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Hayom Yom: 11 Adar II

ּתַּעֲנִית אֶסְתֵר מוּקְדָם. סְלִיחוֹת, אָבִינוּ מַלְכֵנוּ. מַחֲצִית הַשֶּׁקֶל.

[This year (5703/1943), exceptionally,] the Fast of Esther is observed [on this date,] before its usual time.1

[In any year, the Morning Service for the Fast of Esther includes] Selichos2 and Avinu Malkeinu,3 and the [contribution of three coins of] half a shekel4 [is made at Minchah time].

חֲסִידוּת כּוֹלֶלֶת שְׁנֵי עִנְיָנִים עִקָּרִים: א) הֲבָנַת כָּל הֲלָכָה בְּשָׁרְשָׁהּ וּמְקוֹרָהּ הָעַצְמִי בְּרוּחָנִיּוּת, הַיְינוּ בִּסְפִירוֹת וּמַדְרֵגוֹת בְּכָל עוֹלָם וְעוֹלָם לְפִי עִנְיָנוֹ כִּמְבוֹאָר בְּדִבְרֵי אֱלֹקִים חַיִּים. ב) הֲבָנַת עִנְיַן כָּל הֲלָכָה בַּעֲבוֹדָה, הַיְינוּ שֶׁהֲגַם שְׁהִיא חָכְמָה וְשֵׂכֶל אֱלֹקִי וְדִין הַתּוֹרָה, מִכָּל מָקוֹם צָרִיךְ לִמְצוֹא בָּזֶה עִנְיָן בַּעֲבוֹדָה בְּהַנְהָגַת הָאָדָם בְּחַיֵּי עוֹלָם זֶה.

[The study of halachah through the eyes of] Chassidus comprises two fundamental approaches: (a) Understanding every halachah at its essential, spiritual root and source in the various Sefiros and rungs within each of the spiritual worlds. The distinctive nature of each world is explained in the teachings of Chassidus.

(b) Understanding what each halachah signifies in an individual's Divine service. Although [the halachah] represents Divine wisdom and intelligence and is Torah law, one should [seek and] discover an element within it that affects his avodah and his conduct, as he lives his life in this physical world.5