

RABBI MENACHEM M. SCHNEERSON

Lubavitch
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מנחם מענדל שניאורסאהן
ליובאוויטש

איסטערן פארקוויי 770
ברוקלין, נ. י.

By the Grace of G-d
13th of Nissan, 5720
Brooklyn, N. Y.

Mr. Elie Cohen good news from you, and wishing you a kosher, happy
1216 Avenue LaJoieach,
Montreal, Que.

Greeting and Blessing:

After the very long interval, I received your two letters.

On the question of how to arrange your studies in the month of
Elul, there is still time to make a decision, and as the time will
approach closer, you should again consult with your friends in
Montreal, who have advised you in the past. Since they were success-
ful in their advice in the past, I trust that they will be so also in
giving you the right advice for the future. In the meantime, you
should make every effort to live up to the precepts of the Torah and
Mitzvoth, as you have done in the past, and in a growing measure,
may G-d bless you with success.

As for her request for literature, you should send her everything
As for the question of distracting thoughts during prayer, one general
advice is to contemplate before the prayer on matters which relate to
the greatness and kindness of the Almighty, and His benevolent Divine
Providence, and the like. Reflecting on these matters will bring
about a general inspiration which will be conducive to a better under-
standing and appreciation of the meaning of the prayers.

The above is a general advice, since no person remains in the same
spiritual level, and it is therefore difficult to give particular
suggestions. However, it would also be well for you to discuss with
your Mashpia or similar good friend, your particular frame of mind,
so as to receive some special advice within the general framework of
the above suggestion.

On the question of learning Maamorim by heart, generally speaking,
it is good to know at least two or three Maamorim by heart, and these
should be such that have a special appeal to you, and suitable to
rehearse among friends, or in public, as the occasion demands. As
for learning more by heart, this depends on how easy it is for you
to retain in your memory a greater number of Maamorim. For, if it
requires great effort and time, it is better to devote these efforts
and time to absorbing the contents of the Maamorim, rather than
learning them by heart verbatim.

I take this opportunity to reiterate again what I have written to
you several times in the past, that it is necessary to take care of
one's physical health, especially in the light of the teachings of
the Baal Shem Tov, that every Jew should serve G-d with both body
and soul together.

Mr. Elie Cohen

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1313th of Nissan, 5720

Hoping to hear good news from you, and wishing you a kosher, happy and inspiring Pesach, your gentile environment, is beyond comprehension.

Incidentally, it is well known that you are completely misrepresented in the preachings of Jesus and other Apostles, as is clear from the contradiction among the Apostles themselves. Be it as it may, it is enough to remember that the Christian world to the Jews in these crucial times, to form an opinion of what Christianity represents in fact.

With reference to your cousin about whom you write in your letter, it is clear that her being in a place where there are few Jews, while on the other hand there are gentiles who are busy exercising their influence, to gain converts, is a most undesirable situation. For, every one of us, and even Tzaddikim, says every morning in prayer, "Bring us not to temptation."

As for her request for literature, you should send her everything that our office in Paris has published in the French language. (The address: Rabbi B. Gorodetzky, 80 rue St. Antoine, Paris). If she also understands English, you ought to send her also some English publications which you can select from our catalogue, which you think may be of interest to her, since you know her personally.

The I must say that I was greatly surprised that she writes to you about the benevolence of the gentiles in her environment. Does she not know of the terrible tragedy of the millions of Jews who were savagely put to death by the Germans and their hohorts, while the rest of the world's gentiles looked on with complete indifference? Even the late Pope who could have saved many Jews by mere oral intervention, refused to do so. It is a well-known fact that when the Germans occupied Rome, and the Jews were interned in concentration camps, the German commander hesitated to harm them, having been told that it would arouse the displeasure of the Vatican. However, checking personally with the Vatican whether this was so, the Pope refused to confirm it, knowing full well what the denial would mean for those thousands of unfortunate Jews, and although he had been pleaded with to say just one good word in their behalf. As a direct result, thousands of Italian Jews were deported to the extermination camps. This is all the more noteworthy since the Pope knew well that his attitude would not remain a secret, and yet he could not find it in his heart to say a good word about the Jews. Despite efforts to misrepresent the facts, the evidence is irrefutable, as it was given by the very persons who attempted to obtain the Pope's intervention in behalf of the Jews.

HEM M. SCHNEERSON

Aborvich

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Mr. Elie Cohen

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מנחם מענדל שניאורסאהן

ליובאוויטש

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13th of Nissan, 5720

By the Grace of G-d
13th of Nissan, 5720
Brooklyn, N. Y.

That a Jewish girl should be oblivious of this and fall under the influence of her gentile environment, is beyond comprehension.

Montreal, Que.

Incidentally, it is well-known that Paul completely misrepresented the preachings of Jesus and other Apostles, as is clear from the contradiction among the Apostles themselves. Be it as it may, it is enough to remember the attitude of the Christian world to the Jews in those crucial times, to form an opinion of what Christianity represents in fact. your studies in the month of Elul, there is still time to make a decision, and as the time will approach closer, you should again consult with your friends in Montreal, who have advised you in the past. Since they were successful in their advice in the past, I trust that they will be so also in giving you the right advice for the future. In the meantime, you should make every effort to live up to the precepts of the Torah and Mitzvot, as you have done in the past, and in a growing measure, may G-d bless you with success.

As for the question of distracting thoughts during prayer, one general advice is to contemplate before the prayer on matters which relate to the greatness and kindness of the Almighty, and His Benevolent Divine Providence, and the like. Reflecting on these matters will bring about a general inspiration which will be conducive to a better understanding and appreciation of the meaning of the prayers.

The above is a general advice, since no person remains in the same spiritual level, and it is therefore difficult to give particular suggestions. However, it would also be well for you to discuss with your Mother or similar good friend, your particular frame of mind, so as to receive some special advice within the general framework of the above suggestion.

On the question of learning Maamrim by heart, generally speaking, it is good to know at least two or three Maamrim by heart, and these should be such that have a special appeal to you, and suitable to rehearse among friends, or in public, as the occasion demands. As for learning more by heart, this depends on how easy it is for you to retain in your memory a greater number of Maamrim. For, if it requires great effort and time, it is better to devote these efforts and time to absorbing the contents of the Maamrim, rather than learning them by heart verbatim.

I take this opportunity to reiterate again what I have written to you several times in the past, that it is necessary to take care of one's physical health, especially in the light of the teachings of the Baal Shem Tov, that every Jew should serve G-d with both body and soul together.