בסד

the lubavitch multi-academy trust
lubavitch girls' school

Assembly Notes
PARSHAS ACHAREI MOS—KEDOSHIM 5785
Assembly Theme: True unconditional love

Can you encapsulate the entire Torah in a sentence or two? In response to this question, Hillel quoted (paraphrased) the key Commandment in one of this week's Sedros (Kesoshim): Love your fellow as you love yourself ואהבת לרעך כמוך. "This is the entire Torah. Everything else is commentary".

This seems problematic. The **entire** Torah? In the Torah there are two types of commandments: those concerning our relationship with Hashem, and those that govern our relationship with others. Loving your neighbour as yourself can indeed sum up the Mitzvos of interpersonal relationships. But how does love of one's neighbour enhance the Mitzvos between a person and Hashem, for example Kashrus, Mezuzah, Praying, Shabbos and all the others? Also: The Mitzvah to love another as yourself is itself difficult to understand. Is it **natural** to feel for another person like one feels for oneself? Is it humanly **possible**? Like yourself?

In Tanya (Chapter 32 - "Lev") the Alter Rebbe (first Chabad Rebbe) explains that there is a way that enables us to perform this Mitzvah literally. To love another unconditionally, just as one loves oneself.

It is through training ourselves to see the Neshama, the spiritual essence of everything, as the true reality. All the Neshamos (souls) come from the same spiritual Source. There, they are all one. Loving the other **is** loving oneself. When the right hand helps the left hand it is not helping another; it is helping itself. See the other person not for any externalities or actions or thoughts, but for what they really are in essence: a Neshama which is part of my own Neshama.

How can we cultivate such a spiritual perspective on viewing others? By living a life of Torah and Mitzvos. Hillel summed up all the Torah by saying that it will give you a unifying perspective that sees loving your fellow like loving yourself.

STORY OF THE REBBE

Rabbi Sholom Lipskar passed away on Shabbos. He was a very prominent Shliach, a great Chossid in his Avodas Hashem, and he also directly impacted many thousands of people. He built a very large Shul and community centre, which changed the whole community of Bal Harbor, Florida. He built the Alef Institute for people in prison and their families and well as people in the armed services, because the Rebbe told him that we have to help people who are not always cared for. He also cared for every single individual who he met. Just a few weeks ago, before Pesach, he got in touch with me to arrange to give Matzos to a man from the USA military who had to be in a place outside London.

This miracle story happened more than 50 years ago, when Rabbi Lipskar was a young man. He had medical problems, mainly with his heart.
On this occasion he needed to undergo a procedure to investigate, and he was under anaesthesia, meaning he had to be asleep. The next morning, his wife phoned the hospital to speak with him. He was still asleep, and the man in the next bed said that the Rabbi had not awoken at all.

גוט שבת!

The staff tried to wake him up, but they couldn't. They placed him in a separate room, and proclaimed a "Blue Code" emergency. His wife came to the hospital right away to see him, but they would not let her into the room. She went to the nurse station and phoned to the Rebbe's office. She told Rabbi Klein (a secretary of the Rebbe) and he wrote down the phone number and said that he would tell the Rebbe and then come back to her with advice and/or a Brocho.

A few minutes later the phone rang in the nurses' station. It was Rabbi Hodakov, the Rebbe's main secretary who ran the office. He spoke to Mrs Lipskar and said that he had a message from the Rebbe for her husband. She said that her husband is in a coma, and can't speak. Maybe leave the message with me? Rabbi Chodakov declined; he said that the Rebbe told him to speak directly with Rabbi Lipskar!

She arranged for the phone wire to be stretched to the room where her husband lay. She asked again if she could take the message. Rabbi Chodakov told her to give the phone to her husband. She placed the phone at his ear. Rabbi Chodakov said Sholom? And Rabbi Sholom responded immediately!! "I have a message from the Rebbe for you." "Yes, what is the message?" "Professor Herman Branover is visiting Miami this week and the Rebbe would like for you to introduce him to some prominent professors whom you know there". Rabbi Lipskar said "Sure, I will gladly do this Shlichus". And he did. And he recovered. And he continued his amazing work for half a century.

Rabbi Sholom Lipskar learned a deep lesson from this story. It is not just the miracle of him waking from the coma at the right second. It was that the Rebbe's message was not asking him about his health or how he felt or what the doctors say. The Rebbe's message was: there's something that you have to do, and that is the key to all. In life, we are often in a spiritual stupor or coma. We should remind ourselves that we are **needed**! Everyone has something that only they can do and that is what we should focus on.

This week a special former pupil of LSGS passed away. Chaya Garbarchik had medical challenges, yet she was always happy to do what Hashem wanted. She was always there for her friends, sensitive to their feelings and needs and remembering to give them Brochos on their birthday. She would try to help them feel better without ever complaining or asking why she had her challenges. Because of her condition, she could not eat after 6 in the evening. But she would prepare food and dips for her family and sit at the Shabbos table, getting pleasure from being with her family and helping them.

She always cared for others and she trained to be a teacher in kindergarten. In every school that she worked, the children loved her, because she made it her business to do what was best for them. The staff found her to be an amazing colleague.
LSGS will be doing various activities in the coming weeks for the benefit of her Neshama.

יהי זכרה ברוך
May her memory be a blessing.

גוט שבת!