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## Rabbi's Article

Come, Inherit and Settle

*Chai* (lit. *"life"*; 18<sup>th</sup> of) *Elul* (-*Link*), --the birthday of the *Baal Shem Tov* (-*Link*), founder of *General* (all of) *Chassidus*, and two generations later, the birthday of the *Alter Rebbe* (-*Link*), founder of *Chabad Chassidus* (one branch of *chassidus*)-- is always associated with (*Shabbat*) *Parshat* (Torah-portion of) *Ki Tavo* (-*Link*), whether it be in the week leading up to, or post (blessed by), this Shabbat. The *Sheloh HaKodosh* (-*Link*) teaches (-Chelek Torah Sh'b'ksav, Parshat Vayeshev), that even the Jewish holidays that began after the *Five Books of Moses* were completed, such as Chanukah (-*Link*), Purim (-*Link*) and *Chai Elul*, have their themes hinted in the *Parsha* of that week. And so too, it is with *Parshat Ki Tavo* and *Chai Elul*.

The name of the *Parsha*, which encompasses the theme of the entire *Parsha* is *Tova* (come; enter (into the *Land of Israel*)). And our sages rule (Kidushin 37b) concerning the laws that apply only once we enter into Israel, "*wherever coming to the land is mentioned, it means after inheritance and settlement.*" Hence, the true meaning of *coming* is to *inherit* and to *settle*. Additionally, it is not speaking of the *individual* inheriting and settling, rather, the individual is, "*when you come to the land,*" only after the 14 years that the *entire* land was inherited, and the *entire* nation was settled. The reason for this is that when the verse states (-Leviticus 11:32), "*And in water it* (impure vessel) *shall come... and it will be pure,*" our sages rule (-Chulin 33b), "*partial entry is not characterized as entry.*" So too, the *complete* coming into the land of Israel is only after the *entire* land is inherited, and because of the unity of the Children of Israel, the *coming* is *complete* only when *every* Jew has settled.

Therefore, when our verse states (-Deuteronomy 26:1), "When you come into the land... and you possess it and settle in it," there is (i) the <u>general</u>, "When you come," and (ii) the <u>detailed</u>, "and you possess it and settle in it." So too, it is with Chai Elul, (i) birthday of the Baal Shem Tov (-<u>Link</u>), founder of <u>General</u> (all of) Chassidus, and (ii) the birthday of the Alter Rebbe (-<u>Link</u>), founder of <u>Chabad</u> (detailed) Chassidus.

Chassidus is the preparation for the coming of *Moshiach* (-*Link*), as (-*Baal Shem Tov*'s letter, printed in *Ben Pores Yoseph*) *Moshiach* answered the *Baal Shem Tov*'s question of, "*When will master come*," that "*When your* (*Baal Shem Tov*'s) *wellsprings* (Chassidus) *will spread forth*." Mystically speaking, until *Moshiach* comes all the "*revelations*" come forth from the <u>Exterior</u> of Atik (Supernal Crown), and when Moshiach comes it will be of <u>Interior</u> of Atik. Hence, Chassidus is about bringing from the *exterior* into the *interior*. The difference between *interior* and *exterior* by people is, that the *interior* is the person's relationship with self, while his *exterior* is that of him which is to share with others. In man's service to G-d, this reflects as, when a person is serving G-d *internally*, he is putting his entire *essence* into it, and there is an entire *oneness* of him and his service to G-d. While, when he serves G-d *externally*, he is not placing himself *entirely* in his service, and he and his service remain two separate things.

Chassidus is all about revealing the nucleus of the *life* of a Jew in all of his Torah and Mitzvot. The concept of a *Living Being* is that the *life* and the *being* are one. So too, Chassidus reveals the *oneness* between the Jew and his Torah and Mitzvot. And this is why Chassidus is preparing us for *Moshiach*, which is the revelation of the *Interior of Atik*, in which there exists but the *oneness* of G-d, in that the entire universe is but one with G-d, for, "*There is none but Him*."

Concerning the *life-force* of a person, there is the <u>general</u> life-force, the way the *heart* vitalizes each organ alike, on the level of, "To be or not to be is (the only) question." However, there is also the <u>detailed</u> life-force, the way the brain vitalizes each organ in accordance to the individual organ's capacity (the eye to see, ear to hear, etc.). The Baal Shem Tov, in revealing the <u>general</u> Chassidus, revealed the <u>general</u> life-force oneness of a Jew and his Torah and Mitzvot, which is about Faith. Having the faith become one with the person, as (-Habakkuk 2:4), "The righteous in his faith shall live." However, Faith (heart) is but the general life-force, in which there is but the general oneness of each organ ("to be or not to be) of Torah and Mitzvot. The Alter Rebbe, with Chabad (brain) Chassidus, brought forth the <u>detailed</u> life-force in grasping and absorbing each detail of the faith, internalizing it.

And here too, like in *Tova* (*coming*) it is the *details* of, "*Inherit and Settle*," the grasping and the internalizing, which completes the, "*come into the Land*," the *Faith* in G-d.

