



הרב הראשי עיה"ק אלעד **מרדכי מלכא שליט"א**  
נשיא וראש מוסדות "אור המלך"

מחבר ספרי שו"ת דרך המלך, אמרי מרדכי, ודרכי המלך על המועדים ועוד  
רשת מעונות, ורשת גנים, ת"ת פרי תואר, ובית יעקב פרי תואר, תיכון בית יעקב החדש, ת"ת מאור ישראל,  
ישיבה קטנה ארחות יהודה, ביהמ"ד גבוה לרבנים ודיינים "לקח טוב" קופת "מפעל החסד" אלעד  
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## Parashat Devarim

### The Present Security Situation Understood From the *Parashah*

Our *parasha* states (1:44) "And the Emori, who were sitting on the mountain, went out to face you and pursued you like bees, and they smote you from Seir to Charma."

#### Question

The Brisker Rav asks that the *pasuk* concludes by stating that we will be punished for not listening to the voice of Hashem and that we will be smote by a very great blow until Charma. On the other hand, the *pasuk* concludes that our enemies will chase us like bees. This sounds like the punishment will not be so severe, for bees are very weak. Is this not a contradiction?

#### The Present Day War

When we think about the difference in our land over the last several years, we will realize that the type of war has changed from one extreme to the next. In previous years, the war was against a foreign country surrounding us, like Egypt, Jordan or Syria. The way in which the battle was waged was one country against another, one army against another, and the main battle was fought with guns, tanks, planes, etc. However, inside the land, life continued on more or less normally. At the end of the war the enemy would be defeated, and they would flee to save their lives. This is the natural reaction for any creature, even the smallest of them all, which flees from danger to save its life. However, in the last number of years it has become an internal battle and the whole land itself has become a target. Now we are fighting against human beings and not against guns. Despite the fact that we have such a strong army, the Palestinians fight against tanks and planes with their own bodies, and with the bodies of their wives and children. This is something which cannot be understood according to logic, how a person could think that his body could wage war for his nation against a tank and a plane. But we see that they are not afraid, and they are ready to kill themselves just so that they could hurt Jews.

I remember what life used to be like after the Six Day War. After having been defeated, the Palestinians in all the land, from Chevron to Azza and the Old City, were frightened of the Jews. They were terrified of even acting disrespectfully or touching another Jew. As a young man, I would travel from the Central Bus Station in the Old City to Chevron on a bus filled entirely with Arabs. I could have been the only Jew on the bus, but I wasn't scared of them. On the contrary, the elderly Arabs used to make a place for me to sit, out of fear and respect. We walked around Chevron without any fear. I remember travelling with my father *zt"l* to the marketplace in Azza to buy cheap fabrics, and we were not fearful of anything. This was the case with every Jew in Eretz Yisrael; he was able to go anywhere in the land without fear, and if a police car or army vehicle would appear - the Arabs would flee in fear. However, in our times everything is changed. Now the Arabs walk around amongst us freely without any fear, and there is no Jew who would come close to an Arab city. Even the army does not go to many places because of the certain danger that it would entail. The Arabs are not afraid of the army or guns, and they wage war





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### The Present Day Situation is Measure for Measure

I was once contemplating the war against Chamas, and thought that we must ask ourselves what logic there is behind such a war. Chamas knows that they do not have planes or tanks. They surely realize that against such a huge army like the Israeli army, they have no chance of being victorious. Why, then, do they still fight us – it is pointless! To answer this, we must understand why Hashem punished the Generation of the Desert by having to wage war against enemies who were similar to bees, in the sense that they were willing to die, just as long as they were able to inflict damage. This is something that is unnatural, for the nature of a living being is to flee from danger and try to save itself. I believe this can be explained by stating that we know Hashem punishes *midah keneged midah*, measure for measure. The sin of the spies was speaking *lashon hara* against *Eretz Yisrael*, a land flowing with milk and honey. This prevented the Jews from going into the land. They were therefore punished by enemies who fought like bees. The word in *lashon hakodesh* for bees is *devorim*, whose root is the same as the word *dibur* [speech]. A bee is referred to as such, since it stings with its mouth. This is a form of war that is full of hatred and defies logic, just like the bee's sting defies logic. Sadly, in our generation *lashon hara* destroys every good thing. Take for example the *lashon hara* within the secular community against the *chareidi* population. They battle and denigrate the *chareidim* in a manner like never before. For in the past, both sides were able to live in peace with mutual respect. Much to our dismay, in present times, the government is trying to enact new draft laws, as if the army really needs more soldiers. On the contrary, the army should try to conserve funds and limit the number of soldiers it drafts. For there is no need for so many soldiers, since the primary battle is being waged internally and not against foreign countries. If there would be a need for more soldiers, they could call up reserves, and that would be enough. This type of war does not require a large army at such a massive cost. At this point, the army is the main expense for those living in the land. This war has been changed by Hashem to make them realize that they should not bother the *Iomdei Torah*. However also within the *chareidi* camps there is much strife and each person fights against the next like bitter enemies *rachamana litzlan*. This is a very great claim that Hashem has against our generation, and it is because of this that our enemies fight against us like bees. They are willing to die to hurt *Klal Yisrael*. It has gotten to the point where the Jewish people are afraid to go any place where Arabs might be. Arabs are not afraid of us, nor our army or guns. Hashem has done this to arouse Jewish hearts and especially in the time of *Bein Hamitzarim*, when the *Beit Hamikdash* was destroyed because of baseless hatred. There is therefore an obligation for each person to examine his deeds and to change the situation that has developed in our time, so that we can be like one nation with one heart, with mutual respect for one another. We should think how we should improve our speech by not speaking *lashon hara*. Only then will the situation in our land go back to the way it used to be where we will rule over our enemies. They will be afraid of us, and we will not be afraid, nor will harm befall any Jew.

### The True Reason for Suicide Bombers and the Like





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rebel against Hashem by crying needlessly. It was then decreed that since the Jews cried needlessly, Hashem would give them an actual reason to cry each subsequent generation. Since the source of these decrees was a sin with speech, the number of hours in the month allude to *dibur*, speech. Therefore, man must be extra careful during this period – and indeed, he should warn others – not to stumble with improper speech and desecrate it; for this is the key to rectifying this period. The more we guard our tongues, the more we will merit annulling harsh decrees and ushering in the redemption speedily.

Shabbat Shalom,  
Rav Mordechai Malka