

SICHA STORY

PROJECT LIKKUTEI SICHOS | 5783 - YEAR OF HAKHEL



Likkutei Sichos, Volume 19

Re'eh, Sicha 4 (First Sicha of the week)

- Rabbi Yossi Nemes, Metairie, Louisiana

The Rebbe brings his father's spiritual lesson from the mitzvah of Giving Severance Pay to a servant. A servant has Mochin D'katnus and we grant him מוֹחִין דְּגַדְלוּת to elevate his natural way of thinking.

The lesson from this Mitzvah: When being Mekarev a yid who is a beginner and Pashut, we may think it suffices to teach him the basics, and there is no need to teach him more advanced ideas of Yiddeshkeit. Comes the mitzvah of Severance Pay to teach that our long-term goal should be that these Mekuravim experience everything, in Torah and Chassidus, that we have! Here are three stories related to these themes.

What about the study of Chassidus?

Reb Yoel Kahn related: Once I had a guest in my house, a ba'al teshuvah, who became a close acquaintance of mine. He was from Canada, and he told us how he got involved. It was 1942, during the War, and he heard about the work of Lubavitch, and he traveled to 770 to learn what it is all about.

He had a private Yechidus with the previous Rebbe, and he perceived right away that the Rebbe was in a higher realm, and he felt very drawn to the Rebbe. Our Rebbe also showed him a lot of Kiruv and with time, he started observing Shabbat and other Mitzvot.

Though his businesses were reliant on the income of Shabbos, he resolved to close his business on Shabbos and then followed through. At some point, the Rebbe asked him, "What about the study of Chassidus? It's wonderful that you're keeping Shabbat and the Mitzvot, but you also need to learn Chassidus."

This person, though a simple Jew, started to learn Chassidus. He was quite proud when he mastered his first Maamar, V'Atoh Kadosh, in the book of Yiddish discourses. The entire Mamor is basically a story of the Baal Shem Tov. Eventually, he mastered 5 or 6 basic discourses. Every Shabbos, he would think about the content of one of these discourses before Davening, to be strengthened for the coming week.

He once told me "What did I have before I met the Rebbe? Money? What value is money? It's nothing compared to what I have now. There is no greater pleasure in life than visiting the Rebbe and being by a Farbrengen. "

Reb Yoel added: "The truth is, I was completely humbled by this person, for while his understanding of Chassidus was basic, he was a true Chasid, just like a Binyomin Kletzker!"

כשר כשר, אבער אביסל פלייש דארף זיין

Reb Mendel Futerfas related:

In Nevel, there were two Kosher butchers, one a little modern, the other a Chasidische Yid and G-d fearing. The Chasidim, of course, used their fellow Chasid as their butcher.

The problem was that the Modern Butcher knew how to fatten cows and chicken, but the Chasidisher Butcher did not. The products he sold were basically skin and bones... Once a group of Chasidim met with him about this issue and told him **כשר כשר, אבער אביסעל פלייש דארף זיין**! Kosher kosher your products certainly are, but we still need a little Fleish (meat)!

Reb Mendel learned a lesson from this, both for us and those we influence; It is great to be Kosher Kosher - G-d fearing and observing Shulchan Aruch, but this does not suffice, as you can be left with dry skin and bones Yiddishkeit! We also need a little Fleish: Passionate davening and learning, and warm Chasidisher Farbrengens!

(As heard from Reb Zalman Gopin)

An impression that lasts all day!

The Mashpia Reb Shilem Kuratin was sent to test bochorim in Shchedrin, to see if they are ready to transfer to the Zal in Lubavitch.

He asked them what happens when you have improper thoughts flowing and you must immediately control these thoughts? One of the bocherim answered that one should contemplate about Hashem for a few minutes, to activate our instinctive love of Hashem, which will help us push back these thoughts. Reb Shilem commented, "You think at a moment of crisis, when you need immediate action, you can arouse even just your intrinsic love of Hashem?"

One of the students answered that in Tanya Chapter 12 it states that the Beinoni reaches מוֹחִין דְּגַדְלוּת – Supernal Intellect, during Davening, through Avoda. And even though after davening this wears off, still, the רְשִׁימוֹ -impression, retained in his mind from his prayer while meditating on G-d's greatness, enables him to prevail over these thoughts.

Exactly, Reb Shilem responded, if you daven properly, you will have a reservoir of love of Hashem to tap into, as needed, all day! The bachur was of course admitted to the Yeshiva!

(מפי השמועה)
