Midrash Tehillim

Midrash Tehillim / Psalms 135 | מדרש תהילים קלה

Midrash

Midrash Tehillim 135, Part 1
1. The Lord is great He causes the vapors to ascend from the ends of the earth (Tehillim / Psalms 135:5,7). Concerning this verse, Resh Lakish and Rabbi Johanan differed, Cloud vapors, said Rabbi Johanan, come only from above, for it is said I saw in the night visions, and behold, there came with the clouds of heaven one like unto a son of man (Daniel 7:13). But Resh Lakish said that cloud vapors come only from below, for it is said He causes the vapors to ascend from the ends of the earth. Rabbi Johanan’s view is that God’s giving of the vapors is like a man’s giving a bottle of wine in its container to his friend. Resh Lakish’s view is that as a man says to his friend, Lend me a measure of wheat, whereupon his friend declares, bring me your basket, so the Holy One blessed be He, declares to the earth, Bring Me your cloud vapor, and you will receive rain.

Midrash Tehillim 135, Part 2
2. The cloud vapor is called by five names, darkener, maker of meekness, discomfiter, maker of princes, and maker of visions. It is called darkener, because it darkens the face of the firmament; discomfiter, because it discomfits speculators; maker of meekness, because it makes men meek toward one another; maker of princes, because it makes men act in a princely manner toward one another; maker of visions, because it makes visions appear in he sky, and also makes the vision of the Holy Spirit rest upon men, as is said, The vision of Isaiah (Isaiah 1:1).