



# OD YOSEF HAI NEWSLETTER

ROSH YESHIVAH AND COMMUNITY RABBI  
DAYAN ABRAHAM DAVID SHLI"TA

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## Thoughts on Parashat TSAV Year 25 by Dayan Abraham David

The *midrash Rabah* tells us that Aaron wondered why in *Parshat Vayikra* it was that his sons are mentioned in all the sacrifices being offered “*Ve archu bnei Aaron, Ve Zarku Beni Aaron, Ve Natnu bnei Aaron and he was not mentioned.*” Hashem answered that I have a special mitzvah for you “*Haramat Hadesheh*” the removing of ashes from the alter, that is why it mentions *tzav et Aaron ve et Banav* putting Aaron first.

But what is so special about the mitzvah of taking down the ashes, was this in fact not a more menial task than the offering of the *korbanot*. The answer is that here was a mitzvah Aaron could perform with utmost humility without any pomp or pageantry, completely “*Leshem Shamayim*” to bring him closer to G-d. For “*Karov Hashem le Nishbare lev*” G-d is close to those who are of broken spirit and humble. The

greatness of Aaron was his humility and sincerity in the service of Hashem. In fact this trait was inherited from him by his children as the Rambam says in his *Halachot*, though there were no lots for the appointment to clean out the ashes from the side of the *mizbeach* to be taken outside the camp there was never a shortage of Cohanim who volunteered to do it, even though it was a most menial task.

The *Yalkut Shemoni* brings the offers of Bilaam who was the greatest prophet of the nations, he tried to outdo all our forefathers, he tried to outdo Abraham Avinu who offered Itzhak his son by offering a son and a daughter, he built 7 alters as many as all the avot together built, he was willing to outdo the daily meal offering of Aaron and offered large quantities of flour, oil and animals. It would seem a great and commendable effort, but Hashem answers him “I do not want your offering only the small quantity offered by Aaron as Cohen Gadol daily. Why was this? Why was his great sacrifices not acceptable? The *Yalkut* brings an explanation with a parable. There was a butcher who

had just received a large consignment of meat, there was a tax on the meat at the time. The butcher saw the tax collector approaching his shop. He sent one of his workers to meet the tax collector with a large piece of meat, saying “This is a gift for you, please lead me to your house so I can take this for you.” This was the ploy of the butcher to distract the tax collector so he could hide the large quantity of meat he could be taxed on. So Hashem answered Bilaam “You are like that butcher. I don’t want your offering only the *log shemen* and small quantity of flour Aaron brings me daily.”

Bilaam was willing to offer everything, besides his will, his offerings were a bribe to have G-d do his will. But Aaron was really offering himself with his humility symbolically through the *log shemen* and quantity of flour. A *Korban* is to bring ourselves close to G-d by doing His will. We ask G-d what does He want from us, what is His will and not as a means for Him to do our will. *Batel Retzoncha Lifne Retzona*, and the rest will follow.

Unlike the nations who even when they serve G-d do so that He should do their will. Am Yisrael serve Hashem out of gratitude and even when we ask for things it is so that we should serve him without distractions and happily. We are an introspective people and know how to humble ourselves and try to do the will of G-d.

### TORAH INSIGHTS

This year more than ever the following insights would be more

relevant than in other years, as in isolation we would be with our own close families or sometimes have to do it alone. But Yeshuot Hashem ke eref ayin, the salvation from G-d will come like a blink of an eye.

When we sit around the Seder Table on Pesach night and read the Haggadah, we will be fulfilling a mitzvah from the Torah, the purpose of which is to speak about the miracles G-d made in Egypt to redeem our people. We are obliged to ask the questions of the ‘*Ma Nishtana*’ and to speak out the answers even if we are wise and know them all and there is nobody with us. But the Torah commands this mitzvah with the words ‘*veHigadtah leBincha*’ and you should tell it over to your sons to tell us there is a special obligation to hand over this knowledge to our children according to their characters and ability to understand. As it says in the Haggadah ‘*Keneged Arba Banim Dibra Torah*’ the Torah has indicated suitable answers to each of the four types of sons. It is incumbent upon every parent to make sure that their children receive this knowledge and to pass it on to their children. The Rambam explains that on this night of Pesach we are obliged to make changes from the normal so as to arouse the interest of our children. We give them ‘*Egozim Vekaliyot*’, the equivalent of sweets and chocolates today. We pretend to remove the food off the table before we have begun the meal and to grab the matzah from each other so that the children will ask ‘*Ma Nishtana Halilah Hazeh*’ and we give them the answer ‘*Avadim Hayaenu lePharaoh*

*Bemitzraim'* and the Haggadah. Every community has its own customs to do this so as to arouse interest for when there is a happy interest, then the message will get through.

We are not allowed to neglect even the son who behaves like a *'Rashah'* a scoffer, we answer him sharply in order to warn him of the consequences of his bad ways but we do not ignore him. *'Af Ata hakhe etShenav veEmore lo'*. Of course the intelligent and interested son must be catered for fully according to his level and not brushed off with superficial answers. The *'Tam'*, who is not so clever but shows an interest must be explained to in a way he would understand. It should be pictured to him from examples in everyday life of how our people suffered as slaves in Egypt until they were redeemed by G-d. Unfortunately there are also children who are *'Einu Yodeah Lishal'* who do not even know how to ask and show no interest at all. For them it says *'At Petach lo'* you must open it out for them, arouse their interest, show them what they are missing.

The Haggadah uses the feminine term *'At'* instead of *'Ata'* to indicate it must be done gently and with love as a mother would. But it is not only our children we are responsible for but for every one of our people *'Kol Yisrael Arevim Ze ba Ze'*. We are obliged to hand over this knowledge of G-d's miracles through Moshe in Egypt to redeem our people. We look forward to his promise to redeem us too from our exile and not one of us must be lost.

## STORIES OF TZADDIKIM

It was the Pesach after the war had ended and one of the Rabbis in the DP Camps had organised to make matzot.

There was a ration on how many matzot each family could take. The Klausenberger Rebbe sent his son to collect. His son said to the Rabbi, "My father wants a double portion". The Rabbi said: "It is difficult to give double!" The son said: "My father insisted". The Rabbi said: "if the Rebbe insisted then I must give". The Rabbi continued to give out matzot leaving just enough for his own family. On Erev Pesach three men, who lost all their family, came to him and asked for some spare matzot. The Rabbi gave away his own matzot. Just before the time of the Seder, the Klausenberger Rebbe's son came to the Rabbi and handed over to him a set of matzot saying: "My father said this is the extra portion since you would have probably given away all your matzot!" We are caring people and we open our hands to everyone whatever our own situation is.

## HALACHOT Nissan & Pesach

1) We may not eat matzot on Erev Pesach even if the matzot have been fried in batter, but if they have been ground and cooked in liquid, they may be eaten since they have lost their appearance.

2) Even though according to the Shulchan Aruch we are allowed to eat matza ashira (Pesach flour) baked with eggs, fruit juice or wine, we do not

eat matza ashira baked in factories or bakeries for fear of having a drop of water fall into the fruit juice or wine which would make it chametz.

3) A Bechor who does not wish to fast must be present at the *'Siyum Mesechtah'* and try to follow, but anyhow if he partakes of the celebration with food or drink he does not have to continue the fast.

4) From dawn onwards until the Siyum he must not eat or drink. Taking food or drink from the Siyum to a Bechor does not help him break his fast, he must be present at the Siyum.

5) This year because of the COVID-19 unfortunately there will be no siyum in the Yeshiva. The bechor should contact another bechor who is making a siyum and join him but do take care and keep their distance. If you are not able please contact the Rabbi who might be able to help you.

6) It is a Mitzva on every male to count the Omer beginning from the 2<sup>nd</sup> night of Pesach for 49 days, women count without a beracha.

7) We should count immediately after nightfall, but if someone prays with a minyan later, he can delay counting until the Tefilath Arbit. If someone forgets to count at the beginning of the night he can do so all night until dawn with a beracha.

8) But if he did not count all night, then during the day he counts without a beracha so that he can continue counting again with a beracha the following night. Otherwise, we cannot continue counting with a beracha.

**Wishing you all a chag kasher ve sameach. We pray for refua and yeshua be karov mamash.**

*Shabbat Shalom*

### **Kimcha De'Pischa**

**If you have not already donated for those in need please do so now. Do not miss out on this mitzvah**

Please G-d we will be baking as usual  
Hand-baked soft Sedarim Matzot, Made according to our Tradition  
**KASHER LE-MEHADRIN**  
Under the supervision of Dayan Abraham David of Od Yosef Hai  
Baked in the ZADIK Bakery on the premises of the Yeshiva  
makes the eating of the required Shiur of Matzot on Seder night easier  
To Order:  
Tel: 020-8202 8374 / 07886 854 352  
Or email: dayandavid@odyosefhai.org.uk

### **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April**

**Sale of Chametz before 10am  
Don't forget bitul chametz 11:37 am latest**

## SHABBAT TIMES

Shabbat commences	7:22 pm
Shabbat terminates	8:32 pm
Shabbat :Latest Shema	
Magen Avraham	9:00 am
Shabbat :Latest Shema Gra	9:54 am

**PLEASE FOLLOW ALL THE GUIDELINES AND WARNINGS CONCERNING COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

**VUSHMARTEM MEOD  
LE'NAFSHOTECHEM**

**VEHAVTA L'REACHA KAMOCHA**