

# KOLLEL AGUDATH ACHIM

Rosh Kollel

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רחוב דסקין 5

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**My father in law is currently recuperating at home. Please daven for Aharon ben Yita to have a complete recovery..**

**Moshe Teller**

PARASHAT KI- TEITZEI 2023

פרשת כי תצא 5783

## “POWER OF A SMILE”

Mitzvot, as we know them, generally require “kavanah”, that is, when we perform them we must have the knowledge and the intention of doing them. However in our parasha we are introduced to a Mitzvah that goes contrary to our usual manner and we cannot perform this Mitzvah with any phase of Kavanah. This Mitzvah is called- “SHIK’CHA” FORGOTTEN (24:19). During the harvesting of his field, the Jewish farmer was told NOT to retrieve the bundle of produce left behind. Rather, he was to leave it for the poor to gather. Interestingly, regarding the observance of this Mitzvah the Torah declares that “HaShem, your GD, will bless you in all your handiwork”. No other Mitzvah in the entire Torah is quite like this one. All other commandments require some measure of conscious awareness that a Mitzvah is being performed. Here, though the Mitzvah happens purely by accident; the farmer simply forgot to collect a sheaf in the field and a poor penniless person benefitted, nevertheless, the farmer will be handsomely rewarded.

The Mitzvah of Shik’cha, came to him unintentionally [through forgetting], yet the great reward will be granted to him for supporting a needy person.

The smile is just one way of so many simple behaviors that can make all the difference in the life of some anonymous person who just happens to be around you to witness the unconscious *chesed* on your part. It can be the warm handshake, the genuine empathy in your voice, or just the caring aura that shines out from your personality.

The truth is we are all capable of unknowingly benefitting people with our small enriching behavior. Expressing a small compliment, “I like your tie today, I like what you said, I like what you did,” these simple words can enhance a person’s self-image and create a better social life in the environment. Without intention or Kavanah, we are credited with having performed the Mitzvah of “VE’AHAVTA LE’REI’ACHA KA’MOCHA”- to which Rabbi Akiva added, “ZEH KLAL GADOL BA’TORAH.”

When we experience joy, we feel good because our brain produces hormones. Research has proven that these brain-produced hormones enter our blood stream even if we just act joyful, not only when we really are happy. Although the joyful experience is totally imaginary and we know that it didn’t really happen, when we speak and act as if that imaginary experience did happen, we get a dose on hormones, called endorphins. This is not just an abstract idea, but a physical reality.

Shabbat Shalom from Yerushalayim  
Rabbi Aharon and Libby Ziegler