

SICHA POEM

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Va'eschanan, Sicha 2

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Before Moshe passed away,
He established cities of refuge for people to stay,
If they killed someone accidentally,
And from the avenger of blood they needed to flee.

"Then he shall flee to one of these cities and live,"
On the words "and live," an explanation the Sages of the Talmud give.
"A student who was exiled, his teacher is exiled with him," because it is implied,
That all the arrangements that will enable him to live, we must provide.

The Rambam records this rule and adds a bit,
"The life of those who possess knowledge and seek it,
When devoid of Torah study,
To death it is considered to be."

The Rambam's addition,
Answers the following question:
Into exile, why should the teacher go?
Why make him leave everything behind to help his student grow?

From the Rambam's words, there is no choice, it is clear,
We must send the teacher into exile, even if it doesn't seem fair,
Because with a matter of life and death we are dealing,
Since without Torah a person isn't living!

Usually, it's a student who isn't proper who is chosen,
To be put into the position of killing without intention,
But from the Talmud's perspective, it doesn't matter,
The teacher goes together with his student despite his character.

However, from the Rambam it seems that there are two requirements,
In order for teachers to go into exile with their students.
The first is that the student must "possess knowledge" and own it at his core,
The second is that he must "seek it," he must desire to understand more and more.

To answer this question,
The Rebbe teaches us the Rambam's intention.
The words "And seek it" aren't a second qualification that is necessary,
"Those who possess knowledge OR seek it," is what it means actually.

Two separate types of people, the Rambam is discussing,
Those who possess wisdom AND those who are at least seeking.
We believe that a person who yearns for Torah will possess wisdom in the future,
Because of the student's potential, to live for his entire stay, he needs his teacher.

The lesson and best advice for everyone,
Is that since a proper student we yearn to become,
"Make for yourself a teacher" who will invest,
In helping you be your best!

Our relationship with Hashem compares to the teacher/student link,
When we sin it is because we aren't using our life giving wisdom to think.
Our evil inclination is the avenger of blood and wants us to spiritually die,
But since Hashem goes with us into exile, that will never fly.

When the Galus is so dark we have no reason to despair,
Because Hashem is with us in our pain and suffering it is clear!
For Hashem's sake, He will bring the redemption,
In the blink of an eye, may it immediately happen!
