

571' 'K3IN 2002

Dear Rabbi Lamm

Hello and שלום. I'm an admirer of your book Torah for Torah's Sake which is useful for clarifying the conceptual disagreements between the "Lithuanian" Yeshiva world and the Chassidic world.

I have a question that I appreciate your addressing. On page 146 of your book you quote Rabbi Nachum of Chernobyl quoting the צ"ח that one who performs מלצ"ח is greater than one who learns about the מלצ"ח. This idea you present as a "עצ"ח" of the צ"ח.

I see, I think, a resemblance between the צ"ח and מלצ"ח. In שו"ת מהרש"א חלק נ"ח (page 500 in Rabbi Kaffach's edition) he critiques the "צ"ח" who studies מלצ"ח but doesn't perform them. He goes to the extreme of saying מלצ"ח עשוי רק מלצ"ח וצ"ח עשוי רק מלצ"ח.

I don't know if the צ"ח was influenced by צ"ח especially since the tension between a life devoted to study and a life combining study and deeds goes back a long way. So I don't know if צ"ח is the originator of his idea. It just seems to me that צ"ח by praising the מלצ"ח of אשכנזי, גאון, גאון in this way, does, in a way, pre-empt the צ"ח.

Thank-you for your time.

Yours truly,
Abraham Fischman
POB 1190
Efrat, Israel