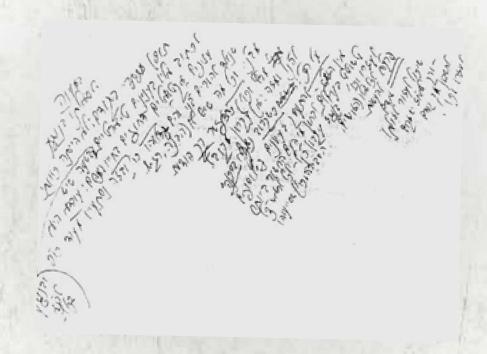




Prioritizing Your Charity

In a letter to a Jewish individual who wanted to offer support for causes beyond the Jewish community, the Rebbe offers guidance on the importance of prioritizing one's own community first:



Dedicated by
Tzvi and Chana Morantz שיחיו
In honor of their
51st wedding anniversary
And in honor of their children
Rabbi Menachem Mendel and
Shoshana Scheiner and family
Boruch and Rochel Ahava
Waldman and family

In reply to your question on the content of my previous letter:

My intention was not to write merely about the theoretical and about people in general—since there are very **actual** [practical] and **urgent** matters that are important in **your life** right now. For example:

The **fact** is that you were born to Jewish parents and they raised you, etc. while being assisted by many other Jews [in your community]. **Everything** that you have (including your mental capacities, your emotions, your drive for action, and so on) were all made possible thanks to the above [nurturing you received]. It follows that:

- a) There is a **universally** accepted principle that when a **relative** is in **danger**, one should not waste his time philosophising and going about the whole world to find the most desperate people who need his help, etc.
- b) Another basic principle: The first thing one needs to do is to **repay** what is owed to those who helped him become a person of means that is capable of helping others (whether the individual people or the community as a whole, etc.). Only then can one consider who is next on his list to be helped and in what order, etc.

במענה לשאלתו בנוגע תוכן מכתבי הקודם: לא הייתה כוונתי לכתוב אליו בענינים טיארטיים ובנוגע לבנ"א בכלל - בשעה שיש ענינים אקטואַלים דחופים בחייו ומהם: עובדא היא שנולד להורים בנ"י והם גדלוהו כו' ובזה נסתייעו מעוד כו"כ מבנ"י. וכל מה שיש לו (הבנה, רגש מרץ וכו') נתאפשר רק הודות להנ"ל ומזה:

א) עקרון מקובל על הכל: כשקרוב
 נמצא בסכנה אין הזמ"ג - להתעסק
 בענינים פילוסופים ולשוטט בעולם
 לבחון מי העם החשוב ביותר לעזרו וכו'.

ב) וג"ז עקרון כנ"ל - לכל לראש צ"ל <u>פרע"ח</u> לכל אלו (האישים, הסביבה וכו') שסייעוהו להעשות אדם שיכול לעזור לזולתו - ורק לאח"ז יש מקום לחשבון מי קודם לעזרו וכו'.

(Chanukah 5733; Igros Kodesh vol 28, p. 69)