

# Day 18

## Netzach She-be-Tiferes Eternity within Harmony

The main beauty of *tiferes* is its ability to withstand all tests and challenges. Truth is eternal because it is perfectly balanced.

Rabbi Eliezer Silver of Cincinnati visited the displaced persons camps after World War Two. He spoke many times to the survivors, trying to encourage them and strengthen their *emunah*. One person continuously kept away. Rabbi Silver asked the other survivors about him. “Why does he always stay away?” The survivors finally answered, “He’s angry at God!” Rabbi Silver decided to confront the man about his anger. He found him and gently questioned him about his dispute with God. The man told him that although he came from a very religious background he couldn’t ‘bear’ religion anymore. He told Rabbi Silver about one Jew in the camp that had managed to hold on to his pair of tefillin. Upon hearing this, queues of starving men formed, for the privilege of putting on tefillin, albeit for a few seconds only. But the ‘owner’ of the tefillin demanded payment - a whole slice of bread for the privilege, from every Jew! “It was so ugly,” said the survivor, “How can I be religious after seeing a Jew do something so ugly?” Rabbi Silver looked at him with love. “That you are angry at the Jew for his actions, I understand. But rather than focus on one ugly Jew, why don’t you focus on all the beautiful Jews who stood in line, willing to part with a piece of life-saving bread in order to merit to fulfill the mitzvah of tefillin?”

### Action Points:

#### With God

*Bein Adam LaMakom*

Think of a mitzvah you do daily and meditate on its true meaning. Integrate that meaning so that you own it, and it returns to you every time you perform the mitzvah.

#### With Others

*Bein Adam LeChaveiro*

Try to make peace between people by orchestrating a compromise. Create a new level of truth by finding the truth in two opposing arguments.

#### With Yourself

*Bein Adam LeAtzmo*

Try to find a positive spin on a negative situation that you have gone through in life.

Change the way you look at something.

Create a permanent ‘brightness adjustment’ to a dark situation.

“Rather than focus on one ugly Jew, why don’t you focus on all the beautiful Jews?”