

SICHA STORY

PROJECT LIKKUTEI SICHOS | 5783 - YEAR OF HAKHEL



Likkutei Sichos, Volume 15

Vayeshev, Sicha 5 (Second Sicha of the week)

- Rabbi Yossi Nemes, Metairie, Louisiana

Sicha: Tamar wanted the Signet ring, as it contained Yehuda's unique seal, which, in this case, came together with his ring. The seal represents the revelation of Hashem and the G-dly energies that transcend nature, while the ring represents the natural order, טבעת מלשון טבע. The signet ring (combined) represents the name 'Hashem' which transcends nature, represented by miracles and the day of Shabbos, as it permeates nature and all six days of the week, להמשיך למעלה מן הטבע לטבע.

Chassidic Accounting Report

Rabbi Binyomin Kletzker, a chasid of the Alter rebbe, was a lumber merchant. One year, while he meticulously added up the annual accounts, he filled in the total: "Ein od milvado--There is nothing but Him."

Upon hearing of Reb Binyomin's 'bottom line', a fellow chasid criticized him for this "Don't you know, Reb Binyomin, that everything has its time and place?" he admonished. "There's a time for Chasidic ideas and a time to engage in worldly matters. A person's business dealings are also an important part of his service of the Almighty and must be properly attended to."

Reb Binyomin responded, "We consider it perfectly natural if, during prayer, one's mind wanders off to the fair in Leipzig. So, what is so terrible if, when involved in business, an 'alien thought' regarding the unity of G-d infiltrates the mind?"

If Reb Binyamin wished to dwell on the fact that there is nothing but G-d, why did he not spend his days in a study hall, meditating on Chassidus? But this is precisely the point: his objective was to connect his faith in Hashem with his work. Reb Binyamin was out there in the world, running his business successfully and keeping careful and accurate records—while all the while permeated with the awareness that there is nothing but Hashem. (See Likkutei Sichos Vol. 34, pages 111-112)

Business trips are also for... business!

My father, R' Yitzchak Nemes, A"H, used to travel for business to Central and South America.

Once, upon returning from a trip, my father had a birthday Yechidus. At the Yechidus he submitted a written report of his trip, describing putting on tefillin with people, securing an Israeli consulate with Mezuzos, and helping the communities he visited. The Rebbe read the report and remarked with a smile "Yitzchak, (on these trips) first business than Hafatza!" (Another version: "Yitzchak do not forget to do business!").
