



# LETTER FROM THE REBBE

## FINDING FAULT WITH ONE'S PARENTS

Relationships between parents and children can sometimes be complicated. When feeling stuck in a difficult situation many people turn to modern psychology for answers. Sometimes, these professionals will lead their clients to blame their parents for all that went wrong in their childhood and thus all of their present hardships. This approach creates distance and alienates parents from their children.

What is the Torah's approach, as taught to us by the Rebbe? To bring parents and children closer to each other by helping the children recognize all the love and care the parents invested in them—even if it wasn't a perfect childhood. Additionally, the Rebbe gives practical advice on how to avoid conflict.

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*Free Translation*  
25 Elul 5714  
Brooklyn, NY

Blessings and Greetings,

Your letter of Monday of *Parshas Nitzavim* was received.

If you find that the relationship with your mother is not as it should be, you should contemplate the *tza'ar gidul banim* (pains of raising children) that parents have, specifically the mother, surrounding the pregnancy and birth, the childcare, the *chinuch*, etc. It will then be easier for children to be *ma'avir al midosav* (surrender their emotions) and to control their feelings regarding the faults that they find in their parents, if they're even considered faults. How much more so if they're imagined or exaggerated.

Acknowledging the fact that not always can the mind control the heart, it may be advisable that when spending time with one's parents, there should also be others present. Generally, while in the company of strangers one avoids entering conflict, and naturally gets accustomed to a relationship of peace, love, and friendship.

Regarding what you wrote that your mother's *yiras Shamayim* is somewhat lacking, it is irrelevant, for although you have to try, as much as possible, to influence her for the good, this is not the way. Rather, it should be done only in pleasant ways.

With blessings for a *ksivah vachasimah tovah lishanah tovah umesukah* to you and your family, may they live...

