

פרשת בראשית. Everybody's favorite פרשה. We love בראשית. I had the זכות to hear the following vort from Zeidy Weiss, ע"ה, who was such a מענטש. He said this so sweetly that it was unforgettable, as many of the things that he did, and it's good to pass it along to you. He heard it in the name of R' Rosenzweig, the מרא דאתרא of the ישיבה, and he heard it from R' Yoshe Ber Soloveitchik - that's a pretty impressive line of דאמרינ'.

The pasuk says (1:16) וַיַּעַשׂ אֱלֹהִים אֶת שְׁנֵי הַמָּאֲרוֹת הַגְּדֹלִים אֶת הַמָּאֹר הַגָּדֹל לְמַשְׁלֵת הַיּוֹם וְאֶת הַמָּאֹר הַקָּטָן לְמַשְׁלֵת הַלַּיְלָה וְאֵת הַכּוֹכָבִים. R' Soloveitchik asked the following question on this pasuk: We say by a ברכה גדול יהיה. It's a very famous ברכה, we want this little one to become big. So the obvious קשיא is, what kind of ברכה is that? He's a little kid, he's going to grow up. That's a ברכה? What is the intention of this ברכה? We should say he should become צדיק, he should be a חכם. What's פשט יהיה גדול הקטן?

So the Rav refers to this pasuk, the two המארות הגדלים, the מאור הגדל, which is the sun, and the מאור הקטן, which is the moon. We know that the sun illuminates on its own power. We know that the moon is simply a reflection of the light of the sun. So too each and every one of us. When we're young and learning and our parents are raising us and our רביים and our teachers are teaching us, we are all receiving instruction, receiving חכמה, receiving תורה, receiving all the things we need to grow up properly and to stand on our own. As children, when we have light, it's a reflection of that which was instilled within us, the light reflecting off of the sun. That's a מאור הקטן. In that ברכה, we daven that בעזרת השם we should get to a point in our lives when we're big enough that we will be able to illuminate on our own, a מאור הגדל, that we will take what we've gotten from our previous teachers and דורות and use that to start our own light, to instill within ourselves the ability to fire up our own light and to illuminate those around us and those who come after us. So it's a very beautiful take on these words יהיה גדול הקטן.

בעזרת השם, we should all have that זכות to illuminate all those around us.

