



חסידי הראשונים

Stories of the Early Chassidim

Reb Menachem Monish (Monye) Monyeszohn

Reb Menachem Monish Monyeszohn, known as Reb Monye, was a Chossid of the Rebbe, the Tzemach Tzedek. After the passing of the Tzemach Tzedek he was mekushar and very close to the Rebbe Maharash, and then to the Rebbe Rashab. He was a businessman who dealt with precious stones, and was very rich. He was a very big Chosid, and spent many hours each day learning and davening (see story below). The Rebbe Maharash once told him to review a certain maamar four hundred times. So he rented himself a room in a hotel and stayed there until he finished. He was zoche to accompany the Rebbe Maharash on some trips he took (including the one spoken about in the Rebbe's Maamar Basi LeGani).

Once when Reb Monye Monyeszohn, who was a rich diamond dealer, was sitting together with the Rebbe Rashab, the Rebbe spoke very highly about some simple unlearned Jews.

“Why do you make such a fuss about them?” Reb Monye asked the Rebbe. “Each one of them has many special qualities”, explained the Rebbe. “I can’t see any of these qualities”, said Reb Monye.

The Rebbe Rashab remained silent. A while later, he asked Reb Monye if he had brought his package of diamonds with him. Indeed, Reb Monye had brought the diamonds, but asked the Rebbe if he could show them later, when they could be seen at their best advantage.

Later, Reb Monye took the Rebbe into a different room and arranged the diamonds for him to see. Reb Monye pointed to one gem in particular, showing its beautiful color and quality.

“I can’t see anything special in it”, the Rebbe said. “That is because you have to be a “maven” (an expert in this thing; a *connoisseur*) to know how to look at diamonds!” explained Reb Monye.

“Every Jew, too, is something beautiful and special”, the Rebbe said. “But you have to be a “maven” to know how to look at him”.

[Said by the Friediker Rebbe – Sefer Hasichos 5703]

Reb Monye was a big merchant in precious stones and he used to business also with government ministers. Nevertheless, he did not start his business day until he had first learned Chassidus, then davened, and then learned a shiur after davening, which would take him till after midday.

Once, people came to him with a big order, from which he would be able to make a lot of money. But Reb Monye was not available at the time, because he was still in the middle of his davening and learning. So the people waited a while, until it was already after 2:00 pm. At that time, one of Reb Monye’s family members came to him and told him that people are waiting with a big order etc.

Reb Monye answered "מ'לאזט א אידן ניט לעבן" They don't let a Yid “live”, I did not yet put on Rabbeinu Tam’s Tefillin, and "מ'דרייט מיר שוין א קאפ" they are already confusing me (dreying me a kop) about diamonds! [Told by the Rebbe on Shabbos Bamidbar 5712, Toras Menachem-Hisvaaduyos Vol 5, page 207]