

The Voice of a Child

By: Yosef Vogel

One of the great teachings of Chassidic philosophy is that whatever goes on in the outside world is merely a reflection of what exists within ourselves. Therefore the most effective way of changing the world is by starting from within us. What a wonderful and refreshing paradigm shift!

This same idea would also apply in our approach to the many relationships we all have, that are very much a fundamental part of our lives. Before we interact with any of our friends or family members we must first ask ourselves. How would we want someone to behave towards us in a similar situation.

As adults however we are not able to see clearly inside ourselves, because the pathways to our inner beings have been blocked. This happens after many years of neglect and conceit which stifles the purity and innocence expressed by our core being.

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.

27 January

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Shabbat Begins: 4:26 pm

Shabbat Ends: 5:33 pm