Agree, Desire, Proclaim

Gitty Stolik

What's the quickest route to the airport, we ask our smartphone's navigation device, which wisely factors in traffic conditions. We don't want to be late.

"Excuse me, what's the fastest way to the big synagogue?" a group of obviously foreign tourists stops me on Kingston Avenue. "We are on a tight schedule, we don't want to waste time."

When you've got important things to do, and limited time, it's sensible to take the quickest route.

How do we get to *Geulah*? What's the fastest route? Well, what does your smartphone say?

The path to the *Geulah* is not traveled by foot, and the swiftest vehicle will not whiz us there.

The Rebbe's navigation advice is: "Learn Torah sources and *sichos kodesh* related to Moshiach and *Geulah*. That is the easiest, quickest route."

You know how people slow down to rubberneck when they see unusual activity on the road? We waste precious time rubbernecking at the vistas of daily life. (Guilty as charged!) The distractions out there make us forget what a massive hurry we're in.

Oh, were we going anywhere? Oh, yes – the *Geulah*! And our time on this journey is limited.

How can we invest an imminent but seemingly distant destination with a new urgency that is more compelling than anything we see out our car window?

Learning about Moshiach and *Geulah* is the vehicle to keep us focused on the goal and not get sidetracked.

Geulah and *galus* are two extremes. Torah is the bridge between the two. If a bridge is an engineering marvel, if a rainbow arc is awesome to behold, the Torah's capability to bridge that airy span is beyond the imagination.

Torah is compared to light. The light of Torah is more revealing than the sharpest laser lights or the brilliant sun. Only Torah can pierce the veil of the baffling and tragic *galus* world and reveal what's underneath it–the true light-essence of *galus*.

Galus lights are so blinding that we can't see their goodness. *Galus* initially derived from a very lofty source but it hides that source. Torah brings us the clarity we need. It can help our egos become transparent and pierce through the illusions. Through its lens everything becomes crystal clear, and then–we're out!

Torah has the power to change the nature of a person. Learning inyanei *Geulah* u'Moshiach will lift us up to the state of *Geulah* because we will start living with the mindset, perspectives, and passion that *"hinei hinei Moshiach ba* [behold, Moshiach is coming]."

Remember the Gulf War's miracles? There were no Israeli casualties despite 39 Scud-missile direct hits. And yet, the miracles themselves were not enough to open us up to receive the future, to welcome *Geulah*.

We're stuck in a box called *galus*. We have to be open to the change. We have to open the box and begin to emerge from it. These are three steps to this process: Agree, Desire, Proclaim.

- It's hard to **agree**. We are a bit skeptical, after all these years... could it be?
- How could I truly **desire** a lifestyle I haven't tried yet? Right now I'm attached to my *galus* routine–my daily exercise kick, my multi-faceted phone; these are things I need and love now. I am not positive I want to disengage.
- It's hard to be the one to **proclaim** Moshiach's coming. It would be much easier if everyone heard it on the morning news, like when they forecast a storm brewing. That gets everyone into the act without me needing to say a word.

Being close to the point of impact of a missile–the noise, the incredulous relief at being spared–shakes you to the core. Torah has the power to shake us up even more, to accomplish what could not be achieved with all those miracles. A Torah thought is more powerful than a missile, but with a positive impact. Immersing ourselves in the Torah of Moshiach will help us *agree* that a new reality is nigh, *desire* that new reality, and be so emotionally involved in it that we *proclaim* that upcoming reality to others.

We will become emotionally charged through the Torah of Moshiach. Our



minds will begin to "live" with it and from there it will wash through our entire system. We will know that we have finally "arrived" at that *Geulah*-is-imminent mindset when pettiness begins to fade away, and our worldly ventures pale in comparison to the approaching *Geulah*.

We've seen the power of learning. Many stories are told of assimilated Jews who undertook a Torah class–especially *Tanya*–which then empowered them to embrace a Torah-true life. The *Tanya*–the *sefer* with which we will greet Moshiach (according to Reb Zushi m'Anipoli) –initiated the process. It culminates with the revelatory *sichos* on *Geulah* and Moshiach in 5751-2. Can't you just see a lofty arc bridging, spanning the seven generations from the Alter Rebbe to our times...

After we study a topic, our learning should be further deepened through contemplation. Here's a blissful meditation: Imagine if all of N'shei Chabad learned about Moshiach and *Geulah* consistently. Oh, what a mind-wave we would generate. It would probably wash up the leviathan from the depths of the sea, and the feast would begin forthwith. ■

This fifth installment of The Moshiach Page is dedicated to our beloved Founder, Mrs. Brana Shaina Deitsch a"h, who passed away suddenly on Succos 5775. She personified the words hama'aseh hu ha'ikar, the main thing is Action. Her pure simchah, her enthusiasm to do and to get others to do, her gentle sympathy to suffering people, her chassidishkeit and hiskashrus, and her hakaras hatov, are her legacy to us.

Learn about Moshiach and Geulah, by yourself, with the family, or with a friend.

Some ideas:

Listen to a live *shiur* by Rabbi Majesky Monday nights
9:30-10:00 pm
1-857-232-0156. Pin 251473.

Subscribe to the Daily Moshiach Thought.
Join by sending an email to dailymoshiach-thought@gmail.com.

Subscribe to the Daily Rebbe Video on WhatsApp. Email myMaor.org or phone 718-687-8900

Choose a time, say, Shabbos morning at 10 or Tuesday night at 7, open one *sefer* and read aloud for a set length of time. Suggested *sefarim*:

- From Exile to Redemption by Rabbi Eliyahu Friedman
- Let's Get Ready by Malka Touger (for children)
- Discover Moshiach by BCM Seminary, Montreal
- Mashiach by Rabbi J. Immanuel Schochet
- As a New Day Breaks by Rabbi Eliyahu Touger
- From Dawn to Daylight by Rabbi Eliyahu Touger
- Geulah (weekly pamphlet published by Chabad World Center to Greet Moshiach)