

## BS"D

### Ma'amar VaEira ('Der Frummer VaEira') 5712

#### Chapter 1.

- 1) What is unique about the Ma'amarim of our Rebbe from the first ten years or so of his Nesius?
- 2) How did it change later?
- 3) Who said this Ma'amar (VaEira) first and what year?
- 4) What did the Rebbe say about this Ma'amar?
- 5) What is it about?
- 6) What does Teshuva mean at its most basic?
- 7) What is special about Teshuva?
- 8) Higher Teshuva means?
- 9) The lowest of Teshuvos means?
- 10) Why is that special?
- 11) What Gemara will be quoted to support this idea (that Teshuva is the most important thing)?
- 12) What additional idea (a Possuk actually) further supports this?
- 13) What is written on Matzaivos of the Rabbeim to support this idea?
- 14) What is the story with the Rebbe? The Tzemach Tzedek?
- 15) How does VaEira begin? It follows what?
- 16) The three names of Hashem mentioned are:
  - A.
  - B.
  - C.
- 17) What is the difference between Moshe and the Avos?
- 18) Explain Viyida'atem ki ani Havaya (וידעתם כי אני הוי"ה).
- 19) What is Prophecy? The two dimensions.
- 20) Which is more and important and why?
- 21) What is the real difference between the Avos and Moshe?
- 22) What question does the Ma'amar ask?
- 23) What is the answer on page 201?

- 24) What are the three translations of Havaya?
- 25) Where is this played out in the various Nikudos on Hashem's name in different Siddurim?
- 26) So, how does this answer the question?
- 27) What is the business of the same name appearing in one Possuk twice and how is it explained?
- 28) How is it here?
- 29) What is the Ma'amar's second question?
- 30) I brought up the holocaust, why?
- 31) What angle did I give you on the Holocaust?
- 32) how does it explain the Ma'amar's point?

### **Chapter 2.**

- 33) What does the Gemara say about Teshuva?
- 34) What does the RaMbaM say about it?
- 35) How are the Rambam's words stronger than the Gemara's?
- 36) What is the Rebbe's question on this idea?
- 37) Assuming somebody has sin, why must we do Teshuva before Moshiach comes?
- 38) If one has no sin, how does the Rebbe answer the question for the need for Teshuva?

### **Chapter 3.**

- 39) Explain the idea of **כי לא ידי ממנו נדח**. Who is ממנו?
- 40) How does that answer our question about everybody needing to do Teshuva?
- 41) what question is outstanding from perek 2?
- 42) how does the idea of **כי לא ידי ממנו נדח** answer that question?
- 43) what is the meaning of the phrase **לאשתאבא בגופא דמלכא**?
- 44) what two perspectives did we give on the question can perfection exist?
- 45) this perfection will exist in creation how is it possible?
- 46) translate Atzmus
- 47) translate Mihus
- 48) what word is used to denote God in Kabbalah?

- 49) who is this the first Kabbalist to question this?
- 50) what does he propose?
- 51) what explanation could there be for why no one before him thought to ask this question?
- 52) what four ideas are mentioned in the Ma'amar to describe Ein Sof?
- 53) what additional (fifth) idea is mentioned in Samach Vov?
- 54) what does it all add up to?
- 55) what's the question from this going forward in the Ma'amar?
- 56) what answer does the Rebbe give to the question?
- 57) how is Torah physical?
- 58) what's the proof from the Gemara's account of Mattan Torah?
- 59) Mitzvos are physical because?
- 60) how is this true of those Mitzvos that are Chovas HaLevavos (obligations of the heart)?
- 61) Torah and Mitzvos have a duality. What is that duality?
- 62) what argument does the Rebbe bring based on this duality?
- 63) what two expressions are used at the end of chapter 3 to denote the connection of the finite person to the infinite god?
- 64) what question did we, in class, raise regarding everything we just said?
- 65) what argument did we make about the idea of infinity?
- 66) what is the **one word** denotation of all of kabbalah?
- 67) what is the **two word** denotation of all of kabbalah?
- 68) what question is there on the 2nd of the two words (in question 67) as it relates to infinity?
- 69) what idea that we introduce as a way of answering this question (question 68)?
- 70) what are the opinions in the argument regarding the possibility of a human being living forever? What are the two extreme views?
- 71) who proposes a middle view?
- 72) What is his proposal?
- 73) why and how is that position a centrist view?
- 74) explain the two sides of healthy cellular biology.

75) how is this a metaphor for Atzilus?

76) how do we see this in the life of the Rebbe?

77) how does all this help answer the question about finite man in the physical body connecting to the plain and infinite God?

#### Chapter 4.

78) What Possuk is quoted in the beginning of perek 4 of the Ma'amar?

79) which two words are most important question mark?

80) What is the narrow meaning of these two words and what is the broader connotation of these two words?

81) What words are the reward for the fulfillment of the aforementioned idea?

82) What is the meaning of this reward?

83) What is the Zoharic quote to support this?

84) What is the meaning of the word of the Zohar literally; and what is the broader and more precise meaning of that quote?

85) What is the word that we use to interpret the statement in the Zohar כל יומי ויומי עביד עבידתיה, How did we translate the word יומי?

86) because of this, we are told that we must do Mitzvos many times. including the same ones. How many times must we do each one?

87) What example does he bring for this?

88) What question does he raise regarding this idea?

89) He qualifies his question with a quote from a Possuk, What is that quote?

90) What is the meaning of עומדים and what is the meaning of מהלכים ?

91) who is considered עומדים, and why?

92) who is considered מהלכים and why?

93) How does He answer that question?

94) How did I describe this in relationship with the Rebbe?

95) What are the two standards of learning Torah that the Ma'amar brings?

96) What question does he have on this? period?

97) What thought does he have to explain it?

98) What problem does he have with that thought? in other words how is that thought inadequate?

99) What is his final answer?

100) The Rebbe makes an assertion about people and their obligations; how does he qualify it? in other words how does he prove his point?

101) where did we see this in the Rebbe's own actions?

102) there are two separate Gemara's about somebody who misses saying Shema at the right time. What are the two quotes? What are the differences between them?

103) How do we reconcile these two contradictory statements?

104) What solution does the Alter Rebbe offer in his Shulchan Aruch for someone who missed saying Shema?

105) What does he compare to?

106) What story did I tell about the Rebbe and an Esrog that is a possible example for this?

107) What story did I tell you about the great closet Reb Chonya (Elchonon Dov) Morozov that further serves to enlighten the point that is being made here.

108) So would we look at fulfilling Mitzvos, and the issue of missing one or two, there are two very different standards. What is the difference between the two?

109) this higher standard is so much lower than the other for what reason does it exist?

### **Chapter 5.**

110) The Rebbe begins chapter 5 with a quote from the Alter Rebbe What is it?

111) The quote has two critical parts, please be careful to mention the second one also.

112) What does he infer from this quote?

113) What story about Rabbi Tuvia Blau did I tell you to accentuate the meaning of the second part of this quote?

114) What story did I tell you from the Farbrengen of Purim 5716 that represents just how special this kind of perfection is?

115) What story did I tell you about watching Rabbi Shmuel Zalmanov, further elucidated this point?

116) The Gemara says there are three things that every person transgresses every day, what are the three that are brought in the source?

- 117) What does the Alter Rebbe do to this Gemara?
- 118) How did we explain why he does this?
- 119) How is it legitimate?
- 120) How does this tie into what is written in Tanya chapter 8? a person who enjoys permitted pleasures, or who speaks idle words BeHeter goes through some kind of cleansing, why?
- 121) How is this different than Gehinom?
- 122) How are all of these ideas connected to our Ma'amar?
- 123) One who cannot achieve perfection as described in this Ma'amar, what should he do?
- 124) What quote from the Gemara is brought as proof to this?
- 125) On this quotation there is a classic question, what is it?
- 126) What is the usual answer? and where do we find this idea in the Tanya?
- 127) What is the answer brought here?
- 128) What is the novelty in this?
- 129) Here again we see that there are two standards, can you explain them in this context?
- 130) Realistically to whom is this being said, and why is it realistic for them?
- 131) What two forms are used for teshuva in this Ma'amar that relate to the idea of shame?
- 132) What should a person juxtapose himself against in order to experience this shame?
- 133) What kabbalistic quote is brought from the holy maggid to create this shame?
- 134) What does the quote mean?
- 135) What does the Rebbe infer from this as it relates to us?
- 136) He elaborates and expands on that idea by giving us three steps of appreciating our own smallness, what are they?
- 137) What obvious question did we ask about this Ma'amar in general, and the fact that our Rebbe said this in particular?
- 138) What possible explanation did we give?
- 139) We finished the class with a mention of the idea of Godliness. why did you bring that up?
- 140) We compared it to the idea of Ruach HaKodesh, why?

## Chapter 6

- 141) Chapter 6 begins with a question, what is the question?
- 142) What is the meaning of the question? What is insufficient with what was written in chapter 5?
- 143) What Possuk does the Rebbe quote?
- 144) What is the meaning of the first half of the Possuk?
- 145) What is the second half of the Possuk, and what will it come to mean?
- 146) What idea did I introduce at this point?
- 147) when did this happen? and how did the Mittlerer rebbe react to it?
- 148) What did he explain in his Ma'amar on this subject?
- 149) How does this tie into our Ma'amar? (answer this question after you answer the next few).
- 150) What is the first part of the mashal the Rebbe brings?
- 151) why does the child act in this way?
- 152) So, what does the father do to offset this?
- 153) What happens as a result of these actions of the Father?
- 154) Explain how the father's exactitude (cruelty) actually reveals greater love from the Sun to the Father.
- 155) How does this play out in the latter part of this Possuk **כי נער ישראל ואהבהו ממצרים קראתי לבני**.
- 156) Based on a question that one of the boys asked, how would this play out in our generation, where people are so sensitive and can't really handle any kind of criticism?
- 157) What's Mitzrayim DiKedusha? How could it be both holy and Mitzrayim?
- 158) What story with Rabbi Adin Even Yisroel did I tell you to make this point?
- 159) What does this have to do with the cliché 'balabus'?
- 160) How does the Rebbe link Mitzrayim of kedusha to Mitzrayim of Klipa?
- 161) He connected to Shemiras HaBris, How and why?
- 162) How did we explain this connection?
- 163) Explain the relationship between laziness and osmosis.
- 164) What offsets osmosis? and how does this relate to dealing with laziness?

165) How does this relate especially to bochurim?

166) This class marks the beginning of the end of the discussion the dominates the Ma'amar, What is his basic point?

167) With what is this compared and contrasted?

168) What else does the Rebbe add that enhances, and complicates, this issue?

169) When one achieves perfection using only Torah and Mitzvos, the level of Godliness with which he is aligned is limited, it is called what?

170) Why is it limited?

171) And when one reaches that state of alignment with godliness after teshuva, He is aligning himself on a higher level, why?

172) How did I explain it using the discussion of Tanya chapter 7?

173) What does it say in Tanya chapter 7? and how does it apply to our situation?

174) What is the story of Berel Kurnitzer and how is that relevant to the idea of Teshuva?

#### **Perek 7**

175) Now that we completed our discussion on the two models of aligning oneself with Godliness, the Tzadik model and the Ba'al Teshuva model, we align these two ideas to the Possuk וארא please tell me how.

176) How and why is this remarkable?

177) How do we understand the Possuk וארא אל... בא-ל שד-י ושמי הוי' לא נודעתי להם?

178) What is the first translation of שד"י?

179) How is this explained in the Gemara?

180) What did I suggest on this basis?

181) What is the second translation of שד"י?

182) What does it mean?

183) How is this the opposite of the first translation?

184) Even the second translation is a kind of a limit, what is that limit?

185) if the Jews go into Egypt, and do not fall into idolatry, and emerge spiritually unscathed what would have happened at Mattan Torah?

186) What happened in fact?

187) How did Hashem feel about this?



- 188) How did Moshe feel about this?
- 189) How does this relate to the issue of our Ma'amar about Tzadik vs Baal Teshuva?
- 190) Quote the Possuk in the beginning of Parshas VaEira and translate it.
- 191) What did Moishe say that caused Hashem to respond this way?
- 192) How is it an answer to his question?
- 193) What is the difference between the lower name Havaya, and the higher name Havaya?
- A. The lower one means? please explain it.
  - B. The higher one means? please explain it.
- 194) What are these two levels parallel in Avoda?
- 195) How is this an answer to Moshe's complaint?
- 196) What Possuk at the beginning of Parshas VaEira does the Rebbe quote at this point?
- 197) why does he quote it?
- 198) What is unique about the laws of inheritance? I mean the philosophical and mystical aspect.
- 199) What practical aspects of the laws of inheritance is unique?
- 200) How are these two connected?
- 201) The Hebrew word for inheritance is what?
- 202) To what word does the Rebbe link this etymologically?
- 203) why?
- 204) What story about Mr. David Chase did I tell you?
- 205) How was it connected to the theme of this part of the Ma'amar?
- 206) having completed this Ma'amar How do we understand why only our Rebbe? (after the Alter Rebbe of course).