

ignored the Torah. But not only that — it is a factory of heresy, which influences the entire world ...

It is not an issue of a particular sin but rather the roots of our faith. Should we then sit with folded arms because of empty arguments? This [protesting in front of the world] is the only thing we can do that bothers them.

As an example of this concept, the Satmar Rav cites a Rambam²⁴⁴⁵ that it is prohibited for a Jew to work in a bath house on Shabbos because of the *chillul Hashem* that can result if the gentiles mistakenly think a Jew is violating Shabbos. The *mefarshim* challenge this Rambam from a Gemara in Moed Katan²⁴⁴⁶ that says in a similar case that the *chillul Hashem* only applies in a time and place where many Jews are present, but if only non-Jews are present there is no *chillul Hashem*. If, according to the Rambam, the *chillul Hashem* is because of what the gentiles think, what difference does it make whether there are Jews around?

The answer, the *mefarshim* say, is that when the gentiles see a Jew commit a sin, it is a relatively smaller *chillul Hashem*, since the gentiles understand that among the Jews, as is the case with all religions, there are sinners. They expect that. But that is true only if the gentile observes the Jew sinning in a place where Jews are not present. But if a gentile observes a Jew sinning among a mass of Jews, that is a great *chillul Hashem*, because the gentile sees that the Jewish community does not object to the sinner's behavior.

So, too, is the case with regard to Israel. It is bad enough that the state of Israel creates a *chillul Hashem* with its actions. But if the world sees that we are silent about them, that increases the *chillul Hashem* greatly. Thus, if we protest the actions of Israel to the world, and the world sees the Jews care about the Torah and protest sins, it is a great *kiddush Hashem*.

It is well known how much the Satmar Rav screamed about Israel's violation of the Shalosh Shevuos. At the same time, the *chillul Hashem* factor to him was even more blatant:

It's unbelievable. Setting aside all other issues, I already asked this question many times ... I am not talking now about violating the Shevuos. *Rachmana litzlan*, they are spreading heresy, they are spreading *avodah zarah*. They denigrate Hashem with their actions. Besides everything else — I make this one point: Can anyone imagine that a Jew who believes in the Creator would befriend this [entity], that there

445 Commentary on Mishnah, Avodah Zarah 1:9.
446 12a.

should be a Jewish state that totally ignores the Torah? So easily did the Torah disappear! In its place, they put Roman Catholic laws. The greatest crime to them is religious compulsion — to mention that there is such a thing as a law according to the Torah in that state is a total sin!

Just this one point ... "The sword comes into the world as punishment for the distortion of *din*"²⁴⁴⁷ — If someone goes to a non-Jewish court even once, it says that he is a heretic.²⁴⁴⁸ Why? He is only going there to win a few gold coins, yet going to non-Jewish court one time makes him a heretic against the entire Torah. How easy it is to erase the Torah! A non-Jew is permitted to create his own courts; he is not required to follow the commandments of the Torah ... [but a Jew must follow Torah law] ... This is an insult to the Torah!²⁴⁴⁹

Correcting the horrendous desecration of Hashem and the Torah that is caused by Israel in the eyes of the world, showing people that the Jews have a Torah, is an enormous *kiddush Hashem*.

When a Jewish government that in the eyes of the nations is the representative of all the Jewish people acts against the Torah and *emunah*, and nobody utters a word against it, but instead all Jewry are happy and glad because of this heretical government in front of the nations, and all the nations see that the opinion of Jewry as a whole is desirous of a land and a country even if it is bereft of Torah and *emunah*, there is no greater derision of the Torah and *emunah* than this, on an unprecedented level. And it results in a massively frightening *chillul Hashem*. Therefore, there is an enormous obligation to notify even the nations that there still exist Torah observant Jews who protest against the assault on our religion, with all their heart and soul.²⁴⁵⁰

Negating Centralization

Note that in Rabbi Miller's ad, he not only wrote that Israel is violating the Torah by their sins, but that "we must clearly state that the State of Israel and the Zionist Organizations have no mandate to speak in the name of the impartial masses of world Jewry."

In order to successfully counteract the *chillul Hashem* generated by Israel and meet the goals of the protest, the Satmar Rav mandated that we must not sit back and allow Israel to claim to the world that they, as the "Jewish

2447 Avos 5:8.

2448 Tanchuma, *Mishpatim* 63.

2449 Dibros Kodesh, Yom Rishon, *Vayeshev* 5728, pp. 381-382. See also Vayocel Moshe (1:101).

2450 Vayocel Moshe, vol. 1, #114.