

SHAVOUS :AIMING HIGH

RIVKIE GIBBER, SHIUR 449 MAY 17, 2017. 22 YIAR 5777

RAV DESSLER ASKS WHAT ARE WE ASPIRING TOWARDS ON SHAVOUS?
EVERY YOM TOV HAS ITS OWN LATENT POWER. EVERY YOM TOV CARRIES CERTAIN KOACH. EVERY YOM TOV HAS ITS OWN AVODA THAT IS SPECIFIC FOR THAT HOLIDAY. WE ARE MEANT TO TAP INTO WHATEVER IS SPECIAL ABOUT THAT PARTICULAR YOM TOV.

IMAGINE SAYS RIVKIE, A CIRCULAR STAIRCASE, GOING HIGHER AND HIGHER. EACH YEAR WE CONTINUE FROM WHERE WE LEFT OFF ON THE STAIRCASE AND EACH YEAR WE REACH A HIGHER RUNG ON THE STAIRCASE.

SHAVOUS, WE KNOW THE TORAH TELLS US, IS 'ZEMAN MATAN TORAZAINU.' HASHEM SO TO SPEAK, COMES KNOCKING ON OUR DOOR EACH SHAVOUS, WITH A BIG PACKAGE THAT HE WANTS TO GIVE US-HIS TORAH. BUT WE NEED TO STRETCH OUT OUR HAND TO TAKE IT.

THE YOM TOV OF SHAVOUS DOES NOT CONTAIN ANY SPECIFIC MITZVOS, AS THE OTHER HOLIDAYS DO. IT IS A PURE YOM TOV, JUST FOR THE YOM TOV ITSELF. WE HAVE MINHAGIM-CUSTOMS, BUT THERE IS NO MATZO, NO ESROG, NO LULAV ETC. IT IS SOLELY A CELEBRATION OF ACCEPTING THE TORAH. THIS IS OUR AVODA ON SHAVOUS.

BUT ASKS RAV DESSLER, HOW CAN WE DO THIS? EVEN THE GENERATION THAT LEFT MITZRAIM-THE DOR DAYA-THAT WAS ON SUCH A HIGH MADREGA SINNED A MERE FEW WEEKS AFTER MATAN TORAH. SO HOW ARE WE, IN THIS GENERATION EXPECTED TO REACH THE LEVELS OF THE DOR DAYA?

ON WHAT SPIRITUAL LEVEL WERE THE YIDDEN OF THAT TIME BY MATAN TORAH?
THE LEVEL OF ADOM HA'RISHON BEFORE HE ATE FROM THE EITZ HADAS!!

THE FIRST LUCHOS WERE ON A VERY HIGH SPIRITUAL LEVEL. AFTER MOSHE RABBEINU BROKE THEM, HE COLLECTED THEM AND HE KEPT THEM IN THE ARON. HE DIDN'T PUT THEM AWAY IN A GENIZA WHERE NO ONE WOULD SEE THEM, RATHER THEY WERE IN THE ARON. THESE LUCHOS WERE VERY HOLY. THEY WERE CALLED 'CHARUS' WHICH MEANS FREEDOM. FREEDOM FROM WHAT? FROM THE MALACH HAMOVES-THE ANGEL OF DEATH. HAD WE BEEN ABLE TO MAINTAIN THE

LEVEL WE WERE ON DURING MATAN TORAH, WE WOULD HAVE NO DEATH, NO FORGETTING. OUR LIVES WOULD BE TOTALLY DIFFERENT THAN NOW.

SO ONE QUESTION ASKS RAV DESSLER, WHY WERE THE PIECES KEPT IN THE ARON? WHY KEEP THEM IF THEY ARE BROKEN?

HASHEM SAID TO MOSHE RABBEINU AFTER HE WENT UP TO RECEIVE THE 2ND LUCHOS-HASHEM SAID, 'PESOL LECHO'. THIS TIME I AM NOT GOING TO MAKE THE LUCHOS. THIS TIME YOU MAKE THE LUCHOS. THEY WILL HAVE SOME OF THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE FIRST SET BUT THEY WILL BE FROM YOU.

RAV DESSLER EXPLAINS WHAT IS MEANT BY THE POSUK: CHAYOV ADOM L'OMAR: MOSAI YAGIU MAASEI L'MAASEI AVOSI?

WHEN WILL MY ACTIONS REACH THE ACTIONS OF THE FOREFATHERS AND FORMOTHERS?

THIS IS AN OBLIGATION OF ALL OF US. BUT WHAT DOES IT MEAN IN PRACTICAL TERMS?

WE EACH HAVE RABBONIM, REBBETZINS WHOM WE ADMIRE, WHOM WE LEARN FROM. WE MAY READ ABOUT GEDOLIM WHOM WE CAN LEARN FROM. BUT WHAT THIS POSUK IS TELLING US, THAT IT IS INCUMBENT FOR EACH OF US TO TRY TO REACH THE HIGH SPIRITUAL LEVEL OF OUR AVOS AND YIMOHOS!!!

THIS IS WHAT SHAVOUS IS COMING TO TEACH US. WE HAVE TO AIM FOR THE TOP IN RUCHNIYUS AND NOTHING ELSE WILL DO. WE HAVE TO TRY TO EMULATE THE AVOS AND YIMOHOS. WE CAN LEARN FROM GEDOLIM FROM THE PAST, RABBONIM FROM TODAY, BUT WE MUST NEVER SAY THAT WE CAN'T AIM HIGHER THAN THAT. WE ALL HAVE TO ASPIRE TO ADOM HA'RISHON BEFORE THE CHEIT. THAT IS WHAT THE BROKEN PIECES OF THE LUCHOS SYMBOLIZE TO THE GENERATION IN THE DESERT. YOU CAN AIM HIGHER, YOU CAN REACH THAT HIGH SPIRITUAL LEVEL YOU WERE ON BY MATAN TORAH. YOU GOT THERE ONCE AND YOU CAN GET THERE AGAIN.

OF COURSE, WE CAN LEARN FROM EVERYONE, AND WE SHOULD LEARN FROM EVERYONE, BUT HASHEM IS TELLING US, WE HAVE TO SET THE BAR HIGH. AS HIGH AS IT CAN GO. ALL THE WAY BACK TO THE AVOS. IN RUCHNIYUS WE HAVE TO AIM FOR PERFECTION AND THAT IS ADOMA HA'RISHON BEFORE THE CHEIT.

THIS IS THE ESSENCE OF SHAVOUS-NO LIMITS. WE HAVE TO BELIEVE IN OUR POWER OF AVODAS HASHEM, IN OUR POWER OF BEIN ADOM L'CHAVERO. WE NEED TO STRETCH AND THEN STRETCH A LITTLE MORE. WE NEED TO SAY, 'I CAN.' WE NEED TO BELIEVE IN EACH OTHER.

THE POSUK SAYS, 'AYIN HA'DOVOR OMADE L'PHNEI HA'ROZON.' WHICH MEANS; NOTHING CAN STAND IN THE WAY OF YOUR WANTING. WE HAVE TO HAVE THE WILL TO REACH THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF AVODAS HASHEM.

AND WE LEARN THIS FROM PESACH SHEINI. A YEAR AFER BNEI YISROEL LEFT MITZRAIM, MOSHE RABBEINU COMMANDED EVERYONE TO PARTAKE IN THE MITZVA OF KORBAN PESACH.

BUT THERE WAS ONE SLIGHT PROBLEM. YOU COULD ONLY EAT FROM THE KORBAN PESACH, IF YOU WERE TOHAR. ANYONE WHO WAS TAMEI COULD NOT JOIN IN. THERE WERE PEOPLE WHO WERE TAKING CARE OF 'AZTMOS YOSEF' THE BONES OF YOSEF AND OF THE OTHER BROTHERS AS WELL. THIS CAUSED THEM TO BE IN A CONSTANT STATE OF TUMAH.

THESE MEN CAME TO MOSHE RABBEINU AND SAID, 'WE WANT TO PARTAKE ALSO, WE DON'T WANT TO BE LEFT OUT OF THIS MITZVAH.'

SO MOSHE RABBEINU WENT TO ASK HASHEM AND HASHEM ANSWERED, I WILL BE GIVING ALL THOSE WHO ARE TOMAH IN NISSAN, A 2ND CHANCE IN IYAR. EXACTLY A MONTH AFTER PESACH, THERE WILL BE A PESACH SHEINI.

THE QUESTION IS WHY DOES THE TORAH GO TO SUCH GREAT LENGTHS TO TELL US ALL THIS? WHAT IS IMPORTANT FOR US TO KNOW HERE?

THE TORAH WANTS TO SHOW US WHAT IT MEANS TO HAVE A 'CHESHEK FOR TORAH' A DESIRE, A LONGING TO DO A MITZVAH SO BADLY.

RAV MOSHE FEINSTEIN EXPLAINS, THE BROCHA WE GIVE AN 8 DAY OLD BABY AT HIS BRIS IS, 'SHA'YIKANES L'TORAH, L'CHUPAH, U'L'MAASIM TOVIM.' ASKES RAV MOSHE, TORAH ENCOMPASSES MAASSIM TOVIM-GOOD DEEDS SO WHY IS IT MENTIONED SEPERATEL?. IF SOMEONE KNOWS TORAH AND DOESN'T PRACTICE GOOD DEEDS, WE DON'T CONSIDER HIM AS KEEPING THE TORAH. THE TORAH IS NOT AN OBJECT OF ONLY INTELLECTUAL PURSUIT. IT IS MEANT TO BE KEPT. SO EXACTLY WHAT BROCHA ARE WE GIVING THIS 8 DAY OLD CHILD?

WHAT ARE THE MAASIM TOVIM? THOSE ARE THE EXTRAS. YES, THE BABY SHOULD GROW UP TO KEEP THE TORAH AND THE MITZVOS BUT IN ADDITION HE SHOULD ASPIRE TO DO MORE. TO DO EXTRA THINGS TO SHOW HIS GREAT LOVE TO THE AIBISHTER. HE SHOULD ALWAYS BE AIMING HIGHER.

THERE IS THE FAMOUS STORY OF RAV YITZCHOK HARIF WHO WENT TO THE GREAT VOLOZHINER YESHIVA TO FIND A CHOSON FOR HIS DAUGHTER. HE DIDN'T LOOK AT RESUMES OF THE YESHIVA BOCHURIM. HE WENT INTO THE BAIS HAMEDRASH AND ASKED A HARD 'KASHA' A DIFFICULT QUESTION ON THE GEMARA AND HE SAID, WHOEVER CAN ANSWER THIS QUESTION, CAN HAVE MY DAUGHTER FOR A WIFE. DIFFERENT BOCHURIM TRIED TO ANSWER IT, BUT NONE COULD GIVE THE CORRECT ANSWER. SO RAV YITZCHOK TOLD HIMSELF, THAT THERE IS NO ONE HERE FOR MY DAUGHTER AND STARTED TO LEAVE THE YESHIVA.

ONE BOCHUR STARTED RUNNING AFTER HIM, YELLING, 'RAV YITZCHOK, PLEASE WAIT, PLEASE WAIT.'

SO RAV YITZCHOK THOUGHT TO HIMSELF, SURELY THIS BOY WILL KNOW THE ANSWER AND HE WILL BE MY DAUGHTER'S CHOSON. RAV YITZCHOK TURNED AROUND AND SAID, 'BOCHUR WHAT DO YOU THINK THE ANSWER IS?'

THE BOCHUR SAID, 'NO RAV YITZCHOK I DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER, I AM RUNNING AFTER YOU BECAUSE I WANT TO HEAR THE ANSWER FROM YOU. I CAN NOT BEAR TO HAVE YOU LEAVE THE YESHIVA WITHOUT SHARING THE ANSWER WITH ME.'

RAV YITZCHOK SAW WHAT A 'CHESHEK' DESIRE THIS BOY HAD FOR TORAH HE DECIDED THIS IS THE BOY FOR MY DAUGHTER.

RIVKIE POINTED OUT TO US THAT WHEREVER SHEMA IS WRITTEN IN THE SIDDUR, IT IS ALWAYS PRECEDED BY THE WORDS:

HA'BOCHAR B'AMO YISROEL **B'AHAVA'**-BEFORE WE SAY THE WORDS IN SHEMA: '**V'AHAVTA ES HASHEM ELKOCHA'** IT IS PRECEDED BY THE WORDS TELLING US OF HASHEM'S GREAT LOVE FOR US. HASHEM LOVES US AND WE RECIPRICATE WITH OUR LOVE OF HASHEM YISBORACH.

AND HOW DO WE RECOGNIZE HASHEM'S GREAT LOVE FOR US? IN THE DAY TO DAY THINGS THAT WORK OUT WELL FOR US EACH DAY, AND ALLOW OUR DAYS TO GO SMOOTHLY. ALL THE SMALL DETAILS IN OUR DAYS-ARE THE MANIFESTATION OF HASHEM'S LOVE FOR US AND THE PRESENTS HE GIVES US EACH AND EVERY DAY.

ANOTHER WAY TO FEEL HASHEM'S LOVE: WHY DOES HASHEM ASK MOSHE RABBEINU TO COUNT THE YIDDEN IN THE MIDBAR? HASHEM KNOWS HOW MANY BLADES OF GRASS EXIST IN THE WORLD, HE SURELY KNOWS HOW MANY YIDDEN EXIST?

HASHEM IS COUNTING US, IN ORDER TO SHOW US HIS LOVE. HOW SO? WE CAME DOWN TO MITZRAIM WITH 70 NEFESH-EVERYONE IN THE MIDBAR KNEW THAT FACT. WE ENDURED TREMENDOS HARDSHIPS, PERSECUTIONS IN THE 210 YEARS OF SLAVERY IN MITZRAIM. NOW MOSHE RABBEINU WOULD COUNT THEM-AND NOW

THERE ARE 600,000 MEN WOMEN AND CHILDREN!!! WOW! WE SHOULD HAVE BEEN DECIMATED AFTER EVERYTHING WE ENDURED. BUT LOOK, THROUGH HASHEM'S TREMENDOS LOVE FOR US, WE GREW INTO A NATION!!

THIS IS TRUE FOR OUR GENERATION AS WELL. WHEN WE LOOK AROUND AND SEE BORUCH HASHEM HOW THE FRUM WORLD IS GROWING, WE ALSO HAVE TO SEE HASHEM'S TREMENDOS LOVE FOR US. AFTER HAVING SURVIVED THE HOLOCAUST, HAVING LOST 6 MILLION OF OUR BRETHREN, HAVING TO START A NEW LIFE, IN A NEW COUNTRY, PENNILESS-AND LOOK BORUCH HASHEM-THE NUMBER OF YESHIVAS, CHADERIM, BATEI MEDRASHIM, BAIS YAAKOV'S, KOLLELIM-WE HAVE TO TAKE STOCK AND REALIZE IT IS ONLY BECAUSE HASHEM LOVES US SO MUCH AND HELPS US SO MUCH.

WITH THIS REALIZATION, WE CAN RECIPRICATE HASHEM'S LOVE TO US AND TRY TO REACH EVER GREATER SPIRITUAL HEIGHTS AND MAKE OUR SHAVOUS INTO THE YOM TOV WHERE WE SOAR AND IY'D REACH THE HEIGHTS OF OUR AVOS AND YIMOHOS.