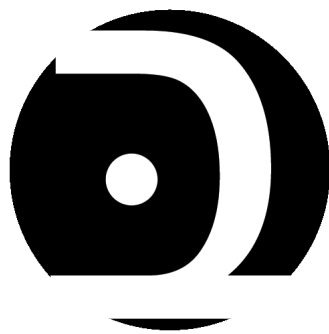


BILVAVI

**MY
HEART
ASKS**



QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

PARSHAS DEVARIM 5782

ISSUE 253



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TORAH IN AMERICA

There was a well-known disagreement between Reb Elchonon Wasserman zt”l and Reb Chatzkel Levenshtein zt”l if Torah can survive in America. Reb Chatzkel’s view was that America is so impure that a Torah Jew cannot thrive there, and he felt the impurity in the air of America on his short visit to America where he said that his *emunah* was affected just being for a short time in America, namely because of the pursuit of money and comfort which he sensed in the air of America. But Reb Elchonon zt”l told R’ Ahron Kotler zt”l that Torah will certainly thrive even in America. What was the root of these differing views of the Gedolim?

ANSWER

The Torah in its purity cannot remain intact in America, as we can see with what’s happening today in America. That is true for the *tzibbur* (for the Torah communities at large) in general, but of course there are *yechidim* (individuals) who can live a pure Torah life even in America.

QUESTION

2) The Gedolim in the previous generation in America disagreed about General Studies (English) in yeshivos. Reb Ahron Kotler and the Satmar Rebbe didn’t allow any english in yeshivos, but other Gedolim in America held that it was acceptable, so that parents will want to send their children to yeshivos, and so that the yeshivos will get money from the government, and also because there are some things that we should know such as math, writing, some science, biology, and a bit of history, etc. This is not a new opinion of

modern-day Rabbonim, it was a view of Gedolim in America in the previous generation. What I always struggled to understand is that we know that the Netziv closed down Yeshivas Volozhin so that there shouldn't be English in yeshiva. Were the Gedolim in America giving in to pressure and they couldn't be *moser nefesh* not to have english in yeshiva? Or do we say "*Eilu v'eilu*" (Their words and their words are the words of the living G-d, both of these views were correct)?

ANSWER

The light of the Torah in the world of *Atzilus* is a "world that is entirely good" (and which can be applied on an individual level to each of the 4 worlds), whereas light of the Torah in the worlds of *BiY" A* (Beriah, Yetzirah, Asiyah) is mixed with good and evil. This is the root behind the two differing views.

HEMMING & HAWING ABOUT MAKING ALIYAH

We had asked the Rav earlier about if we should move to Eretz Yisrael or push it off until it works out better for us, and the Rav responded "Don't push it off."

We are very close to our married daughter, who is expecting a baby. We feel that maybe we should wait on moving to Eretz Yisrael until after she has a baby. Although she won't be angry with us if we make aliyah now, she said she would love it if we stay a bit longer here and that she is fine if we do whatever we wish. We feel a bit torn. We really want to make aliyah to Eretz Yisrael, but we feel like we can't leave our daughter so fast, not until at least she has her baby. Is it recommended for us to push off our move of aliyah until a few months from now?

ANSWER

There are many obstacles to prevent a person from doing anything that's good. What you are describing is one of the possible scenarios.

You should be strong in having *emunah*, just as when the Jewish people had *emunah* to leave Egypt behind in order to go to Eretz Yisrael.

WIFE'S ROLE IN MARRIAGE

There are two views in the Gemara how woman (Chavah) was created, if she was originally back-to-back with Adam and they were split down the middle, or if she was originally a tail-end to Adam. What significance does

this have in terms of our soul, regarding the marriage connection between husband and wife?

ANSWER

The head is the beginning point, while the tail is the endpoint. On one hand, the wife is seen as the tail-end of her husband, as it is written, *"Your wife is like the thighs of your home."* In this regard, a wife is called the "vessel" and "wall" to her husband. One of the sages said, "It is enough that our wives save us from sin" – this is how the wife serves as a protective wall to her husband. One of the sages said, "A wife is only for children" – and in this way she is a vessel for her husband. But there is also a higher level of their connection, in which the wife has been created from the "head", symbolizing a connection in which the husband and wife are partners, both being equally important [through each fulfilling their roles], and of this aspect it is said that husband and wife are "beloved friends" to each other.

KOSHER GAME-BOYS Recently in the last few years there are some stores which sell "kosher" devices of entertainment, such as a Game-Boy which has between 100 and 200 games on it for children to play with, designed for a Chareidi (frum) person to use. They call it a "kosher Game-Boy". Is it fine to give to our children?

ANSWER

It is proper to stay away from it as much as possible, and to do this sensibly.



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