



Who Belongs?

The Tzemach Tzedek had the custom of receiving people for *yechidus* every Sunday night.

One Shabbos, a large delegation of wealthy and distinguished *baalei-batim* arrived in Lubavitch for a visit. They decided that instead of seeing the regular people on Sunday evening and listening to all their “petty” issues, the Tzemach Tzedek should better say a *maamar* in honor of the important guests.

At the appropriate time, they stood outside the Tzemach Tzedek’s room and began singing the Alter Rebbe’s niggun, knowing that he would certainly come out. Indeed, upon hearing their song the Tzemach Tzedek emerged from his room and asked, “What is it that you want?”

“We want Chassidus!” they cried out. “We don’t want the Rebbe to be bothered by all these people. The Rebbe should say Chassidus instead!”

The Tzemach Tzedek agreed, but only on condition that all the locals who had gathered for *yechidus* should first go home. The *maamar* was to be exclusively for the guests.

Excitedly, the guests chased all the locals away and eagerly anticipated their special time with the Tzemach Tzedek.

A few minutes later, the Tzemach Tzedek came out again and asked if all the locals had indeed been sent away. “Yes Rebbe!” the

guests assured him. “There are no more locals in the vicinity.”

“If so,” answered the Tzemach Tzedek, “I too must leave. What am I doing here? After all, I am also a local from the town of Lubavitch!”

With that, the Tzemach Tzedek returned to his room and locked the door, teaching the arrogant *baalei-batim* an important lesson in *ahavas Yisroel*. ¹

(Migdal Oz, *Maasei Avosai*, ch. 123)