

DON'T SQUANDER THE WEALTH!

In today's precarious economy, many people are diligent about saving their money. They work and toil for every cent, which is carefully hoarded and saved. Imagine, one day, a torrent of money suddenly arrives, from a lottery ticket, an inheritance, or elsewhere. These same people who were so very careful to save their money decide to do something unusual. Instead of carefully investing or doling it out for worthy causes, instead of saving or guarding it so it does not get lost or stolen, they spoil a great opportunity to make life easier financially and squander every last penny!

Sure, this may be nice for a little while—but it proves to be short-lived. No matter how incredible the income, the "outcome" is many times greater when it's used wisely and it can last for much longer. Precious items, things that are not so easy to come by—these should be treasured and preserved for as long as possible.

Watching the tremendous hisorerus coming about as a result of the bi-centennial Yahrtzeit of the Alter Rebbe, I felt that a careful reaction would be wise. Just as someone suddenly coming into a large amount of wealth should be very calculated, and hold onto to this "gift" for the greatest outcome, so should the crowd with this huge amount of hisorerus work to keep their inspiration alive for many years to come.

Just feeling this was not enough; I decided to share my views as well and some constructive ideas for making this inspiration last and not fall away after some time, for it would be a real shame to waste such remarkable enthusiasm and interest.

In order to do this, let's imagine scenarios of losing this excitement, so we can then think of ideas on maintaining it:

- You decide to learn the Alter Rebbe's Shulchan Aruch daily for 20 minutes. After two months, you start thinking to yourself that you could skip this part, or that part, and learn for a few minutes less, and relax for a few minutes more....
- You begin a Kvius in the Alter Rebbe's Maamorim and keep at it for a while. After several months, you travel for a Simcha, business trip, or vacation. When you return, you completely forgot about your Kvius. One morning, while walking into work, you vaguely recall that decision, but almost wish you hadn't....

From these scenarios, it seems as though memory and inspiration work together. Here are a few ideas to keep both your memory and your inspiration alive and well.

THE "HACHLATA" MAINTAINERS:

- **Get a Chavrusa.** Your chavrusa reminds you, inspires you, and makes it enjoyable to learn! (Just don't depend entirely on him; some people love when their chavrusa cannot learn....)
- **Learn the Daily Tanya and Understand It.** Tanya is always pointing out where Torah study stands in our lives. If you learn, it and apply it to yourself, you'll be hard-pressed to find something more important to you than Limmud Torah. (You will also be raising your quality in learning the Alter Rebbe's Torah.)
- **Put it on Your Calendar.** This will help you remember. If it's a daily Kvius, then consider making a weekly reminder, just to ensure you have that solid reminder.
- **Learn in Public.** It's motivating for you and others. It can also help with reminders: Imagine that one day "Shimmy" doesn't see you at your regular place at table number four. When he sees you choosing tomatoes in the grocery store a couple of days later, he will encourage you to come back!

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