

SICHA STORY

PROJECT LIKKUTEI SICHOS | 5783 - YEAR OF HAKHEL



Likkutei Sichos, Volume 17

Vayikra, Sicha 5 (*First Sicha of the week*)

- Rabbi Yossi Nemes, Metairie, Louisiana

Section Tes of the Sicha extols the virtue of Yirah - reverence and awe over Ahavah - love. Ahavas Hashem is connected to our Metzuius-Self, Yirah, however, represents total Bittul -self-nullification and transcendence of self.

Section Yud describes how the Melech within us, our mind and intellect, needs to influence and be drawn down to our hearts and our emotions. This will strengthen our relationship with Hashem, to the extent of staying clear from even inadvertent sins.

Here is a short story for each of these themes and holding on to Adar's final days, a lighter story about the "mind ruling over the heart" mentioned in Section 10.

A nothing that is anything but a nothing!

The Tzemach Tzedek once remarked in public about Reb Notkeh that he has reached the level of Ayin (the highest praise in Chasidic terminology as in reaching a level of selflessness, nothingness, and transcendence of ego). When Reb Notkeh's fellow Chasidim asked him, "Did you hear what the Rebbe said about you?" He said, "אוודאי בין איך גארנישט - Of course, I am a nothing", interpreting the word 'Ayin' literally as being nothing.

(As told - with minor differences - in Shmuos V'sipurim, Reshimos Devarim, and Reb Volf Greenglass).

Building an internal bridge!

Winter of the year 5663 (1902-3): On account of his ill health, my father traveled to Vienna to consult one of the leading medical specialists there (In the Reshimos he is identified as Dr. Freud), and to arrive at a clear diagnosis this Dr. asked for the details of my father's daily program, including the hours he worked and the way his work was arranged. And when Chassidus was mentioned, he wanted to know what kind of scholarly discipline this was.

My father replied: "The discipline of Chassidus requires that the head explains to the heart what the person should want and that the heart implement, in the person's life, that which the head understands."

"How can that be done?" asked the specialist. "Are head and heart not two continents separated by a vast ocean?"

To this, my father answered: "The task is to build a bridge that will span these two continents, or at least to connect them with telephone lines and electric wires so that the light of the head should reach the heart. As a result of various observations and discoveries, I must add that in those who are born into this branch of learning" - my father referred here to chassidim - "the substance of the brain, in which their psychological and intellectual faculties reside, and the substance of the heart, have an innate aptitude for this branch of learning and for the tasks it demands!"

(Likkutei Dibburim – Sichas Yud Tes Kislev, 5694)

Under cover Moach Shalit!

A close relative bought his grandchildren the Tanya Comix (Hebrew) series. One of his grandsons had trouble being ready on time in the morning. It was difficult for him to prepare his clothes the night before, to find his shoes, to get his lunch made, and to have all his papers in the backpack.

One morning, the child's mother realizes it is only fifteen minutes before the bus arrives, and no sign of her son. She runs into the child's room, and indeed he is lying in bed under his blanket. She is about to lose it when he pulls back the blanket to show that he is fully dressed in matching clothes, his shoes and coat are on and his hands clutching a full backpack, as he proudly proclaims "Moach Shalit Al Halev! "The mind rules over the heart!"
