Monsey Edition לעילוי נשמת ר' אברהם יוסף שמואל אלטר בו ר' טובי' ז"ל רעיתו רישא רחל בת ר' אברהם שלמה ע"ה קורץ

TO SUBSCRIBE AND RECEIVE THIS TORAH SHEET WEEKLY WWW.TORAHTAVLIN.ORC OR SEND AN EMAIL TO TORAHTAVLIN@ YAHOO.COM

פרק ה' דאבות

שבת קודש פרשת חקת – ט' תמוז תשפ"א Shabbos Parshas Chukas - June 19, 2021

פלג המנחה עש״ק – 6:57 | הדלקת נרות שבת – 8:18 | זמן קריאת שמע / מ״א – 8:38 | זמן קריאת שמע / הגר״א – 9:11 סוף זמן תפילה/הגר"א - 10:26 | שקיעת החמה שבת קודש - 8:32 | מוצש"ק צאת הכוכבים - 9:22 | צאה"כ / לרבינו תם - 9:44

וכבר ידעו שכל מהותם הוא שקר. שוב לא יחושו למזימותיהם. כי יידעו ממקור מי מתפשטות הספקות, על כן ראו תחילה לנכון להסתיר את מהותם, ולדבר בלשון הכנעני. כי רק בכך תהיה ביכולתם לבצע זממם. ובתוך הסתרת זהותם כבר היתה כלולה גם האמצעי לעורר בהם ספקות. כפי שמביא רש״י. שמאחר שיהיו סבורים שכנעניים הם יתפללו על נפילת הכנעניים. אולם לא על מפלת עמלק. ועי"ז לא תהיה להם תקומה נגדם. וכתוצאה מכך יטילו ספק בכח התפילה... אולם ישראל הבינו תיכף במזימתם, והתפללו על כיבוש העם הזה העומד מולם.

קליפה זו עדייז מרקדת בינינו. חז"ל הקדושים אמרו (תנחומא סוף פרשת כי תצא) 'נשבע הקדוש ברור הוא שאיז הכסא שלם ואיז השם מלא עד שימחה זרעו של עמלק' לא לחינם נאמרו הדברים. קליפת עמלק היא ורק היא גורמת עד היום שישראל יכשלו בעוונות ובחטאים. כי היצר הרע אינו כי אם שרו של עמלק. ותכסיסי היצר הם עצמם הם תכסיסי עמלק. ורק על ידם כובש את לבותיהם של הנחשלים בישראל. דהנה. אם יבואו אל האדם המתמם עם בוראו ויפתוהו למרוד באדונו. הרי לא יפנה כלל להצעה זו. וזאת גם אם אינו בעל מדריגה ואינו זוכה להשגות רמות בגדלות בוראו ואינו משתוקק אליו מרוב האהבה. ואינו כי אם אדם מז השורה היודע ומאמיז שהבורא ברור הוא ברא את עולמו ועיניו משוטטות בכל. ובהכרח יענישנו על עוונו. די לו לאדם באמונה זו לדחות את יצרו.

ומהי עצת היצר? מעורר ספיקות באדם! אותה מידה של 'היש ה' בקרבנו אם איז' ממשיר היצר בתור לבות בני אדם. ובאמצעותם מעורר רפיוז בכל הקשור לעניני עבודה. ותקוותינו שבקרוב נזכה שהקב"ה יקיים הבטחתו (יז, יד) 'כי מחה את זכר עמלק: אולם כל עוד קליפה זו קיימת מוטל עלינו לדעת האיר להתגונו מארסו. ועלינו להתבונן האיך התמודדו אבותינו במזימתיו, ולהפיק מהם לקחי חיים.

במי שממית עצמו עליה, דהיינו שעוסק בפלפול ומשא ומתן של תורה, כמ"ש על בחקותי תלכו על מנת שתהיו עמלים בתורה. משא"כ באותם שלומדים דברי תורה מתור עונג ואינם יגעים בה איז התורה מתקיימת אצלם ע"כ אמר ולא הלכו בה ר"ל שלא עסקו בהלכות התורה דרך משא ומתז של פלפול המתייחס להליכה כמ"ש וזהו שלא ברכו בתורה תחלה כי הברכה היא לעסוק בד"ת דרך טורח דוקא", עכת"ד.

ונמצא דעיקר חפצה של תורה אינו רק עצם לימוד כדי לידע התורה. רק עצם היגיעה ועמילות בתורה זהו קיום התורה. וזה מה שאנו מברכים בברכת התורד "לעסוק בדברי תורה". דזהו החפצה של תורה עצם העסק לשם עסק התורה, ולא רק כדי לידע את התורה. וכיוז דלא היו עוסקים בתורה. אפילו אם למדו תורה כדי לידע את התורה. ולידע כל ההלכות. עדייו חסור בעיקר קיום התורה, וע"כ זהו הטעם שנחרב ארץ. ויש להוסיף שכל העולם כולו נברא בשביל שיקבל ישראל את התורה. והעולם עומד על עצם עסק התורה. ואם יפסיק כל העולם כולו מלימוד התורה. יחזור כל העולם לתהו ובהו. וכמו כז. האריר המהר"ל (נתיב התורה) שכל יסורים באים מחמת רפיוז בלימוד התורה. שהתורה הוא "סדר כל הבריאה" וע"י התורה מתקיים כל העולם. וע"כ מצינו בחז"ל שהתורה הוא בכח לרפואת כל חולי. והיינו משום שע"י התורה הוא על הסדר. ולהנ"ל כל זה הוא רק בעסק התורה בעמילות ויגיעה. ולא רק לימוד בלי עמלות ויגיעה.

ישמע הכנעני מלך ערד ישב הנגב כי בא ישראל דרך האתרים וילחם בישראל וישב ממנו שבי ... (כא-א) - דע את האויב!

לרש"י: יושב הנגב - זה עמלק, שנאמר עמלק יושב בארץ הנגב. ושנה את לשונו לדבר בלשוז כנעז. כדי שיהיו ישראל מתפללים להקב״ה לתת כנענים בידם והם אינם כנענים. ראו ישראל לבושיהם כלבושי עמלקים ולשונם לשוז כנעז. אמרו נתפלל סתם. שנאמר אם נתון תתן את העם הזה בידי. הנה איתא בספה"ק ש'עמלק' הוא בגימטריא 'ספק' כי כוחו להשפיע על האדם הוא בכך שמטיל ספיקות בהאדם. ואכן את מהלכה של אומה זו הכירו ישראל עוד מיד בצאתם ממצרים. אז היו הם אלו שבאו על ישראל מתור מטרה לעורר בהם ספיקות באמונת ה', וכלשונו של רש"י בשלהי פרשת 'בשלח' (שמות יז, ח). והכתוב בעצמו העיד על מהותו באמרו (דברים כה, יח): 'אשר קרחר בדרך' ושם ברש"י: 'לשון מקרה. ד"א לשון קרי וטומאה' עכ"ל. וכוונתו באמרו 'לשון מקרה' שהעבירם מאמונתם ע"י שהחדיר בהם ספיקות. והיתה השקפתם על כל דבר מקרה', ומאחר שלא האמינו שיש בורא עולם. נתנו דרור לנפשם למלא את תאוותם. בר הצליח 'עמלק' להחטיאם כפי שמביא רש"י בפירושו השני.

ע"פ האמור יש לומר שגם כעת היתה מטרת אומה הרשעה זו להחדיר ספקות בלבות של ישראל. וכפי שהקדים רש"י על 'זישמע הכנעני' וז"ל: שמע שמת אהרז נסתלקו ענני הכבוד' ע"כ. כלומר מאחר ש'ענני הכבוד' היו כעיז עדות לישראל שהשכינה שרויה בתוכם. היתה סילוקם בגדר הסתרה. וכשיש הסתרה יש מקום החדיר ספקות. והיתה זאת מטרת בואו. והנה ידעו רשעים אלו שאם יבואו על ישראל נדמותם בגלוי. שוב לא יתפתו ישראל ע"י. כי מאחר שכבר עמדו ישראל על מהותם

אברחם דניאל אברחם דניאל אבעמ"ס שדה אברחם אברחם אברחם

זאת התורה אדם כי ימות באהל כל הבא אל האהל וכל אשר באהל יממא שבעת ימים ... (ימ-יד) - בענין עמילות בתורה

רועים מה שדרשו חז"ל (ברכות סג-ב): "אמר ריש לקיש: מנין שאין דברי תורה" מתקיימיז אלא במי שממית עצמו עליה. שנאמר זאת התורה אדם כי ימות באהל". צ"כ. ופי' המאירי ז"ל. "ולעולם יתעמל אדם בתורה שאינה מצויה אלא בעמל ויגיעה איז דברי תורה מתקיימים אלא במי שממית עצמו עליה שנאמר וזאת התורה אדם כי מות באהל". עכ"ל. הרי מבואר. שעיקר קיים התורה הוא אך ורק בעמילות ויגיעה נתורה, והלומד תורה ואינו עמל ויגיעה חסור בעיקר קיום התורה.

ועל פי יסוד זה ביאור **הט"ז** (או"ח סי' מ"ז) דזהו כוונת חז"ל מדוע נחרב ירושלים. 'איתא בנדרים (פה-א): "אמר רב יהודה אמר רב. מאי דכתיב: מי האיש החכם ויבו את ואת? דבר זה נשאל לחכמים ולנביאים ולא פירשוהו. עד שפירשו הקדוש ברור הוא בעצמו. דכתיב: ויאמר ה' על עזבם את תורתי וגו'. היינו לא שמעו בקולי היינו לא לכו בה! אמר רב יהודה אמר רב: שאין מברכין בתורה תחלה", ע"כ. וכבר עמדו כל המפרשים והק' דמהו חומר של עוז זה "שלא ברכו בתורה תחלה" שזהו סיבת החורבז? וביאור הט"ז שהכוונה בזה "שלא הלכו בה". היינו - שהתורה אינה מתקיימת אלא

A SERIES IN HALACHA LIVING A "TORAH" DAY New Series: Kashrus and the Kitchen (1)

for a gentile, or not for eating at all.

Introduction: Basar Bechalay - Issur of Meat With Milk.

The prohibition of meat with milk is written three times in the

Torah (1). The Gemara in Chulin (115b) explains that as a result,

there are indeed three separate prohibitions. They are as follows:

2) Not to eat (אכילה) meat and milk that were cooked together.

or benefit from the mixture that was cooked together.

3) Not to derive benefit (הנאה) from meat and milk cooked

together which means that one cannot sell or give it to a

gentile, or feed it to one's animal, nor have any other pleasure

Torah and Rabbinic Basar Bechalay. In *Torah* law, the only prohibition is with regard to "kosher species" domestic animal

meat (cow. sheep, goat, killed or *shechted*) with "kosher

species" milk. However, poultry (chicken, turkey, duck, goose)

or wild species (deer, etc.), or milk from a wild species, are not

prohibited by Torah law. The Rabbanim extended the

prohibition to all types of milk and meat together. Therefore, one

cannot eat chicken cooked in any milk, even in deer milk, which

is a double d'Rrabanan. Whenever the prohibition is only

1) Not to cook (בישול) meat and milk together, even if one does it

מאת הגאון מו"ר הרב ברוך הירשפלד שליט"א, ראש כולל עטרת חיים ברור, קליבלנד הייסס

and drinking, but not benefit. Accordingly, if chicken was cooked with milk, one may give it to his pet to eat or to his gentile cleaning lady. Regarding the act of cooking Rabbinic Basar Bechalay, they were also lenient but sometimes there is an *issur*, even in private, because of Maris Ha'avin - not to do something that looks to people like you are doing an issur - as will be explained later.

Defining "Cooked". We need to define what the *Torah* refers to as cooking. If a certain type of cooking is part of the Torah's definition of cooking, then it has all 3 issurim. If it is not included, then it is only a Rabbinic prohibition and only eating is prohibited, not deriving benefit. Classic cooking in our halacha is meat in milk, or meat and cheese in water. Roasting meat and cheese together over a fire, frying, barbecuing meat and cheese in a small amount of oil (not submerged in oil which is cooking), are all debated in the *Poskim* if they are prohibited from *Torah* law or Rabbinic law (2). One should be strict and therefore not grill a cheeseburger for a gentile (even if properly covered in a Jewish oven). The same is true for smoking (soaking meat in milk and then smoking it) (3), and solar cooking (4). Microwave cooking has also been debated and here as well we have to be strict (5).

Next week, we will B'ezras Hashem explain the cases that can come up to avoid the *issur* of cooking meat and milk together.

d'Rrabanan they relaxed the issur a bit and only prohibited eating <u>בין הריחים – תבליו מדף היומי – יומא דף סז:</u>

chooses these & מצות chooses these יצה"ר **Rashi** explains that the "דוקותי – דברים שהשטן משיב עליון. ואלו הן: אבילת חזיר. ולבישת שעטנו isn't אמת. because there is no point to these *mitzvos*. The מהרש"א explains that he picks these *mitzvos* specifically because they seem to be contradictory. Each one of these listed, has a counterpart that is similar ver אורער. which makes them seem insensible. For example, שעטנז is אסור to wear, vet it is ציצית. by ציצית. Similarly, a אסור to eat vet the מותא דשיבוטא. brains of a certain fish, tastes like it & is kosher.

The שו"ע paskens, if one eats מאיכלות אסורות without a עבירה since he is doing an עבירה we say "הבוצע ברך נאץ ה" we say "זבוצע ברך נאץ ה" & he may not make a ברכה on the food, nor may he be counted in a אימור he that if he ate it by accident, he is permitted to Bentch.

The אי"ח רד' סי' ט'ו מחבר paskens that if someone has to eat מאכלות אסורות because of a ואי"ח רד' סי' ט'ו מחבר he must make a ברכה. The משנ"ב explains, since it is for his benefit & מצוה he is doing a מצוב סמ"ד. היו" he makes a beracha. The מצוה he is doing a מצוב ברכה says that if someone is physically forced [אכסיהר] to eat, even though he ultimately does have pleasure from it, he does not make a beracha.

The יש asks an apparent contradiction - ירנמוה מאד בעיניי ". We just mentioned that the סיד askens, if one is in a סיד he does make a & the מ"א doesn't add to it, so it seems he agrees to this. Yet, the מ"א also paskens that if one is forced to eat, he does not make a ברכה. Asks the "י" why are they different? In both cases, he is forced to eat non-kosher food? Why should the halacha be different?

The answers that when one is a חולה שיש בו סכנה answers that when one is a חולה שיש בו סכנה he is not being physically forced to eat: if he chooses to eat (due to his sickness) since he has הנאה. he makes a ברכה. If one is physically forced to eat אגטיהו. he has no choice, so it's not שייד to make him recite a ברכה.

ובסחים מדו **חשוקי חמד** was asked if there is anything wrong with creating kosher imitation bacon? He guotes the מידיא who asks: what if someone thought of a הירבר when eating the בינ - was he *oiver* an *issur?* He answers that since you know that you are eating הירבר it would be fine. Furthermore, we see that the wife of אבשר בחלב wanted to taste בשר בחלב & he gave her a roasted udder. So we see that if you know that what you are eating is kosher, it's ok. R' Y. Zilberstein shlit'a says, he asked Rav Elyashiv zt"I, who said if something is created by Hashem that tastes like או, הזיר, it is ok, but to create something from scratch just to have the taste of הזיר, it is better not to do it. חזיר, it is better not to do it.

הוא היה אומר

R' Aharon Kotler zt"l (Mishnas Rebbi Aharon) would say:

"Even Shlomo Hamelech, the wisest of all men, was forced to admit that Parah Aduma was beyond him. When one is faced with the concept of Parah Aduma, one is forced to realize that his own knowledge is limited, and he cannot fathom the ways of *Hashem*. He must conclude that in fact the reasoning behind all the *mitzvos* is beyond his comprehension."

A Wise Man once said: "If we do not do good, then doing well will never be enough."

Printed By: Mailway Services, Worldwide Since 1980 (1-888-Mailway)

Serving Mosdos and Businesses KEEP the power of your T'fila with respectful T'fila - sign!

103,740 855,400,5164

Mazel Toy to Eli Meir Hoffman on his Aufruf & to the entire Hoffman, Goldberger, Groner, Shermanfamilies. May they be zoche to build a Bayis Ne'eman B'Yisroel - לשם ולתפארת

מעשה אבות סימן

בי אש יצאה מחשבון להבה מקרית סיחן אכלה ער מואב בעלי במות ארגן ... (כא-כח)

First put into service in 2011, Israel's Iron Dome air defense missile system is designed to stop short-range rockets and artillery like those fired from Gaza. It relies on a system of radar and analysis to determine whether an incoming rocket is a threat, firing an interceptor only if the incoming rocket risks hitting a populated area or important infrastructure. The interceptors are designed to detonate the incoming rocket in the air, producing the explosions in the sky that have come to accompany warning sirens during numerous recent Israeli-Palestinian conflicts.

Before 2011, however, things were much different. Palestinian terrorists and Lebanese militia were shooting rockets into Israel but it took a system of air-raid sirens and human interface to alert civilians of the oncoming danger. Many of the people who worked in these underground bunkers were responsible for saving many lives and their stories are no less dramatic or poignant than the more recent accounts of the Iron Dome and how it saves lives.

The second Lebanon War was a 34-day military conflict in Lebanon and Northern Israel. The conflict started on July 12, 2006, and formally ended on September 8, 2006, when Israel lifted its naval blockade of Lebanon. It affected many people's lives in Israel. One Israeli soldier recalls how during the war, her job was to alert civilians where missiles were heading and even precisely where they were going to fall, so they could get to safety. One morning during her shift, there was a heavy bombardment and she could see 12 missiles being launched from Lebanon toward the major Israeli city of Haifa. Her heart skipped a bit since Haifa was where her family lived and where she grew up. The city always remained close to her heart. She followed the trajectory of the incoming missiles and hurriedly sounded the air-raid sirens to alert the immediate area.

She knew that she had only approximately 10 to 15 seconds before the missiles hit the ground so she quickly opened up a separate screen on her monitor where she can see the actual missile hitting in real-time. She randomly chose one of the arching missiles and opened the window to see where it was heading. She recoiled in shock as, clear as day, she saw her apartment building where her family lived. Thoughts ran through her mind - she could see her home, the place where she was born, where she grew up, where she and her cousins played almost every single day after school. And the image was so clear and accurate, she could actually see the playground, the outer facade of the building - and before she had a chance to process the whole picture, the image suddenly went black. The missile had hit its target.

She was numb. She knew it hit the street but she hoped it wasn't a direct hit on the building. But she didn't have a chance to dwell on it since another missile was coming and another after that. For the next three hours, so many missiles were landing all over the place that she she had no choice but to put aside her terrible thoughts and focus on her job at hand. The instant her shift was over, she ran out of the bunker and turned on her phone. She had seven missed calls from her father. She knew that was not a good sign because her father knew that as a soldier with the country at war, she was unable to answer her phone. He knew that and would not be calling for no reason. The fact that he called even though she couldn't pick up the phone got her really nervous because she knew exactly how many missiles had hit Haifa and her whole family was there.

She quickly dialed his number and he picked up on the first ring. "Abba, is everything okay?" she practically yelled into her phone. Really calmly, he responded, "Matuk, everything is okay right now. I just called to thank you."

She asked him, "Thank me? For what?" And he said, "Well I was in the street at the time the sirens were activated. There was no time to get to the shelter so everyone in our neighborhood ran into the stairwell and waited for impact. Ten seconds later the missile hit the building right next to ours and the entire building collapsed. From what I know, no one got hurt."

He paused for a moment and said, "Thank you for alerting us and saving so many people's lives." She felt relieved but scared at the same time. It was too close for comfort. We must appreciate what so many people do to help other Jews.

כי לקח ישראל את ארצי בעלותו ממצרים ... ועתה השיבה אתהן בשלום (שפמים יא-יג)

A PENETRATING ANALYSIS OF THE WEEKLY THE HAFTORAH BY R' TZVI HIRSCH HOFFMAN THE HAFTORAH BY R' TZVI HIRSCH BY TZVI HIRSCH B

diplomatic solution only to be rebuffed by the king of Ammon with the baseless claim that the land captured by the Jewish people from Sichon, King of the Emori, 300 years prior, had once belonged to them and Moay, and they now wanted it back. Yiftach's arguments were indeed sound, so why did the king of Ammon not even want to hear them?

The answer lies in the psyche of the human mind. **R**' Yitzchak ben Moshe Arama zt"l (Akeidas Yitzchak) explains that when a person is in a warlike frame of mind, not only will be concentrate on hating and killing his enemy, but the values that are paramount during times of peace, tend

During the tenure of *Yiftach HaGiladi*, the Nation of to become perverted. Cruelty and murder occur even amongst Ammon oppressed Klal Yisroel relentlessly. Yiftach sought a brothers in arms, friends, members of the same side, and actions which are unavoidable in war, have a way of developing into independent virtues in wartime, corrupting all normal norms. The king of Ammon was already in a belligerent mood prior to Yiftach's diplomatic overtures, and no amount of sound reasoning was going to change that.

> The **Chofetz Chaim** zt"l imparts a great lesson here. Peace is a two-way street which requires both sides of the equation to be willing to engage in it. Once peace is achieved, sound reasoning will return, and Fear of Heaven will be returned. giving both sides the ability to literally open their eyes and finally see and appreciate the other side's claims.

לעדה ויקהלו על משה ועל אהרן ... (כ-אב)

CONCEPTS IN AVODAS HALEV FROM THE FAMILY OF R' CHAIM YOSEF KOFMAN ZT"L

The Gemara in Tagnis (9a) states that Klal Yisroel was zoche to receive the Mann in the zechus of Moshe, the ענע הכבוד in the zechus of Aharon and the באר (well) in the zechus of Miriam. Therefore, when she died they were lacking water. Thus, the Torah juxtaposes her death with the parsha of מי מריבה. The Gemara continues and says that the well came back b'zechus Moshe and Aharon. The *meforshim* ask, if Moshe and Aaron had merit to "sponsor" the *be'er* on their own, why did it come in Miriam's merit in the first place? To answer this question we must understand the significance of why the water came specifically in the zechus of Miriam to begin with. I would like to suggest the following machshava.

Chazal say "מם אין קמח אין תורה". Moshe Rabbeinu, the emissary of Hashem to deliver Toras Moshe, brought the Mann, the bread. How is bread made? Only through the water it is mixed with. The *nashim tzidkaniyos* are the ones who supply the nutrients needed to create growth in *Torah*, avodah and *Yiras Hashem*. They create the atmosphere in the home that is conducive for such growth. Miriam, the "manhigah" of the women, by personifying this ingredient, brought the be'er to Klal Yisroel.

Perhaps, by creating the slight time lapse between Miriam's *petirah* and Moshe's actions to reinstate the *be'er*, the *Torah* is showing us that what a mother provides for her offspring comes naturally; for a father, that same action requires a miracle, in this case, the miracle of *Moshe Rabbeinu* hitting the rock and bringing forth water. The lesson that is imparted to us is to appreciate what our mothers, wives, and last but not least, our *shviggers* do, and continue to do, for us and our children.

Together as complete family units, may we see only nachas from our "watered" plants, our doros veshorim "wevorachim, as they continue to blossom and grow taller and stronger in avodas Hashem, b'siyata dishmaya.

משל למה הדבר דומה

אז ישיר ישראל את השירה הזאת עלי באר ענו לה ... (כא-יז) משל: There was once a miller in a little village, who visited the nearby town, where he saw a varied display of clocks in the window of a clock-maker's shop. One clock particularly aroused his fancy; it was an alarm clock that played a fine tune to arouse its owner from his sleep. He liked the clock and went into the shop to buy it. The clock maker asked him where he was from and he answered that he was a villager and owned a mill. "What do you need an alarm clock for?" asked the surprised clock maker. "You have huge wheels and millstones churning and turning in your mill. Don't they make enough noise to wake you up? And of what help will this little clock be as it only plays such a quiet tune?"

to a certain noise, the person barely notices its existence and strong impression and arouse a person to teshuva.

it makes no impression on him. I am so used to the noise of my mill that I barely hear it, and I certainly don't wake up from it. On the other hand, this clock has a nice tune, and no matter how quiet it is, it will surely wake me up."

במשל: Klal Yisroel were saved from their enemies and sang a special shirah, a song of praise to Hashem. The special quality of their *shirah*, similar to the *Shiras Hayam* they sang after Krias Yam Suf, brought them to a unique level of Ruach Hakodesh and appreciation of Hashem. The **Divrei Yisroel** of Modzhitz zt" says that Shirah arouses a person to repentance, raises his soul and brings the heart of a Jew closer to his Father in Heaven. This is the power of song. Seforim on mussar and Yiras Hashem are wonderful, but since people read from them all the time, sometimes they do not make "You don't understand human nature," answered the enough of an impression on a person; song is something villager. "It is well known that when a person is accustomed unique and different, and therefore it has the power to make a

ואת חקת התורה אשר צוה ה' לאמר וכו' ויקחו אליך פרה אדמה תמימה (ימ-ב)

EDITORIAL AND INSIGHTS ON MIDDOS TOVOS FROM

R' Yitzchok of Vorki zt" writes that the essence of the "Parah Aduma" which calls upon the Kohen to be come impure to purify others, is the idea of "ואהבת לרעך כמוך" - Loving your friend as you love yourself! His grandson, R' Mendel of Vorki zt" explains that this mitzvah depicts the highest level of love, because it must be performed with tremendous self-sacrifice! When a person loses out in order to help another - that is the ultimate fulfillment of loving a fellow man.

To GIVE to others is a beautiful *middah*, but often giving is really taking, and people give for their own ulterior motives GIVING IN is even harder as it means one must go out of his/her comfort zone in order to do something for another person But GIVING UP is certainly the highest and greatest form of love. When we give away our money, our time, our sleep, or our pride in order to benefit others, that is called real sacrifice and that is true kindness.

The word for sacrifice is "הקרבה" which means "to bring close" because this truly is the outcome of sacrificing for others. People who find it difficult to give of themselves or to make sacrifices for others, reflect an inability to truly love. Often people think to themselves, why should I put myself out for him? Why should I give away my hard-earned money or precious time for her? Do they really appreciate it? Would they do the same for me? It makes NO SENSE for me to sacrifice myself for another!

Thus, the Torah tells us, "אחת חוקת התורה" - this is a "Chok"! It doesn't have to make sense to you, but just remember that this is the most important principle of the Torah: "ההבת לרעך כמוך - זה כלל גדול בתורה". Parah Aduma comes to teach us this most valuable lesson: We MUST love others as we love ourselves! We must sacrifice for others whether it makes sense to us or not! This is a Chok - we might not understand why, but we still must do it! This is a most important message as we just entered the month of Tammuz and the "בין המצרים" are upon us. Let us rebuild the Bais HaMikdash with true הקרבה and הקרבה for others.