

Parshas Tazria

Shmuz by Rabbi Yisrael Davidowitz Written over by Yochanan Samson 26 Adar II 5782 March 29th 2022

The Pasuk in Tehillim (139,13-15) says-

ֶּבִי־אַתָּה קָנִיתָ כְלִיֹתֵי תְּסֻכָּנִי בְּבָּטֶן אָמִי: אוֹדְךָּ עַל כִּי נְוֹרָאוֹת נְפְלָאִים מַעֲשֶׂיךְ וְנַפְּשׁׁי יֹדָעַת מְאָד: לְא־נְכְחָד עָצְמִי מְמֶּךְ אָשֶׁר־עָשֵּׂיתִי בַּסֵּתר וֻלַּמְתִּי בְּתַחָתִּיּוֹת אָרְץ:"

"It was You who created my innards; You fashioned me in my mother's womb. Praise You, for I am awesomely, wondrously made; Your work is wonderful; I know it very well. My frame was not concealed from You when I was shaped in a hidden place, knit together in the recesses of the earth."

The Metzudas Dovid explains these pesukim to be discussing the fact that even though mankind was created with a tremendous intellect, and people know a lot, they still don't know or understand the niflaos (wonders) of Hashem's creation. Rebbeinu B'chaya however, differs and explains that the Pesukim are bringing examples of things we know that we know nothing about, like a fetus being sustained in its mother's womb, as well as what makes the winds blow, to teach us that that even the things we *think* we do know something about, we actually know nothing about!

Rabbi Davidowitz asked that Rabeinu B'chaya seems perplexing, can it be that we know as little about anything in this world as we do about how a baby grows inside a womb or which direction the wind will blow? These are things that admittedly we know very little about, but what about the things we do know well, what about all the advancements of science and medicine, or our business, or people, and the list goes on, don't we know something about them? *Rabeinu B'chaya is teaching us that we really don't*, just as someone could have said two hundred years ago that they know everything there is to know about a wooden table, and now we know they really knew almost nothing about a wooden table with all the molecular properties actively constituting the table and holding it together. Similarly, it's not that hard to imagine that in another two hundred years, they will look back at us and say we also knew almost nothing about what is going on around us in this wonderous world Hashem created. People like being in control, predictability and certainty, but because everything is the work of Hashem, we should come to terms with the fact that we don't begin to understand Hashem's world. This should have a humbling effect on us, and also ultimately lead us to much greater bitachon in Hashem.