

The Mystical Key to Relationships – Tomer Devora

First Attribute: *TOLERATE other people's weaknesses*

Second Attribute: *GIVE others enough time to change*

Third Attribute: *REACH OUT to others who regret their mistakes, and help them remove the damage they created.*

Fourth Attribute: *REJOICE with others; and SUFFER with their suffering. SHARE one soul.*

Fifth Attribute: *SOFTEN your anger and help people change.*

Sixth Attribute: *DO NOT PUNISH others or take revenge.*

Seventh Attribute: *GROW CLOSER to someone who is sorry.*

Chapter 8: He will vanquish our iniquities:

The relationship of the Holy One, Blessed Be He, to Israel is according to this attribute, namely, the secret of vanquishing iniquity. For the precepts are compared to a grapevine that's "budding, its blossoms bursting forth" (*Bereishis 40:10*) – it shoots upwards without limit, entering His blessed Presence. However, sins have no entrance there, G-d forbid. Rather, He suppresses them, denying them entry, as it is written: "...no harm will befall you יגורך" (*Tehillim 5:5*) which our sages interpret as implying that "no harm will befall man in Your dwelling place מגורך". Thus, sin has no entry into the Inner Sanctum.

Since the precepts reside in His blessed Presence, they have no reward in this world. For how could G-d grant spiritual reward in the material world? Behold, the entire world is unworthy of a single precept and the spiritual bliss of His Presence.

For the same reason, G-d does not take the precepts as bribes. For instance, the Holy One, Blessed Be He, does not say, G-d forbid, "He has fulfilled forty commandments and committed ten transgressions; thus, thirty commandments remain, for ten are deducted in repayment for the ten transgressions!" Rather, if even a perfectly righteous individual commits a single sin, it is as if he has burnt the Torah. But when he pays his debt, he receives reward for all the precepts he has fulfilled. This is a great kindness that the Holy One, Blessed Be He, does for the righteous – He does not deduct from the precepts they fulfill, for these are very precious to Him and ascend directly to His blessed Presence. Indeed, how could transgressions, whose punishment is a portion of that which is most despicable – Gehinom – detract from precepts, whose reward is the radiance of the Shechinah, which is so highly valued? How could one be exchanged for the other? Instead, the Holy One, Blessed Be He, collects the debt due for transgressions, and then He bestows the reward for all the precepts a person has fulfilled.

This is the attribute of "vanquishing iniquity" – that is, transgressions do not prevail before G-d as the commandments do. Rather, He suppresses transgressions, preventing them from ascending and entering His Presence. And although He watches all the ways of man, both bad and good, He does not suppress the good. Rather, it rises up, ascending to the very heights where all the precepts merge to build an edifice and form a precious garment. Transgressions, however, lack this special quality – instead, He vanquishes them, so they'll have no success and no entry into the Inner Sanctum.

A person should also conduct himself according to this attribute – he should not suppress his fellow's virtues but remember the evil he has done. On the contrary, he should vanquish the evil, erasing it from memory and he should vanquish the evil, erasing it from memory and abandoning it, so that he will find no evil in his fellow, and his good qualities will be spread out before him. Thus, a person should always remember the good, intensifying it over all the evil actions his fellow has done to him. He should not detract from this good in his heart saying, "Although he did me a good turn, he also did bad to me," thereby forgetting his fellow's qualities. This one should not do. Rather, he should allow himself to be appeased in every possible way regarding his fellow's

misdeeds, never overlooking his good qualities. And he should turn a blind eye to his faults as much as possible, just as the Holy One, Blessed Be He, does in vanquishing our iniquities.

- Main Point: Do not allow, POSITIVE ACTIONS, no matter how small, to be cancelled out by negative action, no matter how large.