



## FROM THE REBBE

*Observing family purity draws holiness and peace into the home.*  
—The Rebbe, Likutei Sichos, vol. 2, p. 579



Innumerable letters from the Rebbe deal with Jewish family purity and marital life<sup>1</sup>. The following presents only a small sample<sup>2</sup>.

### PEACE AT HOME

“...Often such a situation arises due to undesirable intimacy when forbidden according to the Torah. This is often caused by lack in knowledge of all the associated laws.

Therefore they, both the husband and wife, should clarify through an orthodox Rabbi knowledgeable in these matters all the details incumbent in observing these laws. And from now on to keep these laws, keeping in mind that “there is nothing which stands in front of one’s will<sup>3</sup>.”

### FERTILITY

**FAMILY PURITY** . “The channel to receive the Al-mighty’s blessing is behavior on a daily basis in accordance with His will. This is besides the fact that these are incumbent upon us as G-dly commandments. Each and every commandment is connected with a particular merit and force which it evokes.

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1. The subject of *Shulchan Aruch, Even Ha’ezer*.

2. These are free translations.

3. From a letter dated Iyyar 5726, published in *Sharei Halacha Veminhag* page 129.

It is known that the blessing for fertility lies in keeping the laws of family purity. Therefore, it is fitting for you to be exacting in your observance of these laws. Especially since during the course of time it is possible that some of these laws became forgotten and it is important to review them. With blessings that the Al-mighty fulfill all your wishes and waiting for good tidings<sup>4</sup>.”

**STRENGTHENING KNOWLEDGE** . “In these situations it is correct to follow the advice of a physician expert in this area, since we are to do whatever is possible according to nature...

However, and this is central, sometimes pregnancy is delayed WORD (mitakev) resulting from lacking sufficient knowledge of the laws of purity.

Therefore, you should clarify through a rabbi who is very familiar with this area all necessary details. Even though being raised with a religious education you have sufficient knowledge, nevertheless it is worthwhile to clarify more, as it says, ‘there is no righteous person who may not have erred<sup>5</sup>.’

**LOVE & FEAR** . “It is well known, and published, a particular letter from the Alter Rebbe. He wrote that the merit<sup>6</sup> which is conducive to fertility is Torah study which evokes love and fear of the Almighty. Specifically, that is *chasiduth*. Therefore, you should make sure to organize and participate in a study group with some neighbors, at least three times a week. (In other words, three days should not pass without learning *chasiduth*.) Understandably, one of these three days would be Shabbos<sup>7</sup>.”

**STUDYING CHASIDUT** . “I was pleased to receive your letter informing me about the study session you’ve established with your wife. May it be His will to bless you with success and soon with children; as the funnel to channel this specific blessing is studying chasidut<sup>8</sup>.”

**SPREADING CHASIDUT** . “... the more you increase spreading and strengthening yiddishkeit in your area -- on which the sages have said .... ‘One who teaches Torah to a child, is as though one had created him (Sanhedrin 19:b).’ Sometimes the reward is to literally bear children and fulfil ‘and you shall teach Torah to your child,’ in addition to the interpretation that child here refers to your student<sup>9</sup>.”

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4. From a letter dated Shvat 5742, published in *Likutei Sichos* vol. 22 page 299. Other directives include the following: “The conduit to merit the birth of a son, based on the verse... is through fulfilling the mitzah of hosting guests, Igros Kodesh XIX, letter 7,330.

5. Igros Kodesh XXIII, pg. 9.

6. Hebrew, *segula*.

7. Igros Kodesh VI, letter 1,576.

8. Igros Kodesh VI, letter 1,686.

9. Igros Kodesh XIV, letter 5,187.

**BABY BOY.** “Regarding your desire to conceive a son, I heard from my father in law something which he received by tradition, based on the verse... “*bmech yizkeh naar et orcho...*” Psalms 119:9, that the merit to be blessed with a baby boy is through performing the mitzvah of hosting guests.

Of course, that is in addition to generally observing Torah and mitzvos. Though this may presently be satisfactory, there is always room to add since this is connected to the Al-mighty who is infinite.

Regarding Torah study, clearly you should make sure to set aside time to study chasidus....<sup>10</sup>”

**BABY BOY.** In response to your request for a blessing to have a son...

It is worthwhile for you to make additional efforts to increase love for a fellow Jew, for the Torah and for G-d. It's a known thing that the holy books write that giving 'birth' to this spiritual love is a catalyst for one's wife to give birth to a physical son. From this it's understood that strengthening our inner love through contemplating on G-d's greatness (e.g. as the Rambam writes in the beginning of the second chapter of *Yesodei haTorah*) this will bring longevity and health to one's own sons for many years to come. Therefore, you should decide, without the commitment of an oath, that until your wife gives birth to a son you will give a few coins to charity before the morning prayers. It is best if this charity is directed to helping feed students who have little financial means<sup>11</sup>.

**MEDICINE & TORAH.** “The Torah directive is well known, that although the Almighty is the ruler and creator, nonetheless we are to make efforts in the physical realm as well. As the sages said, ‘the Torah empowered physicians to heal. Therefore, you and your husband should undergo another medical assessment through a physician who is expert in this field, and follow his advice.

Understandably, together with the above you should both add to Torah observance, particularly family purity, modesty, giving charity and praying to He who gave the Torah to fulfil this most worthy desire<sup>12</sup>.”

#### HEALTH OF CHILDREN

“Through the *mitzvah* of *niddah*, purity and immersion, given to the Jewish woman, holiness and purity is brought into the family life.

Living in accordance with the laws of family purity a husband and wife merit happy, healthy children—healthy in body and soul, following the Torah's ways, bringing true joy and pride to their parents<sup>13</sup>.”

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10. *Igros Kodesh* XIX, letter 7,330.

11. *Igros Kodesh Kislev* 5713. (Note: it was on page 444, look up)

12. *Igros Kodesh* XIV, letter 5,157. This letter's request was for fertility.

13. From a letter published in *Likutei Sichos* vol. 2 page 580.

### SPREADING JEWISH FAMILY PURITY

**EDUCATION.** “I was pleased to receive your letter of December 17<sup>th</sup> with the good news regarding your finishing the new modern *mikveh* building....

May it be His will that with the building’s completion and dedication will come a renewed effort in the true work, namely educating Jewish women toward fulfilling the laws of family purity, according to the letter of the law, in all homes, including those in your camp.

It is a known saying, ‘Purity brings... holiness... which brings *chasidus*... which brings *ruach hakodesh*<sup>14</sup>.’ With blessings that you and all the house of Israel should merit: ‘I will sprinkle on you the waters of purity and you will thereby become pure... I will then give of My spirit to you, you will be My nation and I will be your G-d,’ with the coming of *Moshiach* quickly in our days<sup>15</sup>.”

**LIFE SAVING.** Regarding spreading observance of family purity, please keep this in mind. Imagine that the Almighty gave you the opportunity to save an entire city of Jews from destruction, G-d forbid. Surely you would jump at the chance to do so, and be grateful for the enormous merit which had befallen you.

Promoting observance of these laws is this, and much more. It is literally saving lives<sup>16</sup>.

**WOMEN AT THE FOREFRONT.** It is the responsibility of all *chasidic* women to lead the way strengthening everything related to Torah and *mitzvos* in general, and specifically observance of family purity. They are the ones who should organise groups to shore up our adherence to a *chasidic* education and way of life, as it has always been in *chasidic* homes<sup>17</sup>.

### FAMILY PURITY AND THE REDEMPTION

“...The Exodus from Egypt is the model for the coming redemption which is based on it. Regarding the Exodus it is stated, ‘In the merit of the righteous women in that generation the entire Jewish nation was redeemed<sup>18</sup>.’ So too is the coming redemption dependent on the commandments of the Jewish women.

These three main commandments were given specifically to Jewish women—*Shabbos* and *Yom Tov* candle lighting, *challah* (*kosher* food), and family purity.

These are all connected to basic human needs, and are conceptually connected also to the G-dly

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14. *Avodah Zorah* 20:b.

15. From a letter dated *Tevav* 5717, published in *Igros Kodesh* vol. 14 page 307.

16. *Yom Yom Nissan* 10.

17. *Yom Yom Shevat* 21.

18. *Sota* 11:b.

service of non-Jews as far as their mission to “habitate” the world is concerned: Light, food and family life.

The Jewish woman’s job, however, is to accomplish these three *mitzvahs* in accordance with Jewish directives. Candle lighting is connected with *Shabbos* and *Yom Tov*, *challah* is connected to *kosher* food and family life to the laws of purity.

This is in preparation for that time when the physical world itself becomes purified and ‘All flesh will see that all is from His mouth<sup>19</sup>.’”

*Excerpted from: [Family Purity - A Guide To Marital Fulfillment](#), Rabbi Fishel Jacobs.  
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19. *Likutei Sichos* vol. 20 page 227.