

SICHA POEM

PROJECT LIKKUTEI SICHOS | 5783 - YEAR OF HAKHEL



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Purim, Sicha 3

— By Rabbi Mottel Friedman, Coral Springs, FL

The conclusion of the Megillah, end of chapter ten
Tells of Mordechai's position and what happened then
"Most members of the Sanhedrin" approved of Mordechai's views
While he continued to work and advocate for the good of all the Jews

The Gemara says only "most members" approved of his position
While some "separated themselves from him" saying there's no permission
To be involved in communal work, they said that's not okay
A member of the Sanhedrin must learn Torah all day

Now if they were right and he was wrong to neglect his Torah study
Why didn't all of them disapprove and cease to be his buddy?
If his communal advocacy was something he couldn't do
Why did a majority of the Sanhedrin support his point of view?

The Gemara doesn't actually say there were members who rejected
Mordechai's view or argued with him, they simply expected
That he would give up his communal work after gaining his "Purim fame"
So they "separated themselves from him" and didn't do the same

There are two teachings regarding those who take a long time to pray
And are left with little time for Torah the rest of the day
One is recorded in the Babylonian Gemara – Talmud Bavli
And one in the Jerusalem Gemara – Talmud Yerushalmi

The Bavli says there's a bracha these pious men deserve
They won't forget what they have learned, "their Torah will be preserved"
Yerushalmi says "their Torah will be blessed" it will be more sublime
They will study more and reach great heights in a shorter amount of time

Mordechai's colleagues from Bavel insisted that to full-time study he returns
It's not enough that he'll be blessed to "preserve" what he learns
But his Jerusalem colleagues supported him in his role as Nasi Hador
Since his Torah study will be blessed and even better than before

Learning Torah uninterrupted is certainly the best
Without distractions or other concerns to put you to the test
When Mordechai cut time from his learning his position was demoted
But he knew he made the right decision, to his nation he was devoted

Mordechai sacrificed his own spiritual value of being dedicated solely to learning
For the sake of others and to such devotion we should be yearning
We should be like Mordechai and say, "There's nothing we won't do
For the sake of the material and spiritual wellbeing of our fellow Jew."
