NOAM HASHABBOS
נועם השבת

Oasis In The Ocean

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An incredible mashal is given by the Shlah HaKadosh: ים העולם הזה, סוער. This world is comparable to a tumultuous ים, an ocean. צריך לדמות האדם בדעתו, a person has to think כאילו הוא שט, that he's just floating, ידיו וראשו למעלה ליוצרו, and he has to put his head high in order to reach his Creator. ויזהר, and he has to be careful, פן יכנסו בפיו המים הזדונים. You have to be careful to make sure that the water, the bitter waters of עולם הזה, that sometimes could be difficult, don't enter into one's mouth and make him drown, וישמור מן הגלים הבאים לטרדו. And he has to be careful with the waves that try to sweep him away. ואם לאו, if he's not careful, דמו בראשו, he's going to be חייב for the bad offshoots and effects that his life has.

Sometimes life could be difficult, it brings us to places that we never thought we would be. The ים, the ocean, is tumultuous, and the waves are scary. What is the raft that we're able to hold onto, to be able to get out of this ים in a way that we're not just surviving, but we're thriving?

Says the Sfas Emes: Shabbos Kodesh, this heilige Shabbos that we have, is כמו תיבת נח, is like the beautiful תיבה of Noach, שבימות החול, that during the week, טרוד, we're all busy, כל אחד בעסקי עולם הזה, we're all busy in the world, all in our own way, and we're worried, and we have obligations, tuition to pay, and obligations to be able to do all the things that we need to do. בשבת קודש, but finally on שבת, יש מקום לבני ישראל לברוח ולהניח עצמו. Shabbos is a time we could run away and leave it all behind, להסתופף תחת צל כנפי השכינה, to be under the Ribono Shel Olam's shadow. And this, he says, is a Sukkas Shalom, when we make that special Berachah of הַפּוֹרֵשׂ סֻכַּת שָׁלוֹם עָלֵינוּ, that the Ribono Shel Olam is putting tranquility over us. it comes from Shabbos.

Just like כמו שהיה נח בתיבה, just like Noach had to deal with a mabul outside, but he went into the תיבה, every week we're given the תיבה. We're given this ark of tranquility, the ability to leave everything behind and to connect, says the Sfas Emes, לקבל חיות חדש משורש החיים, to get a new life from the source of all life, which is the Ribono Shel Olam.

Every Shabbos we renew our life source, we leave the hardships behind, we forsake and go away from all the difficulties and the constant pressures that we're under during the week. Let's take hold of it now. Let's become big. Let's allow ourselves to be free, and it only happens with proactive action, not to discuss business on Shabbos, to allow ourselves to be free, to allow ourselves to walk into this תיבה of Shalom, of tranquility. And when we do that, our whole week is going to be filled with Shalom, Shleimus.

Gut Shabbos!

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