

SICHA STORY

PROJECT LIKKUTEI SICHOS | 5783 - YEAR OF HAKHEL



Likkutei Sichos, Volume 15

Vayishlach 3 - Yud Tes Kislev (First Sicha of the week)

- Rabbi Yossi Nemes, Metairie, Louisiana

The Rebbe brings the two reasons why Chassidus was revealed in the later generations.

1. *Because of the double, quadruple darkness of exile that we, in our generations, are experiencing, we need a higher, more powerful light to overcome the darkness. (Footnote 15 references the answer of the AR to the Kpeida of Reb Pinchos Koritzer, about grinding the crown jewel, to possibly save the prince.)*

2. *We are in the Erev Shabbos, in the afternoon, of history and we are experiencing a foretaste of the era of Moshiach. Chassidus is the light of Moshiach beginning to shine. We bring here an analogy for this from Reb Pinchos Koritzer, as heard from Reb Yoel.*

In footnote 48 it references that the Alter Rebbe only wanted to utilize natural means in dealing with the imprisonment and not miraculous solutions. We bring here illustrations of this, taken from the Rebbe's Reshimas HaYoman.

The light is beginning to shine!

A person, at night, was traveling from one town to a nearby town. Those days there were no lights on the road, between towns. At first, he could still somewhat see around him but as the night went on and he was getting farther from the original city, it was getting darker and more difficult to see.

Suddenly, it starts to get lighter, and he can see better. This was because he was getting closer to his destination and experiencing the light of the place he was coming to.

The Jewish people, similarly, even after the Churban and being exiled, still had some residual light, shining from the Bais Hamikdosh. This expressed itself in the leadership and teachings of the Tanaim and Amoraim.

As the centuries progressed the light of the Bais Hamikdash dimmed, and the Galus darkness intensified. But then Hashem gave us the Baal Shem Tov and the powerful light of Chassidus. This is not the light of the previous Bais Hamikdash as we are farther removed from it than before. Rather, this is a new light, an energy of Geulah and a foretaste of Moshiach, as it is already illuminating our lives!

“What a Russian – Chabad – Chassid is!”

Before his departure to prison, the Alter Rebbe dispatched the Chassid, Reb Yaakov Smilianer with a pidyon nefesh to Reb Levi Yitzchak of Berdichev.

When Reb Yaakov arrived in Berdichev, it was morning. He immediately came to see Reb Levi Yitzchak, who lit his pipe. “With this pipe, I could burn the entire Petersburg!”

The Alter Rebbe had discussed his derech of Chabad Chassidus with Reb Levi Yitzchak a year or two prior, and Reb Levi Yitzchak had scolded the Alter Rebbe for taking so much responsibility instead of making use of miraculous means, which was more common among Chagas Rebbes.

The Alter Rebbe had replied, “Hashem wants a dirah batachtonim, that Atzmus should be in tachtonim. That is accomplished through pnimi’im, not through makifim (miracles).

Now, Reb Levi Yitzchak repeated his argument. “With this pipe, I could have burned the entire Petersburg!”

“Berdichever Rav,” Reb Yaakov replied, “the Rebbe is a Reisisher (a Russian). The Rebbe is Chochmah, Binah, Da’as!” (Implying that Chabad doesn’t work through miracles). Reb Levi Yitzchak gave him a piercing look. “What’s a Reisisher Chassid. He is fine with a Rebbe without a mother...”

This comment pertained to the pan. Arriving in Berdichev, Reb Yaakov had discovered that he had lost the pan of the Alter Rebbe, and although he remembered its contents, he didn’t know the Alter Rebbe’s mother’s name. Reb Levi Yitzchak went to the mikveh, and upon emerging, he said, “Yesh Shever b’Mitzrayim” (“SheVeR” being roshei teivos Shneur Ben Rivkah). After davening Shacharis, he said resolutely, “Yesh Shever, there is hope!

(Reb Yoel used to share that there is a tradition that the Alter Rebbe did not want certain Chasidim, especially Reb Michal Apatsker to come to Petersburg, while he was there. The Alter Rebbe was afraid that he would bring down – burn - the whole city, and free the Alter Rebbe, through miraculous means).
