the aspect of *bitul*.
- (5) In other words, at the outset he should pray and speak a great deal in *hitbodedut* at night on a secluded road, as explained above, until he merits negating one thing—i.e., negating a particular trait or desire. Then he should again engage a great deal in the *hitbodedut* mentioned above until he negates a different trait or desire. And he should continue practicing *hitbodedut* for a long time, at the time mentioned above and in the place mentioned above, until he negates everything. After this, there is still something of him left... and afterwards he negates this as well, until there is nothing of him left.
- (6) {The explanation is: It is possible that after a person has negated all the physical desires and bad traits, there is still his "nothing" left—i.e., he has still not completely negated the egotism and pride, so that he considers himself to be something. A person

- (ב) וְאִי אֶפְשָׁר לָבוֹא לִידֵי בִּטוּל, כִּי־אִם עַל־יְדֵי הִתְבּוֹדְדוּת, כִּי עַל־יְדֵי שֶׁמִּתְבּוֹדֵד וּמְפָרֵשׁ שִׂיחָתוֹ בֵּינוֹ לְבֵין קוֹנוֹ, עַל־יְדֵי־זֶה הוּא זוֹכֶה לְבַטֵל כָּל הַתַּאֲווֹת וְהַמִּדּוֹת רָעוֹת, עַד שָׁזּוֹכָה לְבַטֵל כָּל גַּשְׁמִיוּתוֹ, וּלְהִכָּלֵל בַּשִׁרשׁוֹ.
- (ג) אַה עִקַּר הַהִּתְבּוֹדְדוּת הוּא בַּלַיְלָה, בְּעֵת שֶׁהָעוֹלָם פָּנוּי מִטְרְדֵּת הָעוֹלָם הַזֶּה. כִּי בִּיוֹם, עַל־יְבִי שֶׁרוֹדְפִין הָעוֹלָם אַחַר הָעוֹלָם הַזֶּה, הוּא מְבַטֵל וּמְבַלְבֵּל אֶת הָאָדֶם מִלְּהִתְדַּבֵּק וּלְהִכָּלֵל בְּהַשֵּׁם יִתְבָּרָה. וַאֲפִלוּ אִם הוּא בְּעַצְמוֹ אֵינוֹ טָרוּד, אַף־עַל־פִּי־כֵן מֵאַחַר שֶׁהָעוֹלָם טְרוּדִים אָז וְרוֹדְפִים אָז אַחַר הַבְלֵי הָעוֹלָם הַזֶּה, עַל־יְבִי־זֶה קָשֶׁה אָז לָבוֹא לִיבִי בְּטוּל:
- (ד) וְגַם צְרִיכִין שֶׁיּהְיֶה הַהֹּתְבּוֹדְדוּת בְּמָקוֹם מְיֻחָד, דְּהַיְנוּ חוּץ מֵהָעִיר בְּדֶרֶהְ יְחִידִי, בְּמָקוֹם שֶׁטֵּ בְּנֵי אָדָם, כִּי בְּמָקוֹם שֶׁטֵּ בְּנֵי אָדָם, כִּי בְּמָקוֹם שֶׁטֵּ בְּנֵי אָדָם בִּיוֹם, הָרוֹדְפִים אַחַר הָעוֹלְם הַיֶּה, אַף־עַל־פִּי שֶׁכָּעֵת אֵינָם הוֹלְכִים שָׁטֵּ, הוֹא מְבַלְבֵּל גַם כֵּן הַהְתְבּוֹדְדוּת, וְאֵינוֹ יָכוֹל לְהִתְבַּטֵל וּלְהִכָּלֵל בּוֹ יִתְבָּרָהְ. עַל־בֵּן צְלִרָּהְ בְּעֶל־בֵּן יִתְבָּרָהְ יְחִידִי, בְּעַל־בָּן בְּלִילָה, בְּדֶרֶהְ יְחִידִי, בְּמָלוֹם שָׁאֵין שָׁם אָדָם, וְשָׁם יֵלֵךְ וְיִתְבּוֹדַר, וִיִּבְּנֵהְ לִבּוֹ וְדַעְתוֹ מִכָּל עִסְקֵי עוֹלְם הַיָּה, וְיַבְּעָה לְבּוֹ וְדַעְתוֹ בְּטוּל בָּאֶמֶת.
 וְיַבְטֵל הַכֹּל, עַד שִׁיִּדֶּה לְבָחִינַת בִּטוּל בָּאֶמֶת.
- (ה) הַיְנוּ, שֶׁבַּתְּחִלָּה יַרְבֶּה בִּתְפִלּוֹת וְשִּׂיחוֹת בְּהְתְבּוֹיְדוּת בַּלַיְלָה בְּדֶרֶה יְחִידִי כַּנַּ"ל, עַד שֶׁיּזְכֶּה לְבַטֵּל זֶה הַדָּבָר, דְּהַיְנוּ לְבַטֵּל מִדָּה וְתַאֲוָה זֹאת. וְאַחַר־כָּה יַרְבֶּה עוֹד בַּהִתְבּוֹיְדוּת הַנַּ"ל, עַד שֶׁיְבַטֵּל מִדָּה וְתַאֲוָה אַחֶרת. וְכֵן יִנְהוֹג זְמֵן רַב בְּהִתְבּוֹיְדוּת, בַּזְמֵן הַנַּ"ל, וּבַמָּקוֹם הַנַּ"ל, עַד שֶׁיְּבַטֵּל הַכּל. וְאַחַר־כָּהְ עַדִיִן נִשְׁאָר מִמֶּנוּ אֵיזֶה דָּבָר וְכוּ', וְאַחַר־כָּהְ מְבַטְלִין גַּם זֶה, עַד שֶׁלֹא נִשְׁאָר מִמֶּנוּ כְּלוּם.
- (ו) [פֵּרוּשׁ, כִּי יָכוֹל לְהְיוֹת אַחַר שֶׁבְּטֵל כָּל הַתַּאֲוֹת וּמִדּוֹת רָעוֹת, עֲדִין נִשְׁאָר מִמֶּנוּ כְּלוּם, דְהַיְנוּ שֶׁעֲדַיִן לֹא בִּטֵל לְגַמְרֵי הַגֵּאוּת וְהַגַּסוּת, עַד שֶׁנֶּחֶשָׁב בְּעֵינִיו לְאֵיזֶה דְּבָר. וְעַל־כֵּן צְרִיכִין לְהִתְיַגֵּע וּלְהַרְבּוֹת בַּהתִבּוֹדְדוּת

therefore has to labor at and engage extensively in the above mentioned *hitbodedut*, until there is nothing of him left, so that he is truly in the aspect of naught—until he truly merits the aspect of *bitul*.}

(7) And then, when he truly merits the aspect of *bitul*, his soul is encompassed in his Source—i.e., in God, Who is a necessary reality. Then together with his soul, the entire world is encompassed in his Source, for he is a necessary reality because everything is dependent upon him, as explained above. And so through him, the entire world is in the aspect of necessary reality, as explained above.

- (1) 4. Now you will see something very amazing, how all this is now clearly elucidated in the Mishnah brought above. This is: {Rabbi Chanina the son of Chachinai said: HaNeior Balaylah (He who stays awake at night) and who goes on his way alone and makes room in his heart for batalah (empty thoughts)—he is mitchayev (liable for) his own soul.}
- (2) **He who stays awake at night**—This follows its simple meaning. In other words, he stays awake at night and secludes himself and speaks at length with His Master.
- (3) **and who goes on his way alone**—In other words, as explained above, he goes specifically on a secluded road, in a place which people do not frequent. For this is the essence of ideal *hitbodedut*: at night and specifically on a secluded road, because especially then one can attain the aspect of *bitul*, as explained above. And this is:
- (4) **and makes room in his heart for batalah**—In other words, he empties his heart of all the matters of this world—for *BaTaLah*, in order to merit the aspect of *BiTuL*. Then he merits having his soul encompassed in necessary reality. And then together with his soul, all the worlds are encompassed in necessary reality, as explained above. And this is:
- (5) **he is mitchayev his own soul**—The entire world is encompassed together with his soul in the aspect of necessary reality. For through the *hitbodedut* mentioned above, he merits the aspect of *bitul*, until his soul becomes encompassed in necessary reality, and through this the entire world becomes encompassed together with his soul in necessary

הַנַּ"ל, עַד שֶׁלֹּא יִשָּׁאֵר מִמֶּנוּ כְּלוּם, שֶׁיִּהְיֶה בִּבְחִינַת "מָה" בָּאֱמֶת, עַד שֶׁיִּזְכֶּה לְבְחִינַת בִּטוּל בַּאֵמֵת].

(ז) וְאַזֵי, כְּשֶׁזוֹכֶה לְבִטוּל בֶּאֱמֶת, וַאֲזִי נִכְלֶל נַפְשׁוֹ בְּשֶׁרְשׁוֹ, דְּהַיְנוּ בּוֹ יִתְבָּרַךְ, שֶׁהוּא מְחָיֵּב הַמְּצִיאוּת. אֲזֵי נִכְלָל כָּל הָעוֹלָם עִם נַפְשׁוֹ בְּשֶׁרְשׁוֹ, שֶׁהוּא מְחָיַב הַמְצִיאוּת, כִּי הַכֹּל תָּלוּי בּוֹ כַּנַ"ל, וַאֲזִי נַעֲשֶׂה כָּל הָעוֹלָם עַל יָדוֹ בִּּבְחִינַת מִחָיַב הַמִּצִיאוּת כַּנַּ"ל:

(א) וְעַתָּה תִּרְאֶה פִּלְאֵי פְּלָאוֹת, אֵיךְ כָּל זֶה מִבֹאָר עַתָּה בִּהַמִּשְׁנָה הַנַּ"ל בָּאֵר הֵיטֵב. וְזֵהוּ:

- (ב) הַגַּעוֹר בַּלַיְלָה כִּפְשׁוּטוֹ, דְהַיְנוּ שֶׁהוּא גַעוֹר בַּלַיְלָה, וּמִתְבּוֹדֵד וּמְפָרֵשׁ שִׁיחָתוֹ בֵּינוֹ לָבֵין קוֹנוֹ.
- (ג) וְהַמְהַלֵּךְ בַּדֶּרֶךְ יְחִידִי הַיְנוּ כַּנַּ"ל, שָׁהוֹלֵךְ בְּדֶרֶךְ יְחִידִי דַּיְקָא, בְּמָקוֹם שֶׁאֵין בְּנֵי אָדָם הוֹלְכִים שָׁם כַּנַּ"ל, כִּי אֲזֵי הוּא עִקּר שְׁלֵמוּת הַהִתְבּוֹדְדוּת: בַּלַּיְלָה, וּבְדֶרֶךְ יְחִידִי דַּיְקָא כַּנַּ"ל, כִּי אָז דַּיְקָא יְכוֹלִין לָבוֹא לְבְחִינַת בִּטוּל כַּנַּ"ל. וְזֵהוּ:

(ד) וּמְפַנֶּה לְבּוֹ לְבַטֶּלָה – דְּהַיְנוּ שֶׁמְפַנֶּה לְבּוֹ מִכֶּל עִסְקֵי הָעוֹלָם הַזֶּה – לְבַטָּלָה, כְּדֵי לְוְכּוֹת לְבְחִינַת בִּטוּל כַּנַ"ל. וְאָז זוֹכֶה שֶׁיֻכְלַל נַפְשׁוֹ בַּמְחָיַב הַמְּצִיאוּת כַּנַ"ל, וַאָזִי נִכְלָלִין כָּל הָעוֹלְמוֹת עִם נַפְשׁוֹ בַּמְחָיַב הַמְצִיאוּת כַּנַ"ל. וְזָהוּ:

(ה) הֲבִי זֶה מִתְחַיֵּב בְּנַפְשׁוֹ – שֻׁנִּכְלֶל כָּלֹ
 הָעוֹלֶם בִּבְחִינַת מְחֻיַב הַמְצִיאוּת עִם נַפְשׁוֹ, כִּי עַל־יְבִי הַהִּתְבּוֹךְדוּת הַנַּ"ל זָכָה לִבְחִינַת בִּטוּל, עַד שֶׁנִּכְלֶל נַפְשׁוֹ בְּחִיוּב הַמְצִיאוּת, וְעַל־יְבִי־ זֶה נִכְלֵל כָּל הָעוֹלֶם עִם נַפְשׁוֹ וְכָל הָעוֹלֶם הַמְצִיאוּת כַּנַ"ל, וְנַעֲשֶׂה נַפְשׁוֹ וְכָל הָעוֹלֶם בִּבְחִינַת מְחָיַב הַמְצִיאוּת כַּנַ"ל, וְזֶהוּ: הֲבִי זֶה בִּבְחִינַת מְחָיַב הַמְצִיאוּת כַּנַ"ל, וְזֶהוּ: הֲבִי זֶה

מַתְחַיֵּב בַּנַפְשׁוֹ כַּנַ"ל:

- reality. Thus his soul and the entire world are in the aspect of *meChuYaV* reality, as explained above. And this is the explanation of "he is *mitChaYeV* his own soul."
- (1) **5.** Here you have *leshon Rabbeinu z'l* of this lesson, which he composed with extreme brevity:
- (2) Who goes on his way alone. He who stays awake at night...
- (3) Know, the essence of *bitul*—that a person negates his corporeality and becomes *ayin* (nothingness), becoming encompassed in the oneness of God—is achieved only through *hitbodedut*.
- (4) Now the *hitbodedut* requires a special place and time so that he is not disturbed by distractions. The time is at night-i.e., He who stays awake at **night**—for then everyone is asleep. The place is on a secluded road, and not a public road, so that he is not interrupted by people passing by. Rather, it should be specifically a road not frequently travelled—he should go there and seclude himself. This is: Who goes on his way alone. Then he will be able to empty his heart of all <dross and waste>, and be able to attain a bitul of all <his> corporeality <and become naught and nothing>. This is: and makes room in his heart for **batalah**. And then, when he is entirely transparent, he is encompassed in the oneness of God. He then attains the aspect of mediuyav ("necessary"), for the Holy One is a necessary reality, whereas all things are a contingent reality. Thus when a person is transparent and is encompassed in His oneness, he then leaves the aspect of contingent <reality> and is encompassed in meChuYaV < reality>. And this is the aspect of he is mitChaYeV his own soul.

- (א) וְהֵא לְּךָּ לְשׁוֹן רַבֵּנוּ מֵהַתּוֹרָה הַוֹּאת שֶׁכְּתָבָה בְּתַכְלִית הַקּצוּר. וְזֶהוּ:
- (ב) הַמְהַלֵּךְ בַּדֶּרֶךְ יְחִידִי, הַנֵּעוֹר בַּלַיְלָה וְכוּ'.

(ג) דַע, שֶעַקָּר הַבָּטוּל, שֵאַדַם מִבַטֵּל יֵשׁוּתוֹ

- ְוַנַצְשֶׂה אַיִּן, וְנַכְלָל בְּאַחְדוּת הַשֵּׁם יִתְבָּרַה, אֵין זָה אֶלָּא עַל־יְדִי הִתְּבּוֹדְדוּת.
 (ד) וְהַהִּתְבּוֹדְדוּת צָרִיךְ מָקוֹם וּזְמַן מְיְחָד,
 שֶׁלֹא יְבַלְּבְּלוּ אוֹתוֹ הַמּוֹנְעִים. וְהַזְּמַן הוּא
 בַּלַילָה, הַיְנוּ: הַנֵּעוֹר בַּלַיְלָה, שֶׁאָז הַכּל
 יְשׁנִים. וְהַמְּקוֹם הוּא בְּדֶרֶךְ יְחִידִי, וְלֹא בְּדֶרֶךְ
 הָרַבִּים, שֶׁלֹא יַפְסִיקֶנוּ עוֹבְרֵי דְּרָכִים, אֶלָּא
 בִּיְקָא בְּדֶרֶךְ שֶׁאֵין רַבִּים הוֹלְכִים שָׁם, שֶׁם יֵלֵךְ
 וְיִתְבּוֹדֵד, וְהַיְנוּ: וְהַמְהַלֵּךְ בַּדֶּרֶךְ יְחִידִי, וְאָז
 יְכוֹל לְפַנּוֹת לְבּוֹ מְכֹּל וָכֹל, וְיָכוֹל לָבוֹא
 לְבִטוּל כָּל הַיֵּשׁוּת, וְהַיְנוּ: וְהַמְפַנֵּה לְבּוֹ
- ְוְכָל הַדְּבָרִים הֵם אֶפְשֵׁר הַמְּצִיאוּת, וּכְשֶׁנִּתְבַּטֵל וְנִכְלָל בְּאַחְדוּתוֹ, אֲזֵי הוּא יוֹצֵא מִבְּחִינַת אֶפְשָׁר, וְנִכְלָל בַּמְחָיָב, וְזֶה בְּחִינַת: הֲרֵי זֶה מִתְחַיֵב בְּנַפְשׁוֹ:

לְבַשַּלָה. וְאַז כִּשֵׁנִּתִבַּטֵל לְגַמְרֵי, אֲזַי הוּא נִכְלַל

בָּאַחִדוּת הַשֶּׁם יִתִבָּרַך, וְאַז הוּא בָּא לְבִחִינַת

מָחֻיָּב, כִּי הַקָּדוֹשׁ־בָּרוּךְ־הוּא מִחְיַב הַמִּצִיאוּת,

Likutei Moharan, Part II 25:1-9

- (1) Hitbodedut is the highest asset and greater than everything. That is, to set aside for oneself at least an hour or more for secluding oneself in some room or a field, and, using claims and excuses, speak one's piece with one's Maker; using words that evoke favor, placate and conciliate in order to entreat and plead with God that He bring one closer to Him—to genuine Divine worship.
- (2) This prayer and conversation should be in the

ליקוטי מוהר'ן, תנינא כ"ה:א'-ט'

- (א) הַהִתְבּוֹדְדוּת הוּא מַעֲלָה עֶלְיוֹנָה וּגְדוֹלָה מִן הַכֹּל, דְּהַיְנוּ לְקְבֹּע לוֹ עַל־כָּל־פָּנִים שָׁעָה אוֹ יוֹתֵר לְהִתְבּוֹדֵד לְבַדּוֹ בְּאֵיזֶה חֶדֶר אוֹ בַּשָּׂדָה, וּלְפָרֵשׁ שִׁיחָתוֹ בֵּינוֹ לְבֵין קוֹנוֹ בִּטְעָנוֹת וַאֲמַתְלָאוֹת, בְּדִבְרֵי חֵן וְרִצוּי וּפִּיוּס, לְבַקֵּשׁ וּלְהִתְחַנֵּן מִלְּפָנָיו יִתְבָּרַךְ, שֶׁיְּקָרְבוֹ אֵלָיו לַעֲבוֹדָתוֹ בֶּאֱמֶת.
- (ב) וּתִפַּלָה וִשִּׂיחָה זוֹ יִהְיֵה בַּלְשׁוֹן שֵׁמְדַבְּרִים בּוֹ,

language one normally uses, one's native tongue, because it is difficult for a person to say everything he wants to say in the Holy Tongue. Also, being unfamiliar with that language, one's heart is not moved by the words, as we are not accustomed to speaking Hebrew. But in our native tongue, in which we normally speak and converse, it is much easier and so more likely for one to feel contrition. This is because the heart is drawn to a person's native tongue and closer to it, on account of his familiarity with it.

- (3) And in one's native tongue one can express oneself fully. Everything that is in his heart he should express and tell to God: be it remorse and repentance for the past, or pleas to genuinely merit drawing closer to God from this day forward, or the like; each individual according to his level.
- (4) One should be very careful to make this a daily practice, at a scheduled time. But the rest of the day one should be happy, as mentioned above.
- (5) The benefit of this practice is extraordinarily great. It is an extremely good path and guideline for drawing closer to God, because it is a universal guideline that encompasses everything.
- (6) No matter what a person is lacking in worshiping God—even if he is totally and absolutely distant from God's service—he should speak about it all and ask it of God, as mentioned above.
- (7) Even if occasionally a person's words are sealed and he cannot open his mouth to say anything at all to God, this itself is nonetheless very good. That is, his readiness and his presence before God, and his yearning and longing to speak despite his inability to do so—this in itself is also very good.
- (8) Moreover, it is possible to make a conversation and prayer out of this itself. A person should cry out and plead to God about this very thing, that he has become so distant he is unable to even speak. He should beg God for compassion and grace, that He take pity on him and open his mouth so that he will be able to express himself before Him.
- (9) And know! many, many renowned tzaddikim have related that they attained their high spiritual level only through this practice. The perceptive

דְּהַיְנוּ בִּלְשׁוֹן אַשְׁכְנֵז (בִּמְדִינָתֵנוּ), כִּי בִּלְשׁוֹן־הַקּדֶשׁ קָשֶׁה לוֹ לְפָרֵשׁ כָּל שִׁיחָתוֹ, וְגַם אֵין הַלֵּב נִמְשָׁר אַחֲרֵי הַדְּבּוּרִים, מֵחֲמַת שֶׁאֵינוֹ מֻרְגָּל כָּל־כָּךְ בְּהַלְּשׁוֹן, כִּי אֵין דַּרְכֵּנוּ לְדַבֵּר בִּלְשׁוֹן־הַקּדֶשׁ. אֲכָל בִּלְשׁוֹן אַשְׁכְנוּ, שֶׁמְסַפְּרִים וּמְדַבְּרִים בּוֹ, קַל וְקָרוֹב יוֹתֵר לְשַׁבֵּר לְבּוֹ, כִּי הַלֵּב נִמְשָׁרְ וְקָרוֹב יוֹתֵר אֶל לְשׁוֹן אַשְׁכְּנֵז, מֵחֲמַת שֶׁהוּא מִרְגָּל בּוֹ.

- (ג) וּבִלְשׁוֹן אַשְּׁכְּנֵז יָכוֹל לְפָּרֵשׁ כָּל שִׁיחָתוֹ. וְאֶת כָּל אֲשֶׁר עִם לְבָבוֹ יָשִׁיחַ וִיסַפֵּר לְפָנִיו יִתְבָּרָך, הֵן חֲרֶטָה וּתְשׁוּבָה עַל הָעָבָר, וְהֵן בַּקּשַׁת תַחֲנוּנִים לְזְכּוֹת לְהִתְּלֶרֵב אֵלָיו יִתְבָּרַךְ מֵהַיּוֹם וְהָלְאָה בָּאֱמֶת, וְכֵיוֹצֵא בָּזֶה כָּל חַד לְפוּם דַּרְגִּה.
- (ד) וְיָזָהֵר מְאֹד לְהַרְגִּיל עַצְמוֹ לְהַתְמִיד בָּזֶה מִדֵּי יוֹם בִּיוֹם שָׁעָה מְיָחֶדֶת כַּנַּ"ל, וּשְׁאָר הַיּוֹם יִהְיֶה בִּשְׂמִחַה כַּנַּ"ל.
- (ה) וְהַנְהָגָה זוֹ הִיא גְּדוֹלֶה בְּמַצֵלֶה מְאֹד מְאֹד,וְהוּא דֶּרֶךְ וְצֵצָה טוֹבָה מְאֹד לְהַתְּקָרֵב אֵלְיויִתְבֶּרַךְ, כִּי זֹאת הִיא צֵצָה כְּלֶלִיוּת, שֶׁכּוֹלֵל הַכֹּל.
- (ו) כִּי עַל כָּל מַה שֶּׁיֶחְסַר לוֹ בַּעֲבוֹדַת הַשֵּׁם, אוֹ אָם הוּא רָחוֹק לְגַמְרֵי מִכֹּל וָכֹל מֵעֲבוֹדָתוֹ יִתְבָּרַךְ – עַל הַכֹּל יְפָרֵשׁ שִּׁיחָתוֹ וִיבַקֵשׁ מֵאִתוֹ יִתְבָּרַךְ כַּנַּ"ל.
- (ז) וַאֲפָלוּ אִם לִפְעָמִים נְסְתַּמְיוֹ דְּבָרָיו, וְאֵינוֹ יָכוֹל לְפְתֹּחַ פִּיוֹ לְדַבֵּר לְפָנִיוֹ יִתְבָּרַךְ כְּלְל, אַף־עַל־פִּי־כֵּן זֶה בְּעַצְמוֹ טוֹב מְאֹד, דְּהַיְנוּ הַהֲכָנָה שֶׁהוּא מוּכָן וְעוֹמֵד לְפָנִיוֹ יִתְבָּרַךְ, וְחָפֵץ וּמִשְׁתּוֹקֵק לְדַבֵּר, אַךְ שֶׁאֵינוֹ יָכוֹל, זֶה בְּעַצְמוֹ גַם־כֵּן טוֹב מְאֹד,
 - (ח) וְגַם יוּכַל לַעֲשׂוֹת לוֹ שִׁיחָה וּתְפָלָה מָזֶּה בְּעַצְמוֹ. וְעַל זֶה בְּעַצְמוֹ יִצְעֹק וְיִתְחַנֵּן לְפָנָיו יִתְבָּרָה, שֶׁנִּתְרַחֵק כָּל־כָּהְ, עַד שֶׁאֵינוֹ יָכוֹל אֲפִלּוּ לְדַבֵּר. וִיבַקֵשׁ מֵאִתּוֹ יִתְבָּרָה רַחֲמִים וְתַחֲנוּנִים, שֶׁיַּחֲמֹל עָלָיו וְיִפְתַּח פִּיו, שֶׁיוּכַל לְפָרֵשׁ שִׂיחָתוֹ לְפָנֵיו.
- ט) וְדַע, שֶׁכַּמָּה וְכַמָּה צַדִּיקִים גְּדוֹלִים מְפָּרְסָמִים סִפְּרוּ, שֶׁלֹּא בָּאוּ לְמַדְרֵגָתָם, רַק עַל־יְדִי הַנְּהָגָה זוֹ. וְהַמַּשְׂכִּיל יָבִין מֵעַצְמוֹ גֹּדֶל מַעֻּלַת הַנְהָגָה זוֹ,

individual will understand by himself the great benefit of this practice, which rises higher and higher. Furthermore, it is a practice that is accessible to all people, from the least to the greatest. For anyone can make use of this practice and thereby come to a high level. Fortunate is the one who grabs holds of it. הָעוֹלָה לְמַעְלָה לְמַעְלָה, וְהוּא דָּבָר הַשָּׁוֶה לְכָל נֶפֶשׁ מִקָּטוֹ וְעַד נָּדוֹל, כִּי כָּלָם יְכוֹלִים לְנְהֹג הַנְהָגָה זוֹ, וְעַל־יִדִי זֶה יָבוֹאוּ לְמַעְלָה גְּדוֹלָה. אַשְׁרֵי שֶׁיֹאחַז בָּזָה:

Sichot HaRan 274:1

It is very good to have a special room set aside for Torah study and prayer. Such a room is especially beneficial for secluded meditation and conversation with God. שיחות הר'ן ער"ד:אי

טוֹב מְאד לְהָאָדָם שֶׁיִּהְיֶה לוֹ חֶדֶר מְיֻחָד לוֹ לְבַדּוֹ לַעֲסֹק שָׁם בַּעֲבוֹדַת ה בְּתוֹרָה וּתְפִּלָּה וּבִפְּרָט הִתְבּוֹדְדוּת וִשִּׂיחַה בֵּינוֹ לָבֵין קוֹנוֹ שֵׁלֵּזֵה צִרִיכִין בַּוַדָּאי חֵדֵר מִיְחַד

Likutei Moharan, Part II 96:1:1-7

Rebbe Nachman said more on the topic of hitbodedut. The Rebbe, of blessed memory, avidly encouraged the regular practice of hitbodedut, speaking with God each and every day. He said: Even when one cannot speak at all, or says only a single thing—it is also very good! He also said: Even if a person can only say one thing, he should be resolute and say that thing over and over again, endlessly. And even if he spends many, many days saying nothing but this thing—that, too, is good! He should be strong and courageous, and continue to say that thing countless times until God takes pity on him and opens his mouth, enabling him to elaborate his words. The Rebbe also said: The spoken word is very powerful. Why, with a whisper it is possible to prevent a gun from firing. Understand this. At the time he spoke about this, he spoke a great deal about hitbodedut. He went on for a long while, with an amazing discussion that took many different approaches. He encouraged and exhorted us tremendously in this—that we be strong and practice much hitbodedut -conversation with God. He also said he wanted for us that the whole day be entirely hitbodedut, that we should spend the entire day on it. However, not everyone is capable of this, and so he was forced to instruct people to practice *hitbodedut* at least some part of the day. This, too, is very good! Nevertheless, anyone whose heart is firmly committed

ליקוטי מוהר'ן, תנינא צ"ו:א':א'-ז'

עוד אַמַר לִעָנָיַן הִתְבּוֹדְדוּת, שֶׁהַיַה דַּרְכּוֹ זַ"ל לְזַרֵז מָאֹד בַּזָה לְהִיוֹת רַגִּיל מָאד בְּהַתְבּוֹדְדוּת, לְפָרֵשׁ שִׂיחָתוֹ לִפְנֵי הַשֵּׁם יִתבַּרַךְ בִּכָל יוֹם וַיוֹם. וְאָמַר: שֵׁאֵפִּלוּ בָשָאֵין יָכוֹלִין לְדַבֵּר כַּלַל, אַפַּלוּ כִּשְׁמִדַבְּרִין ַרַק דְּבּוּר אָחַד, גַּם־כֵּן טוֹב מָאֹד. וְאַמַר: שָׁאֲפָלוּ אָם אֵינוֹ יָכוֹל לְדַבֵּר רַק דְּבּוּר אֵחָד, יָהָיֶה חַזַק בְּדַעָתוֹ, וִידַבֶּר אוֹתוֹ הַדְּבּוּר כַּמַה וְכַמָּה פָּעָמִים בִּלִי שָׁעוּר וַעֵרֶך, וַאֵפָלוּ אָם יָבַלֶה כַּמָה וְכַמָּה יָמִים בִּדְבּוּר זֵה לְבַד גַּם וָה טוֹב. וִיִהְיֵה חָזַק וְאַמִּיץ, וְיַרְבֵּה לְדַבֵּר אוֹתוֹ הַדְּבּוּר פָּעָמִים אֵין מִסְפַּר, עַד שֵׁיִרַחֵם עַלַיו הַשָּׁם יִתִבָּרַךְ, וִיִפִּתַח פִּיו, וִיוּכַל לְפַרָשׁ שִׂיחָתוֹ: וְאַמַר, שֶׁהַדְּבּוּר יֵשׁ לוֹ כֹּחַ גָּדוֹל מָאֹד, כִּי הַלֹא יִכוֹלִין לְלָחשׁ עַל קְנָה־שָּׂרֶפָּה שֵׁלֹּא תּוּכַל לִירוֹת. וְהַבֵּן. וְאָז כָשֵׁדְבֵּר מָזָה, דְבֵּר הַרְבֵּה מֵהִתְבּוֹדְדוּת, וָהָאַרִיךְ מָאֹד בְּשִּׂיחַה נָפַלַאַה בְּכַמַּה מִינֵי לְשׁוֹנוֹת, וַחָזֵּק אוֹתַנוּ וָזֵרֵז אוֹתַנוּ מָאד מָאד בַּזֵה, לְהִתְחַזֵּק לְהַרְבּוֹת בְּהִתְבּוֹדְדוּת וְשִׂיחָה בֵּינוֹ לְבֵין קוֹנוֹ. וְאַמַר: שֵׁרְצוֹנוֹ שֵׁיָהְיֵה לָנוּ כָּל הַיּוֹם כָּלוֹ הִתְבּוֹדְדוּת, וּלְבַלּוֹת כַּל הַיּוֹם עַל זֵה, אַךְ לָאו כַּל אַדָם יָכוֹל לְקַיֵּם זֹאַת. עַל־כֵּן בְּהֵכְרֵחַ לְצַוּוֹת לַהֵם שַׁיָּהְיֵה לַהֵם עַל־כַּל־כַּנִים אֵיזֵה שַׁעַה הָתְבּוֹדְדוּת, כִּי גַּם זֵה טוֹב מָאֹד. אֲבָל מִי

to God and honestly wishes to accept upon himself the yoke of Divine service, the Rebbe wanted for him that the whole day be *hitbodedut*. He mentioned then the statement of our Sages, of blessed memory: Would that a person pray all day long (Berakhot 21a).

שֶׁלְבּוֹ חָזֶק בַּה', וְרוֹצֶה לְקַבֵּל עָלָיו עׁל עֲבוֹדָתוֹ יִתְבָּרַך בָּאֱמֶת, רְצוֹנוֹ שֵׁיִהְיֶה לוֹ כָּל הַיּוֹם הִתְבּוֹדְדוּת. וְהִזְכִּיר אָז מַאֲמֵר חֲכָמֵינוּ זִכְרוֹנָם לְבָרָכָה (ברכות כא): וּלְוַאי שֶׁיִתְפַּלֵל אָדָם כָּל הַיּוֹם כָּלוֹ:

Likutei Moharan, Part II 99:1:1-3

Rebbe Nachman said: The essence of perfected hitbodedut -conversation with one's Maker is when a person speaks to God so extensively that his soul is close to departing, God forbid; until he just about expires, God forbid; until, because of the intensity of his genuine pain and longing and yearning for God, his soul is tied to his body by no more than a thread. This is clarified in the teachings of our Sages, of blessed memory, who said: A person's prayer is not accepted unless he puts his life in his hands (Taanit 8a), as mentioned above. And the Rebbe said: Indeed, when God assists one's hitbodedut, hitbodedut is like a conversation between friends.

ליקוטי מוהר'ן, תנינא צ"ט:א':א'-ג'

אָמַר, שֶׁעִקָּר הַהִּתְבּוֹדְדוּת וְהַשִּׂיחָה בֵּינוֹ לְבֵין קוֹנוֹ בִּשְׁלֵמוּת הוּא, כְּשִׁיְפָרֵשׁ שִׁיחָתוֹ כָּל־כָּךְ לִפְנֵי הַשֵּׁם יִתְבָּרָה, עַד שֶׁיְהָיֶה סְמוּךְ מְאֹד שֶׁתֵּצֵא נִשְׁמָתוֹ, חַס וְשָׁלוֹם, עַד שֶׁכִּמְעַט יִגְוַע, חַס וְשָׁלוֹם, עַד שֶׁלֹּא תִּהְיֶה נִשְׁמָתוֹ קְשׁוּרָה וְנַעְגוּמוֹ וְכָסּוּפִיו לְהַשֵּׁם יִתְבָּרַה בֵּאֱמֶת. וְכֵן מְבֹאָר בְּדְבָרֵי רַבּוֹתֵינוּ זִכְרוֹנָם לְבְרָכָה (תענית ח), שֶּאָמְרוּ: אֵין תְּפָלָתוֹ שֶׁל אָדָם הַיְנוּ כַּנַּ"ל: וְאָמָר: הַלוֹא כְּשֶׁהַשֵּׁם יִתְבָּרךְ עוֹזֵר הַהְנִּנּ כַּנַּ"ל: וְאָמַר: הַלוֹא כְּשֶׁהַשֵּׁם יִתְבָּרךְ עוֹזֵר יְדַבֵּר אִישׁ אֶל רֵצִהוּ: