

Afterthoughts

- Yocheved Bienenfeld

PO'EL G'VUROT #4

As, I'm sure, most other Jews do, I begin each day saying special prayers for the health and the safe return of all the hostages, and with T'hilim for the successful and swift end to this war without anymore korbanot from our soldiers. I was sure that on Purim, Gd would come through as He did with Haman so long ago and with Saddam Hussein more recently. And when that didn't happen, I was even more sure that the miraculous - either supernatural or natural - end to this nightmare would come on Pesach - the time of Ge'ula. I was, however, disappointed - as all Jews were. Eliyahu HaNavi may have come but I didn't see him. I must have missed something. Gd's time schedule is just different from mine.

So, in this mood of disappointment (NOT despair!), I tend, as usual, to see different things in my davening. Yes again, another way to understand this paragraph of LAKEIL BARUCH N'IMOT YITEINU. In previous entries, I've referred to the PO'EL G'VUROT as meaning either to use His gevura to have His MIDAT HARACHAMIM overcome His MIDAT HADIN, or the opposite, to have His MIDAT HADIN overcome His MIDAT HARACHAMIM. But now, experiencing so many emotional swings, given sicknesses, given the war in which we are engaged and which is taking so many

korbanot, I think it's like a "no-win" situation, as it were, for Gd. So much going on, so many different needs, so many options that need to be chosen... So, to me, it feels like none of this can be "easy" for Gd; it's not black and white. (Interesting, isn't it that it never occurred to me before that this is exactly what goes on all the time. For Gd, it's not new. For me - because I'm hurting - I'm first focusing on it.)

With this in mind, I understood this paragraph in yet another way:

Po'el g'vurot - when it comes time to put His gevura into action, there could often be -

BA'AL MILCHAMOT - a "struggle", as it were, when these two MIDOT of RACHAMIM and of DIN conflict, and deciding to use the appropriate one is not a given (Obviously, I'm speaking as a mortal and nothing is truly difficult for HaShem. But if we believe it "pains" Him that He had to destroy the Beit HaMikdash and exile His children, I believe we can also attribute the possibility of this "struggle" to Him).

OSEH CHADASHOT - But no matter what the decision will be, the outcome will produce something new, one way or the other.

ZOREI'A TZ'DAKOT, MATZMI'ACH Y'SHU'OT - whatever the final choice will be, Gd will use His tzidkut, which will ultimately bring the salvation.

And I beg, please let it be soon. ❀