

הָיָה אוֹהֵב מְאֹד אֶת הָעֲבוֹדוֹת הַפְּשוּטוֹת שֶׁל

Simple Service and Shabbos Zemiros

THE TEACHING

Rebbe Nachman greatly loved the simple service (הָעֲבוֹדוֹת הַפְּשוּטוֹת) of ordinary, decent people. He especially loved someone who could say many tehinot and requests (תְּהִנוֹת וּבִקְשׁוֹת) from the large siddurim, the way simple, sincere Jews do.

For “עֶקֶר הַיְיָדוּת הוּא בְּפִשְׁטוּת וּבְתִמְיּוּת גָּמוּר, כְּלִי שׁוֹם חֲכָמוֹת”, “the essence of Judaism is complete simplicity and innocence, with no sophistication at all.”

MAIN POINTS

- He warned and rebuked his followers many times to sing zemiros (זְמִירוֹת) on Shabbos.
- He was strict and very upset with anyone who was “חָכָם בְּעֵינָיו”, wise in his own eyes, and made no effort to sing zemiros on Shabbos and Motzei Shabbos, or to do other simple practices.
- Simplicity (פְּשִׁיטוּת) and wholeheartedness (תִּמְיּוּת) are the root, as has been explained many times.
- And the Rebbe lived it: all his days, before the grave illness through which he passed away, he sang many zemiros every Shabbos and every Motzei Shabbos.

A PRACTICAL TAKEAWAY · OUR OWN REFLECTION

Simple service is not small service. Open the siddur, sing at the table, and let the cleverness rest.

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