

Afterthoughts

- Yocheved Bienenfeld

PO'EL G'VUROT #3

When it happens that people close to me, whether relatives or friends, are dealing with severe illness, it takes over my thoughts, especially when I'm davening.

And so, in this frame of mind, I find different meaning to words I've prayed many times before. This is what happened recently when I reached L'KEIL BARUCH N'IMOT YITEINU - To the blessed Gd they offer melodies. I understood it in a way that was different from the two other ways I had always understood it. I would usually see the phrase PO'EL G'VUROT as referring to Gd's overcoming either His MIDAT HADIN to show RACHAMIM or overcoming His MIDAT HARACHAMIM to show DIN, when that became necessary. But now, thinking of those who are sick, I realized that one of the G'VUROT of HaShem is healing the sick. This is clearly spelled out in the second b'racha of the Amida, the one we refer to as G'VUROT. It lists there a number of His G'VUROT: granting parnasa, freeing captives, reviving the dead, as well as healing the sick - ROFEI CHOLIM.

Given this understanding of G'VUROT, the b'racha before the Sh'ma took on a

different meaning for me. We praise and exalt Gd because He is PO'EL G'VUROT - He uses the G'VURA of healing the sick and, in that way, is OSEH CHADASHOT - He gives the sick a new lease on life. As BA'AL MILCHAMOT - He fights the disease; is ZOREI'A TZ'DAKOT - The Lord executes righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed (T'hilim 103:6) - actually uses His righteousness to be MATZMI'ACH Y'SHU'OT - to bring forth His salvation by BOREI R'FU'OT - having created the healing necessary, thus leading to NORA T'HILOT, One Whose praises are more than we can give because He is ADON HANIFLA'OT, Master of all wondrous things, even though they may be hidden from us.

It amazes me how many possible meanings Chazal put into the words of our davening. It only waits for us to discover them.

May we all be able to. ❀