

The Word of G-d From Jerusalem

A holy letter regarding the corona disease that has spread, may the Hashem save us, that people know what to do

Issued by the sage, saint, and kabbalist

Rabbi Yaacov Meir Shechter, shlita

Grand Rabbi, Keren Or Institutions, Jerusalem

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To our brothers, the Jews of all places, may G-d be with you and give you life. Since a disease and epidemic has recently been raging over the whole world, may G-d save us, and we, believers descended from a long chain of believers, know well that there are no coincidences at all, and that everything that happens is a sign and communication from Above telling us how we should behave in this world, now that the epidemic has broken out in all countries there is no doubt that we are being spoken to from Above through it. However, unfortunately we have no saints and sages of such a degree as to let us know what these communications are and what they mean, and none of us knows anything at all, may G-d have mercy.

Therefore, we ought to seize upon things that are clear and open to every understanding and knowledgeable heart, **which is that the correction that is especially needed in our times is in the area of modesty and holiness.** In other words, not to anger our Creator by going about in indecent clothing, as Rashi writes (Yeshayohu 3:16) about women who behaved indecently: "When they would pass by in the street... they would inflame the evil inclination like a snake's venom". This brings G-d's anger to the world, may G-d have mercy, as it is written (Devorim 23:15) "For the L-rd your G-d walks about within your camp, in order to save you... so your camp should be holy and He should not see any unseemly thing among you..." Onkelos translates לא תנאף ("do not commit adultery") as לא תגוף, which we may take as a hint that care in this area may save us from מגפה (epidemic).

It is well known that the holy Baal Shem Tov, may his merit protect us, saw that in one city there were very exalted souls, and when he investigated the matter he discovered that the women there were very modest, and therefore the men went about with holy thoughts, as a result of which they brought holy souls down into the world.

Now on top of the fact that in our times the indecency in dress has increased, with tight, eye-catching, and loud clothes that increase sinful thoughts and the serpent's venom, there have now been added various kinds of instruments, depraved and destructive, that are very common due to our many sins, piling impurity on impurity; more than this, the shame at using these abominable instruments, which darken the eyes and defile the heart, has been completely lost.

On the other hand, it is impossible to describe or to estimate the greatness of going about properly, in modest clothes, which is a curtain that distinguishes, separates, and forms a barrier between holiness and impurity, removes G-d's anger at the Jews, and tempers the harsh judgments without limit.

Therefore, each person must, as a practical law, teach his family to conduct themselves in a modest manner, so as to make them deserve all good things, and so as not to cause others to stumble by seeing their improper dress, and also to keep away from these instruments and remove them from the home. Say to them, "be gone".¹

Thus far on the negative side. **On the positive side, one should try with all his might to pronounce the hundred blessings one should say every day clearly and pleasantly.** Our sages said that this was King David's advice to save his generation from an epidemic in which 100 people died every day. Through following this clear advice by saying the blessings properly, may we earn the plague's cessation, and to bring down a stream of life, blessing, and an abundance of good for the Jewish people. This is a major foundation of all of Judaism, and G-d demands it of us, as our sages interpreted the verse "What (מה) does G-d demand from you, but to revere G-d" – "don't read it as מה ('what') but as מאה ('one hundred')". **Also, to increase the recitation of Psalms,** which is a book of prayer and faith by David, King of Israel, who composed it by Divine inspiration for all generations and all periods, literally for each individual, and for every trouble and distress, as the holy books tell us. With G-d's help, through the holy words of the Psalms we will be saved from all the troubles and rescue will come to the world quickly.

The main thing is to live constantly in a spirit of Divine Providence, to know clearly that there are no coincidences at all, to adhere to G-d and to His holy commandments, and to constantly call out and pray to Him. By the way, it is no coincidence that the disease is called קרא-נא, "call out please" – this is a message to us to constantly call out to G-d, for there is nothing besides Him, and only He can save us; rather than think that it is a coincidence (קרד), we should cry out to G-d "Please (נא), G-d, please save us".

Above all, don't be depressed and don't be afraid, because G-d is with you, and at such times one must especially summon the strength to be happy and not to succumb to fear or panic, whose source is weakness of trust in G-d, **and the more we strengthen ourselves with joy and with a heart full of hope in G-d, the quicker epidemic will pass.** May we all deserve a stream of good and blessing, and long life in physical health, and may our Master in Heaven support us, and may we quickly be redeemed and rescued forever, quickly and soon.

Yaacov Meir Shechter

1. Isaiah 30:22