

HOW TO BRING A PIDYON TO THE TZADDIK

The term *pidyon* is short for *Pidyon HaNefesh*, or "soul redemption." Since money and the soul (*nefesh*) share the same spiritual root, the practice of bringing a *pidyon* has the ability to effect fundamental change in a person's life.

Anyone, regardless of age or gender, can bring a *pidyon* to the Tzaddik. The actual *pidyon* is a sum of money accompanied by a piece of paper with your name written on it. Write your Hebrew name followed by your mother's Hebrew name, on a preferably blank, unlined piece of paper. Other names, such as family members, can also be given. It is written as follows: Hebrew name *ben* mother's Hebrew name; for females – her Hebrew name *bat* mother's Hebrew name. If you don't know your Hebrew name, or that of your mother, write the English names. If there is a special reason for the *pidyon*, it can be specified at the top of the note. Put this paper and the sum of money in an envelope and give or send it to the Tzaddik. In Breslev, this is done by giving the *pidyon* to one of the living leaders of the community.

How much should you give? The amount can range from a few coins to a large sum. Sometimes the numerical equivalent (*gematria*) of the names is given. In other cases, multiples of eighteen – signifying life – are given. There are times when the amount may even be specified by the Tzaddik himself.

Although it is always beneficial, some examples for bringing a *pidyon* include:

- The eve of Rosh HaShanah
- For an easy labor and birth
- After the birth of a child
(the *gematria* of the baby's name is given)
- Success in finding one's marriage partner
- Before a business deal
- When someone is ill
- Before important events or trips
- On a birthday or *yahrtzeit*
- For help with spiritual growth



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