ב"ה

SHABBOS

PARSHAS BEHAALOSCHA

19TH OF SIVAN, 5751 (1991)

צדקת רבי מאיר בעל הנס

Colel Chabad

Caring for Israel's needy since 1788

This evening, the Colel Chabad annual melaveh malkah is being held. Accordingly, we can assume that there is a connection between the portion of the Torah read this Shabbos and Colel Chabad.

This Torah reading describes the menorah kindled in the Mishkan. As mentioned in the haftorah, the menorah served as a symbol for the entire Jewish people, because each Jew is a candle which has the potential to illuminate the world with "the light of Torah and the candle of mitzvah."

Each Jew is a candle which has the potential to illuminate the world

The menorah consisted of seven lights, and yet it was made of a single block of gold. These are both symbolic factors. There are seven fundamental categories of service among the Jewish people, reflecting the seven emotional qualities ("middos") attributed to G-d. Each category of Jews reflects and reveals a different G-dly quality. The division into these seven qualities does not, however, create separation among our people. On the contrary, there is a unique oneness that pervades and permeates our people as a whole, for we all share a single essence.

The oneness of the menorah is also reflected in the fact that the six outer lights were pointed to the central shaft of the menorah. In the allegory, this implies that the service of these seven different categories will be permeated by a single fundamental commitment to carry out G-d's inner will.

In an individual way, these concepts are also reflected in the spiritual service of each person, for each of us possess these seven qualities. They must be illuminated by the light of the essence of the soul, and in this manner, fused into a single and all-inclusive commitment to His service.

These concepts are reflected in Colel Chabad. Chabad is an acronym representing the G-dly intellectual qualities of Chochmah, Binah, and Daas, which are the source for the seven emotional categories mentioned above. The name "Colel" means "general quality," referring to the unification of these seven qualities and their fusion into a single whole.

It is an organization that offers assistance to all Jews without distinction

In a very real way, this describes the activities of Colel Chabad, for it is an organization that offers assistance to all Jews without distinction: material assistance, providing thousands with food, clothing, and other necessities; and spiritual assistance, spreading the awareness of Judaism among our people. These activities are dedicated to establishing unity and oneness among our people. In a very simple sense, when Jews see the care and attention their brethren show to them, their feelings of oneness will be aroused.

These activities are dedicated to establishing unity and oneness among our people

This emphasis on unity has been generated by the Rebbeim who have all, beginning from the Alter Rebbe, devoted great energies to activity on behalf of Colel Chabad. To express the concept within the context of the allegory of the menorah mentioned above, the involvement of the Rebbeim has pointed all the seven lights, i.e., all the different forms of activity, to the central shaft of the menorah, to a single unified commitment to G-d's will.

May all those who support the work of the Colel, both financially and with their efforts, realize that they are also a Colel, i.e., they do not live for themselves and they share a connection with others. May this expression of unity — particularly as associated with tzedakah, for tzedakah brings the redemption closer — lead to the ultimate expression of unity which will be experienced in the Era of Redemption. May it be in the immediate future.

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