



IT SAYS WHAT?!

Think Sheet
for episode on July 17th, 2020
with Michael Pollak

The Musar Letter (Igeret haMussar) by Rav Yisrael Lipkin of Salant (1883-1809)

הָאָדָם חֲפָזִי בְדַמְיוֹנוֹ, וְאָסוּר בְּמִשְׁכָּלוֹ. דְּמְיוֹנוֹ מוֹלִיכוֹ שׁוֹבֵב
בְּדֶרֶךְ לֵב רְצוֹנוֹ, בֵּל יַחַת מִהֶעֱתִיד הַיּוֹדָאִי, עֵת יִפְקֹד ה' עַל כָּל
מַפְעָלָיו, וּבְשִׁפְטִים קָשִׁים יִוָּסֵר, בֵּל יִלְכֹּד זֶר בְּגִלְלוֹ, הוּא לְבַדּוֹ
יִשָּׂא פְרִי חֲטָאוֹ, אֶחָד הוּא, עוֹשֶׂה הָעֲבֵרוֹת וְהַנְּעֻנָּשׁ. מָרָה הִיא,
בֵּל יֹאמֶר הָאָדָם זֶה חֲלִי וְאֶשְׂאֲנוּ:



Man is free in his Imagination but by his Reason he is bound! His Imagination pursues his heart's desire, oblivious to the impending reckoning of all his actions by God. He will suffer the harsh judgement and he will not be able to blame anyone else. He alone will bear the consequences of his sin. The sinner and the punished are one and the same. It is inescapably bitter. Similarly no man can say that these failings are an illness which cannot be cast aside

