

הסתכלות פני הצדיקים לבד הוא גם כן דבר

Even Seeing the Tzaddik

THE TEACHING

A short teaching about simply seeing a tzaddik. Merely looking at the face of the tzaddikim (הסתכלות פני הצדיקים) is also a very great thing.

For the Sages said that a Torah scholar (תלמיד-הקם) is greater than the Torah (תורה) itself. And if the light in the Torah brings a person back to good, all the more so the light of the tzaddik.

MAIN POINTS

- The proof: “כמה טפשי שאר אנשי, דקימו מקמי ספר תורה ולא קימו מקמי גברא רבא” (מכות כב:), “how foolish are people who stand up before a Torah scroll, yet do not stand up before a great man.” So the Torah scholar is greater than the Torah.
- Of the Torah the Sages said, “המאור שבה מחזירו למוטב”, “the light within it brings him back to good.”
- All the more so the light of the tzaddik (אור הצדיק): just looking at him helps greatly toward holiness (קדשה).
- Speaking with him is surely better still, but even the seeing alone is a great thing (דבר גדול).

A PRACTICAL TAKEAWAY · OUR OWN REFLECTION

Go to be near the tzaddikim and the true talmidei chachamim. Even if you exchange no words, just being in their presence leaves a mark on the soul.

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