



Kollot Haftarah for Yom Kippur 5785

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Isaiah 58:5-6

הַכֹּזֶה יְהִי־צוֹם אֲבַתְרָהוּ יוֹם עֲנוֹת אָדָם נַפְשׁוֹ הִלְכָךְ כְּאֲגַמְן רֹאשׁוֹ וְשָׁק וְאֶפְרֹיִצִיעַ הִלְזָה תִקְרָא־צוֹם וַיּוֹם רְצוֹן לַיהוָה:

Is this the fast I desire, a day for people to starve their bodies? Is it bowing the head like a bulrush and lying in sackcloth and ashes? Do you call that a fast, a day that pleases God?

הֲלוֹא זֶה צוֹם אֲבַתְרָהוּ פִתְחֵל חֲרֻצְבוֹת רָשָׁע הִתֵּר אֲגָדוֹת מוֹטָה וְשַׁלַּח רְצוּצִים חֲפָשִׁים וְכָל־מוֹטָה תִּנְתְּקוּ:

No, this is the fast I desire: to unlock fetters of wickedness, and untie the cords of the yoke; to let the oppressed go free; to break off every yoke.

Babylonian Talmud Ta'anit 16a

לֹא שָׁק וְתַעֲנִית גּוֹרְמִים, אֲלֵא תְשׁוּבָה וּמַעֲשֵׂים טוֹבִים גּוֹרְמִים. שְׁכַן מְצִינוּ בְּאִנְשֵׁי נִינְוָה, שֶׁלֹּא נֶאֱמַר בָּהֶם "וַיִּרְא הָאֱלֹהִים אֶת שָׁקָם וְאֶת תַּעֲנִיתָם", אֲלֵא: "וַיִּרְא הָאֱלֹהִים אֶת מַעֲשֵׂיהֶם כִּי שָׁבוּ מִדְרָכָם הָרָעָה"...

"וַיִּשְׁבוּ אִישׁ מִדְרָכּוֹ הָרָעָה וּמִן הַחֲמָס אֲשֶׁר בְּכַפֵּיהֶם" — מֵאֵי "וּמִן הַחֲמָס אֲשֶׁר בְּכַפֵּיהֶם"?

אָמַר שְׁמוּאֵל: אֲפִילוּ גָזַל מְרִישׁ וּבִנְאוֹ בְּבִירָה — מִקְעָקַע כָּל הַבִּירָה כּוֹלֶה וּמְחַזֵּיר מְרִישׁ לְבַעֲלָיו.

אָמַר רַב אֲדָא בְּרַ אֲהֵבָה: אָדָם שֵׁיִשׁ בִּידוֹ עֲבִירָה, וּמִתְנַדֵּה וְאִינוֹ חוֹזֵר בָּהּ, לְמָה הוּא דוֹמֶה? לְאָדָם שֶׁתּוֹפֵס שְׂרָץ בִּידוֹ, שֶׁאֲפִילוּ טוֹבֵל בְּכָל מֵימוֹת שְׁפָעוֹלָם — לֹא עֲלֵתָה לוֹ טְבִילָה. זָרְקוּ מִידוֹ, כִּיּוֹן שֶׁטָּבַל בְּאֶרְבָּעִים

סָאָה — מִיָּד עֲלֵתָה לוֹ טְבִילָה, שֶׁנֶּאֱמַר: "וּמוֹדָה וְעֹזֵב יִרְחָם"

It is not **sackcloth and fasting** that bring about atonement for our sins. **Rather, repentance and good deeds will bring about our atonement. As we find concerning the people of Nineveh: it is not stated about them: God saw their sackcloth and their fasting. Rather, "God saw their deeds, that they had turned from their evil way."** (Jonah 3:10)...

And a previous verse states: **"Let each one turn from their evil way, and from the violence that is in their hands."** (Jonah 3:8) **What is the meaning of: "and from the violence that is in their hands"?**

Shmuel said that the king of Nineveh proclaimed: **Even if one stole a beam and built it into their building,** they must **tear down the entire building to return the beam to its owner.** Rather than pay financial compensation just for the beam, they repented completely by removing any remnant of stolen property from their possession.

Rav Adda bar Ahava said: **What about a person who has the ability** (literally, "it is in their hand") **to commit a transgression, who confesses but does not repent? They are like a person who holds a dead creeping animal in their hand,** which renders one ritually impure. **Even if they immerse in all the waters of the world, their immersion is ineffective,** as long as the source of ritual impurity remains in their hand. However, if they **throw the animal from their hand, once they have immersed themselves, it is immediately effective.**

As it is stated: "One who covers up their transgressions shall not prosper, **but whoever both confesses and abandons their sins shall obtain mercy.**" (Proverbs 28:13).

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