



"THE JEWISH WOMAN"

Part One of Three: The Woman's Primary Mission

Farbrengen – 6 Tishrei, 5745-1984

Torah gives women the greatest possible mission in life. The greatest concern of the "Holy Nation," the People endowed with Torah, is to ensure that the generation that received the Torah at Mount Sinai, should be followed by a 2nd generation which will follow in their ways, and the second generation should be followed by a third, and so on.

How can there be a continuance to the generation that stood at Sinai? Only through women!

Not only are they the ones who can ensure this continuity, it is their holy task: In order to ensure the continuity of the People that stood at Mt. Sinai, we must be "fruitful and multiply," and this depends primarily on women.

Partnership of husband and wife is only at the beginning, but it is followed by nine months of pregnancy, its pain and discomfort, then labor and birth with its pains, and with this she fulfills an essential mission, not only for herself, but essential to the existence of the entire world, essential to the existence of the Jewish people, upon whose existence the Torah itself depends!

For the Torah "is not in the heavens;" it was given to people, and among its first commandments is to teach Torah to children.

It is plainly evident, even to non-Jews, that women were given the most essential and holiest purpose possible. They bear the children for nine months, despite the hardships involved, and they gladly fulfill G-d's will. They know also that through this they achieve their own fulfillment. No one, however great, can replace them, for G-d in His wisdom wished to entrust only women with this task.

Yet, there are women who exchange this mission: She calculates that she must be a woman who can earn money, and she needs to make a name for herself. And her truest, primary purpose – essential for our people and for the world – is postponed until "she has free time!"

Only after achieving all of the less important goals, and if she will still have the strength and time, and should G-d desire to give this blessing, only then will she begin to plan when she needs to have a child, how much she needs to have him, and how she needs to have him!

What is this deepest, most vital, purpose exchanged? With matters which relative to this mission, have no value at all; not in G-dly intellect, and not even according to common sense!



פרשת משפטים

Everyone knows that King Solomon, the wisest of all men, concluded the book of Proverbs with “A woman of valor, who can find?” Describing involvement in commerce — “She makes a cloak and sells it,”

This is praiseworthy when “*The dwelling of a princess is within,*” her commerce is done modestly, and when does she engage in business? Only after she is ‘praised by other women’ on this issue — she has fulfilled her primary purpose as a woman.

The Talmud says, “How do women become more deserving than men? by sending their children and husbands to study.” The wives of many Jewish sages engaged in commerce in order to support not only their children, but also the Torah study of their husbands. But this was only after she had children, and she observed Torah and Mitzvot with her husband.

With her consent, he devoted himself to Torah, and she, in a modest way, “like a princess within,” supported the family.

This is the way of the Torah of Truth, the Living Torah, which is a lesson in life.

To raise a daughter and, Heaven forbid, convince her that the way to fulfillment is by emulating her brother who is a successful businessman, or another brother in a different profession is not right. — First she must know that she is a woman, and she has a mission to be the Pillar of her Home. This doesn’t occur overnight, it requires preparation.

A girl must be educated about her most essential role— to marry and lead a Jewish home, a home that will raise sons and daughters who observe Torah and Mitzvot.

And the Almighty who, in his infinite goodness, kindness and compassion supports all, as he provides for billions in the world, will surely provide for the children He will bestow upon her his blessings, with “His full, open, holy and abundant hand.”

