

SICHA STORY

PROJECT LIKKUTEI SICHOS | 5783 - YEAR OF HAKHEL



Likkutei Sichos, Volume 15

Vayigash, Sicha 3 (Second Sicha of the week)

- Rabbi Yossi Nemes, Metairie, Louisiana

The way I learned Section 6-7 of the Sicha is that since the Ahavah Mesuteres, the intrinsic hidden love that every Yid possesses, is an inheritance from the Avos and is already part of his Neshama, when it becomes aroused it seems like aftergrowth (Sefiach) that sprouts without planting. However, the reality is, that even this intrinsic love is activated only because Yosef Hatzadik (and the Yosef Hatzadik of each generation) planted and nurtured it within us. It is only since Yosef plants it from such an elevated level that appears as automatic aftergrowth.

Here are a couple of stories, out of so many, on this theme.

Whispering the name of the Rebbe to an unconscious person

In the summer of 5710 (1950) there was a woman who was completely unconscious. The Rebbe instructed that the name of the Frierdiker Rebbe be whispered in her ear. The Rebbe explained that it says in sefarim that one can revive someone who fainted by whispering his name in his ear. Even though there is a deficiency in the revealed aspect of the soul, which gives life to the body, calling his name will reach and arouse the soul's essence and cause him to awaken.

The Rebbe continued that at times a person is so unresponsive that saying his name will not succeed in arousing the soul's essence. In such a case, one must go deeper—to the general soul of the leader of the generation, the source of every individual neshamah..

Planting the intrinsic love at 33,000 feet high

A graduate of Oxford University related: “When I was at Oxford, I was not involved Jewishly at all, I met a non-Jewish girl and was about to marry her.

“One day I was flying to London when I heard an unusual announcement: ‘If there is a Jew on board please report to the stewards.’ I introduced myself to the head steward. The head steward apologized for the strange announcement, but a man begged him to make it, insisting that there was a Jew on board whom he had to meet. The steward added that if I was willing to speak to the man, there he was.

“The man told me he was a businessperson who frequently traveled and was close to the Lubavitcher Rebbe. He said that when he told the Rebbe that he was going to be traveling to Hong Kong and London, the Rebbe gave him a Tanya and said, ‘Sometimes on flights you meet Jews, so you should have a Tanya with you in order to give it to a Jew when you meet him.’ The man took out a Tanya from his bag and gave it to me, saying, ‘This is from the Lubavitcher Rebbe.’

“I opened the book to where the bookmark was and asked the man to tell me what it said on the page. He read it and translated it into English. I did not understand most of what he read. I only understood the part where it said, ‘that due to his soul even the most irreverent Yid, will sacrifice their life for Hashem.

“Hearing that made me wonder whether I was doing the right thing by marrying this girl. This thought stayed with me; it bothered me and gave me no rest. Two days later I told her that I felt uncomfortable with the engagement and that I had to spend time on my own and decide what to do.

“The wedding never happened, and I later married a Jewish girl. I still have the Tanya that the Rebbe sent me and when I meet students, struggling with assimilation, I tell them my story, take out the Tanya, and read to them the lines that brought me back to our people.
