

JEWS HAVE FAITH ONLY IN HASHEM

BULLETIN 34

Rambam writes in Mishne Torah Hilchot Deot 2:1

Those who are sick in the body taste the bitter as sweet and the sweet as bitter, and among the sick there are those who desire foods that are not fit to eat, such as earth and charcoal, and hate healthful foods such as bread and meat - all depending on how serious the sickness is.

Similarly, those who are morally ill desire and love bad traits, hate the good path, and are lazy to follow it. Depending on how sick they are, they find it exceedingly burdensome.

Isaiah [5:20] speaks of such people in a like manner: “Woe to those who call the bad good, and the good bad, who take darkness to be light and light to be darkness, who take bitter to be sweet and sweet to be bitter.” Concerning them, [Proverbs 2:13] states: “Those who leave the upright paths to walk in the ways of darkness.”

What is the remedy for the morally ill? They should go to the wise, for they are the healers of souls. They will heal them by teaching them [how to acquire proper] traits, until they return them to the good path.

“The reason a person’s health returns through taking medicines is that his soul sees that he is able to control himself and to act contrary to his physical desires and habits. Perhaps he is accustomed to eating bread and other foods, but now he curbs his desires and submits to a medical regime, taking bitter medicines for the sake of his health. His soul sees that he has the power to control his impulses in order to achieve a certain goal, and she therefore comes back to him in the hope that he will curb his desires for the sake of the true purpose — which is to carry out the will of the Creator” (Likutey Moharan 1, 268)

IT IS BETTER FOR A PERSON TO BE CONSIDERED A FOOL THROUGHOUT HIS ENTIRE LIFE BY MAN, THAN TO BE CONSIDERED WICKED FOR ONE MOMENT IN THE EYES OF G-D (MISHNA EDUYOT 5:6)

DID YOU NOTICE THAT THE FURTHER PEOPLE ARE FROM THE TRUTH THE MORE THEY CONSIDER SOMEONE WHO TURNS AWAY FROM EVIL TO BE A FOOL? REBBE NACHMAN, SEFER HA MIDDOT, EMET