

SICHA POEM

PROJECT LIKKUTEI SICHOS | 5783 - YEAR OF HAKHEL



Likkutei Sichos, Vol. 23

Shavuos, Sicha 1

— By Rabbi Mottel Friedman, Coral Springs, FL

Rambam writes in Mishneh Torah a mitzvah we all must do
 We must write for ourselves a Torah scroll, and it must be kosher too
 When you write one it is considered like you received it on Har Sinai
 And if you cannot write one for yourself, you can have it done by another guy

Why though do we find that today the Jewish People as a whole
 Do not seem to fulfill this mitzvah to write their own Torah Scroll?
 And we don't find that people are hiring scribes to get the mitzvah done
 Or people repairing non-kosher scrolls which would count as if they wrote one?

The Rosh suggests that back in the day the only way to study
 Was to have a written scroll from which you could learn with a buddy
 But in his day there were handwritten books that people used
 So the mitzvah became to write books of Torah which people learned and perused

But this doesn't answer our question because we still do not find
 Everyone making the effort to print seforim of any kind!
 We don't see people printing books, they just go to a store and buy them
 How is that called "writing a Torah – ve'atah kisvu lachem"?

The Rebbe gives us the explanation and in the sicha he does tell
 The purpose of the mitzvah of writing a Torah is "to teach it to Bnei Yisroel"
 When we have the Torah written down we can learn it and we can spread it
 And "it will never stop to be in our mouths" – our children will never forget it

So the Rosh isn't saying that the mitzvah became that seforim must be handwritten
The mitzvah is to make sure that there are seforim for all Yidden
That they can use to study and learn, Torah books of many kinds
This way we ensure that the Torah is always on the top of our minds

At the time of the giving of the Torah the only way this mitzvah you'd earn
Is by writing a perfectly kosher Torah so from it you could learn
Because writing Torah Sheba'al Peh was forbidden and a sin
So writing a kosher Torah scroll is how the mitzvah did begin

But now it's no longer forbidden and we may write all parts of Torah
And learn Hashem's words from any book with a Rebbi or a Morah
If so that "Torah won't leave the mouths of our young" you buy seforim that are needed
That is enough to be considered that this mitzvah you have completed!
