

This Passuk alludes to the type of person who can only see the flaws in the people around him. הנושה could mean literally to carry the bad. Of that person the Torah says: **יכבס בגדיו** – wash yourself! He must cleanse himself via the learning of mussar. Finally he is **טמא עד הערב** – he remains impure until he engages in the **ערב** – the Torah, of which we say **נא והערב נא**. And until he is **ערב עם הבריות**, kind and compassionate toward other people.

The Yalkut Meam Loetz tells the story of a Jewish man who traveled to the Biblical city of Kedar, where the people were accustomed to worshipping fire, which they believed to be a god. They would sometimes throw themselves in the fire, with the belief that doing so would save them from the burning of hell.

When this man arrived at Kedar, he settled in the home of an elder man, to rest from the difficult journey. He wanted to keep traveling, but news came that a band of highway robbers were hijacking the roads past Kedar, killing passerby and taking all their possessions. What did he do? He entrusted all the money he was carrying with the elder man in whose house he stayed, because Kedarian people had a reputation of being very honest. In any case, he went along his way without any of his possessions, and he was safe, because the pirates were not interested in harming people without possessions. He stayed there for a number of days to take care of the things he had to take care of, and then returned to Kedar. When he arrived, however, he was surprised to find out that the old man with whom he had entrusted his possessions was dead – he threw himself into a fire pit for the gods. His first reaction was to turn to the old man's children.

“I entrusted all of my money with your father. He was keeping it for me temporarily. Please return what is rightfully mine.”

But the children heard of no such an agreement.

“We cannot give it to you unless our father tells us to”

“But your father is dead.”

“Three days after they throw themselves into the fire, the souls of the dead come back to earth and instruct the families what to do with their possessions. Come to our house and our father will tell us if what you say is true.”

The man could not believe what they were saying. They were pagan worshippers. All of their practices were completely against the Torah and the Jewish religion. But he went anyway, and to his bewilderment, there in the room was sitting the old man with whom he had entrusted all of his possessions. But there was a glow to

his appearance, as if of an angel. When the old man saw him, he brought him over to a cabinet, opened it up, and pointed to a box.

“In that box are all of your possessions. They are rightfully yours and you should take them.”

The children saw this, and agreed that that would happen. The Jewish man stayed behind to watch what else would happen. Indeed, this man's soul was interacting with his family. The Jewish man stopped him to ask questions.

“Where will you go when you are done here?”

“I will pass the gates of hell, bow, and then continue to heaven. Whoever sacrifices himself before the fire need not go to hell, and passes directly to heaven.”

“Can I follow you?”

“It is impossible. Where will you go?”

“Wherever you go, I will go. I insist on following you.”

The soul agreed, until they left the house. As they were walking on the street, the soul continued to dissuade the Jewish man.

“You have nothing to see. It is impossible for you to go.”

“I am not afraid, and I have nothing to lose. If what you say is true, then I must abandon my Jewish faith and follow the Kedarian religion. If I don't follow you, I might continue to live a false faith my whole life.”

At that point the soul stopped, and said the following,

“You are a Jewish person. I am not really the soul of this man, I am a **טש** (an agent of the Yetzer Hara or Satan). This is what Shedim do. We appear as genuine spiritual beings to idol worshippers so that they remain in their false faiths all of their days, but we do not target the Jewish people. You must realize that there is no truth to what you just saw. That man is sitting deep in Gehenom for what he did.”

All of this is referred to in Iyov, where the Passuk says **משגיא לגוים ויאבדם** – I will fool the people and lead them to oblivion. This is exactly what happens in pagan spirituality.

רציתי לברך אתכם ביום שמה, שפרנסתכם
פורח. בריאותינו תתמיד ולא כאורח. חיוך תצמח כעציץ
לא יתאדה כריח על שפתינו כאור זורח, וכספנו
ונזכה לראות בביאת משיח
אמן ושבת שלום

Shabat Shalom!!! - Rav David Yaacov

ד"ת לעילוי נשמת המנורה הטהורה
מו"ר הגאון רבי שמעון גבאי בן רחל זצ"ל