

SICHA POEM

PROJECT LIKKUTEI SICHOS | 5783 - YEAR OF HAKHEL



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Pirkei Avos, Perek 3

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"Rabbi Chanina would say,
That for the government we should pray,
Because if to break the rules we had no fear,
A man would swallow his friend so dear."

Pirkei Avos teaches us to go the extra mile,
Beyond the letter of the law with a smile,
So how is this Mishna fitting,
To be in Pirkei Avos which teaches a higher way of living?

"A man would swallow his friend" does imply,
That a person would steal from his friend or cause him to die,
So why does the Mishna not say this clearly,
Why does it use wording that is as strange as can be?

The continuation of this very Mishna,
Discusses two who make fun by sitting and not learning Torah,
Between these two teachings what is the connection,
Since the way the Mishnas are divided is exact on every occasion.

Since Pirkei Avos is for a person who learns Torah and does Mitzvos already,
To help him become more sensitive, humble and holy,
To kill or rob from his friend he doesn't have a mean bone,
But to swallow another person's accomplishments he is prone.

He sees his fellow as a simple Jew,
 Who relies on him to teach him what to do,
 He comes to the conclusion,
 That the other person is lower than him.

He came to this conclusion through logic that is true,
 So the only way to stop him from feeling superior over another Jew,
 Is by praying for the welfare of the government which is a mirror reflection,
 Of the Kingdom in heaven which will awaken his fear of heaven.

He remembers that Hashem is our King so great,
 Everything He did create,
 From the greatest of the great to the smallest of the small,
 In the same caring way He treats them all.

The Yetzer Hora is professional in making us stray,
 Therefore to Hashem we must pray,
 That through the rulers on earth that we can see with our eyes,
 The Kingship of Hashem we will always recognize.

Just because a person knows more doesn't give him the power,
 To treat another person in a way that is lower,
 He must have Bittul and treat him like an equal,
 And that makes him truly special.

Now the positive connection is clear,
 Between praying for the government's welfare,
 And two who sit and do study together.
 Like friends forever.

When one prays for the government he realizes that power,
 Belongs to Hashem and fear of Hashem he does acquire,
 He is able to treat the other Jew as an equal, which is the best,
 And amongst them Hashem does rest.

He understands that Hashem is the only authority,
 And that he was given the privilege to help another shine brightly,
 Instead of swallowing his friend alive,
 He sees his greatness and helps him grow and thrive!