

The Meaning of Mesiras Nefesh

On his deathbed, he related the following to his close student, Horav Sender Linchner, zl: "Do you know the meaning of mesiras nefesh? You probably think of mesiras nefesh as being burned at the stake to sanctify Hashem's Name. No. That is mesiras haguf, sacrifice of the body. I could have remained in Slabodka and spent my life going through Shas (the entire Talmud) many times. Instead, I came to America and spent my days collecting tomatoes from Jewish farmers around New Haven, so that my talmidim would have something to eat. That is mesiras nefesh."