

טעם על שבירת כלי חרס בשעת השדוך

Why We Break a Plate at the Shidduch

THE TEACHING

Why is an earthenware vessel (כלי חרס) broken at the time of the shidduch (שדוך)? Rebbe Nachman gives two hints in it for a new home.

One must be very, very careful not to send away one's wife. Chazal teach "שלושה אינם רואים פני גיהנום", "three do not see the face of Gehinnom", and one of them is a man with a difficult wife. What does it come to teach? "לקבולי באהבה": to accept it with love.

MAIN POINTS

- The commentators notice: just before this the Gemara lists three things that push a person against his own mind and his Maker's, and there the point is to plead for mercy. Here it does not say that, because these three must be accepted with love (באהבה), since through them one is spared Gehinnom.
- In Jerusalem was the Potsherd Gate (שער החרסית), where broken shards were thrown, as Rashi explains, and it stood opposite the entrance of Gehinnom: "וַיֵּצְאוּתָּהּ אֶל גִּי בֶן הַנֶּחֱם אֲשֶׁר פָּתַח שַׁעַר הַחֲרָסִית" (ירמיה יט:ב), "go out to the valley of Ben Hinnom, at the entrance of the Potsherd Gate."
- Chazal teach: "שְׁתֵּי תְּמָרוֹת יֵשׁ בְּגִי בֶן הַנֶּחֱם, וְעוֹלָה עֲשׂוֹן מִבֵּינֵיהֶן", "there are two palm trees in the valley of Ben Hinnom, and smoke rises between them", and that is the entrance of Gehinnom.
- So the broken plate hints to the groom: if she proves a difficult wife, be careful not to betray her; accept it with love, and you will not see the face of Gehinnom.
- And if she is a good wife, know and remember that there is a Gehinnom. Don't be drawn after your desire (תאוה), and sanctify yourself as is fitting.

A PRACTICAL TAKEAWAY · OUR OWN REFLECTION

The broken plate is a reminder for the whole marriage: in hard times, patience and love; in good times, holiness. And for real difficulties at home, speak to a Rav.

<https://breslovai.com/tinyana/090/>

These shiurim were created with the help of AI and may contain errors. Please check with a rav or the original text before relying on them. English text is our own paraphrase of the Hebrew; the takeaway is our own reflection, not a quotation. Quotations are in Hebrew from the original text, with their sources.

השיעורים נוצרו בעזרת בינה מלאכותית ועולים להכיל טעויות.



Scan for the videos
לשיעורים