

And G-d saw that it was good. (1:10)

Horav Zelik Epstein, zl, *Rosh Yeshivah* of Shaar Torah, spent the early part of 1940 in Kelm, Lithuania. He was an *aveil*, mourner, for his father, and he required a thrice daily *minyán* to recite *Kaddish*. He felt that, at the time, while the war was raging, the most practical place to do this would be in Kelm. Already at a young age, his reputation as a *talmid chacham*, Torah scholar, preceded him. Additionally, he was proficient with a Hebrew typewriter. Thus, *Rebbetzin* Nechamah Leebe, daughter of the *Alter m'Kelm* and widow of *Horav Tzvi Hirsch Broide*, asked him to edit and type the *Alter's kesavim*, written manuscripts. He agreed, and, for the next six months, he sat upstairs in the *Rebbetzin's* attic redacting the *kesavim*. Indeed, a good part of the five volume *Chochmah u'Mussar* was the result of his editing.

Rav Zelik made three copies: one to be sent to *Eretz Yisrael*; one for the family; one for himself. When he was about to leave Kelm, he was prepared to take his copy along with him. *Horav Gershon Miadnik, zl*, brother-in-law of the *Rosh Yeshivah* of Kelm and *Horav Doniel Moshovitz, zl*, son-in-law of the *Alter*, demanded that he return the third copy. It was not leaving Kelm with him. *Rav* Zelik claimed that the primary reason that he had accepted the task of typing (a task which had taken a considerable amount of time) was that he wanted to avail himself of a copy of the *Alter's kesavim*. Not out of a sense of disrespect, but out of a desire to know the *halachah* with regard to the fruits of his labor, he decided to present the question to the *Rosh Yeshivah* of Kelm, *Rav* Doniel Moshowitz, who was the *Alter's* older son-in-law.

Rav Doniel quoted the above *pasuk* and its accompanying *Midrash* which compare Hashem (so to speak) to a cook who wants to taste the meal that he had prepared. This indicates, posited *Rav* Doniel, that one may partake pleasure from his creation. Hashem created the world for man; yet, He took a moment to “enjoy” His creation. Likewise, when one designs, composes, originates an entity, he is permitted to savor it and has definite rights to it. *Rav* Zelik took his copy with him to Mir when he left Kelm. While most of his original typing was later printed, he never divulged or showed anyone the parts of the *kesavim* which had been omitted. He figured that, as the typist, he had a legitimate right to it, but this did not necessarily allow it to be open for public consumption.