

Fleeting Sunbeams

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Rebbe Nachman of Breslov taught...
<i>"Worldly desires are like sunbeams in a dark room. They seem solid until you try to grasp one."</i> (Rebbe Nachman's Wisdom #6)

What does this mean to me?

I originally considered sharing my own thoughts on this teaching, but then decided to let the Rebbe speak for himself. The rest of the lesson in *Rebbe Nachman's Wisdom* is just perfect and needs no further explanation...

"The evil inclination is like a prankster running through a crowd showing his tightly closed fist to all. No one knows what he is holding. He goes up to each person and asks, 'What do you suppose I have in my hand?'

"Each one imagines that the closed hand contains his heart's desire. They all rush and run after the joker. Once he has tricked them all into following him, he opens his hand. It is completely empty.

"The same is true of the Evil One. He fools the world, tricking it into following him. All men think that his hand contains what they want most, but in the end, he opens his hand. There is nothing in it, and no desire is ever fulfilled."

A prayer:

*Ruler of the World,
grant me truth!
Spare me from the lies of others.
Help me stop myself
from lying
to others.
Save me
from lying to myself,
and spare me
from the lies
of my own illusions.
O G-d,
never let me live a lie,
even for only a moment.*

(From The Gentle Weapon, p. 36)*

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