

מה שאנו רואים, שכל הנגידים הגדולים, כמעט

Why Wealth Unsettles the Mind

THE TEACHING

A short observation of the Rebbe: the great magnates (הנגידים הגדולים), almost all of them, are truly mad (משגעים ממש). Anyone who is rich carries some great madness (שגעון גדול).

The reason: “המון עושה אותו משגע”, “the money makes him mad.” Money comes from the fallen wealth of the prophets (נפילת העשרות של הנביאים).

MAIN POINTS

- All the prophets were wealthy, as Chazal say: “כל הנביאים עשירים היו” (נדרים לח.), “all the prophets were wealthy.”
- When prophecy (נבואה) came upon a prophet, he was like one beside himself (כמו משתגע). So Rashi explains the pasuk in Shmuel: “ויתנבא – ואשתטי”, “and he prophesied” means “he acted wildly.”
- With the rich, that same force, fallen, comes through the money as complete madness (שגעון גמור), and so their wealth makes them unbalanced.

A PRACTICAL TAKEAWAY · OUR OWN REFLECTION

Money carries a power that comes from very high. If we hold it lightly, and give of it, it does not have to unsettle us.

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