

דע, כַּשְׂצַדִּיק גָּדוֹל אֱמֶתִי מִגְּלָה תוֹרָה, חֲדוּשִׁים

When a True Tzaddik Reveals Torah

THE TEACHING

When a great and true tzaddik (צַדִּיק גָּדוֹל אֱמֶתִי) reveals Torah, “חֲדוּשִׁים נִפְלְאִים וְנוֹרָאִים”, wondrous and awesome new teachings, it is good for those smaller in stature too. Through it a small person grows, “שֶׁחֶלֶל רָצִים וּבָאִים אֵלָיו”, “for everyone comes running to him.”

It happens even on the other side (סְטֵרָא אַחֲרָא). When Hashem gave the Torah to Israel, “בָּאוּ כָּל הָאֻמּוֹת לְבִלְעָם”, “all the nations came to Bilaam”, as the Sages relate, and so Bilaam grew great through the giving of the Torah.

MAIN POINTS

- A great tzaddik's new teachings raise up the small ones too, because people come running to them.
- The nations came to Bilaam and asked him about the great noise; the Rebbe brings the pasuk “ה' יִמְכּוֹל יִשָּׁב” (תהלים כט:), “Hashem sat at the Flood.”
- Bilaam stood on a pasuk (פָּסוּק) and taught them: “ה' עֹז” (תהלים כט:יא), “Hashem gives strength” to His people.
- Israel, who are in holiness (קִדְשָׁה), do not go to Bilaam and his like, Heaven forbid.
- But when a true tzaddik reveals awesome teachings and there is a great stir (רֵעַשׁ גָּדוֹל), people gather around someone small and listen to what he says on some verse, because of the stir the great tzaddik made.

A PRACTICAL TAKEAWAY · OUR OWN REFLECTION

When something awakens your thirst for Torah, notice it. And go to the true source, not only to whoever happens to be near.

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