

Mother's Day, ^{by now} one of America's ~~most~~ firmly established institutions, is ~~a~~ one of the finest traditions of this country. Honoring our mothers, and our parents in general, is an ethical dictate with which no one will quarrel.

Let us see what the Torah and Talmud have to say about the matter. In the Sidra of this past week, we read:

[illegible]

"You shall be holy because I the Lord your God am holy... Every man his mother and his father shall you fear" and my sabbath shall you observe.

In the 10 commandments we are told:

and upon mother". We notice that there are two expressions for the obligations of a child to his parents: § 120, "honour" and § 121, "love".

3120 1.15 1/4? "What is 'honor'?" asks the child. "Honor" is "honor", and "fear".

honor or respect is expressed in supporting your parents with food, drink, clothing, shelter, etc. and always with a joyful attitude, with an attitude of friendliness, devotion and gladness.

attitude is expressed, among others, by not sitting in the chair usually reserved for Father and Mother, not ^{openly} refuting their words, not insulting them, and so on. Thus, while we express Yirah in certain positive acts, Yirah is manifested in a negative manner, by not doing certain things. The end of the Biblical verse concerns the observance of Shabbos which, as we all know, is also mainly negative, such as not doing work.

Well, you might ask, would it not be better to show my filial devotion in a positive way? Would it not be more beautiful to observe the statutes by more positive commandments, the "Do's" rather than the "Don'ts"? And then, what does "fear" mean? Am I to cringe ~~in~~ and tremble before my parents whom I know and love so well?

Before we answer ^{these} ~~that~~ questions, let us remember that the Torah and the Oral Law must be understood as well as read. And if we dig a bit further we may ~~never~~ discover some of the most beautiful and precious gems of thought.

No, "fear" ~~too~~, does not always mean literal cowering & trembling. Its significance is vastly profounder. "Fear" means the constant and unending

awareness of duty and obligation and gratefulness; ^{It is an important part of duty.} While 7:120, which is a very noble thing, can be expressed by a certain specific act in a matter of ^{minutes} ~~minutes~~, 7:121 does not know the limits of time, it is an attitude which must accompany us every moment of our living day. Not a second must pass without our conscious & subconscious knowledge that our parents, who brought us into this world and raised and nourished us ~~at~~ with so much love and selflessness and attended with so much difficulty & pain, deserve our attention & devotion & respect. We can support Mother, or bring her an occasional gift, we can discharge our obligation of 7:120, but if it is only once a year or month or even week, we have failed to obey the commandment of 7:121. How is this 7:121 expressed practically? By not doing certain things, ~~for~~ our Sages tell us. And if we do not insult Mother (and insults ^{can} come in a thousand ways other than direct) then ~~we~~ we observe this ~~to~~ 7:121 every ~~at~~ second. Not a moment may go by without our realizing that we do not cause her any heartache. Not doing something is timeless, it goes on and on forever.

This, too, may be the reason that the 213th of Shabbos follows so closely upon the heels of 1857A 1:16/18K 6/6. We must be aware of Shabbos all day long. Some of our Temple-member untraditional Jews believe that Sabbath-observance is completed by attending the Friday Late Services or sometimes even Sabbath-Morning Services. This reduces the Shabbos to about five hours out of 24, if the Rabbi's sermon is short. The rest of the day becomes ~~a~~ a week-day week-end. We, however, ^{know} remember every minute of the day that it is ~~forbidden to smoke~~, to do business and so forth. Thus we are constantly Shabbos-minded on this seventh day, just as we are parent-minded every day of the year.

Or, possibly, can we draw the conclusion from the proximity of the Sabbath to that of devotion to parents that if some of us were to observe the Sabbath just a bit more we would thus make our parents happier?

at any rate, we remain with this thought. 7120 is not enough; we must have 10000 too. Mother's day as a sign of 7120 is good and well. But what of the day after " " the day after that? Be it firmly resolved that Mother's Day be observed 365 days every year.