

SICHA POEM

PROJECT LIKKUTEI SICHOS | 5783 - YEAR OF HAKHEL



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Yom Kippur

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There is a debate in the Talmud Yerushalmi:
When confessing for our sins is it necessary,
To list the specific sins that we have committed,
Or is it enough to say that we are sorry for everything wrong that we did.

Rabbi Yehuda is of the opinion that confessing what we did specifically,
Is key for a person to do Teshuvah properly.
When the person lists what he did wrong he will feel shame,
Teshuvah that comes from fear he will presently gain.

The future overrides the present is Rabbi Akiva's opinion,
If his list of confessions others will hear, it will arouse suspicion.
In the future, people won't want to do business with him, it is clear,
Because they will be afraid that perhaps there are more bad things that he didn't share.

If a person confesses their sins quietly,
There is no problem of being judged unfavorably,
So a deeper explanation there must be,
For why Rabbi Akiva holds that listing his misdeeds is unnecessary.

Throughout Rabbi Akiva's life he always did see,
The core that is hidden deeply.
When his donkey and rooster were devoured and his candle blew out,
Although it seemed bad at the moment, it was for a future good without a doubt.

When he saw a fox coming out of the site of the holy of holies he didn't cry,
If all the bad came true for sure the Geula no one can deny.
Rabbi Akiva didn't just see the future with regards to time,
He saw what is deeper and our future potential to climb.

Rabbi Akiva is aware,
That when someone does Teshuvah out of fear,
It seems like the punishment and reward is what they care about,
But the truth is that their real desire is to connect to Hashem with love, without a doubt!

From Rabbi Akiva we learn that doing Teshuvah with love is our aim,
From listing all our sins there is no gain,
Because at this level all sins are the same since they cause a separation,
Our goal is to leave our sins behind and focus on connecting to our Father in Heaven!

At ourselves or at others, in the here and now, we don't just see,
We look at our core, at our potential, at who we really are and who we can be.
Rabbi Akiva sees from the start,
That Hashem will purify us to the greatest level after we do our part.
