

SICHA POEM

Likkutei Sichos, Vol. 29

Chai Elul

— By Mrs. Chanie Gourarie, Chabad Toms River

Chai Elul is the Baal Shem Tov and the Alter Rebbe's birthday,
In a Sicha the Frierdiker Rebbe did say:

"Among Chassidim there is an old Chassidic saying with two versions:

A) Chai Elul is the day that brought and brings life into Elul.

B) Chai Elul gives vitality to the service of 'I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine' "

From the fact that the Frierdiker Rebbe said both versions in this specific order,
It is clear, that the two versions are two levels, with one preceding the other.

Although they seem very similar, there are differences three,

1. The word "day" is in the first version only.

2. In the first version "brought and brings life" is key,
The second version uses the words "gives vitality."

3. The first version, states the month of Elul, specifically,
While the second version emphasizes our service of **אני לדודי ודודי לי**,
"I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine,"
The differences relate to content vs. time.

In time there are aspects two,

There is the date on the calendar and the theme that shines through.

For example, Shabbos is a day of the week, but since it's 7th, it's a special time,

A holiness that is above the limitations of place and time, on Shabbos, does shine.

Inspiration comes from directions two,
An "awakening from above" comes from Hakadosh Baruch Hu.
An "awakening from below" is when a Jew does start,
To initiate a relationship with Hashem with all his heart.

Both types of inspiration the month of Elul does contain,
From the heavenly illumination of the 13 attributes of mercy, we gain.
It is a time of Divine favor from Above,
The King goes out into the field and greets everyone with a smile and love.

The second type of inspiration,
Comes from man's effort and dedication.
It's when the person gives himself over to Hashem, his Beloved, completely,
Since the person makes the first move, it's as precious as can be.

The "inspiration from above" relates to the date on the calendar,
By nature it's a time of Divine favor.
The "inspiration from below," relates to the content and essence within,
To highlight the initiation of the person, the Avodah of Elul was given.

Chai Elul has a double power,
It brings vitality into both types of inspiration every hour.
We see this on display,
From the two versions of how Chassidim described Chai Elul day.

The first version is all about the "inspiration from above," Hashem's part,
Creating time and designating slices of it as favorable is His art.
"Chai Elul is the day... life into Elul" is emphasized there,
"Brings" indicates that the "life" comes from elsewhere.

The past tense of "Brought" is telling too,
From above, Hashem helps every Jew.
Even before our Avodah does begin,
An "awakening from above," inspires us to action.

In contrast, the second version does speak,
About the content/Avodah of the month of Elul, which is so unique,
The content of Chai Elul, which is revealing Chassidus below,
"Gives vitality," of its own, to the service of אֲנִי לִדּוּדֵי and makes it glow.

For everyone, from beginners to leaders, there is a lesson,
To the beginners, we tell the first version,
You have a connection to Chai Elul, even if your Avodah you didn't start to do,
Chai Elul has already brought life into Elul for you; it's an inheritance for every Jew.

The second version is a second level for "your heads, your tribes,"
One must generate vitality into their service until it thrives.
For example, to be taught Torah from a teacher is great,
But one must work with one's own intellect to innovate.

Since the Frierdiker Rebbe said both versions publicly,
Both versions are relevant to every Jew individually.
Because even one who is still at the beginning of his service must know,
That to the level where he will give vitality on his own, he will grow.

To those who already stand at the second level so fine,
Where they engage in the service of "I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine."
The message is that it is not their own accomplishment entirely,
But rather it stems from the "life" that Chai Elul brings into Elul, which is heavenly.
