



Spiritual Parenthood

*In honor of **Yud-Daled Kislev**, wedding day of the Rebbe and Rebbetzin, we present the following lesson the Rebbe discussed in a sicha on the wedding anniversary of the Frierdiker Rebbe.*

Adapted from Sichas Shabbos parshas Ki Seitzei, 13 Elul 5741.

The first mitzvah in the Torah is “*Peru U’Revu*—Be fruitful and multiply.” We are commanded to have children, who will then raise their own children, with this cycle continuing until the end of time.

This mitzvah also has a spiritual side, which is applicable even to those who have not yet married or those who have already passed the age of child-bearing.

The task at hand is to “create” new Jews, who will then themselves “create” yet more Jews, adding more and more soldiers to Hashem’s army, reaching the ultimate goal of making this world a place fit for Hashem to dwell in.

By bringing another Jew to add in his observance of Torah and mitzvos, by rekindling his Jewish soul, one

“gives birth”—spiritually—to the person that he has positively affected. Like our Chachamim have said, “He who teaches Torah to the son of his fellow, is considered to be like the child’s [spiritual] father.”

This is the lesson we learn from the date of Yud-Gimmel Elul, the anniversary of the [Frierdiker] Rebbe. For a wedding is the day when the couple potentially draws down Hashem’s infinite power of creating new life in the world.

In order to better understand this concept and explain it to even the simplest of people, we will use an analogy of a concept accepted in the non-Jewish world corresponding with the idea of spiritual birth:

When a couple adopts a child and tends to his needs just as they would

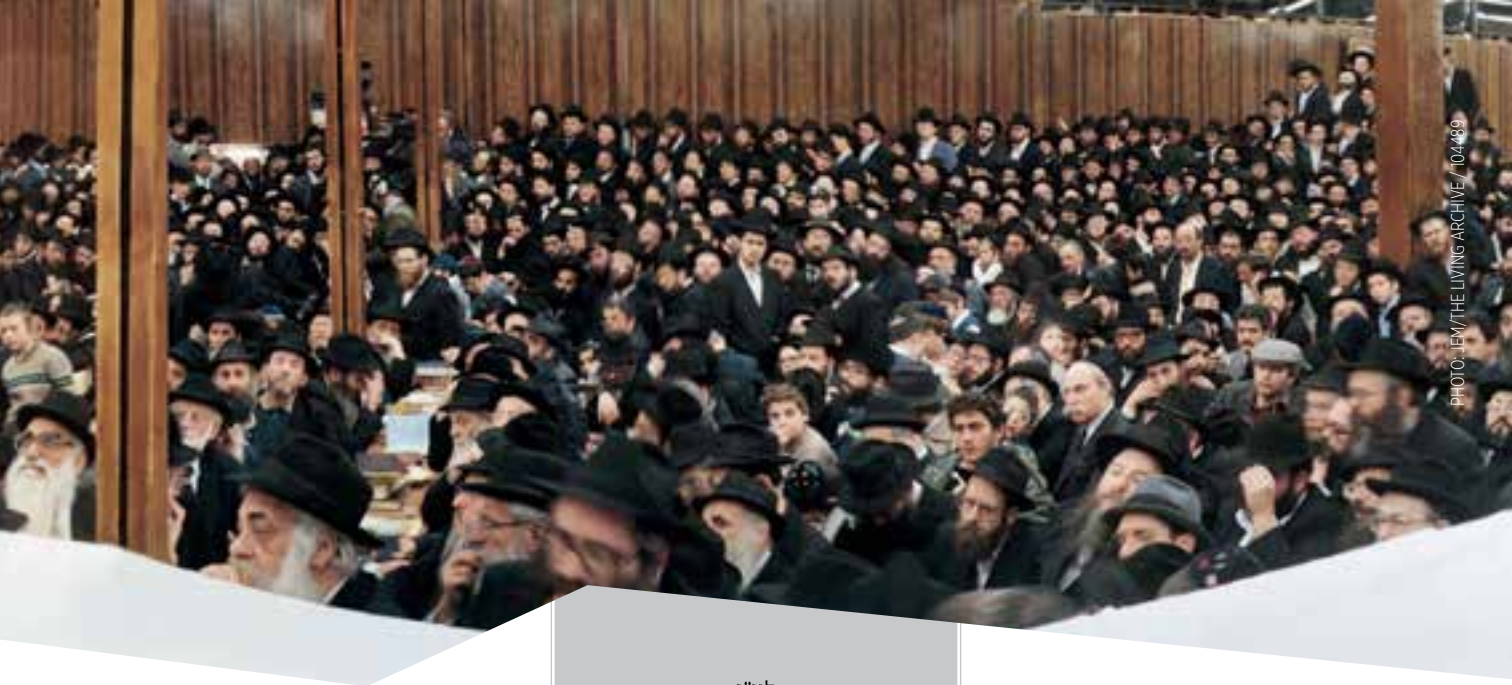


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לע"נ
הרה"ח הרה"ת המשפיע ר' יהושע
בהר"ר גדלי' ע"ה
נפטר בה' לנצחון המקדש
כ"ט כסלו ה'תשס"ח

ולע"נ רעיתו
מרת חי' רבקה
בת הרה"ח הרה"ת ר' בנציון ע"ה
קארף

נתרם ע"י בתם
מרת בת שבע שם טוב
ומשפחתה שיחיו
שלוחה בדעטראיט, מישיגין

By bringing another Jew to add in his observance of Torah and mitzvos, by rekindling his Jewish soul, one “gives birth”—spiritually—to the person that he has positively affected.

for their biological child, feeding him, teaching him trade, and so on, after a while, the adoptive parents begin to feel true sentiments towards their adopted child. This affection goes so far that even in the courts of law they take the possibility into consideration as to whether the adopted child has

the right to inheritance just as the biological children.

If the nations of the world respect the true connection between parents and their adopted children, how much more so when it comes to the Jewish people who are naturally inclined to do Hashem's will—that since the Torah

dictates that “Whoever teaches Torah to the son of his fellow, is considered to be like the child's [spiritual] father,” Jewish people naturally feel parental sentiments towards those that they have caused to experience spiritual growth, by bringing them to add in observance of Torah and mitzvos. **1**