



## WORDS OF WISDOM FROM THE ZANZER REBBE

I read this beautiful speech that the Zanter Rebbe of Netanya delivered to his Chassidim and translated by Rabbi Kenneth Auman from the Young Israel of Flatbush.

We must realize that just like this virus cannot be seen, and yet we realize that it is wreaking havoc in the entire world, so too, Gd cannot be seen, but is in control of the entire world. And if you question this analogy by pointing out that with the proper instruments the virus can indeed be seen, you should realize that with the proper [spiritual] instruments, one can see Gd's presence in the world as well.

Certainly, it is forbidden for us to say that anything of this sort is happening for no reason; we must ponder deeply to try and understand why Gd had brought this plague upon humanity.

There are those who will claim that this misfortune has befallen us for this reason or that, but we have learned from my father [the previous Zanter Rebbe] – and this is one of the foundational pillars of *Chassidus* – not to look to the shortcomings of others. Not the *Chillul Shabbat* is to blame, nor other transgressions that might be committed by

others. And certainly now, when we need Gd's mercy, we should only be saying good things about the Jewish people and nation. Rather, during these trying times, each and every one of us must look at ourselves and seek to find ways to improve our own behavior and find ways to increase our merits for ourselves and for all of *Klal Yisrael*.

At a time like this, when we are all cooped up in our homes, and we feel pressured with *Pessach* preparations, it is likely that we are tense and quick to anger. The first thing we must attempt is to try and stay happy and calm – if we have young children, to be patient with them and give them more attention than we normally do.

And furthermore, notwithstanding the fact the righteous women throughout the ages have given their all to meticulously clean for *Pessach*, I have heard many times from my father that the holiday of *Pessach* was not created in order for us to have a clean house. All we need do is remove the *Chametz*. My father used to tell us that in the house of his grandfather the renowned Chassidic *Rebbe* the *Bnai Yisaschar*, they only cleaned up on the night of *Bedikat Chametz* – that was it!!

And my father use to urge his children who had young kids at home, not to turn the house upside down with *Pessach* cleaning. [and I (KA) would add that the same is true for elderly people as well]. The *Yetzer Hara* is attempting to bring tension into the home; we must realize that one moment of anger, or a harsh word is far worse than a crumb of *chametz* in the house!

What should be paramount now is the Torah of Kindness – increasing our acts of *Chessed* and seeing what we can do to help those in need, and realizing that taking care of our health comes before all else...

I think these are very wise words and we should take them to heart.

- *THANK YOU TO IRVING KATZ FOR SUBMITTING THIS ARTICLE!*

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