



A Home Full of Holy Books *Farbrengen – 19 Kislev, 5733-1972*

Everyone should endeavor to have holy books in one's home, enabling one to study even at times when one is unable to borrow, or otherwise access, holy books.

And just as "a pleasant home, pleasant furnishings and a pleasant wife broaden one's mind," this too applies to "fulfilling Mitzvot beautifully." If one is able to have two holy books, it is better than one book; if one can place them in a prominent place, not to be embarrassed and hide them away, then one should do so, and "make the Mitzvot beautiful." As soon as one enters the house, before anything else – even before noticing the people present, one notices that it is not just a pleasant house, with a Mezuzah, but it also has "pleasant furnishings": holy books of the Written and Oral Torah, of both the revealed and hidden parts of Torah.

In general, this is a special merit for the woman of the house for generally the woman chooses the furniture.

So it is part of her role to insist on spiritual furnishings – vessels for G-d's word, G-d's Torah, as it is expressed in the Written and Oral Torah – which in our time has also been transcribed.

This should be the "beauty of the home"; that there be many beautiful holy books.

And this should not be done just to fulfill a requirement.

Rather, she should read the books, thereby influencing those who visit, and surely the home's inhabitants, to know of the home's true beauty; that when one needs to know a matter of Written or Oral Torah, a practical ruling, or simply to increase one's Torah knowledge – she, or the husband, son, father or brother, can go to the shelf, remove the book and study it.

Then it is "a home where the sound of Torah is heard," both at day, and even more so, at night, and thereby it elicits all the blessings this evokes, as discussed in the Talmud on the verse "Arise, call out at night." However, there is a difference here: Regarding other furnishings, the more perfect the better.

Regarding books, the opposite is true.

They should be frayed and torn.

Not, G-d forbid, to buy them in such condition, as the verse states, "This is my G-d and I will glorify Him" – a Mitzvah should be done in a beautiful way.



One should buy books that are printed nicely and bound beautifully, with all possible niceties.

But, upon bringing it home, all effort should be invested that the spines should become torn that the cover should be tattered, and the pages blackened from use.

And if you'll ask, "Mitzvot should be done with beauty," how can the book be in such condition? That should only be the biggest problem in one's Torah study and Mitzvot – how to have both these concepts at the same time! Both "Beauty in Mitzvot," and that one's Talmud, even a tractate studied infrequently, that it was bought nicely bound, but due to intense study, a relatively short period was like quite a long time; and it became tattered requiring one to think of replacing it with a new one.

This is not to contrary the afore-mentioned need for libraries, for two reasons: First, until every home acquires enough books some time will required, and one must be able to study Torah and access holy books at every moment, if one has not committed them to memory.

So until then we need the libraries.

And even if every Jewish home is filled with books, until Moshiach comes it is impossible for every Jew to have every single book of the Written and Oral Torah.

Therefore, there remains a role for libraries to fill: To stock those books which not everyone can afford – the libraries should be there to lend them.

And all together this will increase Torah study, the purpose of which is "knowledge of G-d." To know what G-d transmitted in His Torah for every Jewish son and daughter, His "holy nation," holy, through studying the holy Torah.

This achieves within each home, "to fill the world with the knowledge of G-d." The home is filled with knowledge of G-d, and this individual redemption brings about the general, complete, redemption.

And it will be recognized in the entire world: "The world will be filled with knowledge of G-d."

On 5 Teves, "the Victory of the Books," the Rebbe often urged people to buy Jewish books.

