

The Rebbe's Discourses

Summaries of points from the Rebbe's Chassidic Discourses בלי אחריות כלל וכלל

פרשת וארא תשל"ד ד"ה וארא אל אברהם בלתי מוגה

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THE PATRIARCHS WITHIN

THE SEDRA VA'ERA BEGINS WITH WORDS WHICH ARE GENERALLY translated in the past tense: 'And I [G-d] appeared to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob...'². Rabbi Shneur Zalman points out in a discourse discussing this verse in *Torah Or*³ that these words can also be understood in the future, or the continual present. Taken in this way, they mean that this spiritual aspect, G-d's revelation to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, did not only take place for the Patriarchs themselves, but also is in some way experienced by every Jew in every epoch.

What does this mean? The special quality of the Patriarchs was that they are termed a 'Mekavah', a 'chariot' for G-d⁴. Just as a chariot being driven by a driver will go wherever the driver wants, so the Patriarchs and their wives lived as a total expression of the Divine Will.

The Rebbe states in this discourse that this idea can apply to each of us. It is not so difficult to understand when applied to a person fulfilling a Mitzvah. His or her energy and thought is invested in, let's say, creating and enjoying a Shabbat atmosphere, keeping the laws of Shabbat, serving the Shabbat food at the table, and also with extra prayers and Torah study.

But the Rebbe goes further, and explains that the illumination of the Patriarchs' devotion to G-d can be within us even when we are simply living daily life, on an ordinary day. The discourse states that this applies not only to scholarly,

¹ Maamar Va'era 5734 (1974). It was printed in Dvar Malchut Va'era 5785. It was not edited by the Rebbe.

² Ex.6:3, Sedra Va'era.

³ Torah Or, beginning of Vaera, 55a.

⁴ This concept relates to the Chariot described in Ezekiel ch.1. See Tanya Part 1 ch.18.

distinguished Jews, but to every member of the Jewish people, great and small, and in all times.

Now the point of this spiritual revelation, as described in the Sedra, is as part of the process to leave the Exile in Egypt. The verses continue with G-d saying 'I will take you out of Egypt.. I will save you.. I will redeem you.. I will take you to Me as a people..'. The Egyptian Exile included all future Exiles, and so these words also apply to our present Exile: even in the double and redoubled darkness of our difficult times, we have the special revelation of the Divine as it was to the Patriarchs, which will lead to the Redemption.

Torah teachings are holy – please treat these pages with care