

In פרשת האזינו are the foundation stones of the entire history of the world. Every single letter in האזינו has 600,000 explanations, as does every other letter in the Torah, but we appreciate it a little bit more here because we're attuned to it. In פרק ל"ב פסוק ל"ט are the words, אֲנִי אָמִית וְאֶחְיֶה - Hashem says he will kill and he will also bring to life; מִחַצְתִּי וְאֲנִי אֶרְפָּא - I will strike down and I will heal; וְאֵין מִיָּדִי מְצִיל - And there's no one, there's nothing who can be saved from my hand. We're going to concentrate on the words, מִחַצְתִּי וְאֲנִי אֶרְפָּא. R' Yehezkel Abramsky, brought down in R' Goldwasser's sefer "Something to Say", brought out an interesting thought from the תפילה that we talk about in terms of רפואה, which is in שמונה עשרה. I've said this every day for many decades, as have many of you. Maybe not as many decades as me, but a lot of decades. רַפְּאוּנוּ ה' וְנִרְפָּא הוֹשִׁיעֵנו וְנִלְשָׁעָה כִּי תִהְלָתֵנוּ אָתָּה. I've said this over and over again - I actually have a lot of decades because I have a lot of people in mind who need a רפואה, so I'm really concentrating on this ברכה - and with all of that, until about ten minutes ago, when I saw this vort from R' Yehezkel Abramsky, I understand the meaning of the words כִּי תִהְלָתֵנוּ אָתָּה וְנִרְפָּא ה' וְנִרְפָּא - Hashem, heal us and we will be healed; הוֹשִׁיעֵנו וְנִלְשָׁעָה - save us and we'll be saved; כִּי תִהְלָתֵנוּ אָתָּה - Because you are our praise. What does that mean?

R' Yehezkel Abramsky says that the reason for saying this in שמונה עשרה is that it's quite possible for one to mistakenly believe that healing is in the hands of Man. People go to the top doctor, especially our חברה, they want to go to the top doctor. They can't go to a doctor in Brooklyn or in Queens, they have to go to somebody in Manhattan. They need the top doctor because that's the only one who can save them. The truth is, the physician is only a שליח. Hashem is the רופא חולים. And the doctor is only the messenger through whom this רפואה can occur, but the power of רפואה is only in Hashem's hands. Therefore, we say כִּי תִהְלָתֵנוּ אָתָּה - You are our praise, to emphasize that Hashem is the one we're praising, to make sure that we know that the רפואה comes solely from Hashem.

The Belzer Rebbe once had to have a major operation. As the doctor was about to begin the surgery, the Rebbe sat up on the operation table and said, "Doctor, before I let you operate, I have to ask you a question. Do you believe in God?" Only after the doctor affirmed his belief would the Rebbe allow him to perform the surgery.

A very cute little story, but profound. It requires us to stop and think and remember that everything that we have, every bit of הצלחה that we have, every bit of עולם הזה that we have, and hopefully all the עולם הבא that we will have, all comes strictly and solely from הוא ברוך הוא. In this זכות, may we have a גוט געבענטשט יאר.

