

JEWS HAVE FAITH ONLY IN HASHEM

BULLETIN 3

THE FIGHT AGAINST IDOLATRY IN OUR TIMES THE HOLY COVENANT IS A PROTECTION AGAINST THE CRAZE FOR MONEY AND MATERIALISM

The Holy Covenant is a protection against the "face" of the Sitra Achra, the Other Side. This "face" of the Other Side is the craze for money and materialism which is a form of idolatry and the source of the darkness, depression and heaviness in the world. They are really a form of death. But through the Covenant we become bound to Godliness. In the joy of G-d's radiance we can attain true contentment, because the light of the Countenance of the King of Life shines upon us (LIKUTE ETZOT BY REBBE NACHMAN MIBRESSLOV)

AVOID SADNESS AT ALL COSTS FOR IT IS THE WEAPON OF THE EVIL IMPULSE TO CAUSE SEMINAL EMISSIONS

A person should be careful not to be sad or sigh. Sadness and sighing cause impurity, for this is the characteristic of So-and-So [Lillit], like her name [which has its root in sadness or wailing]. By adopting her ways, he gives her the power to do as she desires with him, because he is of her side. Besides the fact that the characteristic of sadness is very bad because it causes neglect of Torah and prayer, confusion of the mind, and increases laziness, thereby keeping a person from fulfilling the commandments and learning Torah. And this leads to quarreling over trivialities in his house, and causes him to be despised and loathed. Furthermore, it causes the Divine Presence to remove itself from being upon and within him. For the Divine Presence is called joy, and this man is bitter and full of sighing. And, if this were not enough, he is attaching himself to So-and-So, for this is her characteristic. She defiles him because he belongs to her. An indication of this is "sadness brings out seed" [etzev mazria zera, a play on Genesis (1: 11), eisev mazria zera, "plants that put forth seeds]." Therefore you, son of man, who have resolved with your mouth and in your heart to correct the foundation [i.e., the holy Brit], remove the evil from you and always be joyous. Perhaps you will merit that, when you are full of the joy of a mitzvah, you will become attached to the Divine Presence, which is called joy. Then you will not come to sin, "and you will know that your tent is at peace." (Job 5:24)

(Selected from Ethical Books, Chok le Israel)

Even when one has the need to talk to a woman, his eyes should look down and not look at her for any reason, because the life of a person depend on this, and this will be good for him in this world and in the World to Come.

(Tochachot Chayim, R Chayim Palaggi, Vaetchanan)

*Depression and anxiety are the main cause of sexual immorality.
The foundation of the Covenant lies in joy*

(LIKKUTE ETZOT)

Rebbe Nachman said, "Great atheism is coming to the world." Many times he told us that the world's many sins are resulting in great disbelief. Happy is he who is strong in his faith. The Rebbe said, that the fact that he is predicting this will not prevent this G-dlessness and confusion from increasing. Thousands of years ago, Daniel the prophet and others predicted that this would happen in the days before the Messiah. They said (Dan. 12:10), "Many will purify themselves and be refined, and make themselves shining white. The wicked will be evil, and only the wise shall understand." It has already been predicted that there will be great temptations before the Messiah's coming, where "many will purify themselves and be refined, and make themselves shining white" in faith. Fortunate indeed is one who resists these temptations and remains firm in his belief. He will be worthy of all the good promised to us by the prophets and sages of old. Knowing full well that this has already been predicted, it would seem ridiculous for one to succumb to any temptation to abandon his beliefs. It would seem obvious that every Jew would have enough intelligence to remain firm. But still it is a great trial. Many will fall away, and for this reason it is written that "the wicked will be evil." The Rebbe said, "Still, I am revealing this for the sake of the few faithful who will remain strong in their belief. They will certainly have great conflicts. But when they see that this has already been predicted, it will give them additional strength and encouragement." (Rebbe Nachman's wisdom 35)

SO EVEN IF YOUR RABBI RIDICULES YOU FOR KEEPING THE SHULCHAN ARUCH YOU SHOULD BE STRONG AND GO AHEAD FOR IT MAY BE THAT YOUR RABBI BELONGS TO THE EREV RAV AND HE JUST DOES NOT WANT YOU TO KEEP THE TORAH AS IT SHOULD BE FOR MAYBE HE WOULD BE EXPOSED AS A FAKE IN THE EYES OF THE OTHER CONGREGANTS WHEN THEY SEE THAT A COMMON PERSON KEEPS THE SHULCHAN ARUCH TO A GREATER EXTENT THAN THE RABBI. AND WE ARE NOT TALKING ABOUT PIOUS PRACTICES BUT WE ARE TALKING HERE ABOUT KEEPING THE SHULCHAN ARUCH, SPECIFICALLY CONCERNING THOSE AREAS WHERE THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS OF OUR TIME ARE LAX ABOUT. FOR EXAMPLE, TALKING IN THE SYNAGOGUE IN THE MIDDLE OF PRAYERS, DURING THE KADDISH, GIVING TORAH LESSONS TO MEN AND WOMEN WITHOUT A MECHITZA, HAVING A DEFICIENT MECHITZA IN SHUL, LOOKING AT WOMEN WHICH IS SOMETHING FORBIDDEN, ETC