בסד

the lubavitch multi-academy trust
lubavitch girls' school

Assembly Notes
PARSHAS VAYIKRA 5785

A few short hours before Pesach, I received an urgent call. The caller was a Chabad Chossid, a teacher in the USA. He asked me to help him with a huge problem. His problem? The Haggadah!

At the Seder we talk about relating to the young generation, find the best approach and the right words for each of the four Sons (or Daughters). The wise, the wicked, the simple and the one who doesn't know how to ask.

His problem (as a master educationist) was: why does the Haggadah define the second son as "wicked". Why stick a LABEL on him! The caller sounded almost in tears. It is a good question for anyone; especially someone dedicated to positivity in helping young people with their journey.

I suggested to the caller (based on a talk by the Lubavitcher Rebbe) that we should examine the text more closely. The Haggadah does not simply say that the Four Sons are wise, wicked, simple etc. It does say that **One** is wise, **One** is wicked, **One** is simple, etc. The Rebbe explains that this means that the essence of every person is their holy Neshama, their soul that is literally a part of the **One** G-d.

So we tell him or her: Hey you who think that you're wicked, you are mistaken! The first word, One, defines your real Self. Everything else may be mistakes you have made, externalities, superficiality. Try connecting to the real You, and you will see a different picture.

Our goal is to try to encourage the **One** that is in our children, indeed in everyone. But how can we see the One in the other? By seeking and seeing it in **ourselves**. That is the personal journey out from Egypt, bringing Redemption to oneself and to the whole world!

Good Shabbos and a Kosher un Freilichen Pesach!

גוט שבת!