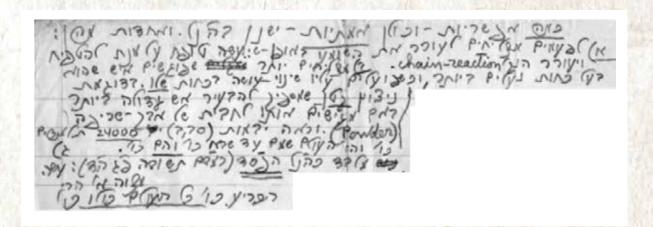


לזכות הרה"ת ר' מנחם מענדל וזוגתו מרת חי' מושקא כניהם ובנותיהם חנה, לוי, פערל, שלום דובער, שיינא. סטרנא שיחיו לברטוב



Like a Spark to a Barrel

In 5719*, a bochur who went out on Merkos Shlichus to bring Yiddishkeit to a remote community, complained to the Rebbe in a letter that he feels like his work is futile, since there are so few people engaged in this type of work, and therefore the number of people being reached remains quite small. The Rebbe encouraged him to realize that in addition to the fact that every mitzvah has infinite value in and of itself, the potential of reaching out to even one person has the ability to create much larger waves than anticipated:



- 1) Sometimes you succeed at inspiring the listener to in turn inspire others with your message, spurring what is called a "chain reaction."
- 2) You will see more success by meeting with a person who possesses more than average capabilities. When you influence him to change—he will in turn [influence others] according to his abilities [which may have a much greater reach than you do on your own]. This is analogous to a small spark having the ability to ignite a very big fire, if you place it near a barrel of gunpowder. See Yevamos (62b): [Rebbi Akiva had] 24,000 [pairs of] students [and they all passed away, making the world] void [of Torah study] until he came [to the Rabbis of the south and taught them Torah] and they [i.e. this small number of only five students, restored Torah to the entire world] etc.
- 3) Aside from all of the above, there is a clear ruling (of the Rambam in Hilchos Teshuva 3:3): "If a person does one mitzvah, he [may have] tipped the scale of the whole entire world [to the side of merit]...

(Teshura Hodakov 5761. Vaad Hanachos B'Lahak.)

כמה אפשרויות - וכולן אמיתיות - ישנן בהנ"ל. ואחדות מהן:

א) לפעמים מצליחים לעורר את השומע באופן - שיעשה טופח על מנת להטפיח ויעורר הנק' Chain Reaction.

ב) מצליחים יותר שפוגשים איש שהוא בעל כוחות נעלים ביותר, וכשפועלים עליו שינוי - עושה בכוחות שלו.
בדוגמת ניצוץ קטן שמספיק להבעיר אש גדולה ביותר באם מגישים אותו לחבית של אבק-שריפה (Powder).
וראה יבמות (סב,ב): 24,000 תלמידים כו' היה העולם שמם עד שבא כו' והם כו'.

ג) מלבד כהנ"ל הפסק-דין (רמב"ם תשובה פ"ג ה"ד): עשה מצווה אחת הרי הכריע כו' כל העולם כולו כו'.