

דע, נשיש חלוקים בין התורות, כי יש

What May Be Written, and What May Not

THE TEACHING

Torah teachings (תורות) differ. Some were not given even to be expounded; some were given to be taught aloud but not to be written; and some were given to be written.

One who can tell which teachings may be written and which may not can recognise a Jew among the nations, even one Jew standing among many. For the heart of the difference between Israel and the nations is the Oral Torah (תורה שבעל פה), and every Jew carries a share of it.

MAIN POINTS

- As Chazal said: “דְּבָרִים שֶׁבְּעַל פֶּה אֵי אֵתָהּ רִשְׁאֵי לְאַמְרֵם בְּכָתֵב” (גיטין ס:), “words said by mouth, you may not set down in writing.”
- The secret is hinted in the verse “אֶכְתֹּב לוֹ רַבִּי תוֹרָתִי כְּמוֹ זֶר נֶחֱשָׁבוּ” (הושע ח:יב), “I write for him the many things of My Torah; they are counted as strange.”
- When more is written than is fitting, what was not given to be written, then “כְּמוֹ זֶר נֶחֱשָׁבוּ”: the Jew can no longer be recognised and seems like a stranger (זר), and a stranger may be mistaken for a Jew.
- The Oral Torah was given because it was foreseen that in exile the nations would copy the Written Torah (תורה שבעל פה) for themselves; what is by mouth they cannot copy.
- So the main advantage of Israel is the Oral Torah, what was not given to be written. Every Jew has a share in it, and one who can tell the written from the unwritten can tell Israel from the nations.

A PRACTICAL TAKEAWAY · OUR OWN REFLECTION

Not everything holy can be put on a page. Some light lives in a living voice, in a teacher, a niggun, a family's ways, and every one of us carries some of it.

<https://breslovai.com/tinyana/028/>

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 ועלולים להכיל טעויות.



Scan for the videos
לשיעורים