

SICHA POEM

PROJECT LIKKUTEI SICHOS | 5783 - YEAR OF HAKHEL



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Behar, Sicha 3

— By Rabbi Mottel Friedman, Coral Springs, FL

The Parsha describes the sad scene when a Jew's situation turns grave
He becomes so poor that he must sell himself out as a slave
Even worse he sells himself to a non-Jew and on him becomes dependent
Or even worse than that he sells himself to be an idol's attendant

The poor guy's relatives must try really hard to set this person free
And the Torah says that the one who buys his freedom it should be
His brother or his uncle or his cousin who brings him home
Or if he himself finds money then he does it on his own

We see that the order of redeemers goes by who's more closely related
Since first brother then uncle then cousin is what the pasuk stated
Well if that's the case why isn't he himself listed number one?
And why isn't his father listed at all as a redeemer for his son?

The explanation can be found when looking at the deeper, inner dimension
And it will teach us a lesson that deserves our attention
Selling yourself as an attendant to an idol is so low
It's the lowest of possible places that a Jew can go

This fellow isn't serving idols, just helping out, it's true
For submitting to a foreign god is not something a Neshama can do
But even helping with an idol or tending to them
Shows a complete cutting of one level of one's connection with Hashem

This can only happen when a Jew forgets his Father in Heaven
 And doesn't think about Hashem twenty-four/seven
 The level of Chochmah, called "father," is where you find the source
 Of a Jew's dedication to Hashem, a powerful force

But when the "Father" is forgotten, there's no sensitivity
 And the Jew doesn't realize how damaging his aveiros can be
 So being sold as an attendant to an idol is only possible when
 The Jew has no recollection of his core bond with Hashem.

This guy cannot "redeem himself" - he's too deeply disconnected
 He needs Hashem's inspiration to be spiritually affected
 The "relatives" is the Divine help that awakens this wayward soul
 The first step mentioned in the pasuk towards the soul's ultimate goal

Once the Neshama is aroused from its slavery and its "sleep"
 Divinely reminded that he'd fallen very far and deep
 Now he can muster his own strength and redeem himself from his past
 And that's why the pasuk first mentions "relatives" and "himself" is mentioned last
