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Mashiach's Name is Tzemach ('Sprouting Forth')

את צמח דוד עבדך מהרה תצמיח – We ask Hashem to herald the coming of Moshiach, who is called “Tzemach” - one of the names of Moshiach.

We will reflect into why Moshiach's name is *Tzemach*. First, we will reflect on the following.

Sprouting and Growing Into Greatness

In Creation, there are four organisms - the non-living, the plants, the animals, and humans. Hashem created everything on the first day of Creation, and He split it up over the course of six days. Everything was initially in a state of *he'elam* (concealment) and then it was brought to its *giluy* (revelation). Hashem told the earth to sprout forth living things, but it was all created on the first day. It is just that on each day of Creation, different creations were revealed from their potential state into their revealed state.

Until Adam, no one was able to daven for rain, so nothing was able to sprout from the ground. Although Hashem told the earth on the third day to produce plants, it couldn't actually sprout forth until it received rain, which only came when Adam davened for it. Everything was already there, in its potential state, but it couldn't all be revealed. That was what the world was like in the original six days of Creation.

But when Adam sinned, he was cursed that he will return to earth. In other words, man fell from the level of the living (*tzomeiach* \living, sprouting organisms) into a lower level of existence - to the level of non-living things (*doimem*).

The lowest level of mankind began as soon as Adam sinned, and once again we returned to it after the sin with the Golden Calf. It appears to us that the lofty levels we used to exist on are unreachable, and that we have to come up with something new in ourselves in order to get those levels. We think that if we exert ourselves in Torah and prayer, perhaps we will be able to acquire new levels. Initially, we think we have to “acquire” greatness, and to work hard at developing new level of existence.

But this is the perspective of the non-living. The higher perspective, which is the perspective of the living, is to reveal our already existing potential.

The lower perspective is “I don't have humility, purity, holiness, or Torah, so I need to acquire it.” This is the perspective of the post-sin state, and it comes from our element of earth which man sunk to

after the sin, which causes sadness, which results laziness, and even worse, it causes despair. When a person feels far from the higher levels he knows he is supposed to reach, he becomes sad, and then he becomes lethargic and lazy to try to develop those higher levels, and this causes him to despair from any growth at all.

But the higher perspective to have is to focus on how we are really creatures that grow and sprout (and we used to be that way before the sin, so deep down, we are really like that). Therefore, the perspective is, when we need to reach higher levels, it's not that those levels are far from us and we need to develop them. Rather, they are already in us, and we need to simply reveal our potential.

We are like a coal that already contains some fiery embers, and all we have to do is blow on the flames, where we our inner flame will blaze and then we can reveal all the potential inside us. The Ramchal writes that our Torah learning is like a fiery coal which we need to blow on and allow the fire that's already in us to become bigger.

This doesn't mean, for example, that need to finish more *masechtos* (tractates of Gemara). It is to realize that inside you, there is a fire *already* burning for achievement: to recognize the truth, that all the qualities you can reach are *already* contained in you. They are all there in their potential state - and it is our *avodah* to active them to their full potential.

Let Yourself Sprout

So at first, we look at ourselves as "earth", and we feel that we need to fill our emptiness with Torah, mitzvos, and spiritual growth. This is the lower perspective we start out with. But we can access the higher perspective, which is to view ourselves as living, sprouting beings, which already contain the potential for growth, and all we have to do is to reveal our already existing potential.

To illustrate, when you plant a seed in the ground, it slowly grows more and more, until it becomes a ripe plant. So too, we need to identify ourselves as being closer to a sprouting plant than being a rock. A plant grows slowly, but the entire potential for growth exists in it, and it can slowly become more revealed.

Really, everything is already here. It appears to us that there is much that is missing, but we can compare this to the phases of the moon. At the middle of the month, we only see half the moon, and it seems deficient. But it slowly becomes more and more revealed, and then we see it in full. The moon was never missing at all - it was just that we couldn't see it in full.

When the third *Beis HaMikdash* will come down from Heaven, its light will reveal that all is perfect, and that all deficiencies we see is rather like the missing side of the moon, which is not really missing, rather, it is unrevealed.

At first, we can only see what we have and what we are missing. When we see what we're missing, we simply feel that we are missing it. For example, if one hasn't learned Tractate *Zevachim* yet, he feels simply that he is missing *Zevachim*, and if he hasn't learned *Taharos* yet, he feels that he is missing *Taharos*. But the higher perspective a person can have is, all that you want to reach is already in you, in its potential, and you just have to reveal it. There is also an even higher perspective to have, which is that all perfection is really inside you, but it is covered over and you can't see it.

We all identify with the first level of understanding. The higher view, when accessed, is a revelation that Moshiach will reveal.

The Redemption - It's Slowly Sprouting

This is the meaning of **את צמח דוד** - Moshiach's revelation keeps "sprouting" - that is the meaning of why Moshiach is called *Tzemach Dovid*, because the redemption is constantly in the growth process, sprouting more and more. We ask that it come quickly, but even if it doesn't come quickly, *chas v'shalom*, it is still sprouting.

How To View Yourself

The Sages state that the current world lasts for 6000 years, and the final 2000 years of the world are called "The Era of Moshiach", which we are in. We are very close to the end of the 2000 years of this era. What does it mean that we are in the era of Moshiach during the last 2000 years of this world? It means that everything is already here, in its potential. It is all here, and our *avodah* is to reveal it from its potential state.

But a person is apt to have the lower perspective on himself, which is that "*you are earth*" - the level of the non-living organisms - and he doesn't realize that he is can really be like a plant that keeps sprouting.

All potential is inside us, some more and some less. Anyone who realizes this concept will discover a great inner happiness. Everything is in you! The entire Torah is in you!!

To illustrate the concept, a Torah scholar is someone who has revealed the Torah from his dormant state and he has revealed it outward from within himself. Someone who is not a Torah scholar is not missing the Torah - he is just not utilizing his potential, and that is why the Torah isn't being revealed from within himself.

The Sages state, "Who is wealthy? The one who is happy with his lot." There is a great source of inner wealth inside you, and when you recognize it, it changes your entire perspective. Instead of looking at yourself like a poor person who has nothing, you can realize that all perfection is really inside you, waiting to be accessed.

When a person realizes this concept he is connected to perfection. Of course, you will still have to work hard at revealing your potential. But once you realize that everything is potentially inside of you, it will fill you with awesome inner happiness, and it will change your entire perspective towards your *avodah*, and to how you view the potential that exists in all Jewish souls.

This is the "sprouting of Moshiach" that takes place during this 2000 year era we are in. It keeps sprouting, and the more it sprouts, the more we can reveal our potential. This is actually the reason why there is so much revelation of Torah in the final generations.

The Higher Perspective

All of what was said so far here applies from the perspective of "before Moshiach". But after Moshiach comes, a third, higher perspective will be revealed [which was mentioned briefly before]: that not only is the redemption slowly sprouting, but it's already here [and you can access this perspective already now].

The revelation of Moshiach will be *pisom*, "sudden" - the depth of this is that at first we thought our potential was slowly sprouting more and more, but when Moshiach comes, our perspective will instantly change. We will then be able to realize that all perfection is really inside us.

It is a much deeper and more truthful perspective than the one mentioned before. Moshiach will "suddenly" reveal that all the sefarim you needed to learn are in you all along! This change of perspective will come very suddenly to us.

“A person is considered to be blind until Hashem opens his eyes.” Our Rabbis wrote that even though we did not yet merit the general redemption, a person can still experience a personal redemption in his own soul – and this is unique to souls of the final era, for as the redemption draws closer, its light begins to shine more, which means that we can access the light of the redemption in our soul.

If someone doesn't merit a redemption in his soul, he feels far away from Hashem. Hashem is but a '*Keil Mistater*' to him....

But when a person merits the personal redemption in his soul, he feels the meaning of *Es Tzemach David*, that he has the potential for anything. He can feel how Hashem is not just outside of himself or in Heaven, but next to Him, in his heart – even though he hasn't actually gotten there yet fully.

From this perspective, though, when a person learns a *sugya*, he realizes that there are parts he can't understand no matter how much he exerts himself, and he still feels the concealment of Creation.

But when a person reveals the third, highest perspective in his soul, which is the revelation of Moshiach in his soul (it will be revealed fully to the masses in the general redemption, but it can be experienced on a private level as well), one can “suddenly” realize that although we live in a world of *he'elam*, the truth is: Hashem's existence still fills the entire universe. One will then “suddenly” realize that Hashem's existence fills everything - just, it is currently hidden from Creation.

So the inner perspective on redemption is not just to believe that Moshiach will come; he will definitely come, and we believe he will come even though he tarries; the inner perspective is rather that even now he can come, in our own private soul, once we access the perspective of the redemption, because perfection is already here; it is just hidden. It exists, and it is really here.

When Moshiach comes – may he come speedily in our days – he will open up everyone's eyes to see the higher perspective, the perspective we all had before the sin of Adam, and all we will see is *Shechinah*. Not only in death can we see Hashem. Even as we live, we can see the light of Moshiach's revelation, when we feel that everything is already here.

To clarify what this means, this is not to believe that “Moshiach” is really here – it means to believe and feel in the *revelation* that Moshiach will reveal, which is that everything is already here, and it is just hidden from plain sight.

In Conclusion

The words here might seem distant to someone who hears them. But if a person merits to understand the truth of these words, his entire perspective will change, from beginning until end. He will feel like a new being, a personal resurrection from the “earth” he feels entrenched in and instead rise to the level of what it means to be a *tzomeach*, a living and sprouting being.

Even more so, it is not about realizing how the redemption keeps sprouting as we live. It is to realize that all deficiencies we see are like the missing half of the moon, which is not really missing. In the future we will be able to see how nothing is missing, but even now we can realize that nothing is missing at all, for everything is really all here. We cannot see how, but we can definitely conceptualize it.

This is the true way to await Moshiach – a whole different perspective. It is a clearer, truer view, and it is a more accurate way to await the redemption. The most perfected realization our soul can have is to realize how Hashem fills everything, and even though we can't see it, that's only because His revelation is currently hidden from view.

When our soul feels this, it will be filled with endless joy, and then, the soul will bask in the pleasure of Hashem's existence.

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