

Tefillah Focus Of The Week:

יהי כבוד

Hashem Prevails

MEANING: The simple translation of the prayer

...Hashem annuls the counsel of nations; He balks the designs of peoples. **Many designs are in man's heart, but the counsel of Hashem—only it will prevail.** The counsel of Hashem will endure forever...

...ה' הפיר עצת גוים, הניא מחשבות עמים. רבות מחשבות בלב איש, ועצת ה' היא תקום. עצת ה' לעולם תעמוד...

WORD TO THE WISE: Meaning within the word

The difference between *עצת* and *מחשבות* is that *מחשבות* refers to the thoughts that lead to the final objective, while *עצת* refers to the desired outcome itself. Not only does Hashem “annul the counsel of nations” (הפיר (הפיר), i.e. He overturns the success of the nations of the world who plot against the Jews, but Hashem averts the plots (הניא מחשבות עמים); He prevents the nations of the world from even plotting their evil schemes (*Siach Yitzchak*).

THEME:

An essential concept of the prayer

The End of the Story

Many thoughts are in man's heart, but the counsel of Hashem—only it will prevail.

INSIGHT:

Deeper meanings of the theme

All Part of Hashem's Plan

In May, 2010, a car bomb was planted in Times Square, N.Y. According to an explosives expert, it came within a “millisecond” of causing “mass casualties.” Several hundred could have been killed or maimed by a fireball exploding from the Nissan Pathfinder which was found loaded with a volatile cargo of firecrackers, fertilizer, gasoline, propane and alarm clocks. The propane-fueled explosion would have lasted only a few seconds. It wouldn't have brought down any buildings, but with flames shooting as high as 30 feet, it would have seared the lungs, hair and faces of anyone within a 50-yard radius. “Had that detonator functioned correctly, we would have had a huge explosion,” said the expert, a 35-year veteran with the New York Police Department, the last 20 of which have been served as a member of the bomb squad.

The man accused of driving the bomb-laden SUV into the heart of New York, claimed he received explosives training in Pakistan. He expressed

surprise that the bomb did not detonate, for he had carefully designed it so that the fireworks would trigger a chain-reaction that would rupture the tanks and create a deadly fireball.

The most carefully laid, “fool-proof” plans of man simply cannot come to fruition if they are contrary to Hashem's will. What *מחשבות* רבות reveals is that, not only does Hashem's will ultimately prevail, but also, the actions we take toward achieving our ill-conceived plans become the actual catalyst for Hashem's desired result. This is exemplified in the story of *Yosef Hatzadik* who dreamed a prophecy that he would become king and his brothers would bow down to him. His brothers' determination to prevent the fulfillment of that dream led them to sell him to caravan merchants, who brought him to Egypt. There, he became viceroy and thus arrived at the position in which his brothers would indeed be forced to bow before him.

VISUALIZE:

Images that bring the prayer to life

Only One Way to Get There

Imagine being inside a maze. There is only one way out of it, but in seeking that exit, you must negotiate many, many false turns. Your instincts tell you to turn right at the next corner – something from that direction draws you. You walk confidently around the corner, only to bump into a blank wall. Now you must backtrack and find a different way. So this time, you turn left, and that leads you to the next intersection. You must keep



on choosing, doing your best to figure out which path will lead to your goal, but often, you run up against a wall. After all is said and done, after you've tried all the false paths that seemed right to you in the moment, you find the exit.

Hashem designed life in a way that is similar to this maze. Some people may have the spiritual strength and sensitivity to make the

correct turn at each corner. Most people, however, convince themselves that a particular direction is correct, they put their strength and energy into pursuing that direction and find that it leads them into a brick wall. For each person, there is one path that will lead to Hashem's ultimate goal, and that is the path that, come what may, he will ultimately walk. However, Hashem did provide His chosen nation with a map to the maze; by following the Torah, the path of life becomes straight and clear.

Try This!

▶ When you know someone loves you and knows what's best for you, you can rely on that person's judgment as the best advice that is humanly possible. Think of such a person in your life – a parent, a spouse, a sibling, a Rav or teacher. Then think how much *more* trust and confidence you can have in Hashem, Who not only loves you and knows what's best for you -- but Who is the ultimate benefactor! This is the emotion embedded in the words “ועצת ה' היא תקום.” Hashem will always lead you in the right direction, and you can feel the security and tranquility that fact engenders, whenever you say these words.

Did You Know

▶ *Interrupting Pesukei D'Zimrah-Middle of Baruch She'Amar (cont'd)*

If someone is in the *middle* of Boruch She'Amar, from “ברוך אתה ה'” up until and including “עדי עד שמו הגדול,” he may answer “amen” to all blessings except “ברוך שאמר” and “ישתבח” (Ishei Yisroel, Chapter 16:3, footnote 15). However, some authorities rule that “amen” should not be recited after any beracha except “הקל הקדוש” and “שומע תפילה” of chazaras hashatz (Piskei Teshuvos, Siman 51:4). One may answer “amen” in Kaddish after the words “דאמיירן בעלמא ואמרו אמן” at the end of the verse beginning “על ישראל” and to respond “אמן” (See Igross Moshe, Orach Chaim 4:14, s.v. 'V'yaish l'haer').