

SICHA STORY

PROJECT LIKKUTEI SICHOS | 5783 - YEAR OF HAKHEL



Likkutei Sichos, Volume 23

Shelach, Sicha 1 (Second Sicha of the week)

- Rabbi Yossi Nemes, Metairie, Louisiana

The Sicha emphasizes the importance of Nishma, so that Yiddeshkeit and observance will resonate within us and in our 'Seichel'. There are inherent risks, as we see from the meraglim, that this comes with, that we mitigate the danger by the Nishma remaining connected to 'Naase'. This means remembering that we are involved in the Nishma, as a Shlichus from Moshe. Here are three stories connected to elements of these themes.

Nishma and transcending Nishma, in the courtroom!

Harav Avrohom Yitzchak Shemtov, Sheyichye, shared the discussions the Rebbe had with the lawyers, regarding the Seforim trial:

“The Rebbe proposed two approaches that seemed very difficult to apply at the same time. On one hand, the Rebbe said that the trial should be approached al pi derech hateva, within the natural order. The lawyers should handle the trial as they would any typical legal proceeding. The Rebbe even told us at one point that we shouldn't try making the lawyers into Chassidim. Allow them to be lawyers. And this was one of the reasons that we couldn't insist that they disregard all the other documents and focus only on the letter to Dr. Marks.”

“On the other hand, the Rebbe told one of the lawyers the following: איך וויל אז דו זאלסט טאן ווי ... I want you to do as you understand, you should use your judgment. And I want to win over your judgment.’ “After the long yechidus, the Rebbe went back into his room and the lawyers were preparing to leave. But

then the Rebbe opened the door again and came out to say, "It must all be clothed in the natural order." (*A Chassidische Derher – Teves 5779*)

You can figure this out!

In the year 5751 (1991), (some say it was 5749 (1989)), the Rebbe spoke very passionately at the beginning of our Parsha. Aaron was commanded to light the Menorah, until the wicks are aflame, and the flame goes up by itself and no longer needs Aaron's effort.

The lesson of this is that we must serve Hashem with our initiative, to the point where we don't have to be shown everything. We can take what was given to us, the guidance, the inspiration, and the general principles, and figure out how to implement this vision. The "until the flame goes up" by itself represents the flame and the mission of Yidishkeit becoming our mission until our hand doesn't have to be held all the time.

Following this Farbrengen, when the Chozrim were putting together the Sichos to be published, they wrote to the Rebbe, as was their weekly custom, questions that they had on the Sicha and for help explaining the connection between certain segments of the Farbrengen. The Rebbe responded, (the content) "Look inside the Sicha itself. The whole idea was that one should not have to be shown everything, rather, people can apply themselves and take initiative. Find it within yourselves to figure out how to best present the Sicha, without having to get guidance on every step!" (*מפי השמועה*)

Moshe chooses the right personnel!

Rebbetzin Bassie Garelik, six years after arriving in Milan was going through a difficult time in her Shlichus. She wrote a letter to the Rebbe where she shared her frustration and concluded by writing that maybe had the Rebbe chosen someone else for the Shlichus, they would be doing better.

The Rebbe responded with a beautiful letter of encouragement:

"In the literature of Chassidus, such activities are classified and explained under two categories: "seeding" and "planting."

In the case of seeding, as, for example, sowing wheat, the fruits take less time to appear than in the case of planting an orchard. The reason is that in the case of the former the results, though many times the original effort, are considerably smaller than in the case of planting and orchard."

“Similarly in the efforts and activities of a human being, there are things that come under one category and some under the other. If, therefore, it sometimes takes longer for the efforts to come to fruition, this is no reason for discouragement; on the contrary, the reason may well be that it is a case of “planting,” where the ultimate results will be infinitely greater.”

Then the Rebbe added “it seems from your letter as though you have doubts as to whether the one that sent you made a good choice, surely you don’t have those doubts, even though I won’t take it personally if you do. But being as I am sure that you don’t have those doubts, and that the one who chose you made a wise choice, you should continue with your work and, Hashem willing, you will be Matzliach!” (*The Living Torah – JEM*).
