

TORAS AVIGDOR

AUTHENTIC TORAH THOUGHT FOR LIFE

RAV AVIGDOR MILLER ZT"L

SIMCHAS TORAH – BEREISHIS WITH RAV AVIGDOR MILLER ZT"L

BASED ON HIS BOOKS, TAPES & WRITINGS OF TALMIDIM

ONE BOOK, ONE MIND

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Part I. Our One Book

Dancing With Your One Love

On Simchas Torah the *minhag Yisroel* is that we take all of the *sifrei Torah* out from the *aron kodesh* and we dance, we make *hakafos*. We're celebrating the completion of another cycle of reading the Torah from beginning to end, and we're starting now again from *Bereishis bara Elokim*.

Now, one of the features of this day, an aspect that is not spoken about often enough – is that we are dancing with only one *sefer*. The *sefer Torah*, that's the only book we're holding. And we do that because we're emphasizing to ourselves and to our *chaveirim* that this was the plan of Hakadosh Baruch Hu from the beginning: The Am Yisroel should have only one *sefer*.

Now we're accustomed already to *seforim*, to libraries of books, but the strict Torah law is that even *divrei Torah* are forbidden to write. Even to write a *siddur* of *tefillah* was *ossur* in the ancient times. The Gemara (Shabbos 115b) tells about a

man who made *siddurim* and was selling them, so the *chachomim* went after him to prevent it. It was a strict Torah policy – no books except one.

It was only later in our history when the *Chachomim* saw that the Torah would be forgotten otherwise – there were wars and exiles and persecutions, and the generations became much weaker – so they permitted the writing of *divrei Torah*. And that's how the Mishna and the Gemara and all other subsequent *seforim* came to be in writing. But in the olden days of the Tannaim and all the way back to Har Sinai there could be no such thing. In a Jewish home or even a *beis medrash* or *yeshivah*, you wouldn't find any other book except the *sefer Torah*, the Tanach. We were a one-book nation.

Apion's Accusation

Now to understand the very great importance of this principle, we have to go to somebody outside of the Torah world who explains it. That's Josephus. Josephus lived at the time of *Churban Bayis Sheini* and he wrote a book called *Contra Apion*. *Contra Apion* means 'Against Apion'. Apion was a Greek anti-Semite, and Josephus was

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defending the Jewish people against his lies and accusations.

Now Apion, among his accusations, he made a point of stating that the Greeks have a very big literature. “But you Jews, you backwards Jews,” he said, “you don't have any books except the Bible.” In Josephus's time, at the end of *bayis sheini*, the old prohibition was in full force. No books! And Apion ridiculed that.

Josephus's Defense

But Josephus responded to that: “That's no accusation!” he said. “That's our salvation! Among us there's only one book that's *permitted* to be written. We have a Torah from Har Sinai and only a prophet, *al pi Hashem*, is allowed to write anything else. Nobody is privileged to take their own thoughts and put pen to paper, or feather to scroll.

And he explains what a very big difference that made. Pay attention to the very important contrast Josephus made. The Am Yisroel, he said, have just one set of ideals for the entire nation. Even if it occurs to somebody to be *mechadesh* something, he could say it, he could tell his friends or his family maybe, but to put it down in writing, to give it that *gushpanka*, the seal of the written word, was absolutely forbidden. It's only the *dvar Hashem* that was in writing.

But among the Greeks, Josephus said, anybody who wishes can write. That's the policy of the nations of the world; literature is open to anybody who could scribble. If you have the knack for writing – and even if you don't – go ahead. Every Tom, Dick and Yenta writes a book. And so what do the books express? All the foolishness that enters their minds.

Now if the writers would have just kept their ideas in their own minds, that would be one

thing; they would have misguided degraded minds. But the problem is the rest of the world, the readers. By verbalizing, by writing, they're doing a very great harm to humanity.

The writers, the Greeks and those who followed in their footsteps, created a literature that harmed the intellect of mankind. The truth is that even their own philosophers say so. Plato, in one of his works, declares that the writers and the poets and the playwrights have corrupted the people. Every kind of mischievous idea was put into books and thereby into the minds of the people.

Police Brutality

Now, we could give here hundreds of examples, thousands, because the printing presses are operating twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. עֲשׂוֹת סִפְרִים הַרְבֵּה אֵין קֵץ – *There's no end to the mischievous ideas that are put into print, וְלֹהֵג הַרְבֵּה יִגְעַת בְּשָׂר – and the business with reading every person's foolishness is wearying to mankind* (Koheles 12:12). It's the ruination of man.

I once spoke here about the book, *Les Miserables*, by Victor Hugo. You never read it? You're lucky. Unfortunately, I did. Now that book doesn't have in it immorality so you'll say “what's so bad?” But it's *very* bad because it's a book full of fabrications, misconceptions, and in that sense it's a wicked book too.

Hugo, after all, wanted to write a book with some punch to it. To write merely about the humdrum daily events of life, that's not interesting enough. So he had to concoct a tale of somebody who suffered very great injustice over a long time. How a person in Paris was suffering the most abject poverty and finally he went into crime – you understand already; it wasn't his fault he became a criminal, it was society's fault. And finally he was arrested and

he suffered in prison; *ay yah yay*, the poor criminals suffering in prison.

And of course when he came out, a whole story about how he wanted to avenge himself on society. Oh, but of course! It's only fair that a criminal who was locked up should avenge himself on those who had to lock him up.

The whole story is a depiction of things that are actually not so, about the pitiful wretched lives of the poor and how they're persecuted by the wicked police. It's a style of writing, to magnify the small unhappy things that take place during life, to make the world seem more black, more miserable than it actually is. So all the 'cultured' people who read *Les Miserables* become miserable and confused.

Dickens, Marx and False Reformers

The same is Dickens' books and all the great reformers, the liars, who wanted to fight against social injustice. They always depict society not as it actually is. Lies, exaggerations, magnified problems, and of course fabricated and untenable solutions.

And so Karl Marx, that great *rasha*, because he was able to write books, he 'mis'educated all the youth with lies, with ideas built on false premises. He taught people to admire only the proletariat, the workers, and to hate self-employed people. The capitalists who had shops and businesses of their own, anybody who was intelligent or active enough to set up his own business, was decried as an exploiter of the poor workmen.

And so his writings, especially the Communist Manifesto, created a tremendous falsehood, a cloud of lies, and it encouraged the Anarchists and the Socialists and the Bolsheviks and the Communists to rise up and overthrow the established governments.

Now the *rabbanim* warned! They said to the youth, "Forget about the ideas you're reading about. Turn back to the Torah! Don't organize a revolt against the Czar! What's going to happen subsequently will be worse!" But the Jewish youth were misled by the false literature; they forgot that the foundation of our nation is one book. And so they read the Communist Manifesto and they read themselves straight into disaster. The last chapter of the book of real life wasn't how Marx described it in his book. Nobody is happy in the Communist lands. Millions and millions are dead. Millions of people suffered and are still suffering because of dumbbells who wrote poisonous books.

Wasted Forests

Now, we could talk much more about the literature of the gentiles because it doesn't end; every day trees are being chopped down to keep the printing presses going, to supply paper for books. Today especially there's a new branch of literature corrupting the world. One of the mainstays of modern literature, which requires entire forests to keep it going, is romance.

Now when you look for the subject of romantic love in ancient literature you won't find it. It didn't exist because the whole thing doesn't exist. There's no such thing, It's a dream, a fantasy. It's **לֹא הָיָה וְלֹא נִבְרָא**. Romantic love as portrayed in the books is something that doesn't exist in real life.

True Love and True Literature

Of course there's such a thing as married love but it's something that has to be fostered – it's like a plant. You have to water it with a lot of patience, a lot of kindness, one to the other – and *yiras Shamayim* helps a lot too – and as years pass by, it grows into a true plant, a true tree that has *peiros*, they give forth produce.

Our Book says וְדַבֵּק בְּאִשְׁתּוֹ – *a man must be loyal to his wife* (Bereishis 2:24). Our Book says לוֹ וַתְּהִי לוֹ לְאִשָּׁה וַיֵּאָהֲבָהּ – *And Rivkah became his wife and then, after he was married, he loved her* (Bereishis 24:67). But it's an entirely different thing from romantic love!

And so the world is being corrupted from every corner. The libraries and the newspapers and magazines are teaching the world about every type of falsehood. Romance, adventure, entertainment, psychology, pity on criminals, false history, immorality, all types of corrupt ideals. And so the world, as it becomes filled with more books, it's filled with more filth. The stench grows and grows.

But we, the Am Yisroel, we are the stubborn ones. We have only one Book and from there comes everything, all of our attitudes. And on Simchas Torah, that's an integral part of our happiness. We're jumping up and down with our sefer Torah! This is our book! But not only that it's 'ours' – *it's the only one as far as we're concerned!* We have only one great Book and this Book speaks about things that are worth talking about and it vocalizes the greatest aspirations of mankind.

Part II. Studying Our Book

“Let's Get Practical”

Now, while we're dancing with our one Book, with our one set of ideas, we need to make use of the opportunity. It's not enough just to dance and be happy and sing. It's a good beginning, but it's not enough, because if we won't make use of this Book that teaches us how to think and what to think, then what's the use?

Imagine someone gives you an instruction manual for life and he tells you that this is the only book you'll ever need. “Don't bother looking

elsewhere,” he says, “just in here.” So what will it help if you'll dance with it? You have to open it and study it too.

So that's what we'll do. If we're beginning the new cycle of reading from our nation's *sefer*, so the first thing we should do is practice up making use of it. We're a very open-minded people; all the ideals and attitudes and lessons in our book we want to open our minds to them, and so we'll take Parshas Bereishis and we'll practice. We are reading Bereishis now and so we'll study our subject with a few examples from this *sedrah*.

Now, I have upstairs in my notes a list of at least twenty-five attitudes that we learn just from Parshas Bereishis – I say 'list'; it's more than that. Each one has many details. Just at random I'll pick some of them, just so you'll see what it means to think along with the Torah, to get the hang of it.

Seeing His Word

When you look only in the Toras Hashem, what's the first thing you see? בְּרָאשִׁית בְּרָא אֱלֹקִים. It means that once there was nothing. Not that there was *something* and it became a world; not that there were atoms or molecules or even space – there was *nothing*, nothing at all. And then בְּדִבְרֵי ה' שָׁמַיִם נִעֲשׂוּ – *by His word the universe was brought into existence*, וּבְרוּחַ פִּי כָל צְבָאָם – *and by what came out of his mouth all the hosts of Heaven, everything, were created* (Tehillim 33:6). That's what Bereishis bara Elokim means.

Now, that's a revolution in the way a Torah Jew looks at the world. Because it means *there is no world!* It's only imagination. Whose imagination? Hashem's Imagination! There's no sky. There's no earth. Wherever you look, it's only the Word of Hashem.

That's how the Torah teaches us to see the world. לְעוֹלָם ה' דְּבָרָךְ נִצָּב בְּשָׁמַיִם – *Forever, Hashem,*

Hebrew Poetry

Your words stand in the skies (ibid. 119:89). If you look at the sky, don't think it's a sky – it's the Word of Hashem that you're seeing only that it took a form and shape like a sky.

Hashem said, “Yehi!” and His word became clothed with sky, with the sun and stars and planets. He said “Yehi,” and it became earth. It became air and trees and rabbits and cats and roses and rain. His word became oceans and fish and whales. His word became everything in the universe.

Now, those who don't look only in the Torah, they look at the world through the newspaper's eyes or through the eyes of books, so to them there are cats and monkeys. There's a sky and an earth. There's a Big Bang and other foolish ideas. But they're living a lie! Everything they see is wrong because they took their eyes out of the only book that matters.

It's All Good

Another example. What else does the Torah say about creation? Yes, it's all Hashem's Imagination; that's already a revolution in how we look at the world but there's more yet: וַיִּרְא אֱלֹהִים אֶת כָּל אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה וְהִנֵּה טוֹב מְאֹד – Hashem looked at His creation and he gave His psak: It's a very good world (Bereishis 1:31). You know what it means a psak of Hashem? You don't have to think maybe a different dayan, a different book, maybe he'll say differently. Oh no. The psak of Hashem is final; it's the only truth. And what does He say? וְהִנֵּה טוֹב מְאֹד – It's all good. Not just good. Tov me'od – very good.

You hear that? Wake up children! Don't listen to liars, to complainers. You'll listen to Victor Hugo and you'll get the idea that things are miserable. Marx tells you it's a miserable world. The newspapers, bad news all the time.

Listen to the poets and they say the same thing. I once told you about a Hebrew poet who wanted to make a poem. So it was raining on the window, and as the rain was hitting the window, he said, הַגֶּשֶׁם מָאִי קָא מְשַׁמֵּעַ לָן. It means, ‘What does the rain teach us?’

Now if he would listen to Bereishis, to the real Poet, so he would know that the rain teaches us the kindness of Hashem. Of course, it's not only rain. אֶת כָּל אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה means *everything* that He made is good – but it's a good time of the year now – soon we'll be saying the *tefillas hageshem* – to use the example of rain. The Torah teaches us that the Creator is a *tov u'maitiv*, that Creation is very good. Every drop of rain is a pearl! It's *chiyus*! It's life! Water is life!

But this ‘chochom’ poet looked in other places. He was a connoisseur of Hebrew literature, of Hebrew newspapers and so what did he say? טִיפ טִיפ עַל חַלּוֹתֵינוּ – “Drip, drop on our window panes, כִּי אִישׁ בִּבְכֵי מְמֹרָר – like a man weeping bitterly.” That's what this *meshugener* saw in the rain. Raindrops are pattering on the window, so he says, “It's sadness. It's like weeping tears of sadness falling on the window pane.” So if you read poetry you learn that rain is sadness. And don't say “it's just art, it doesn't have an effect”; absolutely it does. It's impossible that it shouldn't.

Hashem's Weather Report

People, *frum* people, read the papers their minds are corrupted with ‘nasty weather’, ‘bad weather’ and if they read the college books so the reader becomes corrupted with all the words meant to hide the Borei: the hydrologic cycle and evapotranspiration, the orographic lift, whatever it is, to pollute the mind by hiding the Borei and the *tov me'od* of the Borei.

You Say Small, We Say Big

And so Hakadosh Baruch Hu says, “One *sefer!* Take My *sefer* and think along with Me. וִירָא אֱלֹקִים וְיֵרָא אֶת כָּל אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה וְהָיָה טוֹב מְאֹד Hashem said “It’s *tov me’od.*” He didn’t have to say it but מָה הוּא אֵף אֶתָּה – if He said it, then it’s a model for what we have to do all our lives. We also should say “*Tov me’od!*” All of mankind – at least the nation of One Book – chimes in and says “*Tov me’od!*” Ah! It’s a beautiful thing when it rains. And it’s beautiful when it doesn’t rain. It’s beautiful when the wind blows and when it doesn’t. Summer and winter; it’s all *tov me’od!*

Making Man Great Again

Now, number three. Our third example – just in this *sedrah* – is the following *possuk*: וַיִּבְרָא אֱלֹקִים אֶת הָאָדָם בְּצַלְמוֹ Hashem created man in His image (ibid. 1:27). A thunderous declaration! Man is made in the image of Hashem!

It means that when you look with Torah eyes, so when I look at you, I don’t see just a heap of chemicals. That’s how a reader of books sees you – that’s what you are; you’re a certain amount of nitrogen, a certain amount of calcium, a certain amount of carbon, a certain amount of oxygen, hydrogen, other elements. If you take all these elements and separate them and try to sell them to a drugstore man, he might give you five cents for it or ten cents for it. Is that what a person is?

No! בְּצַלְמֵ אֱלֹקִים בָּרָא אֹתוֹ – *Man was created in the image of G-d (ibid.).* Ooh wah! So now I know how to look at you. When we look at you, we see *tzelem Elokim!* That’s what your face is, a mirror of Hashem! Your face is a *tzelem*, a reflection of the Glory of the Creator! Every face that you look at – you’re talking about a good face, a decent face, a *frum* face, don’t think you’re looking at Mr. Rubin or Chaim or Mr. Greenberg or Dovid, you’re looking at greatness.

Do you know what an opposition there is to the greatness of man? Millions are writing today and preaching today that man is nothing but an accident! That once upon a time, he was nothing but a germ floating in a mud puddle. Now that’s insanity of insanities; it’s the silliest of theories to even dream that this could have happened by accident. Nevertheless, anything goes in the battle against the truth of the Torah and therefore, the libraries are jammed with books. Every day the book presses are publishing new books, big expensive books with expensive pictures and charts and the entire public are being corrupted against the idea of *gadlus ha’adam*, the greatness of man.

The truth is we have more appreciation of *goyim* than the *goyim* have of themselves. We say the *goyim* are *tzelem Elokim* and they say they’re frogs, they’re baboons. They’re trying their best to become frogs but we continue to shout “No! You’re *tzelem Elokim!* That’s what our *sefer* says! We won’t listen to what you say, that you’re frogs. You’re *tzelem Elokim!*” And only by Torah can we learn this. If you look in other places, it’ll reduce the greatness of man. It’ll minimize him and finally you won’t realize it at all!

But we have the instruction manual! The Torah is given to us that we should know the great truths. We know *b’tzelem Elokim bara oso!* We know *Bereishis bara Elokim!* We know *vi’hinei tov me’od!*

And we know why Hakadosh Baruch Hu insisted on only one *sefer*. Only the Torah, because it’s an entirely different way of looking at the world. Instead of seeing the world through the eyes of Victor Hugo and Karl Marx and all the writers, all the science books and newspapers,

we look at the world through the eyes of Hakadosh Baruch Hu.

Part III. No Outside Books

The Torah of Seeds

A few more examples from Parshas Bereishis. Number four: Hakadosh Baruch Hu told Adam Harishon הִנֵּה נָתַתִּי לָכֶם – “Behold I have given you food” (Bereishis 1:29). Hashem was introducing mankind for the first time to the idea of eating and He says, וְעֵשֶׂב זֶרַע זֶרַע... וְאֵת כָּל הָעֵץ אֲשֶׁר בּוֹ פְּרִי – “I’m giving you herbage that produces seeds and fruit that have seeds in them” (*ibid.*)

So there are superfluous words there. Hashem says “I have given you food to eat, yes, but why mention זֶרַע זֶרַע, that it has seeds in it? At Creation when Hashem said וְעֵץ... הָאָרֶץ... פְּרִי – “The earth should produce trees with seeds in it” (*ibid.* 1:11), so we understand why it was necessary to say it then. That was the command of Creation and He wanted that fruits should have the ability to continue to reproduce forever. But here, He’s telling Adam to eat – was it necessary to mention that there are seeds in the fruit?

The answer is this. The Torah is telling us *how* to eat fruit. When an *adam* eats, he has to *think about the seeds*. Not only the pulp and the juice is beneficial to you, but your mind is going to gain a great benefit from looking at the seeds.

Our Book and the Orange

It means that our Book tells us how to eat an orange. While you’re chewing you’re thinking, וְאֵשֶׁר זֶרַעוּ בּוֹ – every fruit of the tree and every fruit of the ground, all have seeds inside of them.

“So what about it?” you say.

What about it?! How did it happen? Let’s say you found a quarter inside a watermelon, you’d

be very happy, wouldn’t you? How did a quarter get in?! A miracle!

But a quarter is nothing. A quarter is a dead thing. It has some information on it; a few pictures, a date, some words but it’s nothing compared to a seed. An orange seed has millions and millions of bits of information inscribed on the helix of the DNA molecule. And it’s a live thing. Not only the information it has but also all the machinery to make a new orange tree.

Their Book and the Orange

That’s what our Book says about eating an orange. Now let’s listen to what the other books say. The Department of Agriculture in Washington once published an article and the author was marveling at the fact that an orange pip is bitter; by some chance, over millions of years, he wrote there, in ways not yet understood by us, somehow, the orange seed developed a bitter taste – in order to discourage people from eating it, it became bitter.

You hear that? It happened by chance. What our Book tells us to look at and marvel at the Hand of the Creator, the books of the world say we should marvel at “natural selection”. ‘In ways not yet understood by us!’

But our book tells us! We do understand. It was אֱלֹהִים בְּרָא אֶת הָאָדָם בְּרֵאשִׁית בְּרָא! אֱלֹהִים, it’s for our good! And because we’re *tzelem Elokim* it was done for us, so that we should study the fruit and become greater and greater, bigger and bigger *maaminim*. So as you’re in the street and you’re passing a fruit stand, you’re thinking, וְאֵשֶׁר זֶרַעוּ בּוֹ! Apples! וְאֵשֶׁר זֶרַעוּ בּוֹ! Watermelons! וְאֵשֶׁר זֶרַעוּ בּוֹ! Cantaloupes! וְאֵשֶׁר זֶרַעוּ בּוֹ! That’s a person living with his one *sefer*, his one instruction manual.

The Permissive World

Number five and it will be our last example for tonight. Of course, I wish we can stay all night and learn many more lessons, but you'll have to forgive me for ending here. The fifth example of a Torah teaching found in Bereishis, is what a *cheit* really means. You know, the literature of the outside world is busy today teaching the principle of *irresponsibility*, of excuses. Nobody is responsible for his misdeeds. They have stories, alibis. It was poverty. It was racism, underprivileged, the government. And the psychiatrists, in their books, have created new excuses now.

So along comes the Torah and says, forget about all that! **וַלְאֵרָם אָמַר** – *And Hashem said to Adam ... because you ate from the tree that I told you to not to eat from ... אַרְוֶה הָאָרֶץ בְּעִבְרָךְ – *the earth will be cursed forever because of you ... בְּזַעַת* **אֶפְיֶךָ תֹאכַל לֶחֶם** – *and only by the sweat of your brow will you eat food* (ibid. 3: 17-19).*

One Little Sin

Now, Adam didn't live a lifetime of sin. He was a virtuous man. He didn't murder. He didn't rob anyone. Only that one time he transgressed and ate what was forbidden. One time; one sin, that's all!

And now, forever and ever, that one time brought upon the world a darkness, a sadness, a curse that would act as a memorial forever and ever until the end of history. If you see Italian men on the street, men with big muscles who are digging holes in the asphalt; they're laying pipes and there's sweat pouring from their faces, so we are reminded of the results of *cheit*. Forever and ever, only with sweat will mankind be able to eat!

A *melamed* is standing over a class of wild boys trying to maintain order and knock some

aleph beis or *chumash* into their heads. It's almost impossible; he's frustrated. But he has to come back tomorrow anyhow because he must feed his family. That's what a *cheit* really means. It's all because once a person transgressed the word of Hashem. You can call it a sentence, a punishment, whatever word suits you but it's all because once a person transgressed the word of Hashem.

One Very Big Sin

And the lesson is that a sin is not merely an error that can be blamed on something else; it's not a minor disturbance in a man's life that can be overlooked or ignored. That's what the literature of the world would want you to think. 'Don't worry about it. It's just a sin.' There's no such thing as, "OK, so I ate something I shouldn't have. What's the big deal?"

"Oh no," our Torah says. "A sin is the biggest of deals!" It's like the danger of falling off a roof. Even one fall is too much. You know, you can't say: "Well, I only fell off the roof once." If a man would smash his head, he wouldn't say, "Oops." If he broke his spine, he wouldn't say "Oops."

And a *cheit* is worse than falling off a roof. It's an earthquake, a major tragedy in the history of the world." That's how we understand a sin because our Book says that we don't look at the 'smallness' of the sin, a little act that took perhaps a few seconds to commit. We look at the greatness of the One whose words you are transgressing! Hakadosh Baruch Hu fills the universe with his glory, a greatness that is endless; it stretches into remote space without an end, which means you transgressed a command of One who is infinite and whose words are eternally perfect. Our book tells us that no sin is small, it's a transgression of the Will of Hakadosh Baruch Hu.

Take It and Run With It

Now, I chose tonight a few examples from Bereishis at random, and truthfully I wish we could continue because there's so much more. But what can I do? I don't get paid for overtime and anyhow we have to *daven* Maariv. So we'll conclude by reminding ourselves that these examples are intended only as samples of what it means to have a book, a *sefer*, that teaches you how to think, how to live successfully. And successfully means in both worlds; a person who knows that he has one book that teaches him everything, that person will live happily in this world and in the Next World forever and ever.

But it's only on one condition. *Sefer Echad!* הַקְוִיָּא בְּסִפְרִים חִיצוֹנִיִּים אֵין לוֹ חֵלֶק לְעוֹלָם הַבָּא – If you read *seforim chitzoniyim*, outside books, you have no share in the World To Come (Sanhedrin 100b). Now, exactly what's meant by *seforim chitzoniyim*, there are different opinions; I'm not going to go into it, but the general rule is that anything outside of Torah *seforim* takes a man away from eligibility for Olam Haba.

And why is that? Because Olam Haba is a place where people go because of one thing – because of what's in their *neshamah*; the kind of *neshamah* a man has decides whether he's going to be in Olam Haba or not, or where he's going to be in Olam Haba. And what enters the *neshamah* enters by means of passageways of the ears and the eyes; what you hear and what you see, that creates the content of the *neshamah*.

Looking Toward the Future

And therefore, if you get accustomed to looking in their books, the ideas enter your mind, and even though you're *frum* you have the opposite of Torah in your head. Or a *chulent* you have; a *chulent* of ideas, some rotten, some good, and everything becomes spoiled. Today there are even some Orthodox Jews who believe in

evolution. And so, these corrupted people, אֵין לָהֶם חֵלֶק לְעוֹלָם הַבָּא – you can't come to the next world with a *neshamah* full of the opposite of Torah.

That's why we say one Book and that's all. Even if you read a *frum* Jewish newspaper or a *frum* magazine it's a big *sakanah* because who says the writers are telling you what the *gedolei Yisroel*, the Torah leaders, say? They're *frum* young men who are writing, but who knows what kind of harm they might do to you by putting into your head things that will go with you to the Next World? People must know that the more 'outside' reading they do, the more they're ruining their entire outlook on the world and they're poisoning their minds for *nitzchiyus*. It's only the Torah that teaches us to see the truth.

And so let's go back, as much as possible, to the good old days when there was one *sefer* and we'll see how to look at the world through the eyes of that one *sefer*. That's a good thing to think about when you're dancing on Simchas Torah. We're dancing with only one *sefer* because there's nobody else that can tell us anything. מִשָּׁה אָמַת וְתוֹרַתוֹ אָמַת! This is the only truth! Outside of that one book, you'll look through the eyes of writers and you'll get a crippled picture of the universe. Just the Toras Hashem, that's our one source of information. That's the happiness of the day!

Have a Good Yom Tov and a Wonderful Shabbos Bereishis

This week's booklet is based on tapes:
2 – The Refutation is at Hand | 431 – Your Words Make You
483 – Man Needs Three Blessings | 607 – Cultivating the Middos
660 – One Book, One People