

Afterthoughts -

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PO'EL G'VUROT # 5

It is probably because, recently, I had been going through some 'difficult' times, that I began to understand the bracha preceding the SH'MA almost as a formula to help at times like those.

Whenever Gd is PO'EL G'VUROT, it implies a weighty act, simply because it is termed a GEVURA. If it means He is conquering His anger or His MIDAT HADIN and thus allowing us to do T'SHUVA rather than punishing us, He has, in essence, OSEH CHADASHOT, created something new. He has allowed us to start over again. Similarly, if He is PO'EL G'VUROT in a more active way where He performs an act involved in war, Gd forbid, or if what He does is an act which affects us as individuals, where we are suddenly faced with unexpected or/and difficult circumstances, this also leads to OSEH CHADASHOT. For when this happens, it creates a new reality for us, one that may not be so simple to deal with. And so, we are faced with confusing and challenging times. What do we do? How do we proceed? We are faced with dilemmas that we didn't previously anticipate.

Decisions we will make are some-

times complicated because they are not straightforward, not one-dimensional. Occasionally, there is an internal battle, perhaps, an approach-avoidance situation. In such cases, we need to remind ourselves that HaShem is the ultimate BA'AL MILCHAMOT, with the clear ability to help us deal with those battles.

In so doing, whether or not we realize it, He is ZOREI'A TZ'DAKOT, planting seeds of "charity", of giving us something, of helping.

Ultimately, we emerge from the predicament and see how through the difficult time, He was actually MATZMI'ACH Y'SHU'OT - paving the way for the help and the 'saving' that we needed in one form or another.

Then we look back on the episode and see how we grew, changed, benefited and, perhaps, have been, in a sense, "reborn"; healed from whatever previous behavior that Gd wanted changed, BOREI R'FU'OT - He effected the healing we needed by bringing these challenges upon us.

And when we finally realize this, we see how He is NORA T'HILOT - there is no way to praise Him sufficiently.

For we have just experienced that He is, indeed, ADON HANIFLA'OT - Master of hidden and, sometimes, mysterious events. 🌸