

Parsha Shiur by Rabbi Mayer Friedman

פרשת צו

צו את אהרן ואת בניו לאמר זאת תורת העלה הוא העלה על מוקדה על המזבח כל הלילה עד הבקר ואש המזבח תוקד בו

“Command Aharon and his sons saying: This is the law of the elevation-offering: It is the elevation-offering on the fire on the altar all night until the morning - and the fire of the altar shall burn on it” (6:2)

Rashi comments that the word "tzav," "to command," is a language of "zerizus," a word used to urge people to pay close attention to follow this command, both for that time and for future generations. The Toras Kohanim adds that this is especially needed with regards to the korban olah. Since the olah, which was completely burnt, provided no benefit to the kohanim, they were urged to fulfill the olah with the same alacrity with which they offered the other korbanos.

There are two types of mitzvos: those that we derive benefit from and those that afford us no benefit. The mitzvos which we do not have pleasure from require us to strengthen ourselves to perform them properly. With the mitzvos that we do enjoy, such as Shabbos or the enjoyment of Yom Tov, the challenge is the way in which we perform the mitzvah. We have to be able to connect the right intent to the mitzvah. We should fulfill it because Hashem commanded us to do so and we should have in mind the mitzvah aspect of what we are doing more so than the physical enjoyment aspect. Each person must ask himself if he is meeting the challenges of the different types of mitzvos.

זה קרבן אהרן ובניו א שר יקריבו לה' ביום המשח אתו עשירת האפה סלת מנחה תמיד מחציתה בבקר ומחציתה בערב

“This is the offering of Aharon and his sons, each of whom shall offer to Hashem on the day he is inaugurated: a tenth-ephah of fine flour as a continual meal-offering; half of it in the morning and half of it in the afternoon” (6:13)

The Torah tells us that each kohen was commanded to bring a special inaugural korban on his first day of service. This very same korban was also to be offered by the kohen gadol every single day. Why is it that the kohen gadol brought the same korban as the new kohen every day of the year?

R' Moshe Sternbuch answers that one of the most important qualities in a leader is that he recognizes his responsibility and that he invests all of his energy into his job. As time goes on, however, a leader becomes used to his job and faces the temptation to take it easy instead of working as hard as he did when he first started. In order to combat this tendency, the kohen gadol has to bring the inaugural korban every day of his leadership. Each day has to be approached with the same enthusiasm as the first day. As the leader of the people, the Torah requires this attitude of the kohen gadol and concretizes it for him through this special korban.

Another important idea regarding leadership was communicated through a unique law regarding the kohen gadol's korban. The Torah instructs that half of it should be offered in the morning and the other half in the afternoon. This teaches the kohen gadol that he must humble himself to recognize that he is not complete. When he sees that he is only bringing half, he will recognize that he is not fully complete himself.

The Gemara on Berachos 34a teaches the halacha that one only bows during Shemoneh Esrei and the beginning and end of the first beracha as well as at the beginning and end of the beracha of "hoda'ah." However, says the Gemara, this is only true for a commoner. The kohen gadol had to bow at the beginning and end of each beracha (see Rambam Hilchos Tefillah 5:10) and the king had to remain bowed for the entire Shemoneh Esrei. Rashi explains the reason for these different standards. The greater the person, the more he needs to humble himself. This is why is what important that the kohen gadol's daily offering be divided in half.

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