



SICHA – LAG B'OMER 5743-1983

– *At the Parade* –

*Free Translation**

Until the day of Lag B'omer, there were negative occurrences with the students of Rabbi Akiva, who was also the teacher of Rabbi Shimon Ben Yochai, to the extent that they actually passed on. On the day of Lag B'omer, the plague ended and they stopped dying.

The cause of their misfortune was the fact that "they did not treat one another with respect," they did not act with the appropriate level of esteem toward one another as would be fitting for Rabbi Akiva's students. That is why they were punished.

Since this plague ended on Lag B'omer, obviously the cause for their passing ended as well. They had started treating each other with the respect that is due to a Jew in general, and particularly to a student of Rabbi Akiva.

This serves as a lesson for everyone, beginning from very young children.

A person's behavior in general, including the Mitzvot he does, consists of two categories: "Turn away from evil" and "Do good." Continual involvement in doing positive activities, "Do good," and taking the greatest precautions to avoid doing something bad.

This requires a special warning. It is human nature that after doing good toward someone else after doing a favor for another, providing him with charity, assisting him, and the like.

The person may think to himself, "Since I did him a favor it gives me a right not to be so concerned about him, and not to be careful about respecting him" since he already did him a favor. Especially if the favor was granted once, twice or many times.

Comes the lesson of Lag B'omer and teaches every one of us, and every one of you, and every single Jew and the entire world:

Even when God has allowed you the opportunity to help another boy –or, for a girl, another girl– and to help them with happiness and joy, and to the greatest extent possible,

At the same time you must be extremely careful, not only to not insult another child or another Jew or another person, but even to act with respect towards them, and to honor them.

*) Taken from the Subtitles that appear on the screen



פרשת תזריע-מצורע

It becomes easier and more understandable how this can be asked of every Jew, even of a small child,

When we consider that the other person is also a student of Rabbi Akiva, since he, too, studied Torah—"they are all according to Rabbi Akiva": the Oral Torah and commentaries are all based on the teachings that Rabbi Akiva taught to his students in his time, which they later transmitted to their students, until it reached us.

With this perspective, when one meets another Jew or another child, or with another person in general, one must immediately remember that this is also a student of Rabbi Akiva, and possibly an even greater student than himself.

The fact that he has the great merit to help the other person by fulfilling the commandment to "love your fellow as yourself" in speech or action, serves only to allow him the opportunity to be even more careful to honor this other Jew, other child, or person, and to do so with the greatest joy and gladness.

By remembering that every Jew is a student of Rabbi Akiva, and therefore also a colleague of Rabbi Shimon ben Yochai, and that every person was created by "the Creator," by God, this allows the person to fully show respect for every child, every Jew, and every person.

