



## Dvar Torah for Parshat Shelach Based on Likutey Moharan II, Lesson #46

"Do not stray after your heart or after your eyes" (Numbers 15:39)

You think \*you\* have problems?! You shouldn't know from my problems. They're worse than anybody's.

That, says Rebbe Nachman, is a common piece of wrong-thinking. Truth is, he says, that you can handle your problems—if you want to. (Let's just take note that Rebbe Nachman means that if you want to have a closer connection with God, nothing can really stop you.)

That's the nub of the problem—how much do you really want to? Because of all the obstacles, deterrents and hurdles you may encounter, the biggest ones are the mental blocks you have. And the root of these mental blocks is the nagging questions and doubts that you have, even if they are unvoiced.

Because whatever their etiology, the uncertainties you have about God, or about tzaddikim, gnaw away at the desire and effort you exert for Divine closeness. And you'll only get closer, but never to the treasure.

The solution? Howl to God with a strong voice, from the bottom of your twisted heart. God will your hear voice and turn to your wailing.

Rebbe Nachman presents the following parable from his great-grandfather, the holy Baal Shem Tov.

A king once placed a fantastic treasure in a certain place. He then conjured up an optical illusion of walls and walls surrounding the treasure.

People came. They saw the walls and thought they were real and impenetrable. Many turned right around and left. Some managed to break through the first wall, but could not break the second and turned back. Some broke further through, but at some point could not break more. Then came the prince came.

"I know these walls are nothing but an optical illusion! There aren't any walls at all! He strode confidently ahead till he passed through them all."

All the "walls" that keep you away from the treasure of God-consciousness can be vanquished with your brave heart.