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חסידי הראשונים

Stories of the Early Chassidim

IN MERIT OF HIS SAYING TANYA

In connection with the Mishnayos Baal Peh prize-giving this past Sunday, and in connection with the Siyum of the first part of Tanya this week, we are printing this story, from which we can see the importance and the special zechus that comes with learning and saying Tanya Baal Peh.

From time to time, the Rebbe Maharash, as did all the Rebbeim, used to have עליית הנשמה, and go to the עולמות עליונים, to the spiritual worlds.

There he would see what was going on with the neshamos and malochim, and he would be able to help the Yidden on earth by his visits and what he achieved there.

One time, when the Rebbe Rashab was younger, he did something special. As a reward for this, his father, the Rebbe Maharash, told him that the next time he would go up to the higher worlds, he could come along.

When the time came, the Rebbe Rashab went to his father and they went up to the higher worlds. They went together until a certain point, at which the Rebbe Maharash told his son, "You can not go any further than here. So I will continue myself and you stay here until I come back."

While the Rebbe Rashab was waiting, he was looking around and he saw a room that was very bright and shiny. He wondered which special neshama is in this room that it is shining so brightly. When he looked inside, he saw a yid that was sitting there, and the Rebbe Rashab recognized and knew who he was. He was a simple yid, one of the Chassidim of his father, who had passed away recently.

But one thing was puzzling. This man, as the Rebbe Rashab knew him, was a very simple man, and how is it that he is sitting in Gan Eden in such a bright, shiny room. Seemingly, only a Tzadik would be zoche to be in a room like this.

When his father came back, the Rebbe Rashab asked him, "How is it that this simple Yid is in such a special, bright room?"

The Rebbe Maharash answered and explained to his son, the Rebbe Rashab.

You are right. This Yid is simple and not on such a high level. But there was one thing he did, that earned him this special place in Gan Eden. He knew Tanya perfectly, and he would constantly review the words of Tanya.

It is these words of Tanya that he would always review and say that created this special room for him.

[Told by the Rebbe at the Farbrengen of Parshas Mishpatim 5714]

The Rebbe learns the lesson from this story:

We see that even if someone does not understand what he is learning, he can still shine and be in a very lofty place etc. The thing is that then he would be like he is sitting there with eyes closed, so he is not really getting the most out of it. But if you want to be in the shiny place and really enjoy it, you need to understand what you are learning.

What if it is hard for you to learn and understand? The Rebbe gives 2 ideas. 1) To really try very hard. And we are promised that if you try hard you will succeed יגעתו ומצאתו תאמין. 2) Another idea is to give Tzedakah. (Physical tzedakah and also helping someone in Ruchniyus, learning or doing Mitzvos). Through this, the Alter Rebbe promises that , נעשים מוחו ולבו זכים אלה פעמים ככה, your mind becomes 1000 times clearer.