

**THE VOICE OF A CHILD****By: Rabbi Yosef Vogel****BO****Shevat 8, 5773**

One of the most profound teachings of Chassidic philosophy is that whatever goes on in the outside world is merely a reflection of what exists inside ourselves. Consequently the most effective way of changing the macro world is by starting that process from within our little micro world. What a wonderful and refreshing paradigm shift!

This same idea would also apply in our approach to the many relationships we might have, which form a very fundamental part of our lives. Before we interact with any of our friends or family members we must first ask ourselves, how we, would want someone to behave towards us if we were in a similar situation.

As adults however we are no longer able to see clearly inside ourselves. This is due to the many negative social pressures that tests the innocence and purity of the child within us. Subsequently, after many years of neglect and conceit, the pathways to our inner beings have been blocked and we forget about the child we once were.

There is however a simple solution to this problem. By engaging and listening very carefully to children who are pure and innocent, we can find our way back to the child within us, who represents our true self.

It is with this in mind, that a most fundamental and beautiful part of our tradition, is the relationship we have with our children. In remembering the exodus from Egypt, which more than any other event, continues to shape and inspire us as Jews, we are told to listen to our children. For it is only then that we will understand the story.

So, next time we are confused or afraid by things going on in the big world outside of us, listen carefully to children, enter their world. For it is the only way to come back home to a place where there is both clarity and security, and in turn we can share that serenity with the world outside.

*Warm regards,  
Yosef Vogel*

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18<sup>th</sup> Jan

Sedra: Bo

Shabbat Begins: 4.10pm

Shabbat Ends: 5.19pm