



From the desk of  
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## Office of the Rabbinate of Elad, Rosh HaAyin and Herzelia

Religious Court of Elad \* Batei Hora'ah \* Religious Services \* Marriage Licensing \* Kashrut \* Mikvaot \* Eiruvim

### TORAT

### Parashat Behaalotecha

### HAMELECH

#### Aharon HaKohen and Pesach Sheini

As the *parashah* opens, we find Aharon HaKohen feeling bad that he did not participate in the *korbanot* which were brought at the inauguration of the *mishkan*. Hashem comforted him that he will light the menorah daily.

Without going into the details of how that specific job comforted him, let us focus, for now, upon Aharon's yearning to take part in the *chanukat habayit*.

Later on in the *parashah*, we find a group of men who were unable to bring the *Korban Pesach* in its time. They came to Moshe, expressing their disappointment. They had really wanted to be part of that mitzvah. They were granted a second chance: *Pesach Sheini*.

#### Mitzvot With Joy

Yearning for mitzvah opportunities displays appreciation for the mitzvah. So does joy for a mitzvah.

Rambam (Hilchot Lulav 8:15) teaches: The joy which a person has when doing a mitzvah and the love of the Almighty Who commanded the mitzvah, are great service to Hashem. One who refrains from expressing joy over mitzvot is deserving of harsh punishment! The *tochachah*

was "in response to this that you did not serve Hashem joyously and good-heartedly."

Berachot (9b) teaches that Rav Bruna is called an "Odom Gadol – Great Man" because he expressed joy at doing mitzvot.

Being happy over a mitzvah is itself a mitzvah, more important than the mitzvah itself! (Rabbeinu Bechaye, Kad HaKemach, Simcha). In Avot (4:2) we are taught: Reward of a mitzvah is a mitzvah. Rav O. Bartenura expounds: The enjoyment one derives from doing a mitzvah is an additional mitzvah, in and of itself. A person will receive reward also for the joy which accompanied the mitzvah. Sefer Chareidim says: "One's reward will be in proportion to his joy over the mitzvah."

One who does a mitzvah joyfully will receive one thousand times as much reward as one who did it without joy! (Orchot Tzaddikim, Shaar Hasimcha).

Arizal teaches: When you do a mitzvah, do not view it as a burden. Instead, imagine you are closing in a million dollar deal. You would be overjoyed, wouldn't you? So too, when you do a mitzvah, feel like someone just handed you a million dollars and jump for joy!



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The Arizal told his close friend: How did I merit to become privy to secrets of Torah? In response to this that I did mitzvot with great joy!

### Being Happy Also with Daily Mitzvot

The Alter fun Kelm (Chochma U'Mussar II p. 107) points out that many people get excited by mitzvot which come their way infrequently, but do not get so excited over daily mitzvot.

He explains this with a parable. Most people also get more excited over finding a diamond or a gold mine than drinking a cup of water or taking in a breath of fresh air. Of course, they could live without the diamond and the gold, but could not survive without water and air! So we ought to be even happier over air and water upon realizing that those are the ingredients of life itself!

So too, while we should appreciate rare mitzvah opportunities, we should also appreciate the daily mitzvot and understand that if Hashem prescribed them for our daily diet, they must be necessary parts of living life as a Torah Jew.

### Selling Aliyot

The Bobover Rebbe used to love to listen as the *gabbai* auctioned off the *aliyot*. Each time someone would bid, the Rebbe got excited over the yearning to acquire a mitzvah. The very selling of mitzvot shows that we value them.

### Reb Moshe and the Matzoh

Each year before Pesach, Reb Moshe Kofshitz could not stop talking about the upcoming mitzvah of Matzoh. On Erev Pesach, when he took out the matzoh, he would kiss them and dance with them!

### Kiddush Levanah

Harav Ben Tzion Abba Shaul had a heart attack and had to be hospitalized. His brother-in-law, Rav Reuven Sharbani stayed with him overnight. Although Rav Ben Tzion was connected to numerous machines, once evening set in, he remembered that he had not yet said Kiddush Levanah. He begged Reb Reuven to move over his bed closer to the window so that he could see the moon and recite the blessing.

The whole next day, many visitors came, and he excitedly told each one how fortunate he was to have recited Kiddush Levanah the night before.

### What is a Mitzvah?

In some homes, mitzvot are looked at as burdens and people avoid them and try to get out of them, or take shortcuts and try to finish with them as soon as possible. It is no wonder that children who grow up in such homes do not really want to do mitzvot altogether. Then there



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are homes in which each mitzvah is greeted with enthusiasm. These are homes which produce observant Jews of the highest caliber!

It's your choice! Pick what to be happy about!

### ***Shver Tzu Zein ah Yid?***

With this, Rav Moshe Feinstein explained the phenomenon of twentieth century America where so many families who gave up their jobs for *Shemirat Shabbat* did not merit to see the next generation going in the ways of the Torah.

Reb Moshe explained that in many such instances, although they kept Shabbos, it was done with a *krechitz* – a sigh of anguish: It's so hard to be a Jew!

Well, what child wants to continue a tradition which is full of travail and despondency?!

Homes which appreciated the peace, tranquility and serenity of Shabbat – those were homes which kept the *mesorah* and saw generations of Torah-abiding citizens.

Sefer Reishit Chochma (Ahava, Chap. 10) teaches us to appreciate a mitzvah and think of it as if the King is asking a favor from us. The King is granting us the opportunity to serve Him.

Wouldn't you be honored if Rav Chaim Kanievsky shlit"a, for example, would call you up

and ask you to come and pour him a drink or escort him down the stairs? Most certainly!

And if you would have received such an invitation from Rav Ovadiah Yosef or Rav Shach? From the Chofetz Chaim or the Ben Ish Chai? From the Vilna Gaon or the Chid"ra? You could not contain your joy! You would get there early and make sure to do it just right!

What about if you had been called upon to do something at the behest of the Arizal or the Beit Yosef? The Ramban, Rif or Rashi? Rav or Shmuel, Hillel or Shammai, Dovid or Shlomo, Moshe or Aharon?

All the much more so for HaKadosh Baruch Hu! Maybe think about this for a moment before the next time you say *Birkat Hamazon*. I think it may be a bit less hurried.

Happy is the house in which mitzvot are performed with joy! This is something which everyone can do! It is so healthy and enjoyable; why not go ahead and do it! You are doing the mitzvah anyway; you may as well enjoy it! The benefits are unfathomable!

People with proper *hashkafot* enjoy the mitzvah itself even more than the reward!

**Shabbat Shalom Umevorach,  
Mordechai Malka**