DAILY BOOKST 14 TEVES BOOKST

CELEBRATING MIRACLES

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LIFTING OUR EYES

During its forty years in the desert, the Jewish Nation faced a plague of poisonous snakes. In response, G-d told Moses, "Make yourself a serpent and put it on a pole (in Hebrew, "neis"), and let whoever is bitten look at it and live." (Bamidbar 21:8)

About this, our sages taught: Does a snake cause death or life? However, when Israel looked heavenward and subjected their hearts to their Father in Heaven, they would be healed... (Rashi, ibid. from Talmud, Rosh Hashanah 29a)

In Hebrew, a miracle is referred to as a neis, which means a pole or banner, similar to the one that Moshe erected in the desert. The purpose of the original neis was to enable us to raise our eyes to G-d and thereby elevate our perception of reality. When we see the world from a higher vantage point, what we used to consider impossible now becomes possible, even natural.

Whenever you find a seemingly insurmountable challenge, realize that it is an opportunity to rise to a higher plane where the unthinkable becomes commonplace.

Sichos Kodesh, Acharei, 5733, Se'if 1

