

יש בני-אדם שאומרים, שפשה צדיק גדול במעלה, מחמת

The Greater the Tzaddik, the Closer He Sees

THE TEACHING

Some say that a very great tzaddik (צדיק), because of his greatness, cannot watch over and look at the people of the world, for he is far from the world. “ובאמת אינו כן”, “in truth it is not so”: on the contrary, the greater the tzaddik, the more he can watch over (להשגיח) and look at the world.

Hashem Himself is exalted far above the world, and yet He watches over all of it with individual providence (השגחה פרטית). And one who is “nothing” (אין) has no place at all, so there is no place where he is not.

MAIN POINTS

- Rabban Yochanan ben Zakkai, far greater than the tzaddikim of our time, said: “אוי לי אם אמר, אוי לי אם לא אמר”, “woe to me if I say it, woe to me if I do not” (Mishnah Keilim 17:16).
- He knew the world so well that he feared to say words of Torah, lest tricksters (רמאים) learn trickery from him.
- So the greater the tzaddik, the more he can watch over the world, just as Hashem, exalted above all, watches over every detail.
- One who is “something” (יש) cannot be everywhere at once; when he is occupied in some service of Hashem, he cannot look at the world.
- But “מי שהוא אין, אין מקום שלא יהיה שם”, “one who is nothing, there is no place where he is not.”
- So the more the tzaddik is included in nothingness, the more he sees; one cannot say he is high and far from the world, for he has no place at all.

A PRACTICAL TAKEAWAY · OUR OWN REFLECTION

Don't think you are too small for the tzaddik or for Hashem to notice. The greater one is, the closer he sees.

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