

EXCERPTS FROM REMARKS BY THE LUBAVITCHER REBBE


של י"ט א"

TO THE MEMBERS OF
MACHNE ISRAEL SPECIAL DEVELOPMENT FUND
5 TISHREI, 5748

Every occurrence has a particular connection with the time and place in which it occurs in the scheme of things ordained by Divine Providence to the last detail (*Hashgocho Protis*). So, too, it is by Divine Providence that we meet here today, at the beginning of the new year, which - this year - has the additional significance of being a Year of *Hak'hel*.

In olden days, in the time of the Beis Hamikdosh, we should have been busy at this time with the exciting preparation for the extraordinary event which takes place only once in seven years at the beginning of the new year that follows the Year of Shemittah (as this year). This was the convocation (*Hak'hel*) of all the people, men, women, and children, even toddlers, in the Beis Hamikdosh during the Festival of Succos, in order to hear selected passages from the Torah read by the king. The purpose of it was to inspire all the people with a heightened sense of fear and awe of HaShem that translated into a more dedicated commitment to the way of the Torah and Mitzvos in their everyday life and conduct. The experience of that most solemn occasion, intensified by the holiness of the place and time, face to face encounter with the king, etc., left an indelible impression which continued to inspire everyone in all days ahead.

In our time, in the absence of the physical Beis Hamikdosh, we are precluded from fulfilling the Mitzvah of *Hak'hel* in its *physical* format. However, we can still carry it out in a *spiritual* way here and now and everywhere, by implementing the spirit and message of *Hak'hel*, namely, by reaffirming our resolve to adhere more closely to the way of the Torah and Mitzvos in our personal life, while, at the same time, also "assembling" - reaching out to - our fellow Jews, men, women and children, who are within our reach and sphere of influence, to have them share with us in the Mitzvah of *Hak'hel* in its inner concept and essence.

Our meeting here today, indeed, surely reflects this resolve and fortified commitment, 

I trust you will "go from strength to strength," and will thus make my work easier, too. This should not be the real reason for doing so; the real reason is because Tzedakah and good deeds are the will of Hashem. By making my work easier you will also increase my appetite, so as not to be satisfied with your past and present achievements.

We have HaShem's assurance that such a resolve - especially when backed by strong affirmative action in the past and even greater ambitions in the future - already brings forth G-d's blessing for utmost *Hatzlocho*, together with abundant blessings for health, prosperity, and the fulfillment of one's heart's desires for hood in all needs.

May HaShem bless you and everyone of us in the midst of our Jewish people to go from strength to strength in all above, thus further increasing the *chasimo ugmar chasimo tovo* to the fullest measure, both materially and spiritually.

* *perhaps* of us being a King, a person of influence on the behavior of a considerable large groups of "men women, and children"

If he claims that he was born with this nature, this is indeed all the more reason to reassure him that no disparagement was meant, for it is no different from the case of one who was born with the tendency to bang his head against the wall. Do we shame that unfortunate one?! Nevertheless, everything must be done to remedy the situation. And dubbing the deviation with some Greek term or, calling it an "alternative life-style" will not in the least influence the seriousness of the problem.

The

This question must be answered: Does this type of relationship contribute to human civilization? Does it, at least, benefit the individual? Is it *truly satisfying* after the act? Or, does it *only provide momentary gratification*? And furthermore — this point should be carefully pursued: Are all his/her protestations about the "great pleasure" and "satisfaction" derived from this relationship really *true*? Or, ~~has he~~ just been saying this for so long that now ~~he~~ is not willing, or is ashamed, to admit that ~~he~~ is wrong!

he/she

In G-d's world of goodness and justice, when one comes to purify and be purified, he is assisted from Above. Despite the misguided way of the past, everyone has the capacity to change. People who open their eyes and realize their error, will ~~very likely~~ *voluntarily* accept the truth.

at the end

All civilized society accepts the said tendency as a perversion, and although in the past there were pagan tribes and "orders" which included these practices in their idolatrous rituals, history has shown that their memory is lost and their customs have vanished!

A special responsibility lies on the parents, educators and counsellors to educate those afflicted with this problem, ~~not~~ to "spare the rod," and at the same time, to take a *loving*, and *caring* attitude by extending a helping hand.

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Government Must See the Truth: Not Human "Rights" but Human Ills

Recently, this whole matter has become a cause celebre in our city, and certain well-meaning people have pursued the issue from a misplaced point of view.

A bill was introduced (and passed) to protect the "rights" of people who profess these "deviant lifestyles." This bill of