

הַדַּעַת מְשַׁדֵּךְ כָּל הַשְּׂדוּכִים, כִּי כָּל הַשְּׂדוּכִים

Daas Makes Every Match

THE TEACHING

Rebbe Nachman teaches that daas (דַּעַת), true understanding, arranges every match:

“הַדַּעַת מְשַׁדֵּךְ כָּל הַשְּׂדוּכִים”. Every match (שְׂדוּךְ) joins two opposites (שְׁנֵי הַפְּכִים), and daas stands in the middle and brings opposites together. So all the world's matches come about through the person of daas, the בְּרִי-דַעַת.

Sometimes it is hard to find one's match (זוּוג), because the two sides are very far apart. The remedy is to come to the person of daas and hear Torah from his own mouth.

MAIN POINTS

- As long as daas is only in potential (בְּכַחַת), it cannot always join two sides that are very far apart.
- When he speaks Torah, daas goes out: “מִפִּי דַעַת וְתְבוּנָה” (משלי ב:ו), “from His mouth come knowledge and understanding.” Once daas moves from potential into action (מִכַּחַת אֶל הַפַּעַל), it can join even great opposites.
- The letters of שְׂדוּךְ begin the words “כִּי שִׁפְתֵי כֹהֵן יִשְׁמְרוּ דַעַת וְתוֹרָה” (מלאכי ב:ז), “the lips of the kohen guard daas, and Torah...”, and the verse goes on “יִבְקְשׁוּ מִפִּיהוּ”, “they seek from his mouth”: Torah must be sought from his mouth specifically.
- Why Torah, and not just his ordinary words, which also hold daas? Because the Torah is called a bride (כַּלָּה): “אַל תִּקְרִי מוֹרָשָׁה, אֲלֵא מְאָרְסָה” (פסחים מט:), “do not read ‘inheritance’ but ‘betrothed.’” And the Torah too holds two opposites, two kinds of letters.
- Words of Torah are “עֲנִיִּים בְּמָקוֹם זֶה וְעֲשִׁירִים בְּמָקוֹם אֲחֵר” (לוי יצחק), “poor in one place and rich in another.” The tzaddik gathers them from scattered, distant places and joins them, and a new insight (חֲדוּשׁ) is born. So when he teaches Torah, he is making matches.
- That is why one must hear Torah from his own mouth; through it one can find one's match.

A PRACTICAL TAKEAWAY · OUR OWN REFLECTION

When a shidduch feels far away, don't only search; go and hear Torah from a true teacher. Understanding is what joins opposites, at home and in learning.

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