

SICHA POEM

PROJECT LIKKUTEI SICHOS | 5783 - YEAR OF HAKHEL



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Emor, Sicha 1

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The Alter Rebbe arranged a siddur based on the nusach of the Holy Ari
 But he did not include the parts that were kabbalistic and lofty
 The Arizal's siddur was meant for those that mysticism wished to try
 But the Alter Rebbe composed his siddur for the layman, the regular guy

Most Ari-style siddurs end with the parts for Simchas Torah
 While the Alter Rebbe's end with Sefiras Haomer, counting the Sefirah
 Since every ending reflects the main theme of that thing
 Prayer must somehow be alluded to in the Omer counting

There are mitzvos which are fulfilled through speech or through deed
 Like on Pesach eating matzah or on Purim when Megillah we read
 Other mitzvos are fulfilled by feeling or thinking them
 Like for example the mitzvah to always love Hashem

The mitzvah of davening is unique in that it must be spoken indeed
 Yet the words have no meaning unless you intend to ask Hashem for your needs
 Davening also changes you when you focus Hashem's presence
 You leave your ego behind and gain a spiritually deeper, new essence

We find these two concepts by the Counting of the Omer too
 Where it's not enough to say the words, you need intention in what you do
 And in the Tefilah of the Omer we say "I'm not happy where I was
 Please purify my soul and change me" just like davening does

A deeper connection between counting the Omer and prayer is in their objective
 You've done the mitzvah of davening when you pray even if it's not yet effective
 Similarly, in counting the Omer, receiving the Torah on Shavuos is the goal
 Yet the mitzvah is fulfilled by counting each day, and the counting "purifies" your soul

This explains the difference in focus of the siddurs of the Alter Rebbe and the Ari
 The Ari's stressed the wish to rectify the world and bring about Divine unity
 So his begins with repairing the world, it includes all the rules and the ways
 And it concludes with bringing G-d's light to the world, the mysticism of the holidays

But the Alter Rebbe's siddur is focused how to love G-d and how to get close
 And that's why it starts with "be a servant to G-d" and the midnight ritual Tikkun Chatzos
 And it concludes with the Counting of the Omer, which we all do with love
 A mitzvah that expresses the worth of human effort, as we explained above

Still a person must know that his personal prayer contributes to the world as well
 Like Chag HaShavuos whose date is set by the counting of Bnei Yisroel
 So the Omer at the end of the siddur hints to what each Jew through prayer can attain
 As we say in Sefirah "May Hashem send much bracha upon all the worlds" Amen
