

SICHA STORY

PROJECT LIKKUTEI SICHOS | 5783 - YEAR OF HAKHEL



Likkutei Sichos, Volume 24

Ki Tetze, Sicha 2 (*First Sicha of the week of Tavo*)

- Rabbi Yossi Nemes, Metairie, Louisiana

The roof that needs a fence are our feelings of Gavah - haughtiness, that we must place boundaries on. This will ensure that our pride, a risky attribute even when utilized for Kedusha, does not bring consequences to ourselves and to those under our influence. At the same time, our priority must be to engage and positively influence those around us. This cannot wait until we attain humility, something we should work on simultaneously.

We bring here stories, with a variety of lessons, connected to this theme.

Kashering our inner Chametz

A brilliant and renowned prodigy, with great talents and wondrously deep comprehension, came to Liozna and devoted himself to the study of Chassidus. Thanks to his immense gifts, he acquired a vast and broad knowledge of Chassidus in a short period of time.

At his first yechidus, he entered the Alter Rebbe's study and asked: "Rebbe, what am I lacking?"

The Alter Rebbe answered him: "You lack nothing, for you are G-d-fearing and a scholar. You only must remove your chametz, which signifies ego and arrogance, and replace it with matzah, which signifies bittul, self-effacement.

"Now, a person who is arrogant 'repels the feet of the Divine Presence,'¹ for 'he and [G-d] cannot dwell in the same place.'² [So what is the remedy for arrogance?] A utensil,³ say a roasting spit, that was used with the arrogance that one imagined to be light requires libun. This

means that it must be heated until sparks fly off; that is, until the sparks of self-refinement fly outward and are incorporated in the true light.

(Hayom Yom – 27 Tammuz)

Gavah as a temptation repellent!

Reb Mordechai Liepler, one of the greatest disciples of the Alter Rebbe, once remarked that his pride (Gavah) enabled him to resist the urge to succumb to temptations.

When his surprised friends asked him what he meant, he explained: “When I travel for business to the markets in S. Petersburg and see all the shiny objects there and start to feel temptation, I tell myself, ‘Mottel! How can I, A Chasid of the Alter Rebbe, succumb to the Yetzer Horah and jeopardize my status!’

Lottery winners don't worry about the \$2 ticket cost!

Reb Yoel Kahn, A”H, related:

In the earlier years of the Rebbe's nesius, the Rebbe used to walk home from 770 each night accompanied by Rabbi Hodakov. On nights when the Rebbe received people for yechidus, Rabbi Hodakov waited in his office until the Rebbe was finished and then he would accompany the Rebbe home.

One day, Rabbi Hodakov summoned me and said that last night while he walked home with the Rebbe, the Rebbe related a conversation he had with an individual in yechidus. Seeing this conversation as an important lesson pertinent for the public, the Rebbe wanted me to transcribe it and the Rebbe would edit it, so others hear about it as well.

The conversation was as follows: This individual had complained to the Rebbe that every time he does something good, he feels caught up in the personal gain and pride that comes with it. The Rebbe replied with a mashal: A person is involved in a business deal that can potentially bring in a million dollars. On the side, he'll also gain an additional ten cents. Obviously, the only thing occupying his mind is the gain of one million dollars; the dime in the story is irrelevant to him.

The same is true in Avodas Hashem. When a person learns Chassidus and understands the true value of a mitzvah, how it connects the Yid with Hashem—he will automatically think less of the personal gain or other ulterior motives. If one understands what it means for a finite being to connect with the infinite Creator, everything else becomes insignificant.

(From the Sefer Bdarkei Chasidim)

Rx prescription for remaining humble?

Here is a short clip of the Rebbe about being humble, addressed especially for successful doctors. www.chabad.org/1638122
