

Jewish Parenting – Class #4 – Loving Our Children:

1. **Ba'al Shem Tov:** Stretching out the "Ahava Raba" prayer will shorten the exile
2. **Deuteronomy 1:27:** Because of Hashem's hatred for us did He take us out of the land of Egypt.
3. **Siddur, blessings before the Shema:** All of them are **beloved**...and all of them perform with awe and reverence the will of their Possessor...with song and music
4. **Bereishis 29:30-31:** He [Yaakov]...loved Rachel more than Leah...Hashem saw that Leah was hated
5. **Ramban [Ibid]:** If one loves another person very much, the third one is referred to as the hated one. Not that Yaakov actually hated Leah, but she felt ashamed.
6. **A Student's Obligation, Chapter 1:** Child of Israel, you are fortunate and blessed. You have merited to study Torah, which shines with divine radiance. **You are G-d's delight; He tenderly loves you.** The angelic being who inhabit the higher spiritual dimensions envy you and recognize your preciousness. Your existence is a source of wonderment for divine seraphim; they honour you. The heavens and all the celestial beings, the earth and everything that fills it, rejoice in you and are ready to bend according to your will. The whole universe resounds with the question: Who is this child from whose mouth pillars of fire shoot forth, whom the most high and exalted G-d, Who is constantly surrounded by multitudes of His host, looks at as His pride and joy?

You too should be filled with joy and exultation at your great good fortune. You are like someone privileged to be in the intimate circle of the King; the Holy One, blessed be He, whispers His secrets in your ears in teaching you Torah, not to rejoice would be a sin.

If you were aware of all this, if you could experience the state of great purity of mind and heart that exists as you learn Torah, if you could inwardly feel the closeness of G-d who places Himself, as it were, directly in front of you and learns with you as you learn, if you realized that everything you ask of G-d, concerning your life or the needs of your parents and family, are like the sweet requests a child makes of a parent, so close is G-d to you, and if you really knew that G-d answers you and wishes to please you like a father does a beloved child, **you would be filled with happiness and your whole being would rejoice.**

7. **Building a Sanctuary in the Heart, Vol. II:** Ahavas Hashem is a *mitzvah* in the Torah, as it says (*Devarim 6:5*), "And you shall love Hashem, your God, with all your heart, and all your soul, and all your resources." This teaches that each person is required to have love for Hashem... Conditional love requires an awareness that Hashem gives to us... So there are two stages: one must realize that someone did the favor, and then identify who it was. Otherwise, there cannot even be conditional love. When one does know both of these facts, and the person brings him water other times, the love can intensify.
8. **To Heal the Soul, Essay #9:** The human soul relishes sensation, not only if it is a pleasant feeling but for the very experience of stimulation. **Sooner sadness or some deep pain rather than the boredom of non-stimulation.** People will watch distressing scenes and listen to heartrending stories just to get stimulation. Such is human nature and a need of the soul, just like all its other needs and natures. So he who is clever will fulfill this need with passionate prayer and Torah learning.

But the soul whose divine service is without emotion will have to find its stimulation elsewhere. It will either be driven to cheap, even forbidden sensation or will become emotionally ill from lack of stimulation.

9. **Deuteronomy 21:18**: If a man will have a wayward son, who does not listen to the voice of his father and to the voice of his mother, and they discipline them, but he does not listen to them...
10. **Zohar**: He does not hear the voice of the father learning Torah and the mother praying
11. **Ethics of the Fathers**: Moshe received the Torah from Sinai and ***gave it over*** to Yehoshua...
12. **Bereishis 25:28**: Yitzchok loved Eisav for trapping was in his mouth; but Rivka loved Yaakov