



Enlighten Your Students!

וַיֹּאמֶר ה' אֶל מֹשֶׁה אֲמַר אֶל הַכֹּהֲנִים ... וְאָמַרְתָּ אֲלֵהֶם.

And the Lord said to Moses, “**Speak to the priests...**and say to them.” (Lev. 21:1)

The *parasha* opens with God giving instructions and commandments to the priests. Rashi asks why two verbs are used in this verse, “Speak to the priests...and say to them,” and answers that it is “to warn the adults about the children.” The adult priests (and educators) are meant to warn their junior charges.

A famous hasidic reading of Rashi’s use of the word “to warn – *lehazhir*”

understands it to mean “to light up – *zohar*.” Teachers and parents have two ways to influence their students and children. They can warn, informing their charges what is forbidden to do, but they must also show the light and give love and warmth.

This two-pronged approach to education is common in the ethical beliefs of the *Musar* movement. One way of teaching is likened to pouring wine from a goblet into a glass, a technical process of transferring a message from place to place, from teacher to student. The other method is to cause the goblet to overflow and influence everything nearby. No force is used to convey the message, but the teacher is so full of the subject matter that it simply flows out and is transferred to all who hear it. ■

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