



*Sponsored in loving memory of Ben Blutstein z"l
by his family who misses him dearly*

Finding Courage

Rav Kook, *Ikvei Hatzon*

Excessive fear takes away the spark of life of a person and all living beings. Nothing in the world is as bad and cruel as excessive fear. It increases all evils more infinitely than they are, dims the beauty of all blessings in life, and pretends bad is present even when it is not.

Excessive fear is the source of all weakness – moral and intellectual; it paralyzes a person, who will refrain from doing anything positive. A person enters into a mindset of - "lest . . ." - until the person becomes weaker and weaker.

. . . The greatest saving to our people at this time is the removal of the imaginary spiritual fear from our hearts, to show it as clear as the sun that we have nothing to fear.

It is impossible for the Jewish People to receive *Ruach HaKodesh* and the Divine Light until it removes from its soul this negative and uncontrolled fear that clings to the Jewish People like a battering plague, from the days of the exile and the persecutions of its despicable and evil enemies.

At the end of days, in the wake of the Messiah, the divine light stands behind our walls, the first of all the preparations of the Jewish People is the removal of the excess fear . . . This will be accomplished through the opposite force, the power of *chutzpah* that must become overpowering at this time. Where there is *chutzpah* - there is no fear (and even when the *chutzpah* comes from a non-holy place) it does the supreme positive good of banishing excessive fear.

"Do not fear and you will not be ashamed, do not be afraid and you will not disgrace yourself, because you will forget the shame of your youth, and you will not remember your silent disgrace anymore." [Isaiah 44:4]