**Olam Haba and Gehinnom – Avodah of Yomim Noraim**

Rabbi **Tzvi Moshe Schultz June 11, 2020**

No human being has ever experienced Olam Haba or Gehinnom, nor can they truly understand them.  Nevertheless, we still have an obligation to contemplate these ideas as best as we are able.  Attached is a brief description of some of the elements of the simcha of Olam Haba, and the suffering of Gehinnom that I was able to come up with in my own limited human mind.  Perhaps you will find it to be helpful in your own avodah of the Yomim Noraim this year to spend a few minutes being *misbonen* on some of these ideas.

**Simcha of Olam Haba**

1. **Vindication** – The simcha experienced when you realize that you were right! You were surrounded by a world that preached different religions, or that there is no G-d at all. Now, you see that you were right, and that there is a G-d, and the Torah is true.

2. **Accomplishment** – The simcha experienced when one realizes what he has accomplished in his life. He spent an entire lifetime keeping the mitzvos, and now he deserves his place in Olam Haba.

3. **Peace of Mind** – Most of our lives we spend worrying about all sorts of problems that we have or that we could have. In Olam Haba we experience the simcha of peace of mind, knowing that nothing will ever go wrong again.

4. ***Hataras Hasefeikos*** – In Olam Haba, we will experience the simcha of finally having all of the answers to our questions. We will understand why everything happened to us in our lives, why things happened to the Jewish people in history, etc. Everything will now make sense!

5. **Seeing People** – In Olam Haba we will experience the simcha of reuniting with our lost loved ones. In addition, we will get to meet our great grandparents who we were named after, and hear from them how much nachas our lives gave to them. We will also get to meet the gedolim from previous generations (the Chofetz Chaim, Rashi, Rabbi Akiva, Avrohom Avinu, etc.) and have them thank us for saying over their Torah.

6. **Punishment of Reshaim** – In our world, we see the terrible deeds of the reshaim, and it causes us much pain and frustration. In Olam Haba we will finally see what happens to these reshaim in the end, and it will be a great simcha for us to see them being judged and punished.

7. **Torah Understanding** – In Olam Haba, we will experience the simcha of understanding the entire Torah! Every difficult Gemara and Tosfos will now make sense. The Rambam himself will explain every *shvere* Rambam to us. Everything will be clear.

8. ***Kirvas Elokim*** – This is the greatest simcha of them all. Think of how in this world we try to get close to the gedolim, whether just to see them, or to shake their hand or say a quick word. In Olam Haba, we’ll be close to the greatest “Gadol” of them all, Hashem Himself, and our relationship will last forever! This is the truly the greatest simcha!

**Suffering of Gehinnom**

1. **Foolishness** – The suffering in realizing that you were a fool. That all of your beliefs were false, and that you led your life in completely the wrong way.

2. **Embarrassment** – The suffering experienced when one’s sins are revealed. No more hiding, no more secrets. Everything that you have done is on full display. All of your family and friends see what you have done, and more importantly, Hashem sees what you have done, and you have no answer to give to explain what you have done.

3. **Regret** – The suffering experienced in realizing that you have made the wrong choices in your life. You wasted many opportunities, and you didn’t accomplish what you could have.

4. **Jealousy** – The suffering experienced when you realize that many of those around you accomplished much more in their lives than you did.

5. **Despair** – The suffering experienced with the realization that there’s nothing you can do. You made the wrong decisions, you ruined your life, and there’s nothing you can do to fix it. It’s too late.

6. **Longing**– The suffering experienced in the longing for a relationship with Hashem, and the realization that it is far from you, and you cannot achieve it. This is the greatest suffering of them all.