## Parashat Shlach Lecha

Excerpt from *Yishmiru Da-at* by Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi

אלשבת מבורכים written for the shabbat preceding the new month of tammuz, 5743 / 1983 in the holy land

שלח לך אנשים Send out for yourself men who will scout the land (Numbers 13:2)

דהשם The divine name, YHVH,

מל צירוף according to [the tradition of] permutation [of letters]

for the month of Tammuz

יוצא מפסוק is found in [an acronym of last letters] from the verse,

(אסתר ה' י"ג) זה אינגנ $\mathbf{E}$ sther 5:13) " $ze\mathbf{H}$  (Heh) eynen $\mathbf{U}$  (Vav)

שוה ליַ, shve**H** (Heh) l**I** (Yod) / this is worthless to me,"

. היינו הוי׳ למפרע [which spells] YHVH backwards, [i.e. HVHY].

And consider: The sign of Tammuz is Cancer

and its quality is water sign

and its chief characteristic is the level of

wife as center of household and family,

[the astrological House of the home].

The particular letter for this month is *chet* 

and sense, hearing,

עולה על כל החושים. which goes beyond all the senses.

בי עבשיו For this time of year, [a theme is]

the *churban* / destruction of the Holy Temple

in the name of ADN"Y

and, for this reason, Moshe prayed ולכן התפלל משה (במדבר י"ד י"ו)

ועתה (Numbers 14:17) "Now,

יגדל נא כה אדנ"י please, let the strength of ADN"Y be increased,

as You spoke, saying,"

לע"ע for at this time.

the power of DiBBuR / speaking [right] is very weakened.

בי (שמות י"ד ג') סגר עליהם For, (Exodus 14:3) "Closed in upon them is

המדבר, hamiDaBBeR / the power of speech"

מאין פה–סח and there is no *Peh-sach* / open mouth

(פרי עץ חיים – שער מקרא קדש פ' ר'). (Pri etz chayim - Shaar Mikra kodesh 80:4).

But, when

אם הבנים שמחה (תהילים קי"ג מ') the mother of children is happy (Psalm 113:9),

אז הנוקבא then haNukvah / the feminine

משפיעה – is the bestower [of bounty] -

היינו בחי׳ פועה and that's the level of Puah, [one of the

G-dfearing midwives], (Exodus 1:15, cf., Rashi there) (שמות א' מ"ו עיין רש"י שם) המילדת ותחיין את הילדים ---"the midwives" "but they saved the children alive"

ויעש להם בתים (שם כ"א). "and He made them houses" (ibid 21).

And the women were told they must not, והנשים לא היו צריכות

(יחזקאל ח' י"ד) לבכות את התמוז, (Ezekiel 8:14) "weep for Tammuz," [an idol

of an ancient Near East deity], for

(Proverbs 12:4), "woman of valor" is (משלי י"ב ד') אשת חיל

"crown of her husband," [i.e. God], עמרת בעלה.

אז נתגדל ונתקדש שמיה רבא. then we increase and sanctify the great name.

> ואז הזכר מקבל And then, the masculine receives

and the feminine bestows, והנקבה משפיעה,

ובזה תלויה הגאולה השלמה. and on this depends the entire redemption.

וחבל אשר בימינו אלו קשה And it's a pity that in our time it is very hard למצוא זכר שיכול לכה"פ לפי שעה to find males who are able, at least for a time, להיות מקבל של אהבה עזה ורבה to be a recipient of the strong, plentiful love

> that comes from the feminine. הבאה מצד הנקבה.

And from the time of the destruction of the Temple ומשחרב ביהמ״ק

> [when sacrifices were no longer offered, then the energies that had been empowered by the arousal from below, i.e.,]

נפסל קצת ענין the raising of *mayim nukvin* / feminine waters,

העלאת מ"נ, were somewhat diminshed.

[and only verbal prayer remained. Also diminished],

העלאת הקורבנות, the raising of the *korbanot* / sacrifices,

"and the taste of meat was removed," etc., ונמלה מעם בשר כו׳

"the taste of sex was put into illicit things," מעם ביאה ונתנה בעריות.

> (Sanhedrin 75a). (סנהדרין ע" ה.)

כשהמלכות עולה לכתר

But [the "feminine waters" are our longing for] ותקון השבינה דווקא

the "fixing of the *Shechinah*," [i.e. redemption],

when the [Sefirah of] Malchut rises to Keter

to be the crown of her husband! להיות עמרת בעלה.

[Returning to the sentence dealing with the NAME of this month where Haman says that all this honor which he is getting from other is insufficient for him:]

והמן הרשע And Haman the wicked,

despite being on the level of,

יש לי רב (בראשית ל"ג מ'), "I have plenty," (Genesis 33:9)

could not have enough

ממעם הפגם בנשמתו, because of the flaw in his soul

that, "all this is worthless to me," (HVHY),

כל זמן cor at all times, he was distracted

by there being someone else

שיש לו סיפוק. for whom there was satisfaction, [i.e. Mordechai].

המן רצה להיות היחידי Haman wanted to be the only one "that the king delighteth to honor."

But with holiness, it's just the opposite:

They all lovingly "give permission one to another"

to sanctify their creator

כי העיקר למקדשי שם for the point is that in sanctifying the name

it will be a delight [to anyone, for another]

to honor the king.

אם של המרגלים And this was also the spies' sin,

that they spoke ill of the land

saying, "The land consumes its inhabitants,"

(אבר י"ג ל"ב). (Numbers 13:32).

-- והנה ארץ And indeed, land [is like *malchut*:]

(בראשית ב' ד') (Genesis 2:4)

"On the day that havaye elokim asot / made

– ארץ ושמים earth and heaven" -

i.e., [land is like] malchut [as it, too, produces],

– הוי׳ למפרע upside down -

עירוף החודש ה׳ו׳ה׳י. permutation [of letters] for the month, HVHY.

ובחודש הזה (תהילים קי"ג מ') And [especially] in this month, (Psalms 113:9)

-- אם הכנים שמחה "Mother of children rejoices" --

the fruits really ripen

because of plenitude of summer solstice.

ומפרות הארץ באים מצות רבות התלויות בארץ. והמרגלים כפי תורתם של אדמו"ר הזקן נ"ע לא החשיבו מצות התלויות בארץ, כי רצו יותר בלחם אבירים היינו המן ובארה של מרים, ולא ביורה ומלקוש התלוים בזכות מעשה המצות, ובענני הכבוד שעליהם עמוד האש והענן, ולמה להם להכנם לספיקות של חריש וקציר בעולם שעלול להביא את האדם לחשוב (דברים ח' י"ז) כי כחי ועוצם ידי עשה לי את החיל הזה, אבל מתאוה הקב"ה שיהיה לו דירה בתחתונים ורצה בהרצאת יהושע וכלב, (במדבר י"ד ז') מובה הארץ מאד מאד. וכפי שתרגם אונקלם שם, עד לחדא לחרא׳, יחידה שבנפש. ולכן אמר רחמנא שלח לך אנשים*', שיק נאר מענשן* -שיהיו עצמאים ונקיים משוחד עצמם למצוא חן בעיני אנשים, ויתורו את הארץ, שילמדו תורת הארץ להכנים את התורה לתוך עניני הארץ.

And from the fruits of the land, [the seven species], many regulations are derived that depend upon [one living in] the land. And the spies, according to the teachings of our master the wise one (his soul in Eden), they, [the Jewish wanderers,] didn't think much of regulations that depend upon the land, for they much preferred "angel food," i.e. Manna, and [water from] Miriam's well and not "the rains in their season" which depend on taking on the *Mitzvot*; and [they preferred] the clouds of glory upon which stood the pillar of fire and cloud. And why should they enter into uncertainty regarding the plowing and harvesting in a world that can bring a person to think that it is (Deuteronomy 8:17) "My strength and the might of my hand that has accumulated this wealth for me." But the Holy One of Blessing desires to have a dwelling below [among human beings,] and S/He prefers Joshua and Caleb's speech, (Numbers 14:7) "... [it] is an exceedingly good land." And as the Targum Onkelos (ibid) says "ad la-chada la-chada" / (meaning both exceedingly and singularly - like yechidah),

And that's why the merciful one said shelach lecha anashim / shik nur menshen - [make sure the ones sent] will be self-governed and free of self-bribery, [i.e., honest with themselves] so that they find favor in the eyes of people, "viyaTuRu / who will scout out the land," [i.e.], who will study the Torah of the earth to put the torah into earthly things.

translation by Gabbai Seth Fishman

i.e., yechidah sheb'nefesh.