

# SICHA STORY

PROJECT LIKKUTEI SICHOS | 5783 - YEAR OF HAKHEL



*Likkutei Sichos, Volume 21*

## Vayakhel, Sicha 2 (Second Sicha of the week)

- Rabbi Yossi Nemes, Metairie, Louisiana

*Section four discusses that when one does HIS Shlichus fully, based on the source of his soul, then his Avoda has reached Shleimus.*

*Section six discusses that when one was not constantly involved in Torah because he was engaged in helping others, Hashem will bless his learning "Naase mocho velibo zakin elef pe'amim kacha," his heart and intellect become refined a thousand-fold.*

*We bring here stories on these themes.*

### The Making of a True Gadol!

*My Mechutan Reb Shabtai Slavaticki Shared:*

When I was Bachur, still studying in Yeshivas Kol Torah, I had a friend who was a grandchild of one of the great Gedolim and Baalei Musser of the previous generation.

This Bachur had a challenging time with Gemara comprehension. Being that the Yeshiva placed a singular emphasis on becoming a Gadol in Torah, this Bachur felt unaccomplished and even second tier. The expectations of being from such an illustrious family added to his distress and he was feeling down, as he tried to figure out his mission in life, as he certainly would not be a Gadol.

When he confided in the Hanhala of the Yeshiva they assured him he had a purpose, even though he would not be a Gadol, perhaps because of a prior incarnate misdeed. In fact, they added, Klal Yisroel needs Ehrlich baal H'batim as well...

Of course, this did little to comfort the Bachur. Seeing his friend's pain, Shabtai convinced him to write a letter to the Rebbe, though this Bachur was from a distinguished litvishe family and, unlike Shabtai, had not started learning Chassidus.

He received an answer from the Rebbe (content not exact Lashon):

**הרי משנה מפורשת "אני לא נבראתי אלא לשמש את קוני" וכשמלא בשלימות שליחותו הפרטית  
בלשמש את קונו, הרי אין גדלות יותר מזה**

It is a Befirush Mishna to be aware that "I was created only to serve my maker." When one fully fulfills his individual Shlichus in serving Hashem, there is nothing greater (more Gadol) than this!

Shabtai attests that this Bachur, after receiving this answer, was like a new person full of Chayus and vigor.

### Power Hour X 1,000

*Rabbi Josh Gordon A"H, head Shliach of the Valley, shared:*

When I was sixteen, I could not decide if I should continue studying in yeshiva over the summer, or if I should go work with young children in a summer camp. It might sound silly to ask the Rebbe something like this, but it was important for me to do the right thing...

The Rebbe said, "Work in the summer camp." And the reason he gave was "Naase mocho velibo zakin elef pe'amim kacha," meaning that, through giving to others, one's heart and intellect become refined a thousand-fold.

A few weeks later, the Rebbe explained this teaching at a farbrengen. G-d grants us a gift when we set aside our concerns and devote ourselves to others, and then our heart and intellect become refined a thousand-fold. That means a person could spend a thousand hours studying and trying to reach a higher consciousness, but the one who devotes himself to others acquires the same consciousness within the hour.

This teaching impacted me for a lifetime, and I have shared it often with others in many venues.

*(Here's My Story)*

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*Rabbi Muleh Gurevich, Menahel of Bais Rivkah of Melbourne shared:*

When I was ten years old, my family escaped Russia, together with many Lubavitcher families. We made our way, via displaced persons camps in Europe, to Australia. There I studied and taught in a Chabad yeshivah in Melbourne, but all the while I yearned to go and learn overseas.

The idea of going overseas, to some exotic place, really appealed to my young mind. I was sure it would be better than Australia though I realize now that many consider Australia highly exotic. So, I wrote to the Rebbe asking permission to leave, but he did not answer my letters even though I wrote several times. Then, my mentor, Rabbi Abba Pliskin, agreed to petition the Rebbe on my behalf. The Rebbe's answer to him came immediately, and it was quite lengthy.

In brief, the Rebbe directed me to remain, explaining that there is a mitzvah that nobody else can do, to spread Judaism in Australia, and the proof that this is my mitzvah is that nobody else is doing it. He quoted the Alter Rebbe, the founder of Chabad, "If one does charity – material charity and charity in the spiritual sense (meaning giving of his time to teach others), then his mind and heart will become crystallized and refined one-thousand-fold." (Here's My Story)

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