

Breslov Approach to Minhagim / Customs

written by Yossi Katz

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Rabbi Nachman of Breslov was not only the leader of a close-knit chaburah pursuing the highest spiritual ideals, but a universal figure. He spoke to all. Therefore, the movement he began has always been more accommodating of diversity than others. Even today, there is no pressure on those who seek to follow the Rebbe's path in 'avodas HaShem to change personal customs such as their nusach ha-tefillah, nor are members of the Tzefas community obligated in any way to follow Rabbi Gedaliah Kenig's personal customs, or those of his son, Rabbi Elazar Kenig. This is particularly true of Sefardic Breslovers, of whom there are many today. During our discussions of these minhagim, Reb Elazar Kenig often said: "Der ikkar darf men hobben a sakh a sakh yiras Shomayim . . . The main thing is to be deeply G-d-fearing." All Jewish customs are holy, and one is no less of a Breslover if he keeps his family or community minhagim (i.e. Tzanz, Chabad, Oberland-Ashkenaz, GRA-Ashkenaz, Polish, Moroccan, Syrian, Yemenite, etc.). When we spoke with Rabbi Shimshon Barsky of Bnei Brak and others who come from families that have old Breslover mesorahs, they, too, reiterated this.

However, for those who would like to adopt minhagim that have a historical association with the Breslov community,

especially ba'alei teshuvah who lack such family mesorahs, we have presented the minhagim of which we are aware. To read these customs, please

visit: <http://breslovcenter.blogspot.com/2011/02/breslov-eikh-she-hu-breslov-way-it-is.html>

Written by: Dovid Sears

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