

Pashas Eikev

by Rabbi Meir Borovetz

“He Afflicted you and let you know of hunger and fed you the Munna which you did not know.....” (Devarim 8:3)

I would like to discuss three approaches to the explanation of this verse.

1) the Ramban explains the manna was a test for the Bnai Yisroel. They had no prior experience with anything before that was even similar to manna. Therefore they had concerns if the manna could sustain them.

2) The Yalkut explains that the Manna was a test: although the manna had the pleasure of taste (of the consumer's choice) however, the manna had no pleasure when it came to its appearance. Part of enjoying any dish is the pleasure of its appearance.

3) Sforno explains the test of the manna was a lesson of faith that the Holy one blessed-be-He provides for each and every individual each day.

What is the test of Emunah or Faith when it comes to sustenance? The Chofetz Chaim used the following parable: A king used to visit his troops of soldiers in order to see how loyal they were to him. On one occasion, the king was so impressed that he decided to award the soldiers with anything they wished! One soldier replied “Your Highness being we serve you to the highest degree I request that you provide us with meals everyday.” The other soldiers began to laugh and responded “even before you made your request, the king already provides you with meals!”

The Chofetz Chaim taught that although we pray for sustenance it is already granted to us by the Holy one, blessed is He! What we must really pray for is that the glory of Hashem Yisborach be increased throughout the world!

As we know, we have lechem Mishna on Shabbos to remember the double

portion of Manna that fell on Friday. From our discussion, we can see new insights on the connection between the miracle of manna and the Shabbos experience:

Ramban - Just as the manna was a new experience, the Jewish people would be the first people in history to have a concept of sanctifying time.

Yalkut - Since the Manna had the test of no appearance, we derive the halacha that we are obligated to light candles before Shabbos in order to be able to enjoy the Shabbos meal properly with seeing it as well.

Sforno - One had to have faith that the manna would be present the next day. We recall that the Talmud tells us that Hakodosh boruch Hu says to klal Yisrael “six days a week you eat by what you earn - however, Shabbos and Yom Tov are on my bill”.

Chofetz Chaim - We must pray that all the world recognize the honor of the the Aibishter Yisborach, This will be bound to take place on the great Shabbos of grand history when the glorious redemption will occur (bemhaira beyamainu).

We ask, what are the tools of Emunah? We read later in our parsha 10:12 “And now Yisrael what does G-d ask of you? To fear Hashem your G-d, to go in all his ways, and love him, and to serve Hashem your G-d with all your heart and all your soul”.