

Nourishment for the Neshama

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Our mitzvahs can end up in someone else's account!

CBS NEWS REPORTS

FBI Probes Theft Of Donation Checks To Synagogues

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<http://newyork.cbslocal.com/2011/01/17/fbi-probes-theft-of-donation-checks-to-synagogues/#>

"People are mailing donations to their synagogues and charities, and the funds are being deposited bogus accounts worldwide instead of the named organization..

"Each check, in the back, is endorsed by someone that – we have no clue," he said. "This check of \$12,000 disappeared, and went to a strange account."

Hikind pointed to some of the phony accounts that have been set up around the world. The money was put into those accounts, only after the checks had been cleared by banks like Chase, Astoria Federal, and Sovereign."

Does this shock us? Our hard earned money that we tithe for charity, ending up in the wrong account? I think Hashem through this headline and terrible news report is really trying to tell us something!!

Spiritually, we must realize that our mitzvahs, if not done for the sake of declaring the unity of Gd and His Shechina, are giving strength to the wrong forces in the world. Likewise, when we wrong someone or try to harm them, it is as if we are moving our merits from our account to theirs. Specifically, it is important to remember that the merits I may think I have may go to that someone I dislike, exclude, object to, judge and more if I use my influence to affect that someone.

Let's consider an example. Imagine that I make a huge donation to the building fund. Everyone is thrilled with me. Now some decisions have to be made and someone I don't like that much has an opinion that is different from mine. With a few words, weighed heavily by others involved because of my huge donation, I am able to crush the other person's ideas and also damage his credibility and reputation. It is because of my donation that I was successful. Therefore, the merit for that donation goes to the other person as payment for the cruelty I inflicted upon him

Imagine coming to heaven after 120 years and seeing all these beautiful mitzvahs in our merits. "I didn't do that though" we may be startled. However, this is very fair, because if it were not for their merits, they would not have been able to assert successfully their agenda of harm...they were believed because of their Torah knowledge and position of power.

Thus all the mitzvahs that a person who considers himself a benoni, (neither a tzaddik nor a rasha) may think they are doing, hoping that their good deeds outweigh their sins, may in reality be going straight to their targets and not to them at all. Literally, people are left with only their sins! A person Gd-forbid can "eat" their bodies in this world in this way.

To avoid this, we must have the intention of doing things for the sake of Gd's unity and Shechina at all times. We must be committed to being true to bringing out the aspect of Hashem within us, no matter what. In other words, we can't digress from our goals and say, "Well, I did many mitzvahs this week but this guy over here, I am going to get him good." Our intentions are known and matter in the heavenly realms. If we want to see our mitzvahs in the correct account, we must humbly keep in mind at all times that Hashem Echad and that it is our honor to serve Him. We can't take an intentional trip to worship the El Zar (the strange gd within us) and then smile and be gleeful when we see the power of the harm we can inflict. No. There is no other power and Hashem loves justice. He moves merits around accounts all day long. We must know and crave only true simchas hachaim, not the base satisfactions of our lower instincts.

Let the symbolism of this report of money transferring be a wake up call to all of us. Wake up and draw closer in intentions toward being more like Hashem. Forsake our own agendas for selfish goals and do what is good and right in Gd's eyes.