



Please read Parshat Shelach Lecha, Numbers / Bamidbar ch. 13-14 and Deuteronomy / Devarim ch. 1 in Hebrew and in translation.

**Talmud Taanit 29a**

<p>Rabi Yohanan said: The people cried all that night. That night was 9 bÁv. God said to them you cried with futility, a wasted crying, [because you allowed yourselves to be misled by the pessimism of your leaders] I will now give you something to cry about for all generations.</p>	<p>ותשא כל העדה ויתנו את קולם ויבכו העם בלילה ההוא אמר רבה אמר ר' יוחנן (אותו היום ערב) תשעה באב היה אמר להם הקב"ה אתם בכיתם בכיה של חנם ואני קובע לכם בכיה לדורות</p>
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**Pirkei Avot 2:9**

<p>Rabbi Yochanan] said to them: Go and see which is the best trait for a person to acquire. Said Rabbi Eliezer: A good eye. Said Rabbi Joshua: A good friend. Said Rabbi Yossei: A good neighbor. Said Rabbi Shimon: To see what is born [out of ones actions]. Said Rabbi <a href="#">Elazar</a>: A good heart. Said He to them: I prefer the words of Elazar the son of Arach to yours, for his words include all of yours.</p>	<p>אמר להם: צאו וראו איזוהי דרך ישרה שידיבק בה האדם. רבי אליעזר אומר, עין טובה. רבי יהושע אומר, חבר טוב. רבי יוסי אומר, שכן טוב. רבי שמעון אומר, הרואה את הנולד. רבי אלעזר אומר, לב טוב. אמר להם, רואה אני את דברי אלעזר בן ערף מדבריכם, שבכלל דבריו דבריכם.</p>
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**Questions for Reflection**

1. Share with others your optimism about Israel. What is good about Israel? In what ways has Israel made an impact on your life? On your community? On communities – Jewish or non Jewish – beyond your own?
2. Do you have a critique of Israel? If so, how can you share it in a constructive, caring way, and with whom is it appropriate to share so that it will do good and not harm?
3. What connects you to Israel? What is your buy in? What do you do for Israel? Is there more you would like to be able to do?

**MITZVA of TZITZIT Bamidbar 15:37-41**

<p>And God spoke unto Moshe, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, and bid them that they make them fringes on the corners of their garments throughout their generations and that they put upon the tzitzis of the corners a thread of turquoise wool; And it shall be unto you for a tzitzit, that ye may look upon it, and remember all the mitzvot</p>	<p>לז ויאמר יהוה, אל-משה לאמר. לח דבר אל-בני ישראל, ואמרת אליהם, ועשו להם ציצת על-כנפי בגדיהם, לדרתם; ונתנו על-ציצת הכנף, פתיל תכלת. לט והיה לכם, לציצת, וראיתם אתו וזכרתם את-כל-מצוות יהוה, ועשיתם אתם;</p>
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of God, and do them; **so that you not go touring after your own heart** and your own eyes, after which you follow immorally: That you may remember, and do all My mitzvot, and be sanctified unto your God. I am Adonai your God, Who brought you out of the Land of Egypt, to be your God: I am Adonai your God.

**וְלֹא-תִתּוּרוּ אַחֲרֵי לְבַבְכֶם, וְאַחֲרֵי עֵינֵיכֶם, אֲשֶׁר-אַתֶּם זֹנִים, אַחֲרֵיהֶם. מִלְּמַעַן תִּזְכְּרוּ, וַעֲשִׂיתֶם אֶת-כָּל-מִצְוֹתַי; וְהִיִּיתֶם קְדוֹשִׁים, לֵאלֹהֵיכֶם. מֵאֲנִי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם, אֲשֶׁר הוֹצֵאתִי אֶתְכֶם מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם, לֵהָיוֹת לְכֶם, לֵאלֹהִים: אֲנִי, יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם**

Parshat Shelach Lecha ends again with a request of the eyes. And the heart. Regarding the mitzvah of tzizit which we say every day in the Shema, that same word is used – LATUR, which means not only to tour, but to sort through what we see in order to choose the best. It's telling us to hold off making choices based on what our eyes see, until our heart is focused on choosing to see the good.

**A Personal postscript:** In any relationship Rebuking, Reproving, Critiquing, can be helpful and are likely to be listened to, and even embraced when the critique is constructive and delivered with love, care and concern. Successful institutions, and wise people ask for critique – what can we do better? With a caring and optimistic attitude, it is fine to review any person and any institution, organization or policy. But to draw conclusions that dismiss the entire person, enterprise or organization is like touring with a broken compass. Broken compasses when used to lead the way, may lead to demoralization and devastation for those who choose to follow.