

מרבד לעניני חנוך



MERKOS LINYONEI CHINUCH INC.

CENTRAL OFFICE

770 EASTERN PARKWAY • BROOKLYN 13, N. Y.

12 Cheshvan 5711
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Rev. L. Sufrin
10, Catherine Road
Manchester 8, England

Dear Rev. Sufrin:

In reply to your letter of Aleph d'Rosh Chodesh Marcheshvan, informing me that your daughter gave birth to a son,

Mazzaltov, and may G-d grant the parents to bring up their newly born son in Torah, Chupah and maasim tovim with ease and joy.

With regard to your question concerning the shiduch for with a bachelor of about 35 years, I would suggest that inquiries be made to find out why he did not marry before, and if the reasons are such that do not affect a Jewish home, it would be advisable for the two people to get better acquainted and ascertained what mutual attractions they have.

I was very pleased to read in your letter that your son desires to study for Semichah and that the Rosh Ieshivah regards him as fitting for it. I was also glad to hear that he devotes time to strengthening Yiddishkeit among the youth. I am sure you will encourage him to continue along this course and will help him achieve his ambition.

As to the question of a shiduch for your son, about which you write that you are afraid to do anything in this matter, not knowing if it would be suitable, the Torah teaches us not to rely on miracles where things can and ought to be approached in natural ways and means. However, while doing so it is necessary to bear in mind that these so-called 'natural' ways and means are also miracles ordained by G-d, especially in the case of marriage, as it is said in Proverbs: An intelligent wife is a gift from G-d. At any rate, an attempt should be made in the usual way, and G-d will certainly lead it in such a way as to ensure a suitable and fitting wife for your son.

As to your apology for troubling me and your question whether you can do anything in return, this matter cannot be termed 'trouble.' You may have heard the teachings of the Baal Shem Tov as to how the three loves - love of G-d, love of Israel, and love of the Torah - are, and a means to 'Thou shalt love G-d thy G-d,' is 'Thou shalt love friend as thyself.' There is no question of trouble here at all. G-d grant that every one of us, including you, do all you can and one of us can to help others.

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However, since you have offered to do something in return, and everything is connected with the Divine Providence, I am enclosing herewith a copy of my Talk of Shabbos Breishis. I call your attention to pars. 21 and 22, where you will find some suggestions as to what you could do to strengthening Torah and Yiddishkeit.. As to what this would mean to me - I refer you to the Rambam (Hilechot Teshuvah, Ch. 3, H.4) where he states that

Everyone should regard the world on the basis that the good and bad deeds are equally balanced. Thus, through a bad deed one tips the scale of the bad side, G-d forbid, and through a good deed one tips the scale on the good side. Therefore, if you follow the suggestions in the abovementioned paragraphs, you will increase the merits of the entire world, thus benefitting me also.

It would interest me to know what 'fixed times' you have for the study of the Torah in general, and no doubt for the study of Chassiduth also.

As already mentioned, you need not hesitate in writing to me at any time, but you must be patient if my reply is delayed because of pressure of work.

I hope to hear good news from you.

With blessings,

Cordially



Rabbi Mendel Schneerson

RMS:n