



Rabbi Reisman – Parshas Ki Sisa 5782

1 – Topic – A Thought on Machar – Pushing off the Yetzer Hora

As we prepare for Shabbos Parshas Ki Sisa. As we march towards to the Yom Tov of Purim that is coming our way in just a month. Let us discuss Parshas Ki Sisa an Inyan of Machshava and even an Inyan of Halacha L'mayseh. Let's start with a very Yesodosdika thought. Of course this week's Parsha has the Cheit Ha'eigel which is the very first Aveira after Matan Torah. We have discussed here many times Rav Gedalyah Schorr Klal which I believe that he brings in the name of Rav Tzaddok that anything that happens in the Torah has its important identification in the first time that it happens, and therefore, there must be a lot to learn from Klal Yisrael's response to the Cheit Ha'eigel.

Rav Hutner in the Pachad Yitzchok Mamarei Sukkos, Maimar Nun Beis, Os Ches (page Kuf Mem Daled and Kuf Mem Hei) says that in every Aveira there needs to be a Nekuda of good in order for a person to be able to do Teshuva. There has to be some Nekuda of sort of holding back from being totally Ra that a person didn't fall into sort of the cesspool of Ra and there is something which he can pull himself out and that is a Zechus to be able to do Teshuva.

What was it in the Cheit Ha'eigel? Rav Hutner writes that when Aharon Hakohen told Klal Yisrael you want to make an Eigel? Machar, we will do it tomorrow morning. Klal Yisrael got up early in the morning to do it, but they waited the overnight. That Machar is the Chesed that Aharon Hakohen did with Klal Yisrael that they should be able to do Teshuva. Within the sin, within the Cheit, there was some sort of recognition of Cheit, and therefore, although they were carried away and Aharon could not convince them not to make an Eigel, the fact that he could push it off to Machar was the point, the Nekuda that had redeeming value and from that Klal Yisrael was able to do Teshuva.

Rav Tzaddok writes similarly regarding Malkus. The Gemara says Arbaim Yakenu, someone who is Chayuv Malkus gets 40 and we know that a person only gets 39. Zagt Rav Tzaddok the Cheit itself is deserving of 40 lashes but we assume that when a Yid does an Aveira there is a little bit of hesitation, there is a Nekuda of Tov and he didn't do it totally. The Aveira is one less and we give him 39. The idea being, that within every Cheit, when there is a redeeming value the Cheit is less serious.

Rav Hutner is telling us a very big Chiddush. That even if someone would do an Aveira Rachmana Litzlon, but if he could push it Machar, if he could push it off until later that itself is a redeeming value in his recognition of the Cheit that makes Teshuva all the more possible.

The story is told about the Steipler when he was in the Russian army as a young man and he had guard duty in Siberia. There was a heavy coat that the guard would wear because the Siberian winter is freezing. The coat of course in the Russian army had not been checked for Shatnez here in Williamsburg, and when the Steipler went out to guard duty he realized he would have to wear the coat even though it was possibly Shatnez, because of Pikuach Nefashos. But he said to himself well I could wait 5 minutes, it is not a Sakana for the first 5 minutes and he pushed it off 5 minutes. Then he pushed it off 5 more minutes and so on. The point being that even if someone has to do something or knows he is going to do something, saying 5 minutes later is an extraordinary act of recognition that this is not what I should be doing.

If a person is sitting and learning and the Yeitzer Hora says you have to make a call, you have to call such and such. Or you are thirsty and you need a coffee, you got to step out. If you tell yourself 5 more minutes, even if you cut out later, there is a redeeming factor in being able to push it off.

I heard a similar behavior regarding Rav Elyashiv. At the end of his life, Rav Elyashiv had a very difficult time walking. The doctor said that if he sits and learns a whole day and doesn't walk a little he will not be able to walk at all. The family wanted very much for him to go for a walk. So they got one of the close Talmidim and he rehearsed exactly how to present it to Rav Elyashiv to try to convince him to go for a walk. Rav Elyashiv is sitting with his Sefer and the Talmid sits down next to him and he presents to him Rabbi I spoke to the doctors etc. Rav Elyashiv listens quietly and when the Talmid finished speaking he says yes, Shpeiter, yes but a little later.

Try that. When you are sitting and learning and there is something distracting you, when you are at Night Seder and you just feel itchy to get going, say yes, Shpeiter, 5 more minutes I can do. Squeeze in the extra 5 more minutes. That itself is a redeeming value when a person is doing something that he should not be doing. By the way, very often 5 minutes later the Yeitzer Hora to be distracted is diminished anyway. The point being that Machar, Aharon's Machar was a saving grace for Klal Yisrael. It did something for Klal Yisrael and from that came the Teshuva.

Rav Hutner points us to Rashi later when the Mishkan is put up in Tzav 9:7 where Rashi tells us that Aharon Hakohen in his Zechus the Mishkan was inaugurated. Rashi in Posuk 23 says that it is because of Aharon that there was a Kapparah on the Cheit Ha'eigel, because pushed off to Machar and that had the redeeming value.

2 – Topic – A Thought on the Makom of the Keshet Shel Tefillin

After the Cheit Ha'eigel Moshe Rabbeinu says as is found in 33:18 (הֲרָאֵנִי נָא, אֶת-פְּנֵיךָ). Ribbono Shel Olam I want to see Your face, (it doesn't mean Your face because the Ribbono Shel Olam has no face but Es Panecha, I want to see You, I want to have a clear revelation of the Ma'hus of the HKB"H. HKB"H said you can't see the Panim of HKB"H, but what you can see the Achur, you can see me from behind and in doing so HKB"H did to Moshe Rabbeinu is He showed him, Kavayochel the Ribbono Shel Olam showed him Mai'achorav, and as Rashi brings in 33:23 that he saw the Keshet of Tefillin in the back Kavayochel of the neck of HKB"H.

In the Michtav M'elihu Cheilek Bais, page 91, he wonders of course Moshe Rabbeinu wanted to have an understanding of the Ribbono Shel Olam but what made it happen after the Cheit

Ha'eigel more than when he went up to get the Luchos? When he went up to get the Luchos he also would have wanted to see Kavayachal and have a Havana of the Ribbono Shel Olam.

Answers the Michtav M'elياهو, after HKB"H showed the extraordinary behavior that even after Klal Yisrael sins He is Mekabeil Baalei Teshuva happily and willingly, so Moshe Rabbeinu said (הֲרָאֵנִי נָא, אֶת-קְבֻדָּךָ). Show me what this is like, show me what it is Kavayochel. HKB"H showed him Keshet Shel Tefillin.

What is the Keshet Shel Tefillin? It is the Ahava that is Mirumaz in the Tefillin. Tefillin are the Os of Ahava. Every Mitzvah that a person does is supposed to bring out something in the person. It is supposed to bring out certain Kochos in serving HKB"H. Those Kochos in serving HKB"H they come out with the energy of the person doing the Mitzvah. Shabbos is supposed to bring out a recognition of Maiseh Beraishis. Mezuzah is supposed to bring out a recognition of Hashgacha Peratis and the Mitzvah of Tefillin brings out the Ahava, it is a Keshet Shel Ahava it is an Os Hab'ris, it is a connection Kavayochel with the Ribbono Shel Olam. Therefore, He showed him the Keshet Shel Tefillin.

I want to talk to you a minute about where the Keshet Shel Tefillin will be. Much has been made about the fact that Tefillin in front have to be the hairline and not everyone is careful and it is something which needs to be taken care of and watched very carefully. At the same time there is a Makom for the Keshet Shel Tefillin. Let us talk about the mystery of the place of the Keshet Shel Tefillin.

The Mishna Brura in Siman Chaf Zayin, S'if Kotton Lamed Hei says certainly the Keshet Shel Tefillin has to be on the hair, it can't be below the hairline in the back. That everybody does. Where exactly should it be? The Mishna Brura says (וטוב שיהיה מנה עקר הקשר למעלה מן הגמא). That it is proper that the Ikkur Keshet should be above the hole. In the center back of a person's head there is an indentation and above it something of a bump (protrusion) in the center of the head and the Tefillin should be (למעלה מן הגמא) above that hole. That is where the Keshet Shel Tefillin should be and it sounds like from the Mishna Brura on the (גמא). Where does the Mishna Brura get this from? From the Shaarei Teshuva.

Take a look at the Shaarei Teshuva and it is a bit mysterious because he is not clearly saying that. The Shaarei Teshuva begins by saying in the name of the Shiltei Giborim that (דהמניח שם למטה) lower than the neckline in the back, (לא יצא). That part we certainly understand. (וכמדמה לי שראיתי בספר קטן). The Shaarei Teshuva quotes some small Sefer (כשהקשר) (שמאחורי הראש הוא בגמא לא יצא). This Sefer Kotton says that if the Keshet is in this indentation a person is not Yotzi Tefillin. (ולא ידעתי מאין יצא לו זה). and the Shaarei Teshuva says where did he get this from? (שהרי מלשון השלטי הגבורים משמע דבצמיחת שערות תליא מלתא). From the Rishonim it is Mashma that as long as it is in the place where the hair grows. He asks it as a Kasha.

Then he says (ומכל מקום נראה שיש לעשות כן לכתחילה) (דבעינן שיהא הדק היטב). It should stay well around the head. In the flow of the Lashon when he says that L'mayseh, (ומכל מקום נראה שיש לעשות כן). It is not clear if he means to put it on the bump or in the (גמא). But he says a reason (לעשות כן) that it should stay well. It sounds like he means in the (גמא). It is not so clear that he means the bump in the back. The good news is you are Yotzi either way.

The Mishna Brura says (וטוב שיהיה מנה עקר הקשר למעלה מן הגמא). Years ago I asked Rav Dovid Feinstein what should I tell Bar Mitzvah Bochurim. He said tell them it should be on the bump.

Our Kesharim are quite large so on the bump but if it is bigger than the bump than it should go below. Because it is not at all clear where the Makom of the Keshar Shel Tefillin but you got to be careful that it should be Ikro on the (גמא).

PS - What is the Sefer Kotton of the Shaarei Teshuva? It is not so clear what he is referring to. There is a Sefer called Kitzur HaShla. The Shla Hakadosh of course is a standard basic Sefer by Klal Yisrael. It is quoted by the Magen Avraham, it is quoted by the Ikkur HaPoskim. There is a Kitzur HaShla. In the Kitzur HaShla it says this language and it sounds like Sefer Kotton is referring to a Sefer Kotton an abridged Sefer of the Shla.

And so, we have spoken about Machar, pushing off the Yeitzer Hora to do something that is not so good and we have spoken about the Makom of the Keshar Shel Tefillin. Wow, we are really ready to go to a Heilege Shabbos Kodesh.

3 – Question of the week

In the Parsha of the Shemen Hamishcha in this week's Parsha we have a Lav as is found in 30:32 (על-בשר אדם, לא יסך) an Issur Kareis. It is Assur to put the Shemen on somebody where it is not a Mitzvah. We also have a Mitzvas Asei to put it on Aharon U'banav. Where it belongs it is a Mitzvah to put it and where it doesn't belong it is an Issur Kareis.

What is the Mekor that we do Meshicha to a Melech? The Rambam says from Perek Yud of Shmuel Aleph. We find that Shaul was Nimshach and there is a dispute if he was Nimshach with Shemen Hamishcha or not. The Rambam holds like Rashi that Shaul was Nimshach with the real Shemen Hamishcha and that Posuk in Nach is a Mekor that a king is Nimshach with Shemen Hamishcha. Wonderful I have told you something very clear. Where is the Kasha?

The Kasha is if Shaul was Nimshach with the Shemen Hamishcha, remember what happened afterwards? After Shmuel tells him you are king he goes home. Shaul goes home. He is not busy with being king. Then the Navi Shmuel calls together Klal Yisrael and says you are king and he goes and hides in the closet because he doesn't want to be king. Pelai Pelaim. I don't understand, if he hides in the closet so that he is not king he is going to cause L'mafrei'a that there was an Issur Kareis that Shmuel was Over. This is because when Shmuel put it on him the Heter was he is making him king. If he refuses to be king then isn't he being Machshil Shmuel? Tzorech Iyun Gadol! Wishing everyone an absolutely wonderful, delightful and extraordinary Shabbos Kodesh!

Rabbi Reisman – Parshas Ki Sisa – Parah 5781

1 – Topic – A Thought on the Shekalim that comes from the Beginning of the Parsha.

As we prepare for Shabbos Parshas Ki Sisa and Parshas Parah. I would like to share with you of course a thought on Parshas Ki Sisa regarding the Shekalim in the beginning of the Parsha and then talk a little about Inyanei D'yoma, about the weeks of preparation for Chag Hamatzos.

Today I would like to share with you a Shmuz that Rav Pam was Margila B'pumei, that he would very often say when it came to the discussion of the Shekalim in Parshas Ki Sisa. He would learn with us a Mishnah. I have to be Makdim that there were of course numerous Shekalim, three types of Shekalim as Rashi says at the beginning of the Parsha that were given.

The yearly Shekalim which were given every year during the month of Adar were Shekalim that were brought to the Beis Hamikdash. There was a Lishcha in which all the Shekalim were dumped and on three specific times of year a Kohen would go in and he would do what is called Terumas Hlishcha which is he would take three boxes and fill them up with coins and take them out. Imagine that he would walk into a room that is knee high with coins and he would take out three boxes of coins and those coins would be used to purchase the Korbanos Tzibbur of the coming months.

Rav Pam would learn with us Mishnayos Shekalim 3:2 where it says (אין התורם נכנס לא בפרגוד הפות). When the Torim, the Kohen who would go in to take out the Machatzis Hashekel he was not allowed to wear clothing that had a hem on the clothing. Why? Because you can hide coins and put it in the hem. (ולא במנעל, ולא בסנדל). Not even a shoe because he might put coins in his shoes. (ולא בתפלין, ולא בקמיע). Imagine, he can open up his Tefillin and stick a coin in there. Why can't he go in like that, we are really afraid that he is going to steal?

The Mishnah says no, we are not afraid that the Kohen will steal. We are afraid (שמה יעני) that maybe he will become poor during the coming year (ויאמר) and people will say (מעון הלשכה העני) you know why he became poor? Because he must have stolen money from the Lishcha. Or (או) (שמה יעשיר) maybe he will get wealthy (ויאמר) and people will say (מתרומת הלשכה העשיר) that he must have stolen coins. This is a lesson in the mentality of the masses. The masses when they want to accuse somebody will say that if he becomes poor this is because he took a coin from the Shekalim, so he stole something and Min Hashamayim his punishment is becoming poor. If he becomes rich they will say this is why he became wealthy.

The Mishna says and this is the point that Rav Pam wanted to make, (לפי שאדם צריך לצאת ידי הבריות), (כדרך שצריך לצאת ידי המקום). A person has to be careful even if unreasonable people are going to accuse him, he has to be clean as it says Bamidbar 32:22 (והייתם נקיים מירור ומישראל) a Posuk in Matos. (והייתם נקיים). You have to be clean, (מירור ומישראל). You have to keep the Mitzvos, you have to be careful not to do Aveiros plus (ומישראל). It is not enough from the Ribbono Shel Olam you need also to be a Naki Klapei Klal Yisrael. This idea that a person always has to be careful is something that Rav Pam would often stress.

He quoted a Teshuvos Chasam Sofer Siman Nun Tes an incredible Teshuva in Cheilek Vav of Teshuvos Chasam Sofer. The Chasam Sofer is writing to a Talmid and he writes to the Talmid that I can see from your letter that you are not being careful in (והייתם נקיים). He writes and I quote (כל ימי הייתי מצטער על המקרא הזה והייתם נקיים מירור ומישראל). The Chasam Sofer writes that my whole life I had Tzar and I was worried that I should be able to keep this Posuk. (ויותר אפשר לצאת ידי שמים). Yoser Efsheer Latzeis Yi'dai Shamayim Harbei Yoser Mai'Latzeis Yi'dai B'riyos. It is much easier to do what G-d wants than to stay clean in the eyes of people. (ועושו יותר קשה מאד). V'onshei Yoser Kasha Me'od. And in heaven it is a much stricter thing.

Then he says something incredible. He says (ואינני כדי להזכיר אבותינו הקדושים) Aini K'dai L'hazkir Avonoseinu HaKedoshim. I am not K'dai to say the following but he says it anyways. (מכל מקום). The Bnei Gad and Bnei Reuven who got a part of Eretz Yisrael Eiver Hayardein. Even though what they did and they had a proper reason to do it and at the end they led Klal Yisrael in battle. But they were not Mekayeim (וְהֵייתֶם נְקִיִּים). When they asked for a Cheilek of Eretz Yisrael Eiver Hayardein there were people that were Choshed that they are lazy and they don't want to do battle in Eretz Yisrael. Therefore, says the Chasam Sofer they were the first Shevatim to go to Galus because they were not Mekayeim (וְהֵייתֶם נְקִיִּים).

Rav Pam would tell us that Yeshiva'leit especially have to be careful about (וְהֵייתֶם נְקִיִּים). Even in front of unreasonable people you got to be careful as they are quick to start up and say that is what Yeshiva'leit do. He mentioned that once the Chofetz Chaim was traveling with his son and he told his son you have to be careful, a Talmid Chochom has to be careful from (וְהֵייתֶם נְקִיִּים). His son said Aber Tatte Ich Bin Nisht a Talmid Chochom, me I am not a Talmid Chochom. His father told him for a Chillul Hashem it is Genukt a Talmid Chochom. He told him for this that people will accuse you of things, you are enough a Talmid Chochom. People are quick to condemn Bnei Torah. People themselves don't learn so they feel inferior, so what do they do they get up and find fault in those who sit and learn. (וְהֵייתֶם נְקִיִּים מִיִּרְרָה וּמִיִּשְׂרָאֵל).

Rav Pam mentioned a Maiseh of a person who had a Din Torah that he swore and then paid. People said what? If he is going to pay anyway then why should he swear? He explained, he said look if I am just going to pay people are going to say he is a thief who is afraid of a Shevua so he paid. Therefore, he said let me better swear and then pay so that no one should accuse me of really being a thief and backing out only over the Shevua.

At any rate this is a lesson of (וְהֵייתֶם נְקִיִּים). It is very hard especially in this day and age where people are quick and everyone is smarter. Everyone has the internet so they know everything about what is going on in the world and they know better. The Bnei Torah have to be very careful from (וְהֵייתֶם נְקִיִּים).

2 – A Pre-Pesach Thought

I want to talk Davka about Pre-Pesach. Pesach we will get to another week but what about Pre-Pesach. I would like to quote to you from the Kav Hayashar in Perek Tzaddik. (ויש קבלה בידי: כל) (טרה שאדם מטריח את עצמו לכבוד יום טוב של פסח). All the effort, the Tircha, the bother that a person puts into preparing for Pesach (והוא עיף ויגע בהטרח) and he is exhausted (זה הוא הורג כל) ("המזיקים הנקראים "נגעי בני אדם והעוסק בטרדת המצוה). When a person works hard for Pesach and he is exhausted, that exhaustion kills the Mazikim, the negative influences in his life, in his home. (של ימי הפסח). Someone who is stressed (הוא מתקן התקון) he repairs his home. It is an incredible thing. He says the Hatzlacha of Tircha, of sweat, of exhaustion in preparing, that exhaustion, that preparation is a Segula for Hatzlacha in a person's house.

It is fascinating that in the Shulchan Aruch in Siman Taf Samech S'if Beis brings (הרא"ש היה) (משתדל במצת מצוה). It is rare that they quote someone by name in the Shulchan Aruch, however, it says the Rosh went personally and was involved in baking the Matzos. (ועומד על עשייתו). He was

there when they made it and (ומזרו העוסקים ומסייע בהן בעריכתן וכן ראוי לכל אדם לעשות להטפל הוא בעצמו). It seems that the Tircha, the doing for the Mitzvah especially on Pesach is very special. The Taz in S'if Kotton Beis brings from the Arizal (עד כי יתחמם ויזיע). When you prepare for Pesach and the Matzos sweat yourself up, (ובזה ישבר הקליפות שנוולו). He will have the ability to destroy the Klipos, the negative influences in his own life. There is a special Segula, there is a special Zechus in the idea that a person prepares for Pesach, whether it is the Matzos or the preparation or the cleaning, whatever it was. There is a special Zechus in that, a Zechus of protection that a person has. As a matter of fact people are more Matriach for Pesach then for any other Mitzvah. If you think about it the Tircha, the effort, the difficulty, the challenge whatever takes place for Pesach takes much more effort than anything else.

The Radvaz was asked in Teshuva in Cheilek Gimmel Teshuva Tuf Kuf Mem Vav why is it this way that the preparation for Pesach is so much more than for all year round and the Torah obligates us to go after every little bit of Chometz.

He answers Ki Chometz B'pesach Remez L'yetzer Hora Hu Sar She'b'isa. That to rid oneself from the Yeitzer Hora that is preparing for Pesach. It comes through the Tircha, that will be a Zechus for a person in the coming year that he is Matriach, that he bothers, that he sweats, that he is stressed, all of that is a Zechus.

The Radvaz that is a Sefardik Gadol who says it. The Arizal, the Shulchan Aruch, the Kav Hayashar. The Netziv (a Litvishe) in Hameik Davar in Pirush on Chumash in Parshas Bo 12:17 explains the Posuk B'ofen Nifla. Listen to what he says. (ושמרתם את המצות). A Mitzvah that has a tremendous amount of Tircha, a Tircha Meruba needs a lot of Shemira. It doesn't say U'shmartem Es Halulav. You have to be careful that the Lulav stays Kosher too. (ושמרתם את המצות). Why?

The Posuk tells you. (כי בעצם היום הזה, הוצאתי את-צבאותיכם מארץ מצרים; ושמרתם את-היום הזה, לדורתיכם). Just like Klal Yisrael was Zoche on Pesach to Yetzias Mitzrayim to a tremendous amount of Mesiras Nefesh, of effort, of Tircha to bring a Korban Pesach in middle of Mitzrayim in front of the Mitzrim. To prepare for that they had to learn all of the Halachos of the Korban Pesach in a couple of days. With all of that, they had a Geulah. (ושמרתם את המצות). You in your time be careful with Pesach. (כי בעצם היום הזה, הוצאתי את-צבאותיכם מארץ מצרים). Because that is the way I took Klal Yisrael out of Mitzrayim. With being Matriach, with working hard, with making things happen. Therefore, the preparation for Pesach is very important.

I should add that the Rokeach a Talmid of Rav Yehuda Hachasid brings from a Yerushalmi that it is Assur to complain about the Tirchos of Pesach. Listen to this. (מה הוצאתי את-צבאותיכם מארץ מצרים? מה העבודה הזאת). (לקח). What is the Rasha complaining about? The Yerushalmi explains what the Rasha is saying. Why are you working so hard for Pesach? That is what the Rasha is complaining about. Imagine!

Assur L'hislonein Al Tirchas HaPesach says the Rokeach. You are not allowed to complain about preparation. The Chok Yaakov in Siman Taf Tzaddik Tes writes Lo Ra'isi Nohagin L'hizaheir Bazeh. People do complain. What I am telling you is the Tircha, the preparation, the effort has its own special Chashivus, has its own special place. It is meaningful to be Matriach in preparation for Pesach.

Those of you who are going to hotels, you don't have to be Matriach. You will lock up your house. Some of you go to hotels that are paid for hotels. Some of you go to hotels that are called Daddy or Mommy or in-laws. Don't lose the opportunity. Go to someone who needs help and help them clean the house. Help them clean the car. He doesn't want you cleaning his house and poking your nose in everything. Tell him I am not cleaning for Pesach and I want to do some cleaning. Let me take your car and clean out your car for you. Let me take your garage and clean out your garage for you. It is a Bain Adam L'chaveiro Mitzvah and it is a Zechus. A tremendous Zechus (ישבר) (הקליפות). To destroy Mazikim in a person's life. You want Segulos, this is a Segulah. It is a Shemirah against Chometz and Matzah. The Tircha, the stress. Do it and make it happen. A wonderful Hachana for Pesach and a Gutten Shabbos to one and all!

Rabbi Reisman - Parshas Ki Sisa 5780

1 - Topic - Be Melameid Zechus at the same time that you have a complaint against someone.

As we prepare for Shabbos Parshas Ki Sisa in a world caught up in a hysteria over a disease that we hope will soon pass. One Takana regarding the virus which I think we can all agree upon, that in Batei Medrashim during Seder time whether in Yeshiva, or in Shul, or with a Chavrusa, talking about it during learning time should be forbidden. People are carried away with talking about all these Narishkeitin. Talk about it during Batala time not during learning time. I think that we can all agree.

Having said that, let me speak a little about Parshas Ki Sisa. The Maiseh Ha'eigel. An important lesson from Rav Druk in Darash Mordechai (page 325). At the very same moment that Moshe Rabbeinu is talking to Hashem and saying as is found in 32:11 (למה ירור יחרה אפך בעמך). He is saying to HKB"H why are you angry at these people? At the same time, Moshe Rabbeinu goes down and says to Bnei Yisrael 32:30 (אתם חטאתם חטאה גדלה). You sinned a terrible sin. What happened? Nothing changed in between. (למה ירור יחרה אפך בעמך) and (אתם חטאתם חטאה גדלה).

There is a tremendous Mussar here. A person at the very same time that he has complaints to a Yid for something he did and tells him you shouldn't have done it, towards heaven he should be Melameid Zechus. He should teach that K'lapei Shmaya they are good people.

We find the same thing in Navi (Shmuel I Perek 15), after Shaul sinned and the Ribbono Shel Olam told Shmuel that I am going to remove him from being Melech, we find that Shmuel is Mispaleil Kol Halayla. He is Zo'eik Kol Halayla. He Complained to the Ribbono Shel Olam on Shaul's behalf and at the same time he goes to Shaul and says (Posuk 22) (הספן לירור בעלות וזבחים) and gives Mussar. When he is talking to the Ribbono Shel Olam he is Melameid Zechus. We need to be the same way. To speak harshly about Jews doing things wrong, is only if you have an opportunity to tell the person and have him correct his ways. But any other time, you have to be Melameid Zechus on Klal Yisrael.

The story was told that when Rav Moshe and the other Gedolim came out I believe that it was in 1956 with a ruling that no Orthodox Rabbanim should sit on boards with Reform or Conservative Rabbis on anything that has to do with religion. When that ruling was issued, someone who disagreed vehemently and felt that we should sit together came to Rav Moshe, and he said Rav

Moshe you hold that we should not sit with the reform and the conservative. I tell you Rav Moshe, in our hearts we hate them just like you do, but outwardly we have to work with them, we have to be Mentchen, we have to show that we can collaborate.

Rav Moshe told him you are wrong on two counts. Outwardly we have to show that we cannot collaborate, and in our hearts we have to love them and be Melameid Zechus. It is a lesson that has to do not only with the politics of Klal Yisrael but it has to do with the individual actions. When you have somebody you deal with and he does something that is worthy of criticism, if you have to criticize, then you criticize but don't get caught up in it. Be Melameid Zechus.

2 - Topic - A Kasha on the Parsha

A Groisa Kasha on Parshas Ki Sisa. Let me begin by pointing out to you that on every Taanis we Lain Vayechal. Now if you listen to the Laining on a Taanis and you listen this Shabbos, you may be confused. (ויחל משה, אַת-פְּנֵי יְרוּר אֱלֹהֵיו) is 32:11. After the few Pesukim in the Kohen's Aliyah we go to the Levi's Aliyah. The Levi Aliyah is not until a Perek and a half later in 34:1. I am a Levi, and when I get an Aliyah on a Taanis the Baal Korei is Golel the Sefer Torah a column or two until (ויאמר יְרוּר אֶל-מִשֶּׁה, פָּסַל-לָךְ). What happened in between the (ויחל משה) the Kohen's Aliyah and (ויאמר יְרוּר אֶל-מִשֶּׁה) the Levi and then the Yisrael's Aliyah? In between a lot happens. In between 32:15 (ויפן וַיֵּרַד מִשֶּׁה) Moshe goes down 32:20 (וישרף באש) and he tells the Leviim 32:27 (שימו איש-תְּרֵבוּ, עַל-יְרֵכוֹ). A lot happens in between. Okay not so terrible if a lot happens in between.

I don't understand. (ויחל משה, אַת-פְּנֵי יְרוּר אֱלֹהֵיו) Moshe said to the Ribbono Shel Olam forgive Klal Yisrael but that is before (ויירד משה). That is before (ויקח אֶת-הָעֵגֶל). That is before the Leviim say (מי לירור אֵלֵי) and (שימו איש-תְּרֵבוּ). I don't get it. At the time Moshe is saying to the Ribbono Shel Olam (למה ירוור יתרה אפך בעמך... זכר לאברהם ליצחק ולישׂראל עבדיך, אשר נשבעת להם בך) at that moment the Yidden are still dancing in front of the Eigel. Is that a time to ask the Ribbono Shel Olam for Kapparah? Before the sin has come to an end? It is very strange. (ויחל משה) I would think that Moshe would go down, get the Eigel to be done with and then ask for Rachamim. No! He asked for Rachamim right away. It certainly needs some sort of an explanation. These are two Nekudos that have to do with the Maiseh Ha'eigel.

3 - Topic - Current Events.

I want to tell you a thought that has to do with current events. Not the politics Shebo but a thought. I was told on Taanis Esther that the Israeli government is not letting any non-Israeli into the country without a 2 week quarantine which in effect cuts people off. To go for a two to three week vacation when two weeks is in quarantine doesn't make sense. So that the Israeli government effectively said Israeli's come back and the Umos Ha'olam stay out.

I couldn't help but think to myself, how Chazal would be happy with such a Takana. Not of course Chalila with the circumstances that are happening, but wonderful, Umos Ha'olam, nations of the world, stay away, leave us alone. A wall between Klal Yisrael and the Umos Ha'olam.

Then I thought to myself, yes what a wonderful wall, but I am on the wrong side of the wall. I am with the Umos Ha'olam. I am in America and I am not in Eretz Yisrael. Suddenly a wall went up and I am on the wrong side of the wall. Rachmana Litzlon.

What is going to happen when Moshiach comes? What is going to happen when a wall is put up to keep out the Umos Ha'olam, where are we going to be? Rachmana Litzlon. The Ahavas Eretz Yisrael has to be strong.

I remember in 1967, I was a 9 year old at the '67 war. I remember distinctly that my parent's, my father Olav Ha'shalom and my good friend Olav Ha'shalom from across the street, a good Chavrusa and friend for all the years, they are talking and I remember them saying, that someone asked the Satmar Rebbe if he should bring his son home from Eretz Yisrael before the '67 war was a danger and he said no, he should be in Eretz Yisrael. If you have a choice to be here or be there, shouldn't we be there? How am I to say Mussar as I am not there all of time. We should be there. We should have a Teshuka to be there.

At any rate it is a time of a pandemic, these things have happened before. Unfortunately, people with small brains are caught up talking about things they have no control over. Telling their friends about how many bottles of water you can buy at this place or at that place. Of course sink water which has chlorine is much healthier because this virus can't live in chlorine. Anyway, they are busy talking about all of these Narishkeitin instead of talking about the things that matter.

Instead of talking about Avodas Hashem. Talking about the Ribbono Shel Olam. Seeing how human beings with all of the sophistication that we have, human beings with all of the knowledge that we have, the Ribbono Shel Olam introduces a virus that you can't see except under a microscope and suddenly all of humanity grinds to a halt. Ma Anu, Meh Chayeinu. Ma Tzidkoseinu, Ma Kocheinu.. The Ribbono Shel Olam grinds it to a halt. Who created this virus? Who created it? The whole world comes to a stop.

How weak human beings are. How we think we control and we don't control. There is so much to learn. And we waste our time talking about Narishkeitin? Talking about Narishkeitin during times that we could be Davening and we could be learning.

During a Mageifa Aharon Hakohen said the Refuah is the Ketores. Vaya'amod Hamageifa. We should be Zahir in saying the Parshas Haketores. Whether this qualifies as a Mageifa or not I have no clue. However, the Parshas Haketores that is something to work on. That is my thinking.

The Parshas Haketores is 5 Pesukim. It starts in 30:34 in this week's Parsha (ויאמר ירנר אל-משנה קח-) (לה סמים, נטף ושחלת וְחִלְבָּנָה, סמים, וּלְבָנָה זָפָה: בַּד בָּבַד, יִהְיֶה) before Sheini. Say the Ketores and use this as an opportunity. Wishing everybody Gezunt, Shemira from all Machalos and most of all an Aliya from the current situation, to gain, to rise rather than to fall into the silliness that is around us. Wishing everyone a Good Shabbos Shemira, a Groisa Shemira that we all need. A Gutten Shabbos to all!

Rabbi Reisman - Parshas Ki Sisa 5779

As we prepare for Shabbos Parshas Ki Sisa. In this week's Parsha we have a Posuk at the beginning of Perek 32 at the beginning of the Cheit Ha'eigel as it says (כי-זֶה מִשֶׁה הָאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר הֶעֱלֵנוּ מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם) (לא יָדַעְנוּ מֶה-הָיָה לוֹ). Rashi tells us (כמין דמות משה הראה להם השטן, שנושאים אותו באויר רקיע השמים). The language of that the Satan showed Klal Yisrael an image of Moshe Rabbeinu not alive as if he is not going to come back. What does that have to do with Pshat?

Rashi always tells us Pshat. The Teretz has to do with the word Zeh. Zeh (זֶה מִשֶׁה הָאִישׁ). In Lashon Hakodesh it is extremely confusing because there are 3 words for this. Zeh, Zu and Zos. 3 totally different words. Normally there is a male and a female expression. Zu and Zos or Zeh and Zos depending on whether you hold Zu is male or female, it could be used both ways. But what is the extra expression of Zeh?

In Mishnas Reb Aharon, Cheilek Gimmel, page Kuf Ayin Ches, he says Zeh is always a case where you say this and it is something right in front of you, something you can point to. For example, as it says in Shemos 15:2 (זֶה קִלִּי וְאֲנִיָּהוּ). Rashi tells us that by Kriyas Yam Suf K'ilu Kavayochel they saw the Ribbono Shel Olam. They were able to point the Etzba and say this is the Borei Olam.

Another example of this is what we have in the Megillah in 7:6 (אִישׁ צָר וְאוֹיֵב, הָמֵן הָרַע הַזֶּה). The Gemara says that Esther pointed with her finger. The Gemara goes so far as to say that she was going to point to Achashveirosh and then the Malach made her point to Haman. How do you know that she pointed? Because it says HaZeh. Zeh means something that is right in front of us.

At the beginning of this week's Parsha it says in 30:13 (זֶה יִתְּנוּ, כָּל-הָעֵבֶר עַל-הַפְּקֻדִים). Hashem says this is what they should give as a Machatzis Hashekel. So Rashi says on (זֶה יִתְּנוּ) that the Ribbono Shel Olam showed Moshe Rabbeinu a Matbai'a Shel Aish (ומשקלה מחצית של אש, והשקל, ואומר לו כזה יתנו). How do you know?

Because Zeh means that there was something there right in front. (כי-זֶה מִשֶׁה הָאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר הֶעֱלֵנוּ מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם). What is Zeh, what was right in front of them? This is why Rashi says that the Satan showed them a D'mus of Moshe as if he is not coming down again.

There is a Mussar in this besides for the technical Pshat. The Mussar is that the Satan showed them an image and they believed them. They believed the Satan and got carried away.

Moshe Rabbeinu is told by Kavayochel HKB"H himself in 32:7 (לָךְ-רָד--כִּי שָׁחַת עִמָּךְ) go down because Klal Yisrael sinned and Moshe Rabbeinu did not break the Luchos until he saw it with his own eyes.

Now I spoke in a previous year about 5 different Peshatim as to why he waited, but the bottom line is to compare the two. Here, Moshe Rabbeinu heard from Hashem himself and he didn't doubt the truth that Klal Yisrael did an Aveira, but until he saw with his own eyes he didn't react.

For Klal Yisrael, the Satan shows them an image and they accept it and they react right away. This is a Siman of a great Tzarah that Klal Yisrael has that brings us to all kinds of difficulties, all kinds

of problems. We are very quick to believe complaints about people. We are very quick to be Mekabeil all types of descriptions, motivations, actions that other people did without pausing to reflect.

You should know that when someone tells you something bad about someone else, it is the Satan showing the Demus of Moshe Rabbeinu in front of you. Don't believe, don't accept. Sometimes Lashon Hora L'maichish Miba'i. You have to be Chosheish for it but don't believe it. And so, from the Maiseh of the Satan we have a Dikduk explanation, we can call it a Teitch explanation of Zeh, and a Mussar.

There is a much more important message from this whole event. Because really it is a little troublesome that every time that Klal Yisrael is on the verge of greatness something goes wrong. Klal Yisrael is on the verge of going into Eretz Yisrael with Moshe Rabbeinu and first the Maiseh Ha'eigel happens and then subsequent events which prevent Klal Yisrael from doing the things that they would very much like to do.

There is an important Klal which I would like to share with you which as we shall see many Gedolei Yisrael talk about. It is a Klal that HKB"H has in a world in which Kochos Hakedusha and Kochos Hatumah Zeh L'umas Zeh Asah Elokim. The Kochos Hatumah and the Kochos Hakedusha balance out. Whenever there is a Hisgabrus of Kochos Hakedusha, whenever there is a potential for something great, there is a corresponding push from the Kochos Hatumah to push back. To push back, one of the laws of physics is that for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction. That is true in Ruchnios as well.

In the third Perek of Zecharya (3:2) there is a Posuk which we say by Krias Shema Al Hamitah, (יְגַעַר יְרֹךְ בָּהּ הַשָּׁטָן, וַיִּגְעַר יְרֹךְ בָּהּ, הַבְּחֵר בִּירוּשָׁלַיִם). Poshut Pshat is that Hashem is the one who is Bocher B'yerushalayim.

The Rama MiPano Teitches that the Satan is Bocher B'yerushalayim. The Satan rushes to choose the most holy time, the most holy place, in order to make problems, to place stumbling blocks in the way. The Kochos Hatumah are Bocher B'yerushalayim.

Rav Schwab writes this in Parshas Vayishlach (on page 86 on 34:7, which was spoken about at length in 5777) and in Parshas Vayeira as well (page 41 on 19:4). He explains why Dinah was kidnapped for Znus and the Imahos were kidnapped for Znus. Were there no other beautiful women in the world? They were the most beautiful women that they were kidnapped for Znus?

But it is this Yesod that the Kochos Hatumah always push against the greatest Kochos Hakedushah. That is why the greatest of the Imahos, there was a Koach Hatumah that fought to pull them away. This is Rav Schwab's Klal.

Rav Pam used to talk about this Klal (which was also discussed in Parshas Vayishlach 5777) when he talked about Kohanim being Assur to become Tamei, going to a Bais Hak'vares. He said in the name of the Vilna Gaon that somebody who has a greater Kedusha is in greater danger that the Kochos Hatumah will attach themselves to him. Therefore, the person who is attached to greater Kedusha, a Kohen, is in greater danger.

Rav Pam would explain that that is why there is a Minhag that an expecting woman does not go to the Bais Hak'vares. Because she is carrying a child and that is an extreme great degree of Kedusha.

The Satmar Rebbe in Divrei Yoel in Parshas Shelach page Shin Samech Hei talks about this Klal as well and he says that is why the Kohen Gadol in the first Perek of Yoma had to be extra careful that he shouldn't come to Tumas Keri, that he shouldn't become Tamei on Yom Hakipurim, or the days before Yom Kippur. Why? There are many who are Zahir in these things and they are not as great as the Kohen Gadol. But just the opposite. On the greatest day of Kedusha, in the greatest place of Kedusha, the greatest person of Kedusha, the Kochos Hatumah would Shtel, would push back in the greatest and most powerful way.

He also explains that this is the reason why great people like the Meraglim could so swiftly fall. Because when they reach the pinnacle of Kedusha, they were chosen by Klal Yisrael to represent their Shevatim and to go enter Eretz Yisrael, the Kochos Hatumah pushed and even Caleiv needed special Tefillos from Chevron and Yehoshua needed special Tefillos from Moshe Rabbeinu to be saved. It is always a danger when a person is at the greatest time of Kedusha to be Zahir from the Kochos Hatumah.

I once saw the Netziv in Maishiv Davar in Teshuvah Mem Daled, Dibbur Hamaschil U'mai'rosh. I saw the following also from the Minchas Elazar in Divrei Chaim V'shalom page Kuf Pei Gimmel. They both explain the mystery of why so many Jews did not go up to Eretz Yisrael in the Bayis Hasheini.

In the Zman Bayis Sheini we learned that only 60,000 Jews went up. 42,000 in the first movement and then with Ezra another 7 or 8 thousand and then a few more, but most did not go up. They both say that Klal Yisrael remembered that when they were in Eretz Yisrael they had such a Yeitzer Hora for Avodah Zora.

The Lashon of the Netziv in Harcheiv Davar Bamidbar 33:55 Kol She'hamakom Kadosh Mei'yoseir, anything that is holy, His'gabrus HaTumah Asher Zeh K'neged Zeh Asa Elokim Shamah B'yoseir, is there as well. Therefore, when there is a greater Koach Hakedusha, a person has to be prepared for the push back from the Kochos Hatumah.

In Shir Hashirim it says 5:3 (אֵיכָכָה אֶטְנַפֵּם אֶת-רַגְלִי, אֵיכָכָה אֶטְנַפֵּם). I washed my feet, I don't want to get them dirty again. It is used to explain why they refused to be Oleh Regel in the Bayis Sheini. They said I have left Eretz Yisrael and I don't have this Yeitzer Hora for Avodah Zora that existed so strongly in Eretz Yisrael. I'm afraid to go back.

So we have here a Klal from the Rama MiPano which is used by such a diverse group of Manhigai Yisrael, Rav Schwab, Rav Pam, the Satmar Rav, the Netziv, the Minchas Elazar, all telling us the same thing. That when you are on the verge of greatness, that is where the Yeitzer Hora pushes. It is a Siman. It is almost as if you have a thought of doing something and you have a Yeitzer Hora telling you not to do it and you say wow, now I know that this must be a very great thing that I am about to do. And it is so.

Someone told me that an Adam Gadol once said, if you don't know which of two things you should do, whatever the Yeitzer Hora is pushing against more, that is the right one to choose. Because Kach Hi Um'naso Shel Yeitzer Hora. More importantly, when a person sets out to do a good thing and he finds that there are stumbling blocks in his way, it is very important that the person know that the stumbling blocks are all a part of the plan and overcoming those stumbling blocks leads to greatness.

And so, we read about the Eigel, we hope, we Daven that Klal Yisrael should be Zoche to a final Kapparah from the Cheit Ha'eigel and its remnants should be pushed away from Klal Yisrael. We should come to the final Geulah. We hope that the resurgence of anti-Semitism in the world is only a sign of the Kochos Hatumah pushing back. We should be Zoche to the ultimate Kedusha for which we all Daven. A Gutten Lichtige Shabbos to one and all!

Rabbi Reisman - Parshas Ki Sisa 5777

1 - Topic - Eigel - Be careful with the first error

As we prepare for Shabbos Parshas Ki Sisa/Parshas Parah. Of course Parshas Ki Sisa has in it the most pronounced section of the Parsha which is the Maaseh Ha'eigel. Since the Maaseh Ha'eigel is the Cheit of Klal Yisrael, I would like to make two important points regarding Cheit in general and the lessons of the Cheit Ha'eigel.

Our first point begins with a Nekuda which must be confusing to many people. When we learn the Torah She'baal Peh of the Eigel, we find many explanations which make the Aveira much less than it would seem to be. Either that it was the Eirav Rav that did it or that Klal Yisrael only meant it as a replacement for Moshe and not for the Ribbono Shel Olam. Many types of explanations which come really to explain how can it be that such a generation should suddenly turn to Avodah Zorah.

On the other hand, the Cheit Ha'eigel is so severe that it has a punishment that lasts for generations and certainly needs some of a valid explanation as to how to make it fit. Not such a terrible sin yes, such a terrible sin. K'fi Madreigasam, ok that is an answer but still it needs more explanation. I want to share with you an explanation that I once saw, I apologize that I don't remember where but because it comes with such a beautiful, imaginary, creative point, it is something that I can say over.

The Torah says in 34:14 (לא תשתחווה, לאל אחר) do not bow to other gods. The Reish of Acher is a large Reish. In the Torah it also says as is found in Devarim 6:4 (שמע, ישׂראל: יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ, יְהוָה אֶחָד) The Daled of Echad is large. So that the Reish and the Daled are both written very large. The Remez of this Reish and Daled has to do with the fact that in a Sefer Torah there is very little difference between a Reish and a Daled. A Reish has a rounded right end of its roof and a Daled has a squared top right end of the roof. Our Minhag is that it protrudes, but the Halacha of a Daled is just that it be squared. The difference between them is very small. The point of a Posuk that talks about (שמע, ישׂראל: יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ, יְהוָה אֶחָד) faith in one G-d and the Posuk of (לא תשתחווה, לאל אחר) which talks about serving foreign gods, is that most people would think that when it comes

to Avodah Zorah a person has to make a terrible error, a major error, a Ta'us Gadul. How can a person fall to Avodah Zorah. That causes good people to feel a confidence that Avodah Zorah is not something that is enticing to them.

The Torah is Merameiz to us that it is not so. Going off the deep end, falling off in faith in Hashem starts with a small Nekuda. The difference between the Hashem Echad Daled and the Eil Acher Reish is a very small Nekuda of Chiluk. The point is that when a person in Inyanim that have to do with faith, with Emunah, deviate a little bit, that can bring terrible mistakes. The consequences can be awful. HKB"H tells Moshe Rabbeinu 32:7 (לְךָ-רָד) go down to the people, they made themselves an Eigel. (רָד) is Reish Daled. It is a Remez to this idea. Go down. These people have made a serious mistake which seems to them to be a small mistake. It is someone to represent Moshe Rabbeinu, something to be an intermediary to G-d. All kinds of excuses. These little excuses are what end up causing the biggest Churbanos, the most awful Churbanos.

If a person does something that is exaggerated in its out of the box, off the wall type of behavior, a person realizes it. When a person makes a small mistake, a small difference, a person tends to excuse himself, to make excuses. Therefore, the mistakes that begin with the (רָד) the Reish and the Daled are Aveiros that can become terrible. Shemos 17:16 (מִלְחָמָה לִירֵרָה, בְּעַמְלֵק--מִדֶּר, דֶּר) Dor is spelled Daled Reish. The Milchemes Amaleik is also Mirumaz the Daled Reish, the small difference in behavior which can lead to awful things.

The Mussar here is a tremendous Mussar. It is true that in its source what led Klal Yisrael to the Eigel were small mistakes, minor infractions. But minor infractions open a door, they open a door to what ultimately becomes real Avodah Zorah. Be careful in your first step before it G-d forbid leads to a different path.

2 - Topic - Eigel - Be careful not to see it. convince yourself of things until you are sure you

Moving on to a second thought. 32:1 (וַיֵּרָא הָעָם, כִּי-בָשַׁשׁ מֹשֶׁה) the people saw that Moshe Rabbeinu was delayed. This of course led them to the making of the Eigel. Chazal say that Her'e Hasatan Mai'hem Mita Shel Moshe Rabbeinu Meis. The Satan showed them an image of Moshe Rabbeinu no longer alive. It is a Pele. Why would the Satan be given permission to show such a vision to Klal Yisrael? It seems to be a totally Sheker idea, a totally false vision, which now led Klal Yisrael to do Aveiros. Why would the Satan be permitted to do such a thing?

I would like to share with you the Ksav V'hakabala on this Posuk (page # 453). As you may know, the Ksav V'hakabala is a Sefer that deals primarily with language, with words. Indeed he begins by explaining the difference for two Hebrew words which mean delay. (וַיֵּרָא הָעָם, כִּי-בָשַׁשׁ מֹשֶׁה) delay is expressed here as Bosheish. Typically, delay is Ichur (איחור) a totally different word. What is the difference between (איחור) and (בָּשַׁשׁ)?

Ichur is a delay that is done willingly, happily. A Posuk in Mishlei says 23:30 (לְמֵאֲחָרִים עַל-הַיַּיִן) people delay when they are enjoying their wine. Ichur is an expression of a happy delay. Devarim 23:22 (לֹא תֵאַחַר לְשִׁלְמוֹ) There is a Lav in the Torah against delaying in bringing one's Korban. Chazal say that that is only when a person could have brought the Korban. If a person is poor and doesn't have money he doesn't violate (לֹא תֵאַחַר). Again, because Ichur implies a delay that is done

willingly, for convenience reasons, because it makes him happy. Only then are you Over on (לְאָרְרָה). Not someone who is delayed for other reasons.

With this he explains in Shmuel II 20:5 if you will remember undoubtedly that Amasa is delayed in his return to Dovid Hamelech and Yoav considers that to be Mored B'malchus. The Posuk says (וַיִּזְקַר, מִן-הַמּוֹעֵד). He was delayed from his appointed time. The Gemara (Sanhedrin 49a) says (אֲשַׁכְּחִינְהוּ דַּפְתִּיחַ לְהוּ בַּמַּסַּכְתָּא) because Amasa on his way back met Rabbanan Tumuling in learning and he got involved in them. How do Chazal know that that is reason for being delayed?

Says the Ksav V'hakabala it says (וַיִּזְקַר, מִן-הַמּוֹעֵד) with a Lashon of Ichur is being delayed because of something Geshmak, something desirable. Bosheish on the other hand, is a Lashon Busha. We find in Shoftim 3:25 (וַיִּזְקַרְוּ עַד-בּוֹשׁ). They were delayed (עַד-בּוֹשׁ) until a point of Bosh. They realized that the delay of Eglon was because of something undesirable. Bosheish is an unhappy delay.

Says the Ksav V'hakabala, the source of error of Klal Yisrael, the beginning of the Eigel mistake, was that when Moshe Rabbeinu was delayed in Shamayim the people should have said he is delayed? Of course he is delayed. He is Zoche to be in heaven learning from the Ribbono Shel Olam. The most beautiful possibility of existence. So Moshe Rabbeinu is delayed because he is enjoying the Hana'a of being in the Ribbono Shel Olam's classroom and they should have said Ichur Moshe. Moshe is delayed because he is having it so good. The people however, did not properly appreciate the idea and they said Bosheish Moshe, there is something wrong. It is better down here and if Moshe Rabbeinu is not coming something must be amiss with him. So that the source of their mistake was the Bosheish Moshe. The idea that they didn't realize that Moshe Rabbeinu would be delayed because of a Geshmak not because of something negative.

When it says that the Satan showed them that Moshe Rabbeinu was no longer alive, says the Ksav V'hakabala that Satan Zu Yeitzer Hora. Satan doesn't mean the angel, it means the people's Yeitzer Hora. Their own Machshovos displayed for them a Moshe Rabbeinu who was Bosheish, who is unfortunately not able to come down despite wanting to. They saw Moshe Rabbeinu Meis in their minds eye. That is the nature of a person. He convinces himself of things and then sees it, or he thinks he sees it.

So that, we understand the source of the Aveira was Bosheish Moshe. Not appreciating the Gadlus of Moshe Rabbeinu being upstairs with the Ribbono Shel Olam and from that came all of the mistakes. It doesn't have to be that an angel showed them an image. From within their own Yeitzer Hora, showed them this image, this thought, this idea.

So these are two thoughts which have to do with the Aveira of the Eigel. The Nekuda of beginning of straying. Important thoughts. To be careful with that first small error and to be careful not to convince yourself of things until you are sure you see it.

3 - Topic - The breaking of the Luchos

Finally the breaking of the Luchos. As you know, the Gemara says that Moshe Rabbeinu did three things on his own and Hashem was Maskim. One of them was the breaking of the Luchos. I once saw (I think) from Rav Isaac Sher he says that the things that Moshe Rabbeinu did on his own, the

three items that Chazal bring, he did with one theme. HKB"H said bring the Luchos down to the people. After all, in the Luchos is the Parsha of Teshuva, so bring the first Luchos down.

When Moshe Rabbeinu came down he made a decision. He said, I don't want to give Klal Yisrael the Luchos in such a B'dieved fashion. It is better to do it right even if that means starting all over again rather than having a Luchos that is tainted by the Maiseh Ha'eigl. Therefore, Moshe Rabbeinu decided to break the Luchos. Let's get it right. Let's start again and make sure that we do it properly and once we do it properly it will be a proper Luchos. It is a lesson in life. Do it once and do it right.

The same explanation can be given for the other things that Moshe Rabbeinu did on his own. Before Shavuos, Moshe Rabbeinu added one day on his own to the Yemai Hag'bala. It was the same idea. The number of days that they had were certainly adequate for Kabbalas Hatorah. After all, HKB"H said so. However, Moshe Rabbeinu said let's do it right. Let's do it completely right. Better we should delay a day and do it one day later and at that time be Mekabeil the Luchos with some extra preparation. Better that then to do it in a way that is adequate but not perfect.

The same thing with the third thing. Moshe Rabbeinu was Poreish Mai'ishto. He could have lived with his wife and when Hashem wanted to talk to him he would run off to the Mikva. But he said let me do Lechatchila. Of course with his wife's agreement. He was Pirush Mai'ishto so that he should always be ready to be Mekabeil the Nevuos Hashem without any delay at all. Do it once and do it right. What a lesson.

With that I wish everybody an absolutely wonderful post Purim, a healthy Avir of Purim. The spirit of Purim should continue, it should carry us forward to a new Zman of Geulah as we prepare for Pesach. A Gutten Shabbos to one and all!

Rabbi Reisman - Parshas Ki Sisa 5776

A Parsha that is really loaded with a lot that a person could sit and Darshun and learn. I would like to stop at two points in the Parsha. The first is a topic that is dear to my heart.

1. Right after Sheini in 31:18 (לְחַת הַעֲדָת--לְחַת אֶבֶן, כְּתָבִים) נִתְּנָן אֶל-מֹשֶׁה, כְּכַלְתּוֹ לְדַבֵּר אֵתוֹ בְּהַר סִינַי, שְׁנֵי, לְחַת הַעֲדָת--לְחַת אֶבֶן, כְּתָבִים). Before the sin of the Eigel, already the Ribbono Shel Olam gives Moshe (שְׁנֵי, לְחַת) (קְעֻדָּת). Brings Rashi (כְּכַלְתּוֹ לְדַבֵּר אֵתוֹ). When Hashem finished speaking to Moshe, (כְּכַלְתּוֹ) is spelled missing a Vav as if it was referring to Kaloso, his Kallah. Says Rashi (מה כלה, חסר, ככלתו כתיב, חסר, מה כלה). Just like a Kallah comes to her wedding bedecked in her 24 items of adornment ('הן האמורים בספר ישעי'). We find in the third Perek of Yeshaya (Posuk 18-24) that Kallas used to go out with 24 items, (אף תלמיד חכם צריך להיות בקי בכ"ד ספרים). So too a Talmid Chochochom has to be an expert in the 24 books. The 5 books of Chumash, 4 Neviim Rishonim and the 4 Neviim Achronim, 5 Megillos, 6 books of Kesuvim besides for the Megillos. I am sure at the Shabbos table everyone will be able to figure out the 24 books of Nach which is basic to Yiddishkeit.

There is a question which is disturbing. That is that the Rambam says at the end of Hilchos Megillah (Sefer Zemanim, Hilchos Megillah, 2:18) כל ספרי הנביאים וכל הכתובים עתידין ליבטל לימות)

המשיח חוץ ממגילת אסתר והרי היא קיימת כחמשה חומשי תורה וכהלכות של תורה שבעל פה שאינן בטליו לעולם ואע"פ שכל זכרון הצרות יבטל שנאמר כי נשכחו הצרות הראשונות וכי נסתרו מעיני. ימי הפורים לא יבטלו שנאמר וימי (הפורים האלה לא יעברו מתוך היהודים וזכרם לא יסוף מזרעם). The Gemara in Nedarim 22b (9 lines from the top) says (לא) חטאו ישראל לא ניתן להם אלא חמשה חומשי תורה וספר (יהושע בלבד) that had Klal Yisrael not sinned at the Eigel it would have been the 5 books of Torah and Sefer Yehoshua alone. It seems to say that the other books of Nach were not in the original plan and are not in the future plans, and somehow are only temporary. How could it be? Could it be that a Cheilek of Torah is going to be Bateil. Here we have B'feirush that (כְּכִלְתוּ לְדַבֵּר אֹתוֹ) that a Talmid Chochom had to be (צריך להיות בקי בכ"ד ספרים). This is even before the Cheit Ha'eigel.

Recently I gave a Shiur on Eicha on how the book of Eicha will be learned when Mashiach comes. Someone said what do you mean, we are not going to learn Eicha when Moshiach comes. That is a mistake. No part of Torah is Batul. Yet it does say that only (כחמשה חומשי תורה) and (מגילת אסתר) will be during the times of Moshiach. This is a confusing topic.

I would like to suggest my answer and tell you where it comes from. It is true that the other books of Nach are Torah Shebichsav now because they were written. Kol Nevuos Shelitz'richa L'doros Nichtava. A lot of Nevuos were given. What is written in the books of Neviim and Kesuvim are needed L'doros. We have 24 books of Nach. L'asid Lavoit these parts of Torah which are now Torah Shebichsav will no longer be Torah Shebichsav. There will still be Torah She'baal Peh. Even what a Talmid Chochom says today as a Chiddush in Torah is part of Torah. Certainly something said by Yeshaya, Yirmiya, or Yechezkel is forever part of Torah. The point here is this, the Torah Shebichsav aspect will be Bateil. The Torah She'baal Peh aspect will remain.

I would like to explain. There are three Gedolim of the previous generation who Klered the following Chakira. Are the books of Nach part of Torah Shebichsav in their essence that they have the Dinnim of Torah Shebichsav or no, Torah Shebichsav is the Chamishei Chumshei Torah and everything else was permitted to be written but it is Nevua, it is something which a human being on this world heard from the Ribbono Shel Olam and maybe it is part of Torah She'baal Peh, it is not part of Mikra.

The three Gedolim who deal with this are 1) Rav Yaakov Kamenetzky in his introduction to Emes L'yaakov and he understands that Mikra is only Chamisha Chumshei Torah. 2) Rav Zelig Epstein in a piece printed in one of the Yeshurun journals takes issue with it and disagrees. He holds that it is all essentially Torah Shebichsav. 3) Rav Hutner in the Pachad Yitzchok on Pesach Maimar 37 takes the middle ground. That all of these Pesukim are Torah She'baal Peh which was permitted to be written, Torah Shebichsav which was written down and therefore, it is both Torah Shebichsav and Torah She'baal Peh.

Let me explain a Nafka Mina so that this entire discussion makes sense. We have a rule that Devraim Shebichsav E Ata Rashai L'omer Baal Peh, that written Torah Shebichsav is not allowed to be said by heart. Does this apply only to Chumash or even to Nach?

Tosafos in Temurah 14b Dibbur Hamaschil (דברים שבכתב אי אתה רשאי לאומרם בעל פה) Klers this question and actually has two opinions. What is the question? The question is whether Nach is Torah Shebichsav or Torah She'baal Peh which was given permission to be written.

A second Nafka Mina that Rav Yaakov brings. The Halacha is that a person is obligated to spend money to make sure his children learn Torah Shebichsav. Mishna and Gemara there is no obligation. He has to teach them but he is not obligated to spend money. What about Nach, where does Nach fit in? The Bach says it depends if Nach is part of Mikra and it has the same rule as Chumash. If Nach is not part of Mikra then it does not have the same rule as Chumash. These are two examples of Nafka Minas. I hope someday to expand on this topic in a longer Shiur, most probably on a Motzoei Shabbos.

But what is Noge'a to us. Nach is certainly Torah She'baal Peh, it is only essential Torah. How can someone not be embarrassed to come to the Olam Ha'emes never having learned the parts of Nach which are at least easy and interesting? It is part of Torah always. Torah Shebichsav, that is a Shaila.

(פְּכַלְתוּ לְדַבֵּר אִתּוֹ) A Talmid Chochom has to be a Baki in the 24 books, whether it is Torah Shebichsav or Torah She'bal Peh. Asidim Libateil Chutz Mai'chamisha Chumshei Torah U'mikra Megillah. Yes, L'asid Lavo they will not be considered Torah Shebichsav. Because only Nevuos Shenitzricha Nichtiva and Nevuos that call for Teshuva are not needed as a direct message L'doros. With this, I hope that I have opened to you a whole new school of thought. We will return someday to this topic.

2. Let me move on to a Ramban. 32:21. The Ramban says regarding Aharon Hakohen's making of an Eigel (הַחֲטָא הַזֶּה) the sin of Aharon (מִן הַחֲטָאִים שִׁיְהָרַג עֲלֵיהֶם וְלֹא יַעֲבֹר). That what Aharon was Over he should have been Yehareig V'al Yaavor. Aharon had his calculations for not doing it as many of you know. But I am talking about the Yesod that the sin of making the Eigel, now Aharon wasn't Oved Avodah Zorah, he made the Eigel for people who wanted to be. In that it is Yehareig V'al Yaavor.

Says Rav Shteinman in the Ayeles Hashacar, that this Ramban is taking sides in an old Chakira. Aharon Hakohen was Over on Lifnei Iver Lo Sitain Michshal. He did not serve Avodah Zora. He was Over Lifnei Iver. Lifnei Iver is not Yehareig V'al Yaavor but the Kler if Lifnei Iver is a separate Aveira or if the Aveira of Lifnei Iver is that when a person gives someone else an Aveira to do he has a part in that Cheit. Lifnei Iver is sort of a subset of every single Aveira. Lifnei Iver of Avodah Zora is Avodah Zora. Lifnei Iver of Genaiva is Genaiva. Lifnei Iver of Lashon Hora is Lashon Hora. Therefore, Lifnei Iver of Avodah Zora is Yehareig V'al Yaavor. Clearly the Ramban holds that Lifnei Iver of Avodah Zora is a Snif, a Cheilek of the Aveira of Avodah Zora and therefore, it is Yehareig V'al Yaavor. A big Yesod.

Kasha. Why was it Yehareig V'al Yaavor. The only time it is Yehareig V'al Yaavor is when if you don't do it they can't do it on their own. There was no other Jew in the 600,000 Jews who could have made the Eigel if Aharon would not have made it? If someone else could have made it then we know that it is not Lifnei Iver Lo Sitain Michshal. If someone else can do it and you do it that is called Misayai'a D'ovrei Aveira and it is a D'rabbanan. How is that Lifnei Iver?

This would seem to be a Raya to the Yesod brought in the Pischei Teshuva in Yore Dai'a Siman 156 or 157 and quoted by the Chofetz Chaim in his Hakdama to Sefer Chofetz Chaim, a beautiful

Yesod. He says regarding Trei Ivra D'nara the following. Let's say Reuvain does something to give Shimon an Aveira, if Reuvain would not have done it someone else would have done it. Says the Piskei Teshuva in the name of the Mishna L'melech, if that other person would have done it he would also be Over Lifnei Iver. If somebody had to be Over Lifnei Iver the fact that others could do it does not undue the Lifnei Iver of the person who did do it.

If there is a cup of wine the Nazir can take it himself then no one is Over Lifnei Iver, then the one who gives it to him is considered Chaivei D'nara which means he is not Over the Aveira. But when somebody else would have done the Aveira would have been Over. If someone else would have built the Eigel would have been Over Lifnei Iver then even the one who does it is Over Lifnei Iver as well. That is the Yesod in the rules of Lifnei Iver. In Lifnei Iver there is room to be Mefalpeil but this setting is a short setting and there is no time to go into it at the moment.

3. The question of the week is: In this week's Parsha we have the Cheit Ha'eigel. In the Gemara in Masseches Rosh Hashono on 26a we learn that on Yom Kippur the Kohen Gadol went Lifnai V'lifnim in Bigdei Lavan. We know that the Kohen Gadol had separate clothing on Yom Kippur. When he went into the Kodesh Kodashim he would not wear the golden Begadim. Why?

The reason was Ain Kateigar Naaseh Saneigar. Once gold was used for the Eigel it could not be used to defend Klal Yisrael by going into the Kodesh HaKodashim. Ain Kateigar Naaseh Saneigar.

You will ask, we find that in Parshas Shemini they were Makriv an Eigel, Yavo Eigel Umechapeir Al Ha'eigel, the Maharsha asks it. The Gemara says. Anything that is Chutz, it is outside the Kodesh Hakadoshim the rule of Ain Kateigar Naaseh Saneigar doesn't apply. It is only in the Kodesh Hakadoshim Lifnim that Ain Kateigar Naaseh Saneigar.

I have a Kasha with which I would like to challenge you. The Kasha is that I have a Stira. In Parshas Ki Sisa we have the Eigel and in Rosh Hashono this rule of Ain Kateigar Naaseh Saneigar. But in the Medrash in Parshas Pikudai it says that the gold of the building of the Mishkan was Dafka gold. Guess what the Medrash says. The Medrash says Amar HKB"H Yavo Hazav Bamishkan V'yichapeir Al Hazav Ha'eigel. Let the gold of the Mishkan forgive for the gold of the Eigel. This was Lifnim, the Aron, the Kapores, the Keruvim were made of gold. A Stira. The Gemara says that gold can't go inside because Ain Kateigar Naaseh Saneigar and the Medrash in Parshas Pikudai says that the gold of the building of the Mishkan is Mechapeir on the Cheit of the Eigel. Sounds like a big Kasha. Geshmak! Good talk for the Shabbos table.

You should have an absolutely wonderful Shabbos. We should be Zoche to serve Hashem under all circumstances that come our way, L'chol Eis Asher Tachas Hashomesh. Life has many different aspects, many different things that cross our path. We have to learn to serve Hashem whatever crosses our path. There is a Cheit Ha'eigel Parsha there is a Binyan Hamishkan Parsha. So much that transpires in the life of a person. Whatever comes your way, use it to serve HKB"H B'simcha. A Gutten Shabbos to one and all.

Rabbi Reisman - Parshas Ki Sisa 5774

Becoming an "IVRI"

1. I would like to share with you three thoughts, the first is from the Mishnas Rav Aaron on this week's Parshah. It is also found in the Mishnas Rav Aaron on Mussar in the first volume on page Eyin Vav, an absolutely beautiful Derher. Rav Aaron points out that the B'nei Levi, Shevet Levi was Zocheh for generations because of what they did at the Eigel. They were Zocheh to stand out and to have a very special place in Klal Yisroel. Rav Aaron brings that in the Rambam it says that every generation, the Sanhedrin should be comprised primarily of Kohanim and Leviim as it says in Devarim 33:10 (יורו משפטיך ליצקב) this was the Schar for what happened in this week's Parsha. The lesson says Rav Aaron is Kol Hamischazaik Bizman Shel Rifyon, somebody who is strong in the time of weakness, somebody who is occupying himself with Torah study in a time that the world does not consider Torah study to be so important, someone who is strong in Tznius at a time that the world is making fun of Tznius, somebody who is strong in his Davening at a time that Davening is not considered important to people, somebody who is Mischazeik Bish'as Rifyon, gets a bonus Schar, a much bigger reward. Not only that but he gets the Schar that would have come to those who are not learning, are not Davening, not observing Tznius, their Schar goes to him. This is a Gemarah in Maseches Chagiga 15a (16 lines from the bottom) (זכה צדיק נטל חלקו וחלק חברו בגן) (עין) so that in times that the world is weak in any Inyan, in times that Klal Yisroel was not following the words of Hashem in creating an Eigel, Levi by being strong got Schar for the whole Klal Yisroel and therefore, they got to be the leaders for Klal Yisroel as a result of this.

Similarly, we find by Caleiv and Yehoshua who alone among the twelve Miraglim stayed faithful to HKB"H in Eretz Yisroel, as it says in Bamidbar 14:38 (ויהושע בן-נון, וכלב בן-יפנה, חיו מן-האנשים) (ההם, ההלכים לתור את-הארץ מרגלים יהושע וכלב נטלו חלקם: מנהגי מילי אמר עולא דאמר קרא ויהושע בן נון וכלב בן יפנה חיו) (מן האנשים ההם מאי חיו אילימא חיו ממש והא כתיב קרא אחרינא ולא נותר מהם איש כי אם כלב בן יפנה ויהושע בן נון) (אלא מאי חיו שחיו בחלקם) that Caleiv and Yehoshua got the portion of Eretz Yisroel that the other ten Miraglim would have had, it came to them. Imagine that in Olam Haba too, of course they got that type of a Schar. Naturally, this is a tremendous Schar for someone who is Mischazak Bish'as Rifyon. Just picture twelve people traveling and ten of them not willing to wear Tzniusdik clothing and two of them being strong and having ridicule, that was Caleiv and Yehoshua. The ten were not willing to stay faithful to Eretz Yisroel and the two of them were, so they got the Schar for all of them.

Rav Aaron asks why it should be that way, why should it be that there were two out of twelve Miraglim who stayed faithful so each one got six portions. Let's say three out of twelve would have been faithful then they each would have gotten four portions, much less. Why is the Schar an adjustment to those who are Rishaim?

Rav Aaron explains this is because of the Lifum Tzara Agra. It is because it is much more difficult and also he says a second reason because it has more value in Shamayim. Anytime a person is willing at a time of Rifyon, a time when things are weak to be strong, somebody is willing to endure ridicule to do what is right, he gets Schar Kineged Kulam. Of course this is a Mishna in 5:2 of Pirkei Avos that (שכל הדורות היו מכעיסין ובאין, עד שבא אברהם אבינו וקיבל שכר כולם). Avraham Avinu

got Schar for the generations before him. That is why he is called Avraham Ha'ivry. The whole world is on one side making fun and Avraham alone on the other side and he stayed strong.

This is our challenge. We live in a society where certain values are not kept at their right standards, we live in a society where Inyanim of Tznius certainly are not kept properly and people ridicule the nebs or those that will dress in a way that is more appropriate, those who live in a style that is more appropriate, those in a shul who are more Zahir in doing things exactly as they should be done. Following the advice of the Marei Hara'a. Somebody who does that in an environment where it is not considered Chashuv, where it is not considered important, he gets Schar that is Schar Kineged Kulam. That is a quadrupling or in the case of the Miraglim the sextupling of the value, the Schar that their actions would have deserved anyway. What a bargain. We all like bargains. Look for the opportunity to have the courage to be an Ivri, to be someone who stands opposite.

I have a good friend who told me that he went for the first time to the Yarchei Kalla with the Agudas Yisroel to Eretz Yisroel. He is not an Agudist and he is not that type to go and learn. He went for the first time. He said I swallowed my pride and I wrote a letter to the Agudah afterwards telling them how beautiful it was, how wonderful it was. When people are ridiculing something or don't consider it Chashuv in your circle and you're willing to step up and consider it Chashuv, Mikabeil Schar Kineged Kulam.

Kindness and selflessness leads to honor.

2. Let's move on to a second Taira Vort. We find after the story of the Eigel that Moshe Rabbeinu asks of HKB"H as is found in 33:18 (הֲרָאֵנִי נָא, אֶת-כְּבוֹדְךָ), show me HKB"H your honor. Interesting, what does it say, what does HKB"H respond? (אֲנִי אֶעֱבִיר כָּל-טוֹבִי עַל-פְּנֶיךָ). I will let you see all of my kindness, all of the goodness I do. Now I don't know exactly what it means that HKB"H showed (כָּל-טוֹבִי) as opposed to Kivodi but we have what seems to be an inconsistency. Moshe Rabbeinu asks to see (כְּבוֹדְךָ) and the Ribbono Shel Olam says (אֲנִי אֶעֱבִיר כָּל-טוֹבִי עַל-פְּנֶיךָ). We seem to learn from here that the true Kavod, the true honor of a person is (טוֹבִי), is his kindness. Even G-d himself says you want to see My honor look at My Tov.

We say in Birchos Krias Shema, (טוב יצר כבוד לשמו). Tov created Kavod Lishmo an honor for His name. (מאורות נתן סביבות עמו). HKB"H placed the luminaries, the heavenly stars, the sun, the moon all around Kaveyachol His Kisei Hakavod. That which gives the luminaries of heaven, which gives light and warmth the sustenance to this world Heim Heim Kivodo, that is the honor of Hakadosh Baruch Hu. We have to know the true Kavod of a person is when a person is kind to others. Anybody who does Tov is Poel Kavod. People like Kavod. You like honor, do kindness to others. (טוב יצר כבוד לשמו).

Someone once said beautifully, the most selfish thing you can do is to be selfless. That is, you want to do something selfish, something for yourself, be a selfless person. You will be Koneh a Shem Tov you will get a good name and people will honor you, people will truly honor you. You are a Maitiv, a person who does kindness. That idea that by being a person who does kindness you really get honor for yourself is a way of using what would normally be a Yaitzer Hora the Yaitzer Hora for Kavod in the service of Hakadosh Baruch Hu.

A thought for Purim Katan

3. Purim Katan is upon us so a quick Purim thought related to the Parsha. In the Megillah in 2:11 it says (וּבְכֹל-יּוֹם וַיֵּצֵא מִתְּהִלָּה, לִפְנֵי הַצָּר בֵּית-הַנְּשִׂיִם: לְדַעַת אֶת-שְׁלוֹם אֶסְתֵּר) Mordechai had a tremendous Mesiras Nefesh. Every single day for years he went out to inquire about the welfare of Esther. He had to do it clandestinely, it certainly wasn't easy for him but he did it. The Sfas Emes brings from a Medrash of unknown origin Atah Darashta Shalom Nefesh Achas Chayecha Shetidrosh Sholom Umah Sheleima Shenemar (דַּרְשׁ טוֹב לְעַמּוֹ). Mordechai, you push yourself to worry about one individual, you will be a Manhig Yisroel. You will be a leader of the Jewish people.

We meet people who come from Eretz Yisroel they need to make a wedding, they go around collecting money. We see them. Do we look at them as individuals or do we say they are part of that group of people that sort of bother us. In this week's Parsha Moshe Rabbeinu and Aaron HaKohein and the Zikanim are told to count the Jews Bimispar Shemos, a number of names. The meaning of this I once heard from a Vort by Rav Moshe Wolfson is that numbers is what you use to count cattle, names are what you use to count people. When you look at individuals, individuals go by their name. When you consider something unimportant, insignificant, then you just give it a number.

The Nazis Yimach Shimam, wanted to treat Bnei Yisroel as subhuman. They gave them numbers, they tattooed numbers on the Jews who unfortunately fell into their clutches. This idea, the idea of Mispar and Sheimos is a difference in the way you treat people. If you treat someone as a number or you treat somebody as a name.

We say about Hakadosh Baruch Hu amazingly (מוֹנֵה מַסְפֵּר לְכוֹכְבֵּימַי) Hakadosh Baruch Hu counts all the stars (לְכָל־שְׁמוֹת יְקָרָא) and He gives them all names. (גָּדוֹל אֲדוֹנֵינוּ) great is our master. (לְכָל־שְׁמוֹת יְקָרָא) G-d gives names to the stars, that means He is Machshiv each star has its own Toeles, has its own purpose.

When a census is sent out from the U.S. government the people going door to door are generally minimal wage type of people. They are not the most Chashuv people. When a census was done in the Midbar Moshe Rabbeinu, Aaron Hacohein and the Zikanim were the ones who went around. You were visited in your house by the Gadol Hador, the leader of the generation, because you count. In our homes when we are visited by Mishulachim, by people who come, we have to be Machshiv them. We have to be Machshiv them as individuals, each one comes with his own trepidation, with his own nervousness, with his own feeling of hesitation. Each one should be treated properly. (לְכָל־שְׁמוֹת יְקָרָא). Look at each one as a significant and important individual.

And with that I would like to wish each and every one of you an absolutely wonderful Shabbos a Simcha for Purim Katan. We don't observe it much but the same Simchas Haleiv we have to have. Have a wonderful Shabbos!

Rabbi Reisman - Parshas Ki Sisa 5773

I would like today to share with you a Dvar Mussar and a Dvar Halacha. The Dvar Mussar has to do with the story of the Eigel and it must be admitted that as much as we learn the story of the Eigel it is very difficult for us to see practical Mussar lessons from that episode. We are very distant from building an Eigel whatever the Kavanah might be and therefore, to take a piece of Mussar and understand how it applies to our lives will be something challenging. I would like to share with you a Dvar Mussar which I think does apply.

Rav Yaakov Greenwald (he should be well), has a Sefer in which he writes the Hanhagos that he saw by the Steipler. Rav Yaakov Greenwald was a long time therapist based in Monsey and his training was primarily by the Steipler and he has an incredible Sefer on Hanhagos that he saw by the Steipler. One section he has is Ta'os Hashchichos (errors that are common). The 8th of those which is the final one is one which we see all the time. I will quote his words in part. We are talking here about an error that people make in attitude. The error is that for every problem in the world there is some resolution, some proper answer. In a person's life he feels that if he doesn't find that resolution then the situation is awful. This is an attitude that people have. They have difficulties, problems, be it financial issues, health issues, or Shidduch issues, whatever it might be and he feels that he must have a resolution. It is a mistake. The truth is that very often if we don't see a good resolution we should just sleep on it so to speak. We should just move on. We should do whatever we could. Human beings tend to feel we must have a resolution, we must solve a problem, we must do it now, and therefore people make bad choices. They make errors, they think blindly, they grasp blindly for a straw, on something on which to hang their faith. It is a mistake.

What happened at the Eigel? The Jews had a problem. Moshe Rabbeinu had indicated that he would come back at the 6th hour of the day. As Rashi says in 32:1 (שכבר באו שש שעות ולא בא). The 6th hour came and Moshe Rabbeinu did not return. There is a Kasha. What is the answer? The people did not know. Now Chazal tell us that it was only the Eiruv Rav that wanted to build the Eigel. Why are all Jews held to be guilty for what took place?

The answer is that everyone was in the same Matzav. People should have said we don't know the answer so let's sleep on it and wait. We don't have to pick the best resolution and that resolution itself is lacking. The people didn't have that attitude. They went along with the Eiruv Rav because they were troubled by the Kasha. We have to learn in life that not every Kasha has an answer. Bnei Torah who learn a Gemara, know that the Gemara itself sometimes has a question and says Kushia, it says this is a problem and the Gemara moves on. It doesn't throw away the idea because of the Kasha. In life it is that way as well. Don't trade one problem for another. In life if you have a difficulty, say Kasha, I don't know an answer. Don't make decisions from a state of Bahala. Don't make decisions when you are confused. Don't make decisions when you don't know what to do and you just pick at something to do. It is not a good idea. We have to learn that we can live with a Kasha. That was the Ta'us of the Eigel.

The GRA has an innovative explanation of the description of the Ribbono Shel Olam called Kon'ai Hakal. We describe Hashem in a number of places, Birchus Kriyas Shema and Shemoneh Esrei among them as Kon'ai Hakal which is usually translated as he who possesses or owns everything.

The GRA in his Pirush on Shemoneh Esrei says Kon'ai is a Lashon of Misakein. HKB"H repairs. Kon'ai Hakal. When you have a Kasha and you don't have a resolution and you don't know how to solve a problem, leave it to the Kon'ai Hakal, leave it to HKB"H.

I remember once reading an essay from Lewis Thomas (a research physician). He wrote an essay entitled the secret of the doctors. What he said is that most people who come to a doctor with a problem are told by the doctor to do such and such for 3 days and then come back. The reason that is done is because most problems solve themselves naturally within 3 days and doctors know it but people don't have patience. So we tell them drink a lot of fluids, rest in bed, eat good meals, stay away from the cold, whatever it might be. But the doctor's secret is that most problems even physical problems resolve themselves. Therefore, the lesson of the Eigel is if you have a Kasha that troubles you, if you have a difficulty that plagues you, don't pick resolutions that are not good.

Let me switch to a Dvar Halacha. In the beginning of the Parsha we have the counting of the Jewish people which of course takes place additional times here in the Chumash. 30:14 (לָל, הָעֵבֶר עַל-), מִבְּנֵי עֲשָׂרִים שָׁנָה, וְנִמְעָלָהּהּ (פְּקֻדִים, מִבְּנֵי עֲשָׂרִים שָׁנָה, וְנִמְעָלָהּהּ). The counting is from the age of 20 and older. As Rashi says later those who were counted were those who later after the sin of the Miraglim was to compound the sin of the Eigel. Those over 20 were punished for their part in these two Aveiros. Why from the age of 20 and on?

There is an idea based on Agadata Gemara in Maseches Shabbos 89b (21 lines from the bottom) (כמה שנותיו של אדם שבעים שנה דל עשרין דלא ענשת עלייהו) based also on a Rashi in the beginning of Parshas Chaya Sara in 23:1 (מה בת עשרים לחטא, מה בת עשרים לא חטאה, שהרי אינה בת עונשין, אף) (בת מאה בלא חטא) that in heaven human beings are not punished until they are 20 and older. That is to say that an Onesh Bidai Adam, Bais Din punishes from the age of 13 but in heaven Kareis, Misa B'dai Shamayim, punishments that come from heaven are only from the age of 20 and on. As proof to this we see that for the sin of the Dor Hamidbar people were punished only from the age of 20 and on. Those are the (הָעֵבֶר עַל-הַפְּקֻדִים) those who need the Kaparah of the Machatzis Hashekel as the Posuk says in 30:15 (לְכַפֵּר עַל-נַפְשֵׁיכֶם). This is only from the age of 20 that you need the Kaparah. This is something that people often say. 3 of the Gedolei Haposkim the Chacham Tzvi, the Node B'yehuda, and the Chasam Sofer disagree sharply. They say these are Aggadata concepts. In truth it is from the age of 13 that there are punishments B'dai Shamayim. They cite as proof the fact that somebody who does an Aveira for which he would be Chayuv Kareis B'maizid but this person did that Aveira B'shogeig, he brings a Korban Chatas. That is to say that a Korban Chatas is brought for a sin which would convict a person with a punishment of Kareis had he done it B'maizid. We know that a Korban Chatas is brought from when someone is 13 and older. From here they prove that Kareis starts from the age of 20. This Agadata Gemara they explain in different ways. Either the Agadata Gemara is referring to before Mattan Torah or that we don't Pasken from Agadata Gemaras. However they resolve it this is the idea.

The GRA in Perek 11 of Even Shlomo suggests that punishments are given after the age 20 but for sins that are commanded from 13 - 20 and just that from 13 - 20 the punishments are postponed. That also needs an explanation because Kareis and Misa B'dai Shamayim are not punishments that apply to an older age anyway.

I would like to suggest a resolution of this somewhat mysterious idea. As a Hakdama to this resolution let me add a second mystery. Rav Yosef Engel has a Sefer called Gilyonai Hashas and on Maseches Shabbos 89 he quotes a Kadmon who says the following incredible statement. He says just as a person is not punished for sins he commits before he is 20 years old so too a Ger when he is Migayeir gets 20 years before he is punished. Someone who accepts a position of Rabbanus gets the first 20 years of Aveiros wiped away without punishment. A Chassan who gets married, the first 20 years after marriage is not punished for any sins that he commits. 20 years, absolutely incredible! Certainly this is a most mysterious statement.

To resolve all of this the suggestion is the following. We know that when a boy is Bar Mitzvah he is not yet knowledgeable in all aspects of Halachos. He is not yet fully mature to be able to control himself in all areas. When we say that a person is not punished until 20, we would understand that as follows. That for those sins which a person can understand are sins based on immaturity. Sins based on the heat of adolescence. Those types of sins HKB"H doesn't punish for. That is to say that until the age of 20 a person is growing up. We at 13 did not suddenly fully mature. Therefore, sins which could be attributed to his age, to his under 20 age, are sins for which HKB"H doesn't punish. Adolescence is usually a time of a heightened awareness of things that have to do with the sins of Bamidbar 15:39 (וְלֹא-תִתְּוֹרוּ אַחֲרַי לְבַבְכֶם, וְאַחֲרַי עֵינֵיכֶם). Sins that have to do with the attraction of the world around one. Those sins are sins which a person is not punished until the age of 20.

The GRA says that HKB"H waits till the age of 20. If by the age of 20 a person begins and is successful in controlling himself in these areas, then it is obvious to us that 13 - 20 these sins had to do with a lack of maturity and therefore, he is not punished.

By extension, Rav Yosef Engel is saying that when a Ger is Megayeir we understand that a Ger is not fully aware of the behavior of Frum Yidden and he too gets 20 years not as a carte blanche that he is not punished for anything but 20 years of understanding to be able to adapt. So too a Rav who takes over as Rabbanus. Certainly all married men can understand and be delighted with the idea that you get 20 years to adapt to married life. Mistakes that you make in the first 20 years we can understand, we hope our wives understand. It takes a while to get used to the new reality. Provided of course that by the 20 year mark a person is able to adapt. What a great Dvar Torah for a 20th anniversary party. But at any rate this would be a tremendous insight into this Dvar Chazal.

Before I sign off I would like to point out a rather difficult Rashi. Rashi says it 3 times in this week's Parsha. The last one being 32:35 (מִיִּתָּה בִּיְדֵי שָׁמַיִם, לְעֵדִים בְּלֹא הַתְּרָאָה). That HKB"H punished those Jews who bowed to the Eigel with Aidim without Hasraa with a Mageifa. As Rashi says (וַיִּגְּף יְרֹנָה, אֶת-הַעֵצִים). HKB"H caused a Makeifa to fall upon the people (לְעֵדִים בְּלֹא) (הַתְּרָאָה) Misa B'dai Shamayim for those who sinned with witnesses without Hasraa. This is based on a Gemara in Maseches Yoma 66b (14 lines from the bottom) (אֵיתָמַר רַב וְלוֹי חָד אָמַר זִיבָה וְקִיטָר) בְּסִיפֵי גַפָּה וְנִישָׁק בְּמִיתָה שְׂמָחָה בְּלִבָּבוֹ בְּהַדְרוֹקָן וְחָד אָמַר עֵדִים וְהַתְּרָאָה בְּסִיפֵי עֵדִים בְּלֹא הַתְּרָאָה בְּמִיתָה לֹא עֵדִים וְלֹא (הַתְּרָאָה בְּהַדְרוֹקָן). The Mizrachi asks an incredible Kasha. The Kasha is that for Misa B'dai Shamayim why do you need Aidim without Hasraa. We understand that if there is no Hasraa there is no Misa Bidai Adam. But Misa B'dai Shamayim has nothing to do with witnesses observing you and therefore, this is a very difficult Rashi. Misa B'dai Shamayim Aidim V'lo Hasraa?

I saw a Teretz in the Maharal where he answers as follows. He says that HKB"H didn't want to punish in a way that would not be understood by the people. Those who did an Aveira with Aidim B'li Hasraa at least it is known that they sinned. When they died suddenly it was understood. There were undoubtedly people who by their families were considered Tzaddikim. If they would die suddenly people would say oh it was just a heart attack, it was a natural death. HKB"H did not want to do that. Of course later when there was the drinking of the water similar to the Mai Sotah it caused the others to die. The insight of the Maharal is that HKB"H didn't want any Laz on the Mageifa. He wanted it to be clear to all that those who died in the Mageifa died for a very specific reason. This is a resolution of something that would otherwise be a difficult problem.

To leave you with a Kasha at the end, I will point out that I explained why it starts from the age of 20 and why the sin of the Meraglim/Eigel caused the death of those over 20.

But it is still mysterious to me why from 20 - 60. Why not over 60? Why someone over 60 didn't go to the army I understand because he is physically weak. Why over 60 were these people not punished with the death of the 40 years of the Midbar? Tzorech Iyun Gadol! I leave you that Kasha for Parshas Shelach and maybe someone will have a Teretz by then. Wishing everyone a wonderful Shabbos.

Rabbi Reisman - Parshas Ki Sisa 5772

Something fitting that Rav Moshe used to say. We find at the end of Parshas Ki Sisa 34:30 (וַיֵּרָא) (אֶהְרֹן וְכָל-בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל, אֶת-מֹשֶׁה, וְהָיָה קָרוֹן, עוֹר פָּנָיו; וַיֵּירָאוּ, מִגִּזְשַׁת אֱלֹהֵי) There was a shine emanating from the face of Moshe Rabbeinu and they were afraid to approach him so he put on a mask. Despite this we find that when Moshe Rabbeinu learned with the Yidden he took off the mask. As the Posuk says in 34:33 (וַיִּכַּל מֹשֶׁה, מִדַּבֵּר אִתָּם; וַיִּתֵּן עַל-פָּנָיו, מַסְנֶה) that when he finished learning with them he put on the mask back on his face. The question is if he couldn't take the light on his face what is the difference if it is when he is teaching or when he is just walking around?

In the second volume of Darash Moshe on page # 47 Rav Moshe says that when Yidden are learning every Yid on his Darga has an ability to come close to (קָרוֹן, עוֹר פָּנָיו) of Moshe Rabbeinu. Of course Moshe was on a higher level, but each Jew is obligated to learn on his level and every Yid when he learns and he understands fully or he struggles to understand has an M'ain of the (קָרוֹן, עוֹר פָּנָיו) of Moshe. Therefore, when you are sitting and learning then the shine of the face of Moshe is something you can absorb.

This fits well because Rav Moshe would often say and he mentioned it during Yomim Noraim after Selichos. We say in the Selichos of Shema Koleinu, Al Tashlichainu Mil'fanecha V'ruach Kodshecha Al Tikach Mimenu. Don't throw us from before you and don't take away from us your spirit of holiness. The Kasha is the Pesukim in Shema Koleinu were originally said by Dovid Hamelech in Lashon Yachid. As it says in Tehillim 51:13 (אֶל-תִּשְׁלִיכֵנִי מִלְּפָנֶיךָ; וְרוּחַ קִדְשְׁךָ, אֶל-תִּקַּח) (מִמֶּנִּי). Don't throw me from before you and your holy spirit do not take away from me.

In Shema Koleinu we take a number of such Pesukim and we change it to plural tense because we are talking for all of Klal Yisrael. Rav Moshe asks I understand Pesukim like 19:15 (יְהִי לְרִצּוֹן אֲמֵרֶי-) י, וְהִגִּידוּן לִבִּי לְפָנֶיךָ

(יְרוּר, צוּרֵי וְגֵאֲלֵי) which when said in the plural would be Yitu L'ratzon Imrei Finu V'hegyon Libi L'fanecha Hashem Tzurainu V'goaleinu. Certain Pesukim whose meaning lends itself to an interpretation or to a change of tense to be in the plural tense. So that all Jews could be included in the statement. But (וְרוּחַ קְדוֹשְׁךָ, אֵל-תִּקַּח מִמֶּנִּי), and your holy spirit do not take away from me, not every Jew has Ruach Hakodesh?

Rav Moshe answered that it is Farkert. We see that every Jew when he is sitting and learning he can connect to the Ruach Hakodesh of Hashem on a simple level. He is not going to say Chiddushim that he is going to print in Sefarim. Nevertheless on his level he is Shai'ich to Ruach Hakodesh.

This Yesod is also in the Sefer Sheim Olam of the Chofetz Chaim Perek 13. It says V'sain Chelkainu B'sorasecha, he says that every Yid has his Cheilek, has his place in Torah. Whatever level you are on even if you are not capable of learning Gemara, and you are learning Chumash, You have a Cheilek (a portion) that you have to accomplish so that Lo Neivosh V'lo Nikaleim L'olam Va'ed (שְׁלֹא נִבּוֹשׁ וְלֹא נִכְלָם לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד). So that in Olam Haba you will be able to take your Cheilek (כִּי קָרַן, עוֹר פְּנֵי מִשָּׁה) (בְּתוֹרַתְךָ חֵלְקֵנוּ וְתָן). So that every Jew has a Cheilek on his level in the (הַיְהוּדִים).

This idea, this closeness to the Ribbono Shel Olam where every person should feel that he has the ability to have that connection is a tremendous tool in serving Hakadosh Baruch Hu.

Rabbi Reisman - Parshas Ki Sisa 5771

The question of the week is: We have of course in Parshas Ki Sisa the sad story of the Eigel. In the Parsha we learn that Aharon Hakohen participated in the creation of the Eigel. Chazal are troubled by Aharon's participation. What is often quoted is a Gemara in Maseches Sanhedrin 7a (7 lines from the top) (ופליגא דרבי תנחום בר חנילאי דאמר רבי תנחום בר חנילאי לא נאמר מקרא זה אלא כנגד) מעשה העגל שנאמר וירא אהרן ויבן מזבח לפניו מה ראה א"ר בנימין בר יפת א"ר אלעזר ראה חור שזבוח לפניו אמר אי לא שמענא להו השתא עבדו לי כדעבדו בחור ומיקיים בי אם יהרג במקדש ה' כהן ונביא ולא הויא להו תקנתא לעולם (בְּיַד אֶהְרֹן) (The Gemara Darshuns the Posuk 32:5 (וַיִּבֶן מִזְבֵּחַ לְפָנָיו; וַיִּקְרָא אֶהְרֹן וַיֹּאמֶר, חָג לִירוּר מִחָר

Aharon saw, the Gemara asks what did Aharon see? The Gemara relates that Chur had refused to participate and Chur was killed by the mob. Aharon was afraid that if he too would be killed, there would be terrible repercussions on Klal Yisrael. There is a concept of (אם יהרג במקדש ה' כהן ונביא).

There is an Inyan if the Kohen and Navi are killed in the Mikdash Hashem it is a terrible thing. Therefore Aharon Hakohen chose to participate rather than to be killed as this would be a terrible Kitrug on Klal Yisrael. This is a well known Vort and is actually a Gemara in Sanhedrin 7 as has been stated already.

My question for the week is, this Gemara that says Aharon and Chur would be the Kohen and Navi seems to be inconsistent to something that we all know.

It is well known that until the time of the Eigel, the Kehunah was supposed to be given over to the Bechorim of Klal Yisrael (the first born). It was only as a consequence of the Cheit Ha'eigel that it was taken away from the Bechorim.

This idea is almost B'feirush in the Pesukim in Parshas Bamidbar and Behaloscha. There we read that Moshe Rabbeinu counts the number of Leviim and counts the number of Bechorim and is Podedh (makes an exchange) one for the other. As Rashi says in Parshas Bamidbar 3:12 (מתוך בני ישראל: שיהיו ישראל שוכרין אותן לשירות שלי. על ידי הבכורות זכיתי בהם ולקחתים תמורתם, לפי שהיתה העבודה (בבכורות) the Bechorim should have done the Avodah up until this point. Therefore we have a major problem. If Aharon would be killed, that would not be the death of a Kohen and Navi. Aharon at that point before the Cheit Ha'eigel was not yet a Kohen, so it is not a case of Kohen V'navi. This seems to be an exceedingly difficult problem and a Kasha that begs resolution.

I had this Kasha and as I continued learning the Parsha I came to something else that will shed light on this. So let's begin a second discussion.

Was the Cheit Ha'eigel something that took place before the building of the Mishkan, before the commandment to build the Mishkan or is it something that took place afterwards. As you know Parshas Ki Sisa is sandwiched between the Parshios of Terumah and Tetzaveh that discuss the Mishkan and Parshas Vayakhel Pekudai that discusses the Mishkan. Which took place first? The Cheit Ha'eigel or the commandment to build the Mishkan?

This is a Machlokes Rashi and Ramban. In 31:18 Rashi (ויתן אל משה וגו': אין מוקדם ומאוחר בתורה) מעשה העגל קודם לצווי מלאכת המשכן ימים רבים היה, שהרי בשבעה עשר בתמוז נשתברו הלוחות, וביום הכפורים (נתרצה הקב"ה לישראל, ולמחרת התחילו בנדבת המשכן והוקם באחד בניסן) brings a Medrash Tanchuma that says the Cheit Ha'eigel preceded the commandment to build the Mishkan. So according to Rashi the Cheit Haeigel took place before the Parsha of Terumah and Tetzaveh and we use the principle of (אין מוקדם ומאוחר בתורה) and the Parshiyos are not always in order of the sequence of events.

The Ramban however in many places including the beginning of Parshas Vayakhel disagrees and says that the commandment to build the Mishkan was before the building of the Eigel. Klal Yisrael was commanded to build the Mishkan and after the Cheit Haeigel they were deemed unworthy of the Mishkan residing among them and only later when Moshe Rabbeinu came down on Yom Kippur with the second set of Luchos was the commandment actually fulfilled and the people built the Mishkan. This Ramban is the Shitta of the Zohar.

So we have 2 opinions. Rashi says the Cheit Ha'eigel was before the commandment to build the Mishkan and the Ramban says that the commandment to build a Mishkan preceded the Cheit Ha'eigel. Of course the Ramban fits better with the order of the Parshiyos of the Torah.

There is a problem here because in Parshas Tetzaveh when there was a commandment to make the Bigdei Kehunah we have mentioned numerous times that it was for Aharon and his children as Kohanim. According to Rashi it is fine, after the Eigel Aharon and his children are going to be Kohanim. However, according to the Ramban where the Parshiyos of Terumah and Tetzaveh preceded the Cheit Ha'eigel we have a serious difficulty. Before the Eigel was built, the Bigdei

Kehunah were going to be for the Bechorim. So the question then is, why does it say for Aharon and his children? This is a Kasha on the Shitta of the Ramban.

The grandchildren of the Steipler printed some of his notes and letters in a Sefer called Rishumai Kehillas Yaakov. In there, there is a letter that addresses this and the Steipler says something that is an extraordinary Chiddush, not something that we would have understood on our own, but once we hear it many things come out good.

The Steipler says the following Chiddush. Aharon and his descendants were going to be Kohanim in any event. We learn this in Parshas Shemos 4:14 when Rashi says (וראך ושמח בלבבו: לא כשאתה) (סבור שיהא מקפיד עליך שאתה עולה לגדולה. ומשמם זכה אהרן לעדי החשן הנתון על הלב) that Aharon saw Moshe Rabbeinu when he was returning to Mitzrayim and he rejoiced with the good fortune of Moshe Rabbeinu. The Schar for that was that the Kehuna went to Aharon.

Aharon was going to be Kohen anyway. The whole issue of Bechor or Sheivet Levi had to do with the Leviim alone. Only the Leviim were people who achieved their status because of the Cheit Ha'eigel, because they refrained from participating. So that Aharon would have been Kohen anyway. The whole Parshas Bamidbar and Parshas Behaloscha was a tradeoff of Bechorim against Leviim. It was only the Leviim who were Zoche after the Cheit Ha'eigel.

A Raya to this is if the Bechorim were to be Kohanim why were the Bechorim of Sheivet Levi deprived of that privilege? If the Bechorim were supposed to be Kohanim so then a Bechor from Sheivet Levi should have been a Kohen even after the Cheit Ha'eigel?

Therefore says the Steipler, it must be that the Kohanim were going to be Kohanim anyway and it had nothing to do with the Cheit Ha'eigel and the whole issue is a tradeoff of Leviim and Bechorim and that is it. This of course answers both questions the question (that was supposed to be the question of the week) of (אם יהרג במקדש ה' כהן ונביא) and the question of Aharon and his children from Parshas Tetzaveh.

There is a bonus, because it answers something else as well. It is known in the name of the Ohr Hachaim Hakadosh that the Bechorim will return to do the Avodah when Moshiach comes. We don't know where the Ohr Hachaim Hakadosh learned that from because we don't have Midrashim that say it. However, we are relying in the Ohr Hachaim Hakadosh.

It is a problem because the Gemara says how do we know that there will be Techiyas Hameisim? We know it because the Posuk says Terumah will be given to Aharon Hakohen. The problem is that Aharon never lived to enter Eretz Yisrael to receive Terumah. The Gemara says in the Yemos Hamashiach he will receive Terumah. If Kohanim will no longer be Kohanim after Moshiach comes as the Ohr Hachaim Hakadosh seems to say, why would Aharon get Terumah? According to the Steipler's Yesod it is beautiful, the Kohanim are Kohanim. The entire issue is an issue of Leviim alone.

There are other questions that are answered by this. If you bear this in mind in Parshas Bamidbar and Parshas Behaloscha you will see that other difficulties are answered as well. It is a beautiful Yesod.

A second thought: Something that troubles many people about the Eigel is the contradiction (or the apparent contradiction) in the Divrei Chazal. On the one hand Chazal tell us that only 3,000 Jews served or bowed down to the Eigel. More than that, they were the Eiruv Rav and were not really the main body of Klal Yisrael. Chazal also tell us as the Ramban is Maarich, that the Eigel was never meant to be an Avodah Zorah. Klal Yisrael wanted the Eigel in place of Moshe Rabbeinu as an intermediary. There is something wrong but still it doesn't seem to be as serious an Aveira as we find on the second hand that there is a tremendous punishment L'doros to Klal Yisrael for what had taken place during the Cheit Ha'eigel. Therefore this entire episode, everything that takes place here needs to be explained in a clearer light.

I saw a beautiful Vort from the Chasam Sofer in Toras Moshe page # 397 here on this week's Parsha that explains it although the Chasam Sofer is really coming to explain something else. We find that when Moshe Rabbeinu comes down from Har Sinai right before he goes and destroys the Luchos and kills those who bowed to the Eigel, he has an exchange with Yehoshua. Yehoshua says in 32:17 (וַיִּשְׁמַע יְהוֹשֻׁעַ אֶת-קוֹל הָעָם, בְּרִעָה; וַיֹּאמֶר, אֶל-מֹשֶׁה, קוֹל מִלְחָמָה, בַּמַּחֲנֶה) I hear the sound of battle in the camp. Moshe Rabbeinu responds in 32:18 (וַיֹּאמֶר, אֵין קוֹל עֲבוֹת גְּבוּרָה, וְאֵין קוֹל, עֲבוֹת חַלְוִישָׁה) meaning it is not the sound of people winning the battle or losing the battle. I hear the sound of people speaking against G-d. Yehoshua's mistake of thinking that it was the noise of battle does not seem to be important enough to be recorded in the Chumash. What does that have to do with the Cheit Ha'eigel?

Says the Chasam Sofer beautifully, Moshe Rabbeinu had heard from the Ribono Shel Olam himself that Klal Yisrael sinned by creating a Eigel and bowing to it. Moshe Rabbeinu assumed that there must be some Tzaddikim, some righteous people who are not silent and stood up against those that are making the Eigel. He assumed that when he came down that there would be a battle taking place. It didn't happen. Yehoshua assumed the same thing as is evident from the Posuk (קוֹל מִלְחָמָה, בַּמַּחֲנֶה), there must be some battle going on. To Moshe Rabbeinu's great disappointment there was not. The Cheit of the multitudes of Klal Yisrael is that when this group created an Eigel and said 32:4 (אֵלֶּה אֶלֶּהִיד וְיִשְׂרָאֵל) the multitude of Jews didn't speak up. They did not fight a battle against those who were creating the Eigel. That is the Cheit Ha'eigel.

Rabbeinu Yonah writes that someone who isn't Mochiach when he sees a sin is considered as an accessory to the sin. That is what happened here, of course they on their lofty Madreiga were judged very seriously. Therefore, Klal Yisrael was judged for participating in the Cheit Ha'eigel because there was no Milchamah that had taken place at that time. This gives a new light of what took place. What took place was the silence of Klal Yisrael in the face of something terrible that was taking place and there should have been someone to speak up against what happened. For that they were included (so to speak) in the Cheit Ha'eigel.

The Satmar Rebbe in Divrei Yoel brings a Chasam Sofer who says now he understands a Gemara. The Gemara in Maseches Yevamos 62a (12 lines from the top) says (שיבר את הלוחות מאי דרש אמר) ומה פסח שהוא אחד משש מאות ושלוש עשרה מצות אמרה תורה כל בן נכר לא יאכל בו התורה כולה וישראל מומרים על אחת כמה וכמה והסכימה דעתו לדעת המקום דכתיב אשר שברת ואמר ריש לקיש אמר ליה הקב"ה למשה יישר כחך (ששברת) Moshe Rabbeinu broke the Luchos because he made the following calculation. The Korban Pesach is one Mitzvah out of 613 and it says (כל בן נכר לא יאכל בו), that Jews who are not true to the

Torah can't participate. So all Taryag Mitzvos certainly, and he broke the Luchos. So it was a Kal V'chomer from Korban Pesach. The Maharsha asks by Korban Pesach if the Korban is Shechted for Keshairim and Mumrim together. If there are eligible and ineligible people participating in the Korban Pesach, the Korban Pesach is Kosher. So too the Luchos should have been acceptable because there were some who were not eligible because of this Kal V'chomer but many who were eligible. So the Maharsha says if the Kal V'chomer is from Korban Pesach it shouldn't be a good Kal V'chomer.

Says the Divrei Yoel the Satmar Rebbe, according to the Chasam Sofer it is Geshmak. Everyone was included in the Onesh of the Eigel. All the participants were included because they didn't take up a Milchamah against those who were bowing to the Eigel. They had no right to be counted separately. A beautiful Vort. R'uyim L'mi Amorom. The Satmar Rebbe who fought the Milchemes Hashem all of his life.

Something that is a bit surprising in the Parsha. As you know Klal Yisrael is Over the Eigel and Moshe Rabbeinu judges them. As you know it says in this week's Parsha 32:11 (וַיְחַל מֹשֶׁה, אֶת-פָּנָיו) (ירוןר אֶלְקִינוּ). Moshe Rabbeinu begs Hashem for forgiveness. I would think first you straighten things out by having people destroy the Eigel and then beg for forgiveness.

What struck me as strange in the Parsha is that (וַיְחַל מֹשֶׁה, אֶת-פָּנָיו יְרוֹןר אֶלְקִינוּ) happens before Moshe Rabbeinu comes down and destroys the Eigel. It seems strange because Moshe Rabbeinu was begging for forgiveness during that time that the people are in the process of bowing to the Eigel and dancing around the Eigel. I would have thought that Moshe Rabbeinu would come down, take care of his business and then go back up and beg forgiveness. It is a bit strange!!! Don't you agree?

Rabbi Reisman - Parshas Ki Sisa 5770

כז וַיֹּאמֶר לָהֶם, כֹּה-אָמַר יְרוֹןר אֶלְרֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל, שִׁימוּ אִישׁ-חֲרָבוֹ, עַל-יָרְכוֹ; עִבְרוּ וְשׁוּבוּ מִשְׁעַר מִשְׁעַר, בַּמַּחֲנֶה, וְהָרְגוּ 32:27 The Leviim were called upon by Moshe Rabbeinu to carry out the death sentence of those who were Chayuv Misah. Rashi explains that sometimes a person had to give Misah to a relative and Moshe Rabbeinu said don't look, even if it is your relative you should still give him Misah.

Actually later in V'zois Habracha it is even more explicit by the Beracha of Levi. In 33:9 it says, Rashi says, ט האמר לאביו ולאמו, לא ראייתו, ואת-אחיו לא הפירו, ואת-בְּנֵו לֹא יָדַע: פִּי שְׁמְרוּ אִמְרֹתָהּ, וּבְרִיתָהּ יִנְצְרוּ האומר לאביו ולאמו לא ראייתו: כשחטאו בעגל ואמרתי (שמות לב, כו) מי לר' אלי, נאספו אלי כל בני לוי וצויתים להרוג את אבי אמו והוא מישראל, או את אחיו מאמו, או את בן בתו, וכן עשו. ואי אפשר לפרש אביו ממש ואחיו מאביו וכן בניו This means that the Leviim carried out ממש, שהרי לויים הם ומשבט לוי לא חטא אחד מהם שנאמר כל בני לוי the Chiyuv Misah even on relatives that they were Michuyav to be Mechabeid.

We have a Klal Gadol that anytime you have 2 Mitzva obligations that come into conflict if it is possible to be Mekayeim both of them we do them both. Here there were 22,000 Leviim who were able to be Mekayeim this command, so why did it have to come out that a grandson had to kill a grandfather who was Chayuv Misah if a different Levi can kill that person and he wouldn't be Oiver the Kibbud aspect?

A possible Teretz was suggested. When it comes to hating someone who does Aveiros, a person has to be Mechavein L'sheim Shamayim. He has to really mean it and there can't be a personal Negi'vos. Rav Pam used to say the Pesukim from Tehillim 139:21-23 כַּהֲלוֹא-מִשְׂנֵאִיךָ יְרוּרָה אֲשַׁנְּא; וּבִתְקוּמָמִיד, אֲתִקּוּטְט כּב תְּכִלִּית שְׁנֵאָה שְׁנֵאָתִים; לְאוֹיְבִים, הִיוּ לִי כִג הַקְרַנִּי אֶל, וְדַע לְבָבִי; בְּהִנְנִי, וְדַע שְׂרַעְפִּי Dovid Hamelech is saying, someone who hates you Hashem, I hate them. Those who fight with you Hashem, I am fighting with them. I hate them with an ultimate hatred. After this, Dovid says examine me Hashem and check my heart see that I am L'sheim Shamayim.

Rav Pam would mention Yeihu who killed the Oivdei Habal upon the command of Yona Hanavi. Later when he committed the Aveira of Avoda Zorah he was punished for killing the Oivdei Habal because if you kill people for being Oived Avoda Zorah than you can't be Oiver it yourself.

The Gemara says, that only Shmuel Hakatan could write the Beracha of V'lamalshinim because of the same idea. That only someone who is righteous and is doing his actions L'sheim Shamayim can write a Beracha out of Kanayos.

Rav Tzaddok writes that any time a Mitzvah comes B'tzuras Aveira it has to be L'sheim Shamayim. Sometimes a person has a Mitzvah to say Lashon Hora to save someone from a problem; you have to be Mechavein to say the Lashon Hora L'sheim Shamayim.

Yibum is a similar example that you have to be Mechavein L'sheim Shamayim because it comes B'tzuras an Aveira of marrying a sister in law.

Perhaps, this concept can be used by our Parsha. Moshe Rabbeinu was saying that you should go kill the people who were Oived Avoda Zorah. Maybe the person doing the killing is not being Mechavein L'sheim Shamayim? So Adaraba, the person doing the killing should be the person who is the most reluctant to kill by having him kill his own relatives. These are the people who will be Mechavein L'sheim Shamayim.

32:19 Moshe Rabbeinu broke the Luchos. There are 2 seemingly contradictory Divrei Chazal. On the one hand the Gemara says that Hashem said thank you to Moshe for breaking the Luchos. On the other hand we have the Divrei Chazal that the letters from the Luchos fell into the air and the stones became so heavy that Moshe Rabbeinu couldn't carry them because they lost the Kedushah. This seems to be a contradiction because one opinion is that Moshe broke them and the other opinion is that they became so heavy that Moshe Rabbeinu couldn't carry them.

Rav Yisrael Salanter answers the contradiction by saying that there are 2 Luchos. One was the Bein Adam Lamakoim and the other was the Bein Adam L'chaveiroi. When Klal Yisrael was Oiver the Aveira of Avoda Zorah then the first set of Luchos with the 5 Mitzvois of Bein Adam Lamakoim became too heavy for Moshe Rabbeinu to hold. Then Moshe was left holding the second set with the 5 Mitzvois of Bein Adam L'chaveiroi to Klal Yisrael, however, he said Bein Adam L'makoim or Bein Adam L'chaveiroi without the other one doesn't go. So one was broken by Moshe and the other broke on its own.

In 32:19 it says, **יט וַיִּהְיֶה, כַּאֲשֶׁר קָרַב אֶל-הַמִּזְבֵּחַ, וַיִּרְא אֶת-הָעֵגֹל, וּמִחֲלָת; וַיִּסֶּר-אֶף מִשָּׂה, וַיִּשְׁלַף מִיָּדוֹ אֶת-הַלֶּחֶת**, **יט וַיִּהְיֶה, כַּאֲשֶׁר קָרַב אֶל-הַמִּזְבֵּחַ, וַיִּרְא אֶת-הָעֵגֹל, וּמִחֲלָת; וַיִּסֶּר-אֶף מִשָּׂה, וַיִּשְׁלַף מִיָּדוֹ אֶת-הַלֶּחֶת**, תסתת הקר, The K'siv is Miyadoi from his hand, singular, because only one broke by Moshe Rabbeinu breaking it.

Rav Pam used to say that a Yid has 2 Simanei Kashrus, Bein Adam Lamakoim and Bein Adam L'chaveiroi and just like by a Behaima with one Siman and without the other Siman renders the animal more disgusting than one that is totally Treif, so too someone who is wonderful in Bein Adam L'chaveiroi and terrible in Bein Adam Lamakoim its very bad. This is because they will say how great is his actions are because they see his Bein Adam L'chaveiroi, however, they will learn Rishus from him. The reverse is true as well if he has only the Siman of Bein Adam Lamakoim and not Bein Adam L'chaveiroi.

Recently we suffered the Petira of Rav Druk one of the Magiddim in Eretz Yisrael in Yerushalayim, one of the best known Magiddim. I once heard the same idea from him and he said it about the Snapir V'kaskeses the two Simanim of a fish (This is also brought in his Sefer on Chumash Darash Mordechai on Chumash Vayikra page # 136). Snapir, the fins that guide a fish through the water is the Bein Adam Lamakoim. Kaskeses the scales are like coins one on top of the other that represents the Bein Adam L'chaveiroi. The Gemara in Maseches Chullin 66b (2nd line from top says) (תנו היתם כל שיש לו קשקשת יש לו סנפיר) any fish that does not have scales certainly does not have fins, because a person who does not have Bein Adam Lachaveiroi certainly does not have Bein Adam Lamakoim.

A Vort on Parshas Parah. The Yesoid of Tumah Rav Schorr writes is, Misah and the Yesoid of Taharah is Chiyus. The Posuk says in Iyuv 14:4 (מִי-יָתֵן טָהוֹר, מִטָּמֵא-- לֹא אֶחָד). Rav Schorr explains this reference to birth in a very technical way. The baby is born from a Tipa of Shicvas Zera. The baby comes out of a Mekor that is a Makom Tamei, from the Uterus that has a Din of Tamei because the baby comes out with Dam. Yet, a baby is Tahor. Shouldn't we have to Toivel the baby in a Mikva to make him/her Tahor? The Teretz is, Chiyus is the biggest M'taheir.

With this Rav Schorr explains a Gemara in Maseches Niddah. The Gemara says that Rav Chananya was asked when the Maisim get up by Techiyas Hamaisim how will they become Tahor? Someone who is Tamei Mais gets sprinkled with the Parah Aduma to become Tahor, so how does a Mais himself become Tahor? The Gemara explains that the Shaila was a Divrei Shtus because Chiyus is the biggest M'taheir.

He brings a Mekor from a fruit that is Tamei that has seeds that are Tamei. If you were to plant those seeds and a tree would grow with fruit, that fruit is Tahor. Ai the fruit came from that original Tamei seed? Chiyus is the biggest M'taheir.

Rav Moshe was asked if it is permissible to reattach a limb like a finger to a Kohen's hand. An Eiver is Tamei B'maga and a Kohen is not allowed to become Tamei. Rav Moshe said it is permissible to reattach it because the place that it is being attached to is not exposed. The Halacha is that a Bais Hastarim is not Mekabeil Tumah.

The question is, how can the Kohen later touch the outside of his own finger? Chiyus is the biggest M'taheir.

Tahara and Tumah are used as references to Kedusha and the lack of Kedusha as well. Chiyus in Avoidas Hashem and Chiyus in Ruchniyos is Takeh a M'taheir. Someone who has a Chiyus in his Davening and a Chiyus in his learning, being as alive as one can be is the biggest M'taheir.

Rabbi Reisman - Parshas Ki Sisa 5769

The Ketoires is in this week's Parsha. It is important to say the Parshas Ketoires in Davening by Shacharis. There are 11 Simanim of the Ketoires. In 30:34 (וַיֹּאמֶר יְרֹנָן אֶל-מֹשֶׁה קח-לךָ סָמִים, נָטַף וּשְׁחַלֵּת) it tells us only about 4 Simanim, (וַיֹּאמֶר יְרֹנָן אֶל-מֹשֶׁה קח-לךָ סָמִים, וּשְׁחַלֵּת וְחַלְבֵנָה, סָמִים, וּלְבֵנָה) (וְחַלְבֵנָה, סָמִים, וּלְבֵנָה וְזָבָד, יִהְיֶה נָטַף וּשְׁחַלֵּת וְחַלְבֵנָה, סָמִים, וּלְבֵנָה). Everything else is learned out of a Ribui. Isn't it strange that it should only mention 4 Simanim out of the 11, and everything else is learned out of a Ribui?

In the Braisa that is mentioned by Shacharis it says Pitum Haketoires Keitzad it had 365 portions + 3 extra for Yom Kippur. So the entire year supply was 368 Manim. It then goes on to list all of them. The 4 ingredients listed in the Torah have 70 each, which brings us to 280. So they are the main ingredients. This is why it is not surprising that the Torah only mentions these 4. The next largest ingredient is only 16 Mana each.

The Moiadim are mentioned here in the Parsha. There is a Diyuk in the Toiras Hashem. When it says Chag Hasukkos. It says in 34:22, (וַחֲגֵי הָאֶסִיף--תְּקִיפֹת, הַשָּׁנָה), Rashi explains, (תְּקִיפֹת הַשָּׁנָה: שְׁהִיא), (וַחֲגֵי הָאֶסִיף--תְּקִיפֹת, הַשָּׁנָה), Tekufah means beginning of the year.

In Parshas Mishpatim, in 23:16, it says (וַחֲגֵי הָאֶסִיף בְּצֵאת הַשָּׁנָה). So it seems very strange. Pashut P'shat is in Mishpatim it refers to the end of the agricultural year, while here it refers to the beginning of the calendar year.

In the Mayanah Shel Toirah there is a P'shat based on a Medrash. The Medrash says by the Cheit Ha'eigel, that when the Yidden left Mitzrayim in Nissan they got Pesach, in Iyar they got Pesach Sheini, in Sivan they got Shavuot. When it came to Tammuz we should have received another Yom Tov. However, because of the Cheit Ha'ageil they did not receive any more Yomim Toivim until Tishrei where they received Kappara. So Al Pi Medrash it says that Hashem said I will pay back the 3 Yomim Toivim that you didn't receive the last 3 months with Rosh Hashonoh, Yom Kippur, and Sukkos. Sh'mini Atzeres will be the 4th Yom Tov, and that would be allocated to Tishrei. According to that, Rosh Hashonoh would have been connected to Tammuz, Yom Kippur to Av, and Sukkos to Elul. So before the Cheit Ha'Eigel in Parshas Mishpatim, the Yom Tov that is K'neged Sukkos would have been B'tzeis Hashanah. At the end of the year. Here in Parshas Ki Sisa where we are holding after the Cheit Ha'Eigel, Sukkos is Tikufas Hashanah at the beginning of the year. It reflects the Shinui in Shamayim on how the Yom Tov of Sukkos was given.

Rebbi had asked Pre-Purim how did they let Haman's body hang so long. Haman was hung in Nissan, his sons in Adar. His body hung for 11 months. We had also mentioned that Haman as an Eved Canani had a Din of a Yid, so Loi Solin would apply to him. That being said, how are we to understand the fact that his body was left hanging for 11 months?

There is a Medrash that answers another question that Rabbi always had. Every Chanukah in the Ma'oz Tzur, we say regarding the story of Purim, Roiv Banav V'kinyanav Al Ha'eitz Talisah. What is the Pshat in Roiv Banav? There is a Gemarah that says that Haman had 30 children, so 10 children being hung isn't Roiv?

There is a Sefer Igeres HaPurim that says the Kasha can be answered by a Toisafos in Maseches Chagigah 11a in Dibbur Hamaskil B'rurim Gimmel Amos (ואע"ג שאדם מחזיק ד' אמות קומה) ברומ ג' אמות. ואע"ג שאדם מחזיק ד' אמות קומה האדם אינו אלא ג' אמות לבד הראש ומצי להרכין את ראשו מן הצד והא דנקט ד' אמות משום עובי צידי הארון ואע"ג דמצינו בפ"ק דב"ב (דף ב:) גבי היזק ראייה שיעור ראייה ד' אמות היינו שיכול להגביה עצמו על ראשי אצבעותיו עד שיציץ ד' אמות וכן מוכח בעובדא דבני המן בתרגום של מגילת אסתר שנסדר על פי המדרש שגובה קומתו ג' אמות לבד הראש דקחשיב ואזיל על רום חמשים אמות לפי תליית כל העשרה והיו נהרגים כבר קודם התלייה וכן משתעי קרא בשושן הבירה הרגו היהודים ואבד חמש מאות איש ואת עשרת בני המן משמע (שבכלל הריגה היו וגם הפייט יסד בסליחה אדם בקום איש בשלש אמות והרביעית (וחמישית) אור מגולה). There it is brought down that a person's height up to the neck is 3 Amos. This is not counting the head. Toisafos discusses that the 11 people hung on the 50 Amah tree are only left 3 Amos per person. Toisafos concludes that they were all hung without their heads. They had been killed and then hung. What this Sefer suggests is that maybe there is no Issur Loi Salin if the head is missing, because the Issur of Loi Salin is because of the Tzelem Eloikim. So Roiv Banav V'kinyanav Al Ha'eitz Talisah, a possible Pshat is that it was Roiv Banav because the head was missing when they were hung.

When Moshe comes down from the Har and breaks the Luchois, why didn't he break it before coming down? The Pasuk says that Moshe saw them being Oived the Eigel so he broke the Luchois. One of the Teirutzim that the Maharsha asks is Einoi Doimeh Shmiya L'ri'ya. So he had to break the Luchois.

Rav Moshe in Darash Moshe and Iggris Moshe, has a difficulty. To say that a Shmiya from Hashem is less than a Ri'ya is Shver? It says when Moshe came close to the Machaneh and he saw the Eigel and the dancing, he got angry and he threw them from his hands. Moshe knew that they were being Oived the Eigel, so he thought he would come down and help them to Teshuvah. However, when he actually saw them, they were having liveliness in being Dan the Eigel, then Vayichar Af Moshe and he threw them down. The dancing from Purim should bring us closer to Hashem. Normally by a line, the most important person is in the front. Dancing is different in that in the circle the person in front holds hands with the person in the back.