



The Joy of Torah - For Life

Parshas Behaloscha - Winning the Small Fights!

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The Midrash in Tehillim (119) mentions that Dovid Hamelech that at midnight Dovid would get up to praise Hashem for the wonders he did to his grandfather Boaz at midnight...

In that story with Boaz, Boaz swore to the yetzer hora who was saying to him that they both aren't married so why not? He swore against the yetzer hora not to touch her. The Midrash goes on to bring examples from Dovid Hamelech and Klal Yisrael that they did similar things - swearing against the yetzer hora!

The Midrash then goes on to say that the yetzer hora is called a stone and Hashem says to remove the stones that cause you to stumble on the road. This means to remove the yetzer hora slowly slowly one step at a time.

The Midrash doesn't seem to make sense in how it talks about fighting the yetzer hora. First it says that the way all tzadikim fight their yetzer hora is by bringing out the big guns, swearing by the life of Hashem, but then when the B'nei Yisrael as Hashem asks how to fight the yetzer hora, Hashem answers to use small and manageable fights, like a person like a person removes the stones one by one to clear a path. Which one is it? What we see from here is that although there is a time and place for all out war with the yetzer hora, that isn't how to win in the long run. Hashem's advice to us as to our lifetime eventually beating the yetzer hora is to one by one smaller manageable fights, and if we keep it up we will be able to ultimately conquer our yetzer hora.