

GO ON!

In honor of the Kinus Hashluchim, we present the following to letters from the Rebbe originally in English, encouraging shluchos to keep at their posts with perseverance, remembering their great responsibility and utilizing the kochos given to them.

DON'T ABANDON THE SHIP!

In the following letter, the Rebbe urges a Shlucha to keep strong at her post and focus on positive growth in her activities:

By the Grace of Gd
22nd of Elul, 5716.
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Mrs. Rachel Altein

Blessing and Greeting:

I received your letter, in which you describe your economic circumstances and certain other conditions which are the causes of dissatisfaction and lack of spiritual gratification.

If you have a copy of your letter, and will re-read it again in a more objective frame of mind, I think you will come to the conclusion that human life on this earth unfortunately is not free from various factors which bring about unhappiness; and that this is universal, though the causes vary: in some cases it is children, in others – health, in still others – Parnosso, and

so on. To go through life in complete happiness, is not destined for man. One of the basic things, however, is to have a clear vision on the fundamental issues, and to cultivate attitudes. You surely know the explanation of the words “baShomaim mima’al veal ho’oretz mitachas” [in the heavens above and on the earth below] that in heavenly (spiritual) matters one should look “up,” comparing oneself to one who is on a higher spiritual plane and strive to attain it, while in earthly matters one should see the less fortunate, and thus better appreciate the blessings of the Creator and Master of the world.

It is difficult at this time before Rosh Hashanah to elaborate on the above. But I trust with your training upbringing and back-ground, the above few lines will suffice to give you “food” for further thought and reflection.

As for the details of your letter, it should be borne in mind that the key to self-improvement is not to be found in dwelling upon the defects of the present situation – since there is no perfection in life, but rather in considering the availability of a situation where the benefits are relatively greater and the defects fewer than in the situation which one desires to change.

לזכות החתן הרה"ת חיים יהודה שי' קאטלארסקי
והכלה מרת מושקא תחי' גראנער
לרגל נישואיהם בשעתומ"צ ביום ה' מרחשון ה'תשע"ה
ע"י הורי החתן הרה"ת ר' אברהם בנציון וזוגתו שיחיו קאטלארסקי

The same applies to your husband. It is not a question of obtaining “permission” to leave his post. Personally I cannot see where he can find another position which should have at least the same measure of positive aspects, and where one can be reasonably certain that the defects would not be any more than at present, whether of the same nature or not, but equally fraught with nervous strain, etc.

Needless to say, I do not advocate resignation to the existing defects, for one should bear in mind the words of our Sages “Ma’alin b’kodesh”. Nor is the solution in giving up the job, but rather in trying to improve the conditions, lessen the frictions, and making the work more efficient and gratifying.

Wishing you and yours a Kesivo vachasim toivo,

By [secretary’s signature]

(Teshurah Schurder 5767)



REAPING RESULTS

In the following letter written to a Shlucha overseas, the Rebbe assures her that challenges in shlichus only indicate greater and more fruitful results, bearing in mind that the one who assigned the shlichus obviously made a wise choice:

By the Grace of G-d
18th of Adar 2, 5725
Brooklyn, NY

Mrs. Basya Garelik

Blessings and Greetings:

This is to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st of Adar 1, as also of your previous correspondence.

May G-d grant that all the matters above which you

write, including your activities in progress, as well as those to be undertaken in the future, should all be crowned with Hatzlocho, and in a greater measure than expected or anticipated at first glance.

In the literature of Chassidus, such activities are classified and explained under two categories: “seeding” and “planting.” The difference is this: In the case of seeding as, for example, sowing wheat, the fruits take less time to appear than in the case of planting a tree. The reason is that in the case of the former the results, though many times the original effort, are considerably smaller than in the case of planting. Similarly in the efforts and activities of the human being, there are such that come under one category and/or the other. If, therefore, it sometimes takes longer for the efforts to come to fruition, this is no reason for discouragement; on the contrary, the reason may well be that it is a case of “planting,” where the ultimate results will be infinitely greater.

In the light of the above, and also in answer to your previous letter, it is surprising to me that you should have any doubt in your ability, or the success of your efforts etc. It would appear as if you have doubts as to whether the one who gave you the assignment made a wise choice. Surely you do not entertain such a thought, though in any case I would not consider it in any personal way, as far as I am concerned. However, if you are certain that the one who gave you the assignment has not made a mistake, then you should continue your work with certainty and confidence, and with G-d’s help you will succeed.

I trust that you and all yours have observed Purim in its true and joyous spirit, and may G-d grant that the spirit of Purim be carried over in all your activities throughout the year.

With blessing (sig.)

(Teshura Garelik-Mochkin, 5755)