



RABBI AARON

Editor, Torah Tidbits

GOLDSCHIEDER

As we usher in the profound Shabbat experience of Chazon and the intense observance of Tisha b'Av we are meant to utilize this time to introspect and set our thoughts on working towards achieving greater unity among Am Yisrael. We are fortunate to have had in our midst Gedolim who modeled behavior that we must continue to emulate, especially at this time of year.

Let us contemplate the following inspirational stories and consider their relevance for our own lives.

Tikunim and Ascent

The eminent *Admor of Talne*, Rebbe Yochanan Twersky (1906-1981) during his young adult years lived in Israel and merited to forge a close bond with Rav Kook. Sadly, he often witnessed first-hand staunch opposition and, at times, vicious attacks on Rav Kook. He once said, “What impacted me most about his personality was his ability to be *maavir al midotav*, not to hold a grudge and to be entirely forgiving. I saw many great Rabbis and *Admorim* in my day but none possessed the heightened degree of compassion and



forgiveness that Rav Kook embodied. This is an attribute we strive to emulate.”

The Talne Rebbe added this note: “It is well known that the Kabbalistic tradition teaches that one can attain highest states of spiritual ascent (*tikunim*) through fasting and self affliction (*sigufim*). But in my mind, all of these methods do not compare to the power of a single time that one sincerely forgives one who has caused pain and has been hurtful. This is the greatest *tikun* of them all. Rav Kook was such a person who excelled in this area (*Heichal Haahava*, p.241).

In a similar vein, consider the following episode related by Rav Kook’s beloved *chaver* and colleague, Rav Aryeh Levin, ‘The Tzadik of Yerushalayim’:

There were many times that Rav Kook was relentlessly harassed and vilified by certain ultra-Orthodox groups. They were intent on embittering his life. They stalked him,

mocked him and would post defamatory notices all over Jerusalem. Rav Aryeh Levin’s daughter was once standing on a balcony in *Meah Shearim* and saw Rav Kook pass below on his way to deliver a shiur in the synagogue nearby. She was horrified to see and hear a group of zealots jeering and even went so far as to close him in and knock his fur hat onto the ground. “The site of

this,” said Reb Aryeh Levin, “tormented her for days afterwards and she could not help recalling this painful event.”

“I said to myself: I must go and see Rav Kook and give him encouragement in the midst of this difficult and tense time. Knowing that Rav Kook was occupied every second of the day, I thought it would be best to visit him late at night. I entered the *beit midrash* of Yeshivat Mercaz HaRav, where I found him immersed in study, utterly oblivious to my presence. I sat on a bench and began learning while I waited. There was no one there apart from Rav Kook and myself.

Rav Kook suddenly looked up and noticed me. He knew why I had come. ‘Believe me,’ he said, ‘it is especially during trying times that I merit a surge of Divine help in my studies and *Chidushei Torah* [new interpretations of the Law]. I see the words of

Kohelet spring forth to life: “God seeks those who are persecuted (*Kohelet* 3:15).”

Evidently, along with Rav Kook’s ability to withstand the torment of others, he used such times to seek God’s closeness. He was able to transform such times of turmoil into inspirational experiences that served to enhance his abstract perceptions and spiritual ascendance. (‘A Tzaddik For Eternity,’ Raz, pp. 259-261) ■



CASH 4 GOLD

We buy your Gold & Silver

Personal home service - 30 years experience

We also buy silverware, gold & silver coins!
Please send me a picture to **Whatsapp** for free appraisals

972-54-219-2428 Follow Us
mail: absaffran@gmail.com On Facebook

I pay cash! I will meet you where you want! Customer service!



APPLY YOUR RABBINIC/ SECULAR DEGREE TOWARD:

AN ACCREDITED MASTERS OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION - MBA

► Begins in August

AN ACCREDITED MS IN CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING

► Begins in August

EARN YOUR DEGREE THROUGH ONLINE COURSES

USA 917-209-8204 | theYIEP@gmail.com **WWW.THEYIEP.COM**

ISRAEL 054-206-0385 | YIEP36@gmail.com

BELLEVUE UNIVERSITY
Bellevue University is accredited by The Higher Learning Commission, a regional accreditation agency

YIEP
YESHIVA INITIATIVES EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

HAVE YOU LEARNED IN YESHIVA OR KOLLEL?

CALL YIEP TO DISCUSS YOUR ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITY

ADDITIONAL MAJORS ARE AVAILABLE