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Hayom Yom: 26 Teves

ּבְּבְרְכַּת וְלַמַּלְשִׁינִים מַפְּסִיקִים קְצָת בֵּין "וּתְמַגַּר" לְתֵיבַת "וְתַכְנִיעַ", מַתְאִים לְהַכַּוָּנָה, אֲשֶׁר "תְּעַקֵר וּתְשַׁבֵּר וּתְמַגַּר" הֵם נָגֶד ג' קְלִיפּוֹת שֶׁצְרִיכִים הַעֲבָרָה לְגַמְרֵי, "וְתַכְנִיעַ" — לְנָגֶד קְלִיפַּת נוֹגַהּ שֶׁצְרִיכָה הַכְנָעָה וְיֵשׁ בָּהּ בֵּרוּר.

[In Shemoneh Esreh], when reciting the blessing that begins VelaMalshinim, one should pause slightly between the words u'semager and vesachniya. This reflects the mystical intent that [the requests expressed by the first three verbs] — se'aker, u'seshaber, u'semager ("uproot, shatter, and crush") — relate to the three utterly impure kelipos, [i.e., the three irredeemable forces of evil] that must be eliminated entirely. By contrast, the verb vesachniya ("subdue") relates to kelipas nogah,1 [the kelipah that houses a spark with a holy potential,] which must be humbled, but can be refined.2