

SICHA POEM

PROJECT LIKKUTEI SICHOS | 5783 - YEAR OF HAKHEL



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Chanukah

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There are three ways for how the Mitzvah of lighting the Menorah can be done,
Most basic is that in each home on each night, the amount of candles lit is just one.
So for the entire Chanukah festival,
Eight candles would be the grand total.

The Mehadrin, more advanced way is that on each night,
One candle, each member of the household, does light.
So if in a house there are ten men, you would see,
Each one lighting a total of eight, making the grand total for the entire Chanukah eighty.

The most advanced level, is that on each night the number of candles aren't the same,
According to Beis Hillel, the number of candles must increase, there must be a gain.
According to Beis Shamai, the number of candles does decrease, less and less,
Until the last night, when only one candle represents the Chanukah Nes.

There are two opinions in the Gemorah that are written,
That explain the reason behind Beis Hillel and Beis Shamai's level of מהדרין מן המהדרין.
Opinion #1 is that every night we increase a light to know how many days have passed already,
Or we decrease a light to know how many days are yet to come, marking the days is the priority.

Opinion #2, has nothing to do with the essence of Chanukah,
Each night we increase in light because of the principle that we increase in matters of Kedusha,
Or on each night we decrease a light because on the holiday of Sukkos we find,
That the amount of bulls that were brought up as sacrifices on each day declined.

According to the first opinion,
 To fulfill the **מהדרין מן מהדרין** obligation,
 The increase or decrease pertains to the most basic Mitzvah,
 Since we follow Beis Hillel, each household would increase light on one Menorah.

The additional candles that are in view,
 Are equally part of the Mitzvah and have the same value,
 As the first candle which does fulfill,
 The most basic level of Hashem's will.

According to the second opinion,
 To fulfill the **מהדרין מן המהדרין** obligation,
 The increase or decrease pertains to the advanced level of **מהדרין**,
 Since we follow Beis Hillel, we increase per person.

The additional candles that are in view,
 Represent the spiritual growth of the Jew.
 They are not connected to the essence of the Mitzvah,
 The emphasis is on the greatness of the person's Avodah.

This is necessary information,
 To make a Halachic decision,
 In different situations that could happen,
 Each opinion has a different plan of action.

If on the third night a person lit one candle because that is all he did own,
 And later on someone brings more candles to his home.
 Should he light two more candles with a Brocha?
 Although he already fulfilled the most basic level of the Mitzvah?

Yes, says the first opinion,
 Because the two extra candles are an integral part of the Mitzvah obligation.
 No, is the second opinion's view,
 The two candles are an addition that a Jew can choose to do.

If on the seventh night,
 Seven candles a person did light,
 But on night number eight he only has six candles in his possession,
 Should he light all six or just light one to fulfill the most basic obligation?

According to the first opinion,
To light all six candles is the correct action,
Because although it is true that you can't fulfil the essence of the Mitzvah perfectly,
Give Hashem whatever you have wholeheartedly.

According to the second opinion,
Which is all about the person,
Since the priority is to increase in light or at least not to decrease in light,
To light six candles which is less than the seven candles you lit yesterday isn't right.

The best thing to do in this case,
Is to stop the climbing higher race.
Go back to the most basic Mitzvah and light one candle only, to teach,
That we are here to fulfill Hashem's will and it's not about me and how high I can reach.
