

By Rabbi Avrohom Lipszyc

### *The Service of the Jewish Slave vs the Service of the Gentile Slave*

This week's Torah-portion speaks of giving 'severance' to a slave when he is set free. However, this law applies only to a *Jewish Slave/Maid servant*, and not to a *Gentile* one. As a matter-a-fact, according to the Torah, one is not allowed to free a *Gentile Slave*, unless his doing so is for the sake of a mitzvah! Why?!

Let us discuss this on the *Esoteric Level*, in which we are speaking but of the different levels of a Jew in their service G-d:

The *Jewish Slave/Maid servant* represents one's service to G-d, in which they are dealing with, and refining their Emotions. That one's emotions of *Love, Fear, Awe, Compassion, Kindness, Justice*, etc. should be only to that which have *spiritual true values*, and not *self-centered values*.

The *Gentile Slave* represents the service of one who on their own is wanted to be completely free from responsibility and free from accountability. Thus, the service of the *Gentile Slave* must be one of total *Obedience*, which is absolute *Self-negation*. The *Gentile Slave's* service is due only out of *Fear of his Master*.

Therefore, while the service of the *Gentile Slave* is far inferior to that of the *Jewish Slave/Maid servant*, nevertheless, it has far greater in the virtue of its *self-negation* to G-d and to G-d's *Supernal Will*. Regardless of the service of the *Jewish Slave* and *Maid servant*, in which *slave* and *maid servant* are synonymous with *obedience* and *self-negation*, nevertheless, being that the *Jewish Slave/Maid servant* serve with *feelings, their feelings*, hence, their service to G-d is mixed with a feeling of self, and hence, lacks in its absolute *self-negation* and *obedience*. Not so, the service of the *Gentile Slave*, which has no feelings of the *slave* involved, but has only total *obedience* and *self-negation*.

This is the reason why the service of the *Jewish Slave/Maid servant* are of which to be freed, being that the whole point of their service is to *ascend* and to *leave* their *finite Service of Human Emotions* into the far higher *Service of Human Intellects*. However, the service of the *Gentile Service*, that of absolute pure *obedience* and *self-negation*, is infinite, and hence, not a service to ever need to leave from, for there is nothing higher to which to *ascend*.

This is also the reason why the *Gentile Slave* does not receive the *ha'anokah*, severance pay, because mystically speaking, the *Severance Package* for completing the *Service of Human Emotions* is the gift of the revelation of *Human Intellects*. However, in the *Gentile Slave's* service of *obedience* and *self-negation*, the 'gift' of revelation of *Human Intellect* is but the interference of the egotistical experience of, "I think...." Rather, the *Gentile Slave's Intellectual* experience of studying Torah is that of the, "The words that G-d speaks through my voice box," *self-negation* and *obedience*!

Well then, why do the *Esoteric Teachings* see the general service of Israel to be one of the *Jewish Slave/Maid servant*, when it is finite, and that of the service of the *Gentile Slave*, which is infinite?!

The answer is that ultimately, G-d wants us to serve Him with both, with *self-negation obedience* and with using the *Faculties (Intellects and Emotions) of Our Soul*. In which the *obedience* and *self-negation* permeate and saturate our *Intellects* and *Emotions*. It does not suffice to serve G-d with only *obedience* and *self negation*, but rather, we are to serve G-d with *pleasure, understanding, and feelings*, as well.

*Shabbat Shalom!*