

SICHA STORY

PROJECT LIKKUTEI SICHOS | 5783 - YEAR OF HAKHEL



Likkutei Sichos, Volume 20

Noach , Sicha 1 (Second Sicha of the week)

- Rabbi Yossi Nemes, Metairie, Louisiana

The Sicha explains that the Rambam, Chapter 1-2 of Avoda Zara, underscores that Avrohom's pursuit of Hashem, and his denial of idols, was initially an intellectual one, based on his natural ability to analyze nature. This on its own is not sustainable, as evidenced by the Yidden in Mitzrayim falling into idol worship. Hashem then sent us Moshe, who taught us a faith that transcends reason.

This is also why regarding Hashem, we need both לידע ולהאמין to endeavor to understand and then to reach an Emunah that is beyond our intellect. We bring here some stories related to the theme.

I used to say, now I know!

The story is told about the first Rebbe of Chabad, 'the Alter Rebbe' who, himself a Talmudic genius, was so impressed with the personality and Chassidic teachings of the Magid of Mezritch, that he remained to learn by him for an extended period, although the Chassidim

we were not popular in those days and even falsely suspected of heresy.

When he returned home, he was greeted by his irate father-in-law: "What have you been doing for the last year? What have you accomplished?"

"I learned that G-d creates the world" answered the Rebbe calmly.

"That's what you learned?!" Our cleaning lady knows... Zelda! come here!" Zelda appeared from the next room drying her hands saying, "Yes, what do you want?"

"Tell us, please, Zelda" he was trying to be as calm as possible, "Who creates the world?"

"Why...the Aibershter sir! (Yiddish for G-d)"

“You see!?” He turned to his son-in-law, “Zelda says this clearly, without ever having met the Magid!”

Rav Shneur Zalman calmly replied, “She says it, but (now) I know it.”

(As told by R' Tuvia Bolton)

Only a Chasid can say these!

Reb Itche Masmid said that only a Chasid has the challenge of an inner Amalek. Amalek our sages tell us “Knows G-d and yet intentionally rebels.”

Who other than a (Chabad) Chasid, who learns Chassidus, knows G-d!

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Reb Nissan Nemanov asked: How come when it comes to the constant Mitzvah in the Torah “You shall Know Hashem” not everyone learns Chassidus daily, but when it comes to knowing the Molad (Something the Siddur says is only Nachon – an appropriate minhag) before Birchas Hachodesh, everyone endeavors to know it to the second?

Reb Nissan answered: Because knowing the Molad is easy while learning Chassidus until you “know” Hashem is a life-changing Avoda that takes a lot of effort.

Deep pockets of Emunah!

The chassidim were gathered around the table of the Maggid of Mezritch, Reb DovBer, as he told a story of his rebbe, the holy Baal Shem Tov. “It was an uneventful Shabbat by the Baal Shem Tov,” began the Maggid, “until the conclusion. The Maggid continued: Immediately after the conclusion of the evening prayers—still before Havdalah—a woman rushed into the room where the Baal Shem Tov and his chassidim had concluded their prayers

“You’ve got to help me, Rebbe!” she cried out. “I am in desperate need of funds to marry off my daughter, and I have nowhere left to turn

The Baal Shem Tov heard her out, and then directed his chassidim to reach their hands into their pockets and give whatever money they found there for this worthy cause. Amazingly, the funds they produced were the exact amount that the woman said she needed

“Tell me, the Maggid concluded the story, “what is the lesson to be gleaned from this story of our master the Baal Shem Tov? One Chassid offered his thought: “This story shows the miraculous powers of the Baal Shem Tov. Even though it was impossible that anyone would have money in their pockets—for Shabbat had ended just moments earlier—the Baal Shem Tov performed this miracle to help this poor woman

“To show us the Baal Shem Tov’s power to perform miracles,” the Maggid pronounced, “we have many stories. We do not need this specific story. Another Chassid spoke up: “But this was a double miracle: not only did the Baal Shem Tov make the money appear miraculously, but it was the exact amount—to the kopek.”

Again, the Maggid said that there are no lack of stories demonstrating amazing and doubly amazing miracles performed by the Baal Shem Tov.

A third Chassid suggested: “That the Baal Shem Tov can make wondrous miracles occur—that is obvious. However, the Baal Shem Tov could have made all the money appear in his pocket, thus performing this important mitzvah by himself. Yet because of his tremendous love of his fellow, he wanted to share the mitzvah and thus made money appear in the pockets of all those present. That, I think, is the message of the story

“May I suggest,” the Maggid said, “that this story is not about the Baal Shem Tov at all. The story is truly about the greatness of his disciples. Even though Shabbat had just ended and none of them had any money with them, they nevertheless inserted their hands in their pockets, following the directive of their rebbe with complete faith and trust.

(As told by R' Saul Wertheimer - Chabad.org)
