

SHAILOS L'CHAZARA

Review Questions

Likkutei Sichos Vol. 20

לקוטי שיחות · חלק כ

Parshas Lech Lecha (Ben Pazi)

פרשת לך לך · שיחה ב

1 sicha in this booklet

Sicha 1: The Master of the Gold · vol. 20 pp. 45–53, §§1–14

Name: _____

Class: _____

★ easy ★★ medium ★★★ harder

Each sicha has questions, a true chassidishe story, and a lesson for you.

The Master of the Gold

אל תירא אברם ... שכרך הרבה מאד

Likkutei Sichos vol. 20, Parshas Lech Lecha, Sicha 2, pp. 45-53, sections 1-14. From a sicha of Shabbos Parshas Lech Lecha 5741 (1980).

The point: *Avraham served only out of love, so why did Hashem promise him "s'charcha harbeh me'od"? The Zohar's story of Rabbi Yossi ben Pazi explains: inside even "shelo lishmah" is "lishmah." A true servant of Hashem wants reward only to add kavod Shamayim, and becomes the master ("ben") over the gold ("paz").*

Name: _____

Date: _____

QUESTIONS ★ easy ★★ medium ★★★ harder

1. ★ What was Avraham afraid of after the war with the kings, according to Rashi?

2. ★★ Why is that hard to understand?

3. ★★ Why can't we answer that reward was just a "sign" that his avodah was complete?

4. ★ Tell the Zohar's story in short.

5. ★★ Give two questions the Rebbe asks on this story.

6. ★★★ What are the two kinds of reward for learning Torah?

7. ★★ What is allowed and not allowed in “taking” from Torah?

8. ★★★ So why did Rabbi Abba want to punish him? Why does the Zohar mention that Yossi was a “rovak” (single)?

9. ★★★ What is the deeper meaning of “mitoch shelo lishmah ba lishmah”?

10. ★★ Why doesn't this work for someone who learns “to annoy others” (l'kanter)?

11. ★★★ What did the bas kol (“gavra rabba lehevei”) reveal?

12. ★★ Why did he give back the cup, and what does “ben Pazi” really mean? How does this answer the question on Avraham?

A CHASSIDISHE STORY

The Coins That Shone

Reb Gavriel of Vitebsk, a chassid of the Alter Rebbe, had once been a rich merchant, but hard times had destroyed his fortune. At that time the Alter Rebbe was raising large sums to free Jewish prisoners (pidyon shevuyim), and Reb Gavriel was expected to give a certain amount. He didn't have it, and he was heartbroken.

His wife, Chana Rivkah, sold her pearls and jewelry, polished the coins until they sparkled, and with a heartfelt tefillah sent them with her husband to the Rebbe.

When the package was opened, the coins shone with an amazing brightness. The Alter Rebbe said: “Of all the gold, silver and copper that the Jews gave for the Mishkan, nothing shone but the kiyor (washbasin), made from the women's mirrors, given with mesirus nefesh and joy. Where did you get these coins?”

When he heard, he blessed the couple with children, long life, wealth and chein, and told Reb Gavriel to deal in diamonds and precious stones. He became rich, had sons and daughters, and was called “Reb Gavriel Nossei Chein.”

Source: *Yitschak Meir Kagan, “The Coins Shone” (chabad.org), from Hatamim vol. 2 p. 628*

Think: Who was the real “master of the gold” here? Why did these coins shine?

THE LESSON FOR YOU

It's OK to enjoy a prize for learning, because deep inside, your neshamah wants the Torah itself. But be the boss over the prize: before learning, think "I'm learning because it's Hashem's Torah," and use what you get for kedushah.

For example: Your rebbi gives a prize or money for finishing a masechta or knowing mishnayos by heart. Go for it! But when you get it, put part in the pushka, and remember why you learned: Torah in your heart, gold in your hand.

My turn: What prize am I working for? What part will I give to tzedakah?
