

LIVING TORAH

SICHA – YUD KISLEV 5741

Free Translation*

פרשת זישלח

"Action is the main thing":

When one begins talking about the necessity to rekindle the soul of a Jew who seems to be a "night" Jew whose "soul of man which is a candle of G-d" does not shine, at least in some part of their lives,

He may suddenly realize: "What about my own situation?" Although he has studied the discourses of the Alter Rebbe, and the discourses of the Mitteler Rebbe, and the discourses of the following Rebbes, still, when it comes to "putting the ax to the tree," figuratively, when it comes to applying what he has learned to action, through the heart which pumps life to the entire body, he may realize that his learning did not shine through to there.

Upon realizing this failing, we may become depressed. The "wise" evil inclination immediately sees his opportunity and starts to convince him:

"If when you were in Yeshiva, without any worries or bothers, and were learning diligently, and still, when you went out into the world, the learning did not have a lasting effect, then what point can there be in putting your energies into reviewing the same discourse and the same interpretation with the intent of bringing it down to practical terms? You surely will not be studying it on the same level as you did when sitting under the true "vine and fig tree" – learning Torah – while in the Yeshiva."

"Therefore, better involve yourself in simple things: give a lot of charity, involve yourself in Mitzvah campaigns, run around hanging up signs and make a great tumult!. You can even do it for the sake of Heaven. But to remove yourself from who you've become, to return to being a "Yeshiva Student" despite the fact that your passport states your age as seventy or eighty years old, and that you are already an important businessman, and the bank thinks highly of you, that is not your job!"

And as proof, the evil inclination points to the person's own experience, for he sees that nothing was accomplished by his past efforts in this direction.

Comes along the story of the story of the Mitteler Rebbe's redemption and shows us a clear lesson to the contrary:

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There was a dissemination of the wellsprings of Chassidism beginning from 19 Kislev 1799 with the Alter Rebbe, and it continued in that manner until 1813.

Then the study was broadened like the "breadths of a river" through the dissemination of the wellsprings by the Mitteler Rebbe, and it went on for several years —all the way to 1827.

And even after all that there was a possibility for an imprisonment!

Why did G-d allow such a thing? And why are we told about it? What should the knowledge of this story lead us to?

To realize that even after all that, it is still necessary to work with oneself: to "spread the wellsprings outward" within oneself until they affect his own intellect and understanding.

The fact that you were not successful in the past is irrelevant; it is a new day, with a new combination of the letters of G-d's holy Names, and it is therefore possible that the study will practically affect not only others, but also his own actions, and not only be translated into practical actions, but also into Torah study.

Including the "action" within Torah study itself: Reaching the proper and practical Halachic ruling.

The same is true regarding study of the inner dimensions of Torah: Translating the study of Chassidism properly into both love and fear of G-d.

This relates to the famous saying of the Mitteler Rebbe, that when two young people — two Chassidim—meet, they should talk about matters regarding the highest and deepest levels of G-d's unity. There are several versions of the saying, but this is the point.

This is not something abstract, as the verse states: "It is not in the heavens, or across the sea." This is intended for every single person who knows about the Mitteler Rebbe, and who knows about his imprisonment and redemption.

And now on the day of Tenth of Kislev itself, the assistance towards achieving this goal, and therefore also the demand that it be fulfilled, is greatly enhanced.