
Sichos in English Classics 42

Lighting Up The World



Sichos In English
788 Eastern Parkway
Brooklyn, New York 11213
www.sie.org

IN PLACE OF AN INTRODUCTION

At the Shloshim of R' Yonah Avtzon A" H, Director of Sichos in English, a resolution was taken to reprint the original weekly Sichos in English publications.

To fulfill this, a weekly booklet including a translation of a *farbrengen* as it was first published will be distributed. Our intention is to reprint the entire set in the near future.

Following the Sichos we will include an addendum with pictures, notes, and insights into the process of its publication.

These weekly publications can be sponsored to honor a loved one, a Yortzeit or a simcha by contacting us at sichosinenglish@gmail.com. If you would like to receive this weekly publication to your email, then please use the above email address as well, or you can sign up to receive it on WhatsApp at 917-868-6509.

To partner with us, so that we can continue to publish original Sichos in English content as well as behind the scenes stories and documents, please make a contribution at: sie.org/partner

LIGHTING UP THE WORLD

Excerpts from the Address of the Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson, to Tzivos Hashem and to the Chanukah Lighting Ceremonies Throughout the World while Linked through Satellite Communication, Second Day of Rosh Chodesh Teves, 5751.

(After the afternoon service, children from all over the world recited the 12 *pesukim*. Chanukah *Menorahs* were lit in the various cities and the *niggun, HaNeiros Hallalu* was sung. Afterwards, the Rebbe *Shlita* delivered three *sichos*. In the text below, they have been adapted and presented in the form of a single address.)

As is Jewish custom, the Chanukah *Menorah* has been lit in the synagogue, a place where Jews gather together for prayer. Similarly, in the spirit of Chanukah, whose lights are placed “at the outside of the entrance to one’s home,” we have witnessed through telecommunication, the kindling of the Chanukah lights “outside,” in far removed corners throughout the world.

THE LESSONS OF THE CHANUKAH LIGHTS

The Chanukah candles provide us with a clearly visible expression of the teaching, “A *mitzvah* is a lamp and the Torah is light.”¹ In regard to other *mitzvos*, the *mitzvah*’s function as a lamp is not as apparent. In contrast, the *mitzvah* of Chanukah candles produces discernible light and spreads that light throughout one’s surroundings.

The Chanukah candles are lit for eight days. This does not mean that the same *mitzvah* is repeated eight times in succession. Just as in a physical sense, new candles are lit each night, in a spiritual sense

1. *Mishlei* 6:23.

too, each night represents a new light: a new *mitzvah* to be fulfilled with new fire.

The newness of the *mitzvah* is further emphasized by the custom of adding a new candle every night. Beginning from the second night, for seven² successive nights — once on each of the days of the week — we increase the number of candles we light. This reflects how we must constantly increase our efforts to spread the “lamp” of “*mitzvah*” and the “light” of “Torah.”

The Chanukah lights also reflect the light of the Jewish soul. As the *Tanach*³ teaches, “The soul of man,” — i.e., each and every Jew, young or old — “is the lamp of G-d.” The *mitzvah* of lighting Chanukah candles enables each person to fulfill the purpose of his soul’s descent in the world — to spread G-dly light, not only in his home, but in his surroundings, and even, as expressed in the *Menorah* lightings which we have just witnessed, in the furthest removed corners of the world.

CHILDREN AS LEADERS; THE POWER OF TZEDAKAH

The above is particularly relevant to Jewish children, for they are called *Tzivos Hashem*, G-d’s army. This name implies that they have been chosen by G-d and entrusted with special missions by Him.

Each Jewish child — boy or girl — should know that G-d loves him or her like a father loves an only son.⁴ As an expression of that love, G-d grants him all of his needs and also gives him extra delicacies. Similarly, He entrusts him with special missions to increase and spread Judaism and Torah among his fellow Jews.

The very name Chanukah points to this concept, for it relates to the word *Chinuch*, which means “education.” We are taught,⁵ “Educate a child according to his way [so that] even when he grows older he will not depart from it.” Just as we continue to add new

2. These seven days correspond to the number of branches in the *Menorah* of the *Beis HaMikdash*. As emphasized by the vision shown to the prophet Zechariah (ch. 4), this *Menorah* serves as a symbol for the entire Jewish people.

3. *Mishlei* 20:27.

4. *Kesser Shem Tov, Hosafos*, p. 70.

5. *Mishlei* 22:6.

light each night of Chanukah, similarly, when the principles of Jewish education are engraved in a child's heart, he will constantly add new light as he grows and proceeds in life.

In particular, the importance of a Jewish child's efforts is expressed through the *mitzvah* of *tzedakah*. The *tzedakah* given by a child is superior in a certain way to the *tzedakah* given by an adult. An adult works to earn his livelihood, and thus can always replace the money that he has given away. In contrast, a child does not earn his own money and has only what he has been given by his parents. Nevertheless, his nature is not to stint, but rather to give generously when he sees a person in need or a worthy Torah institution.

Furthermore, in keeping with the Chanukah lesson of increasing light, he does not remain satisfied with giving once, but continues to give many other times. And, also, and this is of essential importance, he gives with joy, happy at the opportunity to fulfill G-d's will and do his share in making "a dwelling for G-d in the lower worlds." So happy in fact will he be that his own parents will learn from him how to rejoice in *their* observance of the *mitzvos*, and particularly when giving *tzedakah*.

To enable you to fulfill the *mitzvah* of *tzedakah*, in addition to three⁶ coins which you will be given as Chanukah *gelt*, you will be given a fourth coin to give to *tzedakah*. Our Sages⁷ teach that *tzedakah* brings the future redemption closer.

May the *tzedakah* we give hasten the fulfillment of the heartfelt prayer of the Jewish people — and particularly of Jewish children — that G-d work miracles for the Jewish people as He did "in those days, at this time." May we witness, "at this time," immediately in the present moments — how G-d will cause the Third *Beis HaMikdash* to descend from the heavens, and then we, together with the entire Jewish people, will watch the kindling of the

6. Doing something three times constitutes a *chazakah*; i.e., it establishes a practice firmly. This word also signifies strength. This is especially relevant to the Jewish people who grow in strength from day to day in their observance of the Torah and its *mitzvos*. This growing strength is reflected in the number of Chanukah lights, which increase from day to day throughout the holiday.

7. *Bava Basra* 10a.

Menorah, “in Your holy courtyard.” May this be in the immediate future.

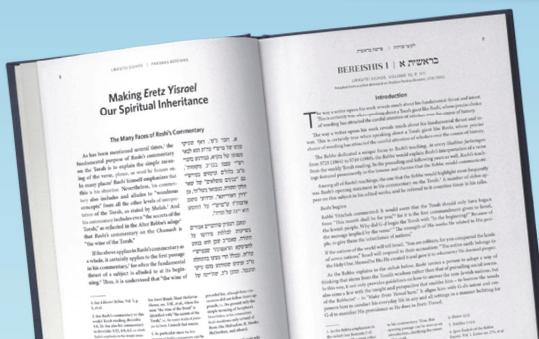


Share THE ORIGINAL. IN ENGLISH.

Dear Friends,

After years of hard work, The Rebbe's revolutionary work on Torah study, Jewish life, and G-dly experience is headed for your doorstep. For the first time ever, a curated selection of THE ORIGINAL Likkutei Sichos is available IN ENGLISH.

Sefer Bereishis, the first book of this monumental series is in stores now.



sie

PURCHASE ONLINE AT
SIE.ORG/LS

Dedicated to the Lubavitcher Rebbe

whose teachings and example are a never-ending source of life for all mankind. May we continue in his paths, and complete the mission with which he has charged us: to make the world conscious of the imminent Redemption and to prepare an environment in which this ideal can be realized.



& In Memory of

Moshe ben Gedalyahu ז"ע Kimball

On the occasion of his Yartzeit,

4th Day of Teves, 5710

&

Gedalyahu ben Yaakov ז"ע Kimball

On the occasion of his Yartzeit,

26th Day of Teves

&

Gittel bas Yosef ז"ע Klein

On the occasion of her Yartzeit,

28th Day of Teves



If you would like to receive this weekly publication sent via email, or to sponsor a publication please contact us at: sichosinenglish@gmail.com.
or you can sign up to receive it on WhatsApp at 917-868-6509