

Our Father's Business

- Great Dubno Maggid mashal for Avinu Malkaynu. (Uploaded by Doniel Kramer)

There is a famous parable of the Dubno Maggid that relates to how one can tell the difference between a regular worker in a factory and the son of the owner who also works in the very same department. The regular worker is sure to clock in at 9:00, clock in and out for lunch, and clock out at 5:00. He then goes home to take care of his real business there. The son of the owner, however, will arrive early, work through lunch, and won't even realize that it is 5:00PM--after all, it is his father's business. We will soon ask Hashem to treat us not only as Malkeinu but also as Avinu Malkeinu--and we well know that we may not be able to make it based upon Malkeinu alone. If we want Hashem to treat us like His sons--should we not act like a good son acts towards his father ? Do we arrive at davening or to a shiur exactly on time or a little bit late--or a little bit early, without looking at the clock too much in between? What is our real business--Are we yotzei a Mitzvah--or do we appreciate and even enjoy its sweetness? Do we feel our Father's love throughout the day by recognizing His Presence and embrace? Do we treat our friends and acquaintances the way our Father would expect that His sons will treat each other? If our Father was to ask us if there is anything that we would not do for Him--how would we respond? Let us take the time to take the Yiddish expressions which may have fallen out of contemporary practice *Tatteh Liber* and *Tatteh in Himmel*--and try to bring them back into our daily thoughts and vocabulary!

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