

SICHA POEM

Likkutei Sichos, Vol. 28

Ki-Tetze, Sicha 1

— By Mrs. Chanie Gourarie, Chabad Toms River

There are three categories of things that we are not allowed to mix together.

1. We are not allowed to wear clothing that has a wool and linen mixture.

2. Grafting together different types of plants in a field or garden,

Or crossbreeding animals is forbidden.

3. We keep milk and meat products separate in the kitchen,

To cook milk and meat together is forbidden.

Within these categories three,

Fundamental differences we do see.

Immediately after the Torah tells us that it is forbidden to wear Shatnez,

We are given the commandment to wear Tzitzis.

Since the two verses are next to each other it is clear,

That it is permitted to mix wool and linen to make Tzitzis to wear.

To make Tzitzis we have permission,

But the belt which was part of the uniform for the Kohanim,

Had to be made of a mixture of wool and linen,

It was actually a Divine instruction!

To mix milk and meat for a sacrifice, we might entertain the thought,

But right after speaking about the Bikkurim that to Hashem's Home were brought,

"You shall not cook a tender young animal in its mother's milk," we see,

From this verse we learn that it is forbidden completely.

When it comes to crossbreeding plants or animals of any kind,
To do it for a holy purpose doesn't even cross anyone's mind,
Because it changes, contradicts and mixes up the act of creation,
It interferes with sustaining their species through their power of reproduction.

A mixture of wool and linen is not the same,
Because at their essence and core, wool and linen they remain.
The same space they share in the same garment so fine,
But they can be separated from each other at a later time.

The mixture of milk and meat falls somewhere in between,
When they are cooked together, only in the physical substance is a change seen.
The Torah prohibition applies when the two species become one entity,
But the mixture of milk and meat is lifeless, it doesn't affect the future reality.

Rabeinu Bachya explains that there is more than meets the eye,
Mixing physical species down here affects the mixing of supernal faculties on high.
Wool & linen, oxen & donkeys and meat & milk symbolize severity & kindness/love,
"The combination of two extremes that are opposites does not come out well," above.

It is hard to understand this explanation,
Because to bring peace to the world the Torah was given.
It is a wondrous achievement to bring opposites together,
To take the middle path we always endeavor.

The answer is that kindness and severity, in the realms that are holy,
Are considered to be a mixture of one type and can exist simultaneously.
Although they are opposites there is no opposition,
Because to serve Hashem, the King of kings, is their mission.

However, when it comes to matters that are worldly,
Where kindness and severity, feel that they exist independently,
Each emotion is at full strength, "there is no love in the place of fear,"
To two opposite species they compare.

When mixing two opposite things together,
There are two possibilities that can occur.

1. Each type nullifies themselves from a place of weakness which is unhealthy,
Like crossbreeding, which achieves peace but makes Hashem unhappy.

2. There are species that are combined with other species,
Like wool and linen, which symbolize opposite supernal faculties.
Even after being combined, they each remain steadfast in their prior state,
This nullification isn't openly visible, so conflict they create.

But when Hashem enters the picture for a Mitzvah so holy,
Hashem causes the combined opposites to exist in peace and unity,
As long as the order of creation the mixture doesn't undermine,
Shatnez can be used for Tzitzis and must be used for the Kohen's belt so fine.

In the world that we live in currently, only the physical layer we see,
From our perspective, cooking milk and meat creates a new entity,
But Rabbeinu Bachya saw a future vision,
When Moshiach comes, cooking milk and meat will no longer be a prohibition.

From Hashem's word that animates each object we will see clearly,
Cooking milk with meat doesn't tamper with kindness and severity's core identity.
In the Messianic world of holiness, seeing the true essence,
Will result in a state of peace and unity, which is wondrous!
