



Rabbi Reisman – Parshas Vayakhel - Shekalim 5782

1 – Topic – A Thought from the Nesivos Shalom on the first two Pesukim.

As we prepare for Shabbos Parshas Vayakhel which is also Shabbos Parshas Shekalim. Let us begin with 35:1 (וַיִּקְהַל מֹשֶׁה, אֶת-כָּל-עַדְת בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל) the very beginning of the Parsha and I would like to share with you a beautiful Machshava from the Nesivos Shalom. He asks three Kashas. He says first of all what is going that Moshe Rabbeinu gathered Klal Yisrael to teach them a Mitzvah. We find Hakhel for a Bris, or some very special occasion. To find Hakhel to give a specific Mitzvah as we find here in the Parsha is highly unusual.

The second question he asks is which Mitzvah is here, the Mitzvah of Shabbos. (וַיִּקְהַל מֹשֶׁה, אֶת-כָּל-עַדְת בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל--וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵהֶם: אֵלֶּה, הַדְּבָרִים, אֲשֶׁר-צִוָּה יְרֹנָה, לַעֲשׂוֹת אִתְּכֶם). 35:2 (שִׁשַׁת יָמִים, תַּעֲשֶׂה מְלָאכָה, וּבַיּוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי יִהְיֶה לָּכֶם קֹדֶשׁ) Very strange. Rashi says when did he gather them? (למחרת יום הכפורים כשירד). (מן ההר). Imagine, Moshe Rabbeinu comes down from Har Sinai, this is the third time when he came with the Luchos Shenios and he said tomorrow we are having a big Hakhel, we are gathering everybody. They all come together when he gathers them and he tells them (שִׁשַׁת יָמִים, תַּעֲשֶׂה מְלָאכָה,). I want to tell you don't work on Shabbos. Don't work on Shabbos has been mentioned numerous times including in Parshas Yisro, at Har Sinai and last week in Parshas Ki Sisa. It has been mentioned numerous times. Why did he gather them all and they must have been waiting for a special post Yom Kippur message, and the message is don't do Melacha on Shabbos. It needs an explanation.

The third question is Moshe Rabbeinu said (אֵלֶּה, הַדְּבָרִים, אֲשֶׁר-צִוָּה יְרֹנָה, לַעֲשׂוֹת אִתְּכֶם). This is what Hashem said you should do. What does he tell them? Don't do Melacha on Shabbos. How is that you should do, (לַעֲשׂוֹת אִתְּכֶם). Certainly there is a deeper Kavana and the Nesivos Shalom shares with us the following Kavana.

Moshe Rabbeinu came down from Har Sinai and he said HKB"Y has accepted your Teshuva for the Eigel and you will Zoche to go to Eretz Yisrael. But the Teshuva is not complete and there will still be a years' time until you get in. There was no Gezaira for 40 years, but still the Teshuva for the Eigel is not yet complete and there will still be over L'doros anytime there is a punishment there will be a little bit of the Eigel mixed in. Moshe Rabbeinu tells Klal Yisrael I want to tell you an Emtzo'i, a way that a person can be Zoche to Teshuva. That is if you use the Shabbos K'hilchasa, if you use the Shabbos properly, Shabbos will help you get more and more Kapparah.

The Gemara says in Maseches Shabbos 118b (19 lines from the top) (כל המשמר שבת כהלכתו אפי') (עובד ע"ז [כדור] אנוש מוחלין לו). What does the Gemara say? That if you keep Shabbos properly it

is an Avodah of Teshuva. You get Mechila even for Avodah Zorah. Klal Yisrael by the Eigel with their Cheit of Avodah Zorah have now in the Koach of Shabbos a Tikkun for this Cheit.

So Moshe Rabbeinu comes down from Har Sinai by Yom Kippur and says that HKB”H has forgiven you and you can go into Eretz Yisrael, but the Cheit Ha’eigel still lingers. The Onesh of the Eigel will still linger for generations. Then he gathers Klal Yisrael together and he tells them you should know if you use the (שבת כהלכתו), if you use it properly it could help you achieve a true meaningful, lasting Kapparah beyond what you have. Shabbos is K’yom Techila L’mik’roei Kodesh. The simple meaning is the first of the holy days of the year. Al Pi Chasidus, the Nesivos Shalom Teitches, that it is Techila L’mik’roei Kodesh, it is the beginning of allowing a person to achieve greater and greater Kedusha, greater and greater meaning. Therefore, the Shabbos is an Amtzo’i, a way of Aliyah. It is a way of an Aliyah, a way of growth and a way of backtracking from mistakes that a person has made.

If this is so for the Dor Hamidbar, certainly in our generation. If it is true for Bnei Torah, Yeshiva’leit who are in Yeshiva all week, it is certainly true for somebody who is out in the workplace all week. Shabbos is the opportunity Techila L’mik’roei Kodesh. To be the beginning of a person achieving a true level of Kedusha. We have to use it. We don’t use it enough. Shabbos should not be a day that we Drei around, that we waste our time. If all week you are running when it comes to the other things you have to do, of course Shabbos you rest more. But Shabbos should be a time that you wisely designate Zemanim for learning. Leil Shabbos, Friday night, the Davening is over so early. You know that when you go home and have a Seuda you will be exhausted afterwards. Tell your wives I am coming home from Shul one hour later. After Kabbalas Shabbos stay in Shul for a while you are still wide awake. You have the Seuda to look forward to. Use the time wisely. Shabbos day use the time wisely. As the Shabbos gets longer and longer and sunset is later and later, that shouldn’t add time to your eating and sleeping. It should add time to your Beis Medrash time.

Says the Nesivos Shalom, you know how Shabbos is used for Kedusha, through (ויקרה), through a Shabbos B’tzibur. Shabbos alone at home is not the same Shabbos. A Shabbos B’tzibur is a Derech of Aliyah. What a beautiful message from the beginning of Parshas Vayakhel.

2 – Topic – A Thought on why Betzalel was the Chochom of the Maiseh Hamishkan

(בְּצִלְאֵל בֶּן-אוּרִי בֶן-חוּר) is taught here as the genius of the Maiseh Hamishkan, a genius with Kedusha, a genius with Ehlerlichkeit, a genius with Frum’keit. That is Betzalel. Somebody asked Rav Chaim Kanievsky is there any Chazal that tells us why Betzalel who is just a Bar Mitzvah boy at this time, why Betzalel had the Zechus to be the one that was filled with the Chochmo L’chol Melacha?

Rav Chaim Kanievsky mentioned a Medrash Shir Hashirim that says that it was in the Zechus of Miriam. The Zechus of Miriam, it could have still Betzalel’s father Uri, or Betzalel’s brothers. Why was it Betzalel? Rav Pam used to say also from a Medrash, that Yaheiv Chochmo L’chakimam, HKB”H gives wisdom to wise people. That somebody who has some wisdom Hashem gives him more wisdom and this was Betzalel. Betzalel had some wisdom and HKB”H filled him up with more wisdom.

The question is where did the first wisdom come from? Yaheiv Chochco L'chakimam, if you have wisdom HKB"Y gives more. To whom does Hashem give Chochmo? To wise people. Yasher Koach! If you have wisdom you have wisdom.

Rav Pam Teitched (I don't remember in whose name), what is the first wisdom that brings you more wisdom? The first Chochmo is the appreciation of Chochmos Hatorah. If you are wise enough to appreciate Chochmos Hatorah and that comes from the Yeitzer Tov, it doesn't come from a naturally good memory. If you choose to appreciate Chochmos Hatorah then Yaheiv Chochco L'chakimam. So Betzalel had an appreciation for the wisdom of Torah. He Davened to HKB"Y for a wisdom of Torah so he Tak'e got the wisdom of Torah.

Yaheiv Chochco L'chakimam. Why was he chosen? Zechus Miriam. Why among the descendants of Miriam? Because he uniquely was Yaheiv Chochco L'chakimam, he was an Adam Chochom, a wise person and he was Zoche to that.

3 – Topic – A thought on Parshas Shekalim

I would like to do something unusual for Parshas Shekalim. I would like to discuss what are Shekalim? Have you ever heard anyone discuss that on Parshas Shekalim? What exactly is a Shekel? Boruch Hashem we learn Gemara and we learn all kinds of coins, Shekel and Sela and Dinner and Zuzim and Perutos. All kinds of coins. So I think that it is just something Mishmashed in our minds.

So, let me share with you that the main coins mentioned in the Gemara are a Shekel and a Sela which are synonyms. In the Gemara Shekel and Sela are the same. A Dinner and a Zuz are the same. A Dinner coin in Aramaic is a Zuz. Same exact coin. And of course there is a Peruta. A Dinner is 192 Perutos. If you need a Siman to remember that, in Shul when we learned Shekalim we came up with a Siman. 192 is Kuf Tzadik Beis. KaTzaV. Katzav is a butcher. If you want dinner you go to the butcher. You go to the Katzav and you get 192 Perutos to the Dinner. The Dinner itself also called a Zuz is a quarter of a silver Shekel (Sela). Stam coins are Shekel or Sela, so that the Shekel or the Sela is 768 Perutos. If a Peruta is a penny so then the Shekel or Sela is \$7.68. These are the main coins in Shas. There are additional but too many in one shot is not good. Peruta times (KaTzaV) 192 = Zuz or Dinner, times four is Shekel or Sela. These are all silver coins which were the normal silver coins of their time and these are as mentioned in the Gemara. Chazal say that this includes a 20% add on to the Shekel of the Midbar. The Midbar was a little bit less but this is the number for a person to remember.

Now, the Mitzvah of Machatzis Hashekel, what exactly is the Mitzvah? So you know that we do half of the coin of any country that we are in. So that Jews who are in France give half a Franc, in Britain give half a Pound, in Eretz Yisrael give half an Israeli Shekel. In America half a Dollar. What about Mi'haira Yibaneh Bais Hamikdash we are going to give.

It is a B'feirush a Mishnah in the second Perek of Shekelim that even in the Machatzis Hashekel that was given to the Mishkan it was the coin of the time. The Mishna says (שכשעלו ישראל מן הגולה) when they came back for the Binyan Bayis Sheini they gave a half a Darcon. A Darcon was the

going coin of the time. Whatever the coin is you give half of that coin. When Moshiach comes which coin will we give?

The Rambam says in Hilchos Shekalim, Perek Aleph, Halacha Hei (**מחצית השקל זו מצותה שיתן**) **מחצית מטבע של אותו הזמן אפילו היה אותו מטבע גדול משקל הקדש. ולעולם אינו שוקל פחות מחצית השקל** (שהיה בימי משה רבינו שהוא משקלו מאה וששים שעורה) that it is half of whatever coin it is but it can't have a value of less than the Machatzis Hashekel that was the original Mitzvah.

How much was the Shekel originally worth? At least according to the numbers we said a Shekel is 4 Dinarrim so a Machatzis Hashekel is 2 Dinarrim and a Dinner is 192 Perutos. 2 Dinarrim is 384 Perutos. So that, the minimum value of half of a Mat'bai'a would be 384 Perutos. Given that a Peruta according to most Rishonim is around a penny, it would have to be about \$3.84. So the half a Dollar of American money would not work. It has to be a coin which is worth at least \$3.84. We would have to figure out which Machatzis Hashekel to do.

What about a country that has many coins? Euro and a Pound? A Dollar and an Israeli Shekel? The Chazon Ish writes it is the highest value silver coin. We are in a lot of trouble as there are no silver coins in circulation in the 21st century. Therefore, Moshiach will come, one of us will grab the opportunity and take over as secretary of the treasury of the new Klal Yisrael in Eretz Yisrael and we are going to have coins, and the half coin is going to be worth at least that Machatzis Hashekel, 384 Perutos. IY"Y we will use that coin to be Mekayem the Mitzvah of Shekalim.

In the meantime, we do a Remez to the Mitzvah of Shekalim on Taanis Esther. Sefardim do it already from Rosh Chodesh Adar. When Moshiach will come, don't save your American Kennedy half dollars as they are not going to work. We are going to need to have a proper Machatzis Hashekel. And so, I hope that this information will help you as you go through Shas. The important thing is that people should know that a Dinner and a Zuz is the same thing. A Silver Sela and a Shekel is the same thing. Not only that but a Gai'ra and a Ma'a, Shekel Esrin Gai'ra Heim. It is the same as the Ma'a of the Gemara (מעה) the same thing. 24 Ma'a to a Shekel after the Shas has the 20% increase. Then it is 24 Gai'ra or Ma'a to the Shekel.

And so, a little bit of handy information to help you through Shas. IY"Y we should be Zoche to give the Shekalim IY"Y. Machatzis Hashekel which is called Shekel B'lashon Bnei Adam. To give the Machatzis Hashekel B'karov B'yameinu in Artzeinu Hakedosha B'bias Goel B'binyan Bayis Shlishi B'mihaira B'yameinu. A Gutten Shabbos to one and all!

Rabbi Reisman - Parshas Vayakhel - Pekudai 5781

The transcribing of this Shiur is L'zchus Refuah Sh'leimah for Avraham Shimon ben Rasha Baila.

1 – Topic – Using Shabbos Afternoon Properly.

As we prepare for Shabbos Parshas Vayakhel – Pekudai and Parshas Hachodesh and as we prepare for the month of Nissan which begins on Motzoei Shabbos. Parshas Vayakhel has a very fascinating Yalkut Shimoni with which it begins. The Yalkut says the following. It says that this

Parsha begins with Vayakhel and there is no other Parsha in the Torah where HKB"Y gathered Klal Yisrael to teach them the Mitzvah with the expression of Vayakhel. Now certainly Moshe always gathered Klal Yisrael and taught them Kol Hatorah Kulo. He taught them as the Gemara says in Eiruvin 54b that Moshe Rabbeinu gathered all of the people and taught them. But here it says Vayakhel and then he teaches them the Halachos of Shabbos.

The Yalkut Shimoni says why is this so? Why did the Torah express the Vayakhel, the gathering of the people? It says to teach us for Doros, for generations (עשה לך קהילות גדולת ודרוש לפניהם ברבים) הלכות שבת, כדי שילמדו ממך דורות הבאים להקהיל קהילות בכל שבת ושבת ולכנוס בבתי מדרשות ללמד ולהורות (לישראל דברי תורה). That it is very important for Klal Yisrael to always come together and learn Hilchos Shabbos. Because Hilchos Shabbos is an intricate set of Halachos. It is involved and there are many Peratim, and therefore, it is really the job of the Tzibbur, of the Rov that he is teaching, to constantly be reviewing Hilchos Shabbos.

The Tur in Orach Chaim Siman Reish Tzaddik brings the following. As you know, it is a Halacha Sefer which doesn't usually bring Agadata. The Torah complained that when Klal Yisrael enters Eretz Yisrael (אמרה תורה לפני הקב"ה רבש"ע כשיכנסו ישראל לארץ זה רץ לכרמו וזה רץ לשדהו ואני מה תהא עלי). To go into Eretz Yisrael and they will be busy with the agriculture, with growing their crops and they won't be learning. HKB"Y responded (יש לי זוג שאני מזווג לך ושבת שמו שהם בטלים ממלאכתם) (ויכולין לעסוק בך) I have the day of Shabbos. They won't be busy with their crops. Shabbos they will be busy learning. Shabbos is associated with people coming together to learn.

There is an incredible Mishnah in Maseches Shabbos which says that at one point of time the Rabbanan Assured learning Kesuvim on Shabbos afternoon. That means to learn Daniel, Ezra, Nechemia and Divrei Hayamim, to learn Kesuvim they Assured. Why? Because of Bitul Beis Hamedrash. Bitul Beis Hamedrash? Learning Kesuvim is not learning? No. Because Shabbos Rashi says is going to be a Bittul of learning Inyanei Halacha. Shabbos is a day when people are supposed to get together and learn Halacha. Learning Halachos is more important than learning Kesuvim. Many people do this Ad Hayom. They are Makpid not to learn Kesuvim on Shabbos afternoon.

That is why the Haftorah is always from Neviim and not from Kesuvim because there was originally such a Takana. My point is not not to learn Kesuvim, my point is that Chazal expected Shabbos afternoon to be a time that people come together and learn, especially learn Halacha.

Rabbeinu Bachya in Shemos 20:8 says on the Posuk in Tehillim 119:97 (מִה-אֶהְבֵּתִי תוֹרַתְךָ: כָּל-הַיּוֹם,) (תוֹרַתְךָ: כָּל-הַיּוֹם) which day is it the whole day (היא שיהיה)? Hayom is Yom Hashabbos. My point is, that Shabbos is supposed to be a day that is Kavua for learning and specifically for learning Halacha together.

That may be why it says regarding Shavuot L'kulai Alma, everyone agrees that Mattan Torah was on Shabbos. It is a Machlokes which day of Sivan, but everyone agrees that it was given on Shabbos. Anyway, the point is that Shabbos afternoon is supposed to be a day of coming to the Beis Medrash and learning. Too much of Shabbos afternoon is spent Drei'ing around the house, napping, reading the newspaper, eating a nosh. Terrible! That is not what Shabbos is made for.

This coming Motzoei Shabbos we will switch to Daylight Savings Time. Everyone is going to gain an hour. That hour must be used for more Limud Hatorah. Pretend that the clock was not changed. Shabbos afternoon must be used for Limud Hatorah. That is what it is made for. This insane Dreiling around in circles is awful. It is terrible. It is not good for Sholom Bayis, it is not good for your diet and it is certainly not good for your Neshama. And so, we learn from Parshas Vayakhel that there needs to be a commitment of the Kehillos B'rabim, of Klal Yisrael coming together to learn Shabbos afternoon and specifically to learn Hilchos Shabbos.

2 – Topic – A Chiddush on the obligation of Chinuch from Rav Elyashiv.

With Pesach coming upon us and Pesach is the Yom Tov of Chinuch, I want to share with you an incredible Chiddush that I saw that Rav Elyashiv says in his Ha'aros to Maseches Rosh Hashana on Daf Lamed Gimmel. Rav Elyashiv has a Shaila. A person has a choice, he can either blow Shofar for a child, one of his children who didn't make it to Shul, or for an adult who is not well and he is infirm, he is at home and he couldn't come to Shul. Is it better to blow Shofar for a child who is Yegi'a L'chinuch or for an adult? Somebody has an Esrog and can give it either to his young child or to his friend an adult who doesn't have an Esrog.

I would think that either a person who is Mechuyav in Mitzvos an adult or a child who is Yegi'a L'chinuch is a no brainer that you should give it to an adult. Rav Elyashiv says a Chiddush that being Mechaneich your children is a Chiyuv Al Karkafta Didei, it is a personal obligation that you have to be Mechaneich your child. There is a Mitzvah of Arvus, Kol Yisrael Areivim Zu La'zu. You have to make sure that all Jews can do Mitzvos. It is not a personal Mitzvah, it is a Mitzvah on all of Klal Yisrael.

Says Rav Elyashiv I will give you a Mashul. Let's say you owe someone money and you are also a guarantor on your friend's loan who owes money. You have enough for only one of the two payments. What do you do pay the money you owe or pay to where you are a guarantor for your friend? Obviously you should pay what you borrowed first.

Zagt Rav Elyashiv, Chinuch is your obligation. You have Arvus, you are a guarantor on the rest of Klal Yisrael. Therefore, your obligation to be Mechaneich your child takes precedence to enabling another Yid to do a Mitzvah. What a gigantic Chiddush.

Rav Elyashiv's son in law in Chashukai Chemed also on Rosh Hashana Daf 33b on page Taf Ayin Zayin, asked a Kasha. In Shulchan Aruch Siman Taf Reish Nun Ches S'if Vav it says that a person should not give his Lulav and Esrog to a Kotton. Once he gives it to him the child cannot give it back because as we know a child can accept, acquire things and be Kon'e and not be Makneh. So therefore, it says that on the first day of Sukkos when you need Lachem don't give an Esrog to your child until you yourself were Yotzei.

In the Biur Halacha Dibbur Hamaschil Kodem, he says (יש מאחרונים שסוברין שאפילו לאחר שיצא בו) (אין כדאי לתן לקטן במתנה, שמא יזדמן לו אחד שיבקש ממנו לתן לו לצאת בו) that even after the father was already Yotzei with his Daled Minim, it is not K'dai to give it to a Kotton because maybe another adult will come and need to do the Mitzvah and once you give it to a child no other adult can do

it. It seems from there that even a Safeik obligation to an adult takes precedence over Chinuch to a child. That is a difficulty with Rav Elyashiv's Psak.

So Rav Zilberstein says to answer this question well maybe in Siman Taf Reish Nun Ches it is talking about a Kotton as it doesn't say Beno. It is talking about a child. Your child is an obligation on you. So there it may well be that it takes precedence. It is not Mashma that way from the Bi'ur Halacha and he should have said so. Tzorech Iyun. However, my point is the Etzem Psak, the incredible Psak of Rav Elyashiv regarding Chinuch.

3 – Topic – A Fascinating Halachic Discussion Regarding Kiddush on Yomim Tovim and Havdala

I had lost my sense of smell over the Corona episode. Boruch Hashem, Hashem was very kind to me and I was not ill, I never knew that I had Corona but I did lose my sense of smell many months ago, probably 8 months ago and I have high antibodies. Boruch Hashem the Chesed of Hashem.

When it came to Havdala I can't make the Beracha of Borei Minai Besamim as it says in the Shulchan Aruch in Siman Reish Tzaddik Zayin S'if Hei (מי שאינו מריח אינו מברך על הבשמים). So what do I do? I have had someone else at the table make the Beracha of Borei Minai Besamim. I make Havdala and stop and he says Borei Minai Besamim. I had a Shaila should I answer Amen.

What I have done is that I have been answering Amen because in my mind I compared it to an Igros Moshe. Rav Moshe writes in a Teshuva that when a woman lights candles on Yom Tov and says Shehechyanu which is the custom in most circles. Then the woman is Yotzei with Kiddush from her husband later that evening. What does she do? The husband makes Kiddush and says Shehechyanu, does she answer Amen? That Amen for her should be a Hefseik!

Says Rav Moshe it doesn't matter. Since the Shehechyanu is part of the Kiddush so you can answer Amen because it is part of the Kiddush. I felt the same thing for Borei Minai Besamim that I could answer Amen because it is part of Havdala. This is what I was doing.

Rav Daniel Kleinman was by the Rosh Yeshiva Rabbi Shmuel Kamenetsky, and Rav Shmuel disagreed and sent me the following message. He said no it is not like the Igros Moshe. In Rav Moshe's case the Shehechyanu is part of the Kiddush of the person making Kiddush. The person making Kiddush is saying Shehechyanu so the woman can answer because it is part of the Kiddush with which she is being Yotzei.

It is not similar to my case. In my case I am the one making Havdala and the Borei Minai Besamim is someone else in the room who is making a Borei Minai Besamim. That Amen has no connection to me and I shouldn't be answering. Therefore, I have switched what I am doing.

Ayin Shemiras Shabbos K'hilchasa Cheilek Beis, Perek Samech Gimmel, I think it is Os Tes who discusses this Shaila and there is a fascinating back and forth. There is a lot to talk about this but the time is up so we will talk more about it some other time (or you can get a recording of the Friday Shiur in YTV on Friday Parshas Ki Sisa 5781 (March 5, 2021)). Either way it makes for a good Shabbos table discussion.

I want to wish everybody an absolutely wonderful Shabbos, a Shabbos of Aliyah, a Shabbos of sitting and learning, a Nisht G'wasted Shabbos. Please, make use of the gift that HKB"YH gave us, Shabbos Kodesh. Kol Tuv!

Rabbi Reisman - Parshas Vayakhel - Pekudai 5780

1 - Topic - The need to understand that Hakol B'yad Hashem

Welcome everyone in this most unusual of times to a thought regarding not exactly Parshas Vayakhel-Pekudai, but a thought for your Seudas Shabbos. A while ago I heard from a friend Rabbi Baum of Teaneck, New Jersey something that his Rebbi Reb Yoshe Ber Soloveitchik had said which I think is very appropriate for this moment.

A psychologist came over to him and said to him that the Yamim Noraim Davening is of course extraordinary, but there's one part of the Davening that he would love to remove, and that is the Tefilah V'chein Tein Pachdecha. Hakadosh Baruch Hu place your fear upon us. And this psychologist said, I deal all day with people who are afraid, who are fearful, who tremble. With people who know no peace because of all types of fears. People are frightened about their health, their Shidduchim, their Parnasah. My job is to drive away these fears, to bring them under control. Why are we Davening V'chein Tein Pachdecha?

To that, Reb Yoshe Ber Soloveitchik answered, just the opposite, it's exactly the reverse of your understanding. Somebody who has Yir'as Shamayim, someone who has Pachad and Aimah of Malchus Shamayim. Someone whose fear is only to do G-d's will, knows peace, he has no worries. He does what he's obligated to do, he does what Shulchan Aruch tells him, he does what his Poskim tell him, what his Rabbanim tell him, and then he has peace of mind. V'chein Tein Pachdecha Hashem Elokeinu Al Kol Ma'asecha. The idea of a world in which the goal is only to fear Hakadosh Baruch Hu, is a world that doesn't need psychologists. If you have Yir'as Shamayim you have no other worry.

Somebody asked me, is this Ratzon Hashem that we should close our Shuls, that we should close our Yeshivos? I said to him well G-d sends us his Ra'tzon in the form of Halacha. Of the Torah and Shulchan Aruch and if those rules say open the shul then that's Ra'tzon Hashem, and if those rules say close the Shuls that's Ra'tzon Hashem. We don't close the Shuls because we're afraid, we close the Shuls because that's what Halacha demands.

When I heard this thought, I remembered an incident that happened many years ago. I returned home at about midnight or 12:30 in the evening and I was parking my car, and one of my neighbors had apparently gone to a wedding and left their 8 year old son with a babysitter. The 8 year old son woke up around midnight in a terror. He ran out, he was in the street, the babysitter tried to get him back, and he was screaming my parents, my parents. I'm afraid they died, I'm afraid they died. I walked over to him. Of course I knew him and I tried to calm him down. And this boy says to me, can you promise me that my parents didn't die.

Now what should I say, his parent's went to a wedding, can I promise him that his parent's didn't die. So I promised him that there was no reason to think that anything bad had happened to his parent's, and Baruch Hashem nothing had happened. But that question of the 8 year old, can you promise me my parents didn't die?

Those are the fears today, can you promise me that nothing will happen to me? The answer is nobody can promise you, but if you have Yirah, Yiras Hashem, then you can be confident that what you're doing is correct by following the Din.

In 1973 the Yom Kippur war put us all in great fear. Rav Moshe spoke on the first day of Succos, and he spoke about the idea of having Chag Sim'chaseinu, of being B'simcha at a time that there is a lot to be afraid of.

Rav Moshe then K'darko spoke about Chazal. We find an incredible Medrash on Navi. Arba'a Melachim Yeish, it says that there were 4 types of kings of Malchus Beis Dovid. What one requested the other did not.

Dovid, the first king said, let me pursue my enemies and defeat them in battle. Then his great-grandson Asa came and said I don't have the energy to kill my enemies. I'll go to battle, pursue them and G-d cause a miracle that they should die.

So the first King Dovid said let me win in battle. Asa said let me run after them and Hashem you kill them. Then came Yehoshafat the son of Asa. These were all great kings. Yehoshafat said, Hashem I don't even want to go to battle. I will get everyone together and we will sing your praises and defeat my enemies. Then the 4th one Chizkiyahu said let me sleep and while I am asleep Hashem kill my enemies as it says in Melachim II 19:35 (וַיִּצְאָ מֶלֶאכֶי יְרֵדָה בְּמַחְגָּה אֲשׁוּרִי).

So the Medrash seems to say that each later king was greater. Dovid said I will go to battle and win. Asa said I will just run after them and they will die. Yehoshafat said I will praise and they will die. Chizkiya said I will go to sleep and they will die. What is going on? It is just the opposite. Dovid was greater.

Rav Moshe explained and I have to tell you that it is an explanation found in a couple of other sources. It is Pshat in the Medrash. Rav Moshe explained that these leaders wanted that in the time of Tzara, when the Tzara passes, people should feel that HKB"H was the Yeshua. People should feel that HKB"H is the one that made it happen.

Dovid Hamelech said I have a great generation. If I win in battle everyone will know that it is because of Hashem. Asa said I have a lower generation. If I win in battle they will say it was because of our power in battle. So let me just go to battle and Hashem let them all die through Your hand. Yehoshafat said I am an even weaker generation, a lower generation. We are going to say Shira and Hashem have them die. Everyone will know that it was a miracle from HKB"H.

Chizkiya came and he said if we say Tehillim, if we say Shira then people are going to say you know why our enemies died because of our Koach Hatefila. No! Klal Yisrael went to sleep at night in great fear and when they woke up in the morning Sancheirev's army was all dead and then we

will say Shira. The point being, that when it comes to an end let us recognize that it was Yad HKB"H.

Rav Moshe said on Sukkos that Chag Simchaseinu. If we truly recognize that whatever Tzara we are in, the Yeshua that we hope for, that we Daven for will come from the Borei Olam, not by chance, then we can be Sameiach B'malchuso Yisbarach. So Sukkos is to be Mesameiach in the Kabbalas Malchus that we had on Yomim Noraim.

Many years ago there was an incident, a very well-known Nadvan (philanthropist) in Williamsburg was diagnosed with a very frightful diagnosis of a serious illness. Living in Williamsburg, he went to all of the great Rebbes there for a Beracha. He went through his treatments, and a number of months later was declared clean. Miraculous! Every Chassid said it was my Rebbe's Beracha that did it. Each Chassidus took credit.

This man said how he went to the Satmar Rebbe Reb Yoel who was then alive, and he told him this that every Chassid says that it was his Rebbe. The Satmar Rebbe replied, you know who will win, the one who has the most Chassidim he will win because he has the most people taking credit for it. But I'll tell you the truth. The truth is the Ribbono Shel Olam did it, Ober Er Hat Nebach Vainig Chassidim. He hasn't got so many people giving him credit for this. That is what Rav Moshe was saying. That is what Rav Soloveitchik was saying. V'chein Tein Pachdecha, the job of a Frum Yid is to see the Yad Hashem. We have to do what Halacha demands. Halacha demands V'nishmartem Me'od Es Nafshoseichem. To do all the things that we have to do properly. But having done that, we understand Hakol B'yad Hashem. The same message from one end of the spectrum of Yiddishkeit to the other. Reb Yoshe Ber Soloveitchik, Rav Moshe, the Satmar Rebbe and the lesson from this 8 year old young man who was my neighbor who today 20 years later he is not 8 years old. Maybe he remembers. What a story.

2 - Topic - Some ideas for this time period that we are living through.

I would like to end with a message for those of you who are supposed to be saying Kaddish. Whether you are during Yud Bais Chodesh or you have a Yahrtzeit, if circumstances prevent you from saying Kaddish it is very disappointing. Let me tell you what Rav Pam said. It is well-known among his Talmidim in Yeshiva. When Rav Pam visited an Aveil, he would say that when he was 11 years old he was in Slabodka. Far away, hours away from his parent's in Lithuania. Occasionally the wagon driver would come from his town to Slabodka and Slabodka was a one street town but it is actually a suburb (across the bridge) from Kovna. The wagon driver when he had someone to bring to Kovna which is the capital city of Lithuania, and then the young Rav Pam would ask him how his family is doing and get regards. If his mother knew that the wagon driver was coming, she would send a letter. If she knew in advance, she would send a Kugel.

So Rav Pam said to Aveilim, the Neshama is in the Mesivta D'roki'a, is upstairs in Yeshiva. When you say Kaddish it is important, it is like you are sending regards. But if you learn a Perek of Mishnayos, then you are sending a letter. If you are Machzik, if you give money to a poor Talmid Chochom to learn Mishnayos for you, then you are sending a Kugel. So, I say to someone who is supposed to be saying Kaddish and cannot, learn a Perek Mishnayos. Instead of sending regards, send a letter. I assure you B'sheim Mori V'rabbi, that it is not only just as good but it is better.

If you have grandchildren of the person who has been Niftar or Nifteres at home, tell them you are not saying Kaddish, let's learn Mishnayos, a Perek a day or a Perek a Minyan to send as a Zechus.

To those who are a B'chor, you are going to ask Shailos if Chalila Erev Pesach we still can't go to Shul, you are going to have to fast. Better than fasting, make a Siyum. You have two full weeks and then some. Try Mishnayos Nashim, it is only 7 Masechtos of Mishnayos. If you have happened to have learned Maseches Kiddushin or Gittin or Nedarim over the last number of years, even many years ago, but never made a Siyum on Seder Nashim, then you can count the Mishnayos you learned in that Masechta towards this.

If Bochorim learned in Yeshiva Kiddushin, Gittin, Kesubos and maybe Yevamos, all they have to do is finish Mishnayos Nedarim, Nazir and Sotah and you can make a Siyum on Erev Pesach. You have to plan it. You can't finish it earlier and make a Siyum to Patur. You have to plan that it should finish then. Do it. It is a great goal to have. Take out a calendar and make yourself a schedule.

Of course it is our Tefilla and our hope that as soon as the month of Geulosainu will come, that Yidden and humanity in general will have a Geula, will have a time where we will be healed and redeemed from that which is going on around us. An incredible period of time. Someday we will remember it the same way that some of us remember 9/11, some of us will remember this.

This will pass and it will be a distant memory. When 9/11 was going on we thought that we would never forget it. Of course, it became a distant memory. Life went back to normal. The same with this. Life will go back to normal. That you remember this period of time. Can you remember this period of time that you undertook to make a Siyum on Mishnayos Nashim, that you undertook to learn with the extra time that you have?

Do you remember that when you were locked out of the Shuls you Davened Vasikin every day? Sunrise this morning in Brooklyn was 7 o'clock. If you started Davening at 6:35 - 6:40 you could Daven Vasikin. That is a good memory to have. When you were locked out of Shul you Davened Vasikin every day. Get your children to Daven Vasikin. Make a statement to them. That we want to be back with Tefilla B'tzibbur. When you are Davening Vasikin you are Davening with many Gedolim, many Talmidai Chachamim, many Chashuve people who are all locked out of Shuls are Davening Vasikin these days. Do it! Make this a meaningful time, a memorable time in a positive way.

We Daven for Yeshuos for all those who are ill including Yissacher Ben Esther Malka who was just rushed to the hospital, that Dr. Yissacher Greenberg will have a Refuah Sh'leima B'karov amongst Shar Cholei Yisrael, among Shar Cholim in general.

We should have Shemira Mikol Machala V'nega, V'chol Takala V'katata. May HKB"H make that next week when I give the Shiur, it should be with voices of thanks to the Ribbono Shel Olam. The V'chein Tein Pachdecha should never go away but it should only be Pachdecha, only the fear of the Borei Olam. Wishing one and all a wonderful Shabbos!

Rabbi Reisman - Parshas Vayakheil 5779

1 - Topic - A Parneis Tov!

As we prepare for Shabbos Parshas Vayakheil. As we prepare for the upcoming Chodesh of Adar Sheini and we do so with great enthusiasm as we come ever closer to that wonderful Chag of Purim, a Chag that brings joy to Klal Yisrael.

For Parshas Vayakheil, the Gemara in Maseches Berachos 55a (28 lines from the top) says (אמר רבי יוחנן שלשה דברים מכריז עליהם הקב"ה בעצמו). There are three things that G-d himself calls out and one of them is Parneis Tov, a good leader. How do you know that HKB"H himself announces a good leader? (דכתיב ראה קראתי בשם בצלאל וגו'). Because of this week's Parsha 35:30 (ראו קרא ירוך). Hashem says I called in the name of Betzalel. Beautiful!

The question is I understand that HKB"H B'atzmo announces in heaven Parneis Tov, a good leader, but I don't understand what that has to do with Betzalel? Betzalel was a professional and a person who was knowledgeable in how to build a Mishkan. He was not a Parneis, was he a leader? The Gemara needs an explanation.

Rav Druk in his Sefer Darash Mordechai (page 337) asks another question. In Bentching in the Beracha of Racheim which is the Beracha of Uv'nei Yerushalayim, we say (רענו זוננו פרנסנו וכלכלנו). We say to HKB"H give us Parnasa. Freigt Rav Druk, what does the Beracha of Parnasa have to do with Yerushalayim? What does the Beracha have to do with returning to Yerushalayim, what does it have to do with Parnasa?

Rav Druk answers a Yesod which we have mentioned many times in the name of the Netziv, and that is that the Hatzlacha in Parnasa is very much tied and connected to the Bais Hamikdash, to Yerushalayim. Yerushalayim is the source of Beracha that comes down to earth. The portal from heaven to earth of Beracha is Yerushalayim, is Avodah and we mention this very often in the name of the Netziv that Korbanos are the way to bring Parnasa.

So Parneis Tov, the Avodah of Betzalel was to be a Parneis, was to be a leader in the sense of someone who provides for Klal Yisrael. He didn't just do an Umnus, a professionally created Keilim. No. He created Keilim that would be a source of Beracha for the Jewish people.

Then Rav Druk adds a second important Nekudah. He says that from Betzalel we learn the Midda of a leader in Klal Yisrael. HKB"H appointed Betzalel to be in charge. What happens when someone is in charge of a Yeshiva, of a Mosad, a need of Klal Yisrael and a second person is appointed to work with him. Someone else will get part of the honor as well. Does he get insulted or does he get excited that there is someone to help him?

A Parneis Tov is Betzalel. Why? Because HKB"H tells Betzalel after he is appointed that I am going to add a second man, Eliyav (אהליאב בן-אחיסמר למטה-דן). You have a second person working with you. Betzalel is not insulted, he is delighted. He had some help in his Avodas Hakodesh. That

is the sign of a Parneis Tov. Someone whose sense is with the sense of HKB"H, not for Kavod Atzmo.

Rav Druk brings that the Ponovitcher Rav was once traveling to Chutz L'arterz to raise money. The Ponovitcher Rav was a very famous Darshun and when he came to a Shul he would speak and afterwards make the appeal for the Ponovitcher Yeshiva. Once while the Ponovitcher Rav was speaking in a Shul he saw the Rosh Yeshiva of Novardok walk in and sit down. He realized that the Rosh Yeshiva of Novardok also traveled to that city to raise money. When the Ponovitcher Rav completed his Drasha and came to the pitch for raising money, he told the people the Novardok'a Rav is here from Eretz Yisrael and he is here to raise money, Torah needs money and please support him. He gave over the whole benefit of the Drasha to him. People said how could you do that as you have to raise money for Ponovitcher? He replied, I don't raise money for Ponovitcher, I raise money for Torah. Torah of Ponovitcher is the same as the Torah in Novardok. That is a Parneis Tov. Someone who doesn't mind that there is competition because it is not competition, it is a helper.

I want to add, me too. People have come to our Mishmar and then they have left. They left because in their Shul they started a Mishmar. I am not jealous that they left, I am not upset. I am delighted. The more Mishmar the better. Kein Yirbu Mishmar in Klal Yisrael. However, we still need replacements to fill up the Bais Medrash and wherever they go we need the Mishmar to be Matzliach. All the Mishmars Daven in one direction. Make sure you are there. We need you. If you start a new Mishmar, I won't complain.

2 - Topic - The Mishkan itself.

The Mishkan itself was in middle of Klal Yisrael in the Midbar and I would like to mention to you an insight into having a Mishkan and what it does for Klal Yisrael. I was remembering at the last Siyum HaShas, the Rosh Yeshiva of Lakewood, Rav Malkiel Kotler spoke and I remember that he made the following point. It says that until Avraham Avinu came no one called Hashem, Adon, my master. It is not true! Noach, Sheis, Mesushelach, Sheim and Aiver, no one called Hashem Adon?

He answered I don't remember in the name of who, perhaps in the name of Rav Aharon, Kedarko. He said that in a country you can have a king. People who live far away from the king, to them a king is an institution. The president is an institution. It is not a human being, it is not a person, there is no personal connection. There is an institution called the government and that is the king to somebody who lives far away from where the king is.

However, somebody who lives by the palace, somebody who lives right there, even if he doesn't have an intimate connection to the king, but he sees the king come and the king goes, he understands that the king is a person not just an institution.

In a relationship to the Ribbono Shel Olam, many people see HKB"H as the creator of the world, there is a creator. The Melech Ha'olam. He is the Adon of the Olam. That, Sheim, Noach, Mesushelach and Sheis all had seen.

Avraham was the first person who called Hashem the Baal Habirah, the Baal Habas of my house. Not just the Baal Hamedinah but the Baal Habayis. He didn't see HKB"H as a wide open institution in the world, but his connection, a personal connection to the Ribbono Shel Olam. That is what he tried to teach Klal Yisrael. You have a connection, you have a personal connection to the Borei Olam.

There was a Mishkan. The Mishkan was made so that everybody can be near the place that the Shechinah had a physical manifestation. You can't see Kavayochel the Ribbono Shel Olam come and go, but the miracles of the Mishkan, all the things that happened there, the connection, to see HKB"H on a personal level that was what the Mishkan was about. A personal connection. It is no small thing. The Hergish is there. At the Kosel today we have a remnant of that Hergish, a remnant of that feeling. We have a Kabbalah that the Shechina doesn't leave from the place of the Kosel.

I once heard from Rav Schiller in Ohr Sameach, he said why do hearts melt at the Kosel? Because the Yeitzer Hora of Gaiva, of being a Baal Shitta is the Yeitzer Hora of our generation. Hashem says that when I come in contact with a Baal Gaiva, he and I can't exist in the same world. I go away.

When you come to the Kosel, the Shechina doesn't leave the Kosel, and therefore, the Gaiva of the person is the one that has to melt away. A person feels a sense of the Ribbono Shel Olam. The Baal Habirah. But you have to be in tune to it, you have to sense it. The Mishkan was in the center of Klal Yisrael traveling in the Midbar, so Klal Yisrael would feel the king is here. The Melech is here. He is not the Melech of the world alone, He is my personal Melech as well. A person who feels that personal connection, he serves HKB"H in a much finer way. For that we have the uniqueness, the special Makom that we call the Mishkan and later the Bais Hamikdash, that today is the Kosel.

3 - Topic - Davening and Avodah

As you know, today we don't have a Mishkan or a Bais Hamikdash, Davening is our Avodah. We Daven with a preset Nusach. But that came from the Anshei K'neses Hagedolah. Beforehand, there was no preset Nusach. What changed, what happened differently in the time of the Anshei K'neses Hagedolah?

Rabbeinu Yonah in Maseches Berachos 28b says that as long as the Bais Hamikdash stood, there was a Seder Hatefillah in the Bais Hamikdash, there was an order. When people Davened they connected to the Bais Hamikdash. How wonderful? The Bais Hamikdash is the place of Avodah and when you Daven you connect to it.

Once the Bais Hamikdash is gone, what are you connecting to? What Seder? Your individual needs have to fit into some bigger picture. That is the Nusach of the Anshei K'neses Hagedolah. That is the Seder Hatefila.

The point is that that is not everything. Just like when there was a Bais Hamikdash that gave form to Avodah. The individual attached his own Tefilla to the Tefilla of the Avodah of the Bais

Hamikdash. So too, the Anshei K'neses Hagedolah made a Nussach. When you start Shemoneh Esrei you have the Nussach.

How sad it is if you think that it is just a Nussach. The Nussach is the form, is the Seder which you have to connect your own personal Tefillos. Your own personal Davening. In every Beracha you should look for a place to have your own personal Bakasha. Who doesn't have needs, who doesn't know people.

In the Beracha of (הַקְזִירְנוּ בְּתְשׁוּבָה), to Daven for a specific individual who need it. Of course in Refuah. Selach Lanu, Daven for people who need Kapparah. Sometimes I Daven for people who need Kapparah, people who need Teshuvah and then I think what about me, I also need to do Teshuvah.

You have to personalize your Davening. The Davening is the form and then you have to attach your personal Nussach to the Davening. Just like the Mishkan is the form of Avodah and you have to attach your personal Bakasha there. The Avodah of Tefilla.

With this, a call to a better Tefilla, and a call of course to Mishmar. Let me wish one and all a wonderful Shabbos Kodesh Shabbos Parshas Vayakheil, Mevorchim Adar HaSheini, Sheyavo Aleinu L'tovah. That we all have a wonderful and meaningful Shabbos Kodesh!

Rabbi Reisman - Parshas Vayakhel Pekudai 5778

As we prepare for Shabbos Parshas Vayakhel Pekudai, Parshas Parah, Parshas Chazak and also a very special Thursday because the Mishmar will resume tonight after a Purim break. Two thoughts regarding Parshas Vayakhel Pekudai. Let me begin with thought number 1.

1 - Topic - Two lessons from Moshe Rabbeinu's accounting in Parshas Pekudai.

In Parshas Pekudai of course we have Moshe Rabbeinu giving a Cheshbon, making a Cheshbon (a calculation) of all of the money that he received and all of the money that he spent and showing Klal Yisrael his honesty in that regard. The Medrash Tanchuma stresses that Moshe Rabbeinu felt it was an obligation Li'yos Nekiyim and it explains as follows. Why did Moshe Rabbeinu make a Cheshbon, HKB"H trusted him because it says in Bamidbar 12:7 (בְּכֹל-בֵּיתִי, נֶאֱמָן הוּא). So HKB"H trusted him and the people didn't trust him? Ela says the Medrash, Moshe Rabbeinu heard Jews speaking behind his back. Shenemar, as it says in the end of last week's Parsha in Shemos 33:8 (וַהֲרִי, כְּצֵאת מִשֶּׁה אֶל-הָאֹהֶל, וְקוֹמָו כָּל-הָעָם, וְנִצְבּוּ אִישׁ פֶּתַח אֹהֶלוֹ; וְהִבִּטּוּ אַחֲרַי מִשֶּׁה, עַד-בֹּאוֹ הָאֹהֶלָה). Rav Chama Omar Lig'nai. That they spoke about Moshe Rabbeinu that he became wealthy from taking money from the money that was given to the Mishkan. Absolutely a Davar Pele.

It is a Pele that they accused him. Moshe Rabbeinu was already wealthy from the Pesoles of the Luchos as it says in the Gemara in Maseches Nedarim 38a (5 lines from the top) (אמר רבי חמא בר' (חנינא לא העשיר משה אלא מפסולתן של לוחות Bizas Mitzrayim, the taking of the booty, the loot from Mitzrayim that Moshe Rabbeinu was busy with the Arono Shel Yosef (as it says in Maseches Sotah 13a 21 lines from the bottom) (ת"ר בא

(וראה כמה חביבות מצות על משה רבינו שכל ישראל כולן נתעסקו בביזה והוא נתעסק במצות Davar Pele that after everything that they had seen about Moshe Rabbeinu that anybody would have any thoughts or accusations to him.

The Tolna Rebbe in his Sefer Chamin B'motzoei Shabbos (Shemos volume, page # 366, in Maimar Beis of Parshas Pekudai (תש"ט)), says that this comes to teach us two important Yesodos. Number 1 the Yeitzer Hora for Lashon Hora is so incredibly strong and rooted in such silliness and purposelessness that even when a person doesn't really believe what he is saying, a person will speak Lashon Hora. A person will be attracted to Lashon Hora. Even if he knows that it is silliness, that is the Derech when people sit around talking about others the mouth is free, it is wild. It says things that are senseless and occasionally people say it often enough until they really believe it. That is one important lesson regarding the Yeitzer Hora of Lashon Hora.

But there is a second lesson. Zagt the Tolna Rebbe, it comes to let us know that when we are Osek in Tzorchei Tzibbur, when we are involved and we give up of our time and money, we get involved in things for the benefit of the Tzibbur, you should know that the Minhag Haolam is that people speak about others who are involved in Tzorchei Tzibbur. It is not right, it is not fair, it hurts. That is the Derech. People will speak about people involved in the Tzibbur and the Torah wants to teach this to us. If they spoke about Moshe Rabbeinu you don't have to feel bad that they speak about you. If you are involved in Tzorchei Tzibbur try to be Nekiim, but it shouldn't hurt you.

Rav Kreisworth once said that he was giving a Shiur and in the Shiur he learned a Gemara (in Maseches Moed Kattan 28a 22 lines from the top) (רב יוסף כי הוה בר שיתין עבד להו יומא טבא לרבנן) (אמר נפקי לי מכרת) that Rav Yosef made a Simcha on his 60th birthday that he wasn't Chayuv Kares because someone who is Chayuv Kares dies under the age of 60.

Rav Kresiworth asked what was Rav Yosef afraid of, what was he fearing, that he was Chayuv Kares? Look at the list of Krisos, most of them have to do with Znus with relatives which is something that was certainly very distant for Rav Yosef. What else, Chillul Shabbos, you think so? Where was Rav Yosef nervous that he was Over an Issur Kares B'maizid that he should have to throw a celebration when he hits his 60th birthday?

Rav Kreisworth said that when he said this, one of the Mispalelim spoke up and he said that maybe Rav Yosef knew that he was not Chayuv Kares but he was afraid that the people would say that he was Chayuv Kares and he was happy that he hit his 60th birthday and no one could say it.

Rav Kreisworth remarked, that Mispaleil who said that maybe people were talking about Rav Yosef as if he was Chayuv Kareis, that Mispaleil was indeed such a Mispaleil who spoke that way about people.

Zagt the Tolna Rebbe, we have to learn from here, (שאל לו לאדם להיבהל לנפשו). A person should not be depressed (כשהוא שומע שהעולם מרננים אחריו) when he hears people talking about him. (כי כך) (ועליו רק לעשות את הנצרך בישוב הדעת ובמידה נכונה) (הוא דרכו של עולם) Moshe Rabbeinu didn't ignore it and say that is the way of the world so forget it. He acted calmly and with a Middah Nichona (ולהסיר ממנו את לזות השפתיים). Try to relieve the pressure. And so, this is a very important lesson. Lesson number 1 is for those who speak Lashon Hora. Lesson number

2 for those who may suffer from others talking about them. So the first Vort has to do with Moshe Rabbeinu's accounting in Parshas Pekudai.

2 - Topic - The Binyan Hamishkan in general.

Lesson number 2 of today has to do with the Binyan Hamishkan in general. The Mishkan and later the Bais Hamikdash was a source of great Achdus for Klal Yisrael. There was one place that Yidden went together and came together, and it was a very important Nekuda the Achdus of Klal Yisrael that all Jews came together on Yom Tov, that all Jews came to the same place when they had a Simcha. The Bais Hamikdash was the heart, the center for Klal Yisrael. The Mishkan in the Midbar and the Bais Hamikdash later.

This relates to all Inyanei Avoda. Avoda, Korabnos, which is also Tefilla is also a Tzibburdika, Achdusdika Mitzvah. Let me explain. The Magen Avraham in the beginning of Siman Nun Vav brings the Minhag Ha'Arizal. The Minhag is that before Davening, a person should say Hareini Mekabeil Al Atzmi Mitzvas V'ahavata L'raiacha Kamocha. I accept upon myself the Mitzvah of V'ahavata L'raiacha Kamocha, of loving fellow Jews. It is a Minhag Ari, and there are some Siddurim that actually have it printed as a Minhag Ari.

The Kasha is why say that before Davening, what does this have to do with Davening? After Davening before a person goes out to work, to interact with others and do business, a person should say Hareini Mekabeil Al Atzmi Mitzvas V'ahavata L'raiacha Kamocha. What does it have to do with Davening?

I once heard a beautiful explanation based on the Yesod of the Chasam Sofer. The Chasam Sofer actually writes this in numerous places, two of which I will quote today. One is a Chasam Sofer in a Teshuva in Orach Chaim 166. He brings the famous Maharal who objected to the Piyut of Machnisai Rachamim, a Piyut that we say in Selichos, where we ask the angels in heaven to intervene and helps our prayers come to the Kisai Hakavod.

The Maharal objected and said we Daven directly to the Ribbono Shel Olam, there is no middleman. We don't need Malachim to help us. We Daven directly to HKB"H. The question is Freigt the Chasam Sofer, that we find in Tanach and in the Gemara that when someone needs something from the Ribbono Shel Olam he goes to an Adam Gadol to help to Daven for him. He goes to a Tzaddik to Daven for him. Why is that any different?

We find by Rivka that she went as it says in Beraishis 25:22 (וַתִּלְךְ, לְדָרֵשׁ אֶת-יְרָנָן). Why didn't she just Daven directly to HKB"H? We find in other places, by the Isha Hashunamis. Why is it the Derech to go to an Adam Gadol to Daven for you if you don't go to a Malach to Daven for you?

Enfert the Chasam Sofer, the Yesod of our Emunah is that we don't need any Emtzo'i, we Daven directly to HKB"H. However, all of Klal Yisrael is like one Guf, like one person, like one Neshama, one Nefesh. When you Daven for your friend you are really Davening for Klal Yisrael.

The Gemara says Hamispaleil B'ad Chaveiro Tzorech She'yichle Atzmo Alav. If you Daven for your friend it has to come out of a deep concern for him. The idea being, that you and your friend and all of Klal Yisrael is one Guf. Our Tefilla comes from this one body called Bnei Yisrael.

In the body called Klal Yisrael, there are different parts of the body. There is the foot, the stomach, the arms, the head. Different members of Klal Yisrael reflect different parts of the body. Therefore, an Adam Gadol, a Tzaddik reflects the head of that body of Klal Yisrael. Since he is the head of that body of Klal Yisrael, when you go to him it is one body Davening, it is not an Emtzo'i. If every person would only see himself as a member of the greater Kehila of Klal Yisrael, then you understand that when you Daven for your friend you are Davening for yourself.

Before you Daven you are Mekabeil on yourself V'ahavata L'raiacha Kamocha, you are supposed to see yourself as one Guf of Klal Yisrael. If you are one Guf then all of your Tefillos go up together that is the Maila of Tefilla B'Tzibbur. When you Daven together you are a member of the Tzibbur.

The Gemara in Maseches Taanis 8 says that when you Daven with a Tzibbur even without Kavana your Tefilla goes up (in Rashi Dibbur Hamaschil B'tzibbur 25 lines from the bottom in Rashi's lines). Why? Because it is the Tefilla of the Tzibbur of Klal Yisrael. Someone else's Kavana in your Tefilla combines into one big Tefilla of one Tzibbur.

The second place is in the Drashos of the Chasam Sofer Cheilek Gimmel he asks a different Kasha. He says why does it help for me to Daven for my friend? Why does it help for one person to Daven for someone else? If the person is not deserving so what does it help? Is HKB"H someone who you can Kavayochel talk him into things? If he doesn't deserve it why would he be helped? Now if he Davens for yourself I understand, but for someone else?

Zagt the Chasam Sofer no, Davening for someone else helps when it hurts you for your friend. When it is Metzayeir you that there are difficulties in Klal Yisrael. When it hurts you, then you are one Guf in Klal Yisrael. When you Daven for the person as if you are one person you are Davening for yourself and Davening for him simultaneously. That Nekudah is the Nekudah of Tefilla B'tzibbur, of Davening as a member of Klal Yisrael. Therefore, Achdus is every bit a part of the Avoda of Davening. Feeling an Achdus with others with whom you Daven. Feeling a togetherness makes it one big Tefilla that goes up to Heaven.

Then the Chasam Sofer writes another thing. The Gemara says that Biz'man Hazeh Ninalu Sharei Tefilla, the gates of Tefilla are locked, he says that is because of our weakness in V'ahavata L'raiacha Kamocha. The key to the gate of Tefilla is V'ahavata L'raiacha Kamocha.

This idea is brought in the Kuzari in Maimar Gimmel in I believe Os Yud Tes, that the Tzibbur is one Tefilla. Therefore, if you want your Tefilla to be answered Daven for your friend. Not Daven for your friend so that Hashem should answer you, Daven for your friend because it hurts that your friend has difficulty. There is so much Tzar in Klal Yisrael, there is so much pain. We should feel the pain of the Tzibbur. It would help our Davening be a better Davening.

With that thought I wish everybody an absolutely wonderful Shabbos Parshas Vayakhel Pekudai, a Shabbos of Chazak Chazak Venischazeik!

Rabbi Reisman - Parshas Vayakhel Pekudai 5777

1 - Topic - Everything a Person Does Should be Seen as a Davar Sh'Bikedusha

Let me share with you a thought on Vayakhel, a thought on Pekudai and if there is time a thought for Pesach as well. We have here the expression of those who give money to the Mishkan in 35:22 (פֶּלֶל נְדִיב לֵב). People give B'leiv, with their heart. Chazal Darshun (פֶּלֶל נְדִיב לֵב) that when a person thinks to give money to Hekdesh he actually creates a real obligation. If you have a Machshava to give me a gift, there is no obligation and you can change your mind. But (פֶּלֶל נְדִיב לֵב) a Nedava B'leiv to Hekdesh has a Din of a Nedava. This is what it says in the Gemara.

The Gemara says in Makkos 24a about Rav Safra that Rashi brings (רב ספרא בשאלתות דרב אחא (שאילתא לו) והכי הוה עובדא דרב ספרא היה לו חפץ אחד למכור ובא אדם אחד לפניו בשעה שהיה קורא ק"ש ואמר לו תן לי החפץ בכך וכך דמים ולא ענהו מפני שהיה קורא ק"ש כסבור זה שלא היה רוצה ליתנו בדמים הללו והוסיף אמר תנהו לי בכך יותר לאחר שסיים ק"ש אמר לו טול החפץ בדמים שאמרת בראשונה שבאותן דמים היה דעתי ליתנם (לך). That Rav Safra was once Davening and someone offered him a price for something he owned and he didn't respond. The person offering him the money raised the price. After Rav Safra finished Davening, he said I accept the first price. Why the first price? Because B'leiv he was ready to accept it. He would have accepted it. The reason he was quiet was not because he did not accept the price.

The Gemara says about Rav Safra that (ודובר אמת בלבבו) that the Emes that was in his heart he kept to it. (ודובר אמת בלבבו). A Madreiga Gedola. Since in his heart he accepted the price therefore, he went with it.

The Maharsha there says a Chiddush Atzum. When you learn this Gemara, Poshut you learn that the lesson of Rav Safra is a lesson in Emes, in truth. That the Koach of (ודובר אמת בלבבו) that he was a person to whom Emes was so important that the Emes B'leiv he considered to be an obligation.

The Maharsha learns differently. The Maharsha quotes the Mordechai in Maseches Kiddushin who says that the Midda of Rav Safra was something else entirely. Quoting the Maharsha he says Af L'hedyot Haya Mekayeim Machshavto K'din Hekdesh D'ka B'machshava Dichsiv (פֶּלֶל נְדִיב לֵב).

Rav Safra was not like me and you. Me and you have things that we do that are Devarim Shel Chol and other things that we do are Devarim Shel Kedusha. So for the Devarim Shel Chol we go with the practice of Chullin. Devarim Shel Kedusha we go with the practice and the rules of things that are Kadosh. Rav Safra was Noheig his whole life, everything he did he saw as a Davar Shel Kedusha. Whatever he did he saw it as Avodas Hashem.

We find such a Hanhaga as it says that Chassidim Harishonim were Ochel Chullin in a state of Taharas Hakodesh. They ate ordinary food with the rules of Tumah and Taharah that applied to

Hekdesh. What is the Pshat, there is no Tumah for Chullin. The rules of Hekdesh are for Hekdesh not for Chullin. What does it mean that the Chassidim Harishonim were Noheig K'ilu it was Hekdesh even though it was Devarim Shel Chol?

Zagt the Maharsha, it is a Hanhaga that everything that a person does, he acts K'ilu it was a Davar Shel Hekdesh, as if it is a Heilige thing. That Hanhaga, that is the Hanhaga of Rav Safra. Rav Safra even in his Dinai Mamon was Noheig K'ilu it was a Davar Shel Hekdesh. K'ilu it was a Davar Kodesh. That is the lesson of the Maiseh of Rav Safra and the Gadlus of Rav Safra. Everything that he did he looked at the Tzad Hakedusha Shebo. There was no Davar Shel Chol.

It is a very high Madreiga, yet it says in Choshen Mishpat that it is a Hanhaga Tovah for everyone to do the same thing that Rav Safra did, to use the same Hanhaga. It is a Hanhaga Tovah for every single person. People should try to be Noheig in everything that they do to see in it Avodas Hashem, a closeness to the Ribbono Shel Olam.

It says that when you eat at the table, that you should treat your table like a Mizbaiach. Our Minhag is that we dip our Hamotzi into salt. Why do we dip Hamotzi into salt? This is because in the Bais Hamikdash (על כל-קרבנות, תקריב מלח) every Korban had salt (Vayikra 2:13). So although the food that we eat is not from a Korban, we are Noheig that our table, our meals should be K'ilu it is a Mizbaiach. It is not a Mizbaiach. But still we want to see in our Avodas Hashem a Kedusha in everything that we do and therefore, we have that Hanhaga.

So that is this higher Madreiga. To see a Davar Shel Kedusha in every single thing that you do. This is a Machshava for Kol Nediv Leiv. This is the Machshava for a person doing everything like he does it for a Davar Shel Kedusha. Kol Nediv Leiv, your heart should be K'ilu it is a Davar Shel Kedusha.

2 - Topic - The difference between the (אֵלֶּה) at the Eigel and the (אֵלֶּה) at the Mishkan.

Let's move on to Parshas Pekudai a Gevaldige thought. 38:21 (אֵלֶּה פְּקוּדֵי הַמִּשְׁכָּן) Zagt the Ohr Hachaim Hakadosh, every Hanhaga in the Mishkan was to be Mechapeir on the Cheit Ha'eigel. (אֵלֶּה פְּקוּדֵי) is K'negged 32:4 (אֵלֶּה אֲלֵהֶיךָ יִשְׂרָאֵל). The (אֵלֶּה) is K'negged and Mechapeir on the (אֵלֶּה). That is what the Ohr Hachaim Hakadosh says. What is the Pshat, the same word (אֵלֶּה)? There has got to be some type of Hesber and how one thing is Mechapeir the other.

The Sefer B'air Ra'i (which is a beautiful Sefer with a section of the Parshios). He says beautifully. What is Eileh? Eileh Posel Es Harishonim. Every time it says Eileh it is meant to say this to the exclusion of things otherwise. Otherwise it would have said Zeh or Zos. The Aveira of the Cheit Ha'eigel where Klal Yisrael created an Emtza'i to the Ribbono Shel Olam, the Aveira was Chomer, it was (אֵלֶּה אֲלֵהֶיךָ יִשְׂרָאֵל). This Gechka is to the exclusion of what you had until now. The Cheit of the Eileh is changing from what you had until now.

The same thing here. (אֵלֶּה פְּקוּדֵי הַמִּשְׁכָּן). The Tikkun was (אֵלֶּה פְּקוּדֵי הַמִּשְׁכָּן). You want to have a Hiskarvus, a Varmkeit with Ruchnios, only one way, through a Mishkan and having the Shechina residing among you. There is no other way. There is no other means of Hiskarvus to the Ribbono Shel Olam. It is only through this, not through all of the made up feelings of closeness to G-d that

(בְּרוּךְ הַמְקוֹם, בְּרוּךְ הַיּוֹם). HKB"H is Makom, is at every Seder table no matter if there are disappointments, if there is excitement, if there are things which you rather be different. Whatever your table is like, make it a tool in serving Ribbono Shel Olam.

And so, 3 beautiful thoughts for this coming Shabbos Kodesh as we Bentsh Chodesh Nissan. Spring is a time of renewal. Avada renewal means the Hischadshus in serving of serving Hashem. Certainly there is keeping our Sedorim from Mishmar straight through the whole entire Shabbos period and being Mechazeik and we changed to DST. Why do we change to DST? Why did the Ribbono Shel Olam make such a thing? Only for one reason. You suddenly have that extra hour on Shabbos, you plug it into learning and it does not affect what you have been doing every Shabbos. You can eat, nap, relax like you did until now and bang another Shabbos hour for Torah, Avodah and Yir'as Shamayim. Make it a Shaabos Kodessh, a Heilige Shabbos. A Gutten Shabbos to one and all.

Rabbi Reisman - Parshas Vayakhel Pikudai 5775

1. For Parshas Vayakhel 35:22 (וַיָּבֹאוּ הָאֲנָשִׁים, עַל-הַנָּשִׁים). Says Rashi (עַם הַנָּשִׁים וּסְמוּכֵינן אֵלֵיהֶם). What does Rashi want? Rashi is making some point that the men came with the women as the Posuk says. What does the Posuk want? It needs an explanation.

Earlier in 35:5 the Posuk says (כָּל נָדִיב לְבֹן, יְבִיאֶהָ אֶת תְּרוּמַת יִרְרָה) that every donor has to bring the donation. I believe that I saw in Rav Yaakov's Sefer that Moshe Rabbeinu wanted that the donor should come and bring it if the donor is giving it willingly. If anybody who is going to give something to the Mishkan reluctantly because of pressure from others Moshe Rabbeinu was not ready to accept it. So he said (כָּל נָדִיב לְבֹן, יְבִיאֶהָ) I want you to bring it, bring it yourself and we shall see. If so, perhaps we can explain 35:22 as well. The men were coming and donating items that really were the women's. These were items of jewelry that were being brought to be donated to the Mishkan obviously to be melted down for their Klei Hamishkan and Moshe Rabbeinu wanted to know that it was given willingly. Perhaps then that is why (כָּל נָדִיב לְבֹן, יְבִיאֶהָ) (וַיָּבֹאוּ הָאֲנָשִׁים, עַל-הַנָּשִׁים; כָּל נָדִיב לְבֹן, יְבִיאֶהָ). Why is it mentioning only the jewelry in this Posuk. They didn't bring only jewelry, they brought all these 15 things listed. This is because the women were giving their jewelry and there was a desire to see it given willingly.

There is more to it than that. At the Eigel, we learned that the women refused to donate the gold and the jewelry. It was the men that compelled them to give it. This is considered a Zechus for the Nashim Tzidkonios. They did not participate in the making of the Eigel.

There is a Kasha. How do you know that the women didn't want to give their jewelry for the Eigel for L'sheim Shamayim reasons? No woman wants to give up her jewelry. Maybe she didn't give her jewelry because she wanted it for herself. Who said that it was for a L'sheim Shamayim reason? Well, Maisim Mochichim Zeh Es Zeh. One act proves another. Here when it came time to give to the Mishkan the women gave. Since the women gave here, we see that their reluctance to give up their jewelry earlier was not because the women are too cheap to give up their jewelry, but it was because they didn't believe in the cause of the Eigel Hazav. Therefore, this act of giving here proves that the previous act was an act of Nashim Tzidkonios. If so, Moshe Rabbeinu wanted to

see that it was being given willingly. It is a technical thing that things should be given willingly and things shouldn't be given reluctantly. But it is much more than that. It is the fundamental Zechus of the Nashim Tzidkonios in that they were perfectly willing to give up their jewelry for a good cause, and when they refused by the Eigel it was because they were above the Cheit Ha'eigel. And so, that is a thought for Parshas Vayakhel.

2. Let's move on to Parshas Pikudai. In the beginning of Parshas Pikudai there is a Seforno. The Seforno writes that the Keilim that were made for the Mishkan weren't destroyed, they weren't lost, they didn't fall in the hands of the enemies. Contrary to the items that Shlomo Hamelech made for the Bais Hamikdash, there Nevuchadnetzar came and for the most part did fall into the hands of our enemies. Why? Says the Seforno, the Mishkan was built by Betzalel and other righteous people, Tzadikim, and Tzidkonios who went and physically participated in the building of the Mishkan. When it came to the building of the Bais Hamikdash we find in Melachim I that Shlomo Hamelech contracted some of his work out to non-Jews. Chirom the king of Tzor and his Avadim. The Zechus of the building of the Mishkan was that Tzadikim, righteous people did it. That didn't exist in the Bais Hamikdash where it was made through others. Since it was made through others it didn't have the Zechus to last forever. This is what the Seforno says. We wonder. The great Shlomo Hamelech how did he make this mistake? We assume that Shlomo Hamelech made a Halachik calculation. We know that we are Mevateil Talmid Torah for a Mitzvah but we are not Mivateil Talmud Torah for a Hechsheir Mitzvah. We are Mevateil Torah for something which itself is a Mitzvah. To prepare for a Mitzvah if others can do it we are not Mivateil Talmud Torah to do something that is only a Hechsher Mitzvah. The assumption might be that Shlomo Hamelech made this calculation and he Paskened that the Tzadikim should sit and learn and we will get others to build the Keilim of the Bais Hamikdash. Well that sounds like such a great Cheshbon so the question is what is wrong with that calculation. It sounds right!

The answer lies in the words of the Netziv in the Haameik Shaila. One of the most famous and all-encompassing pieces of the Haameik Shaila is a piece in which the Netziv deals with Hechsher Mitzvah, with things that are preparation for a Mitzvah. We find that certain preparations are done through Talmidai Chachamim, through people who otherwise be learning. For example, the Shulchan Aruch brings that the Rosh himself was involved in the baking of the Matzos. Baking Matzos is only a Hechsher Mitzvos. Why should someone who can sit and learn and have someone else bake the Matzos go and participate in it personally.

Similarly, we find in the beginning of the second Perek of Kiddushin that certain Amoraim were involved in preparing food for Shabbos. Rabbah salted fish. Why did he salt fish, that is a Hechsher Mitzvah? It was able to be done by someone else? This Kasha is actually asked by many Poskim including the Mishna Brura in Sharei Tzion in Hilchos Shabbos. He asks a Kasha, why should a person be Mevateil Talmid Torah to be involved in Shabbos preparation?

For this the Netziv in Haameik Shaila has an extraordinary Yesod. He says that those preparations that are not mentioned in the Torah such as for example, removing the Shofar from the head of a ram. It is not mentioned. The Torah says to blow a Shofar it doesn't say prepare a Shofar. Therefore, we leave the preparing of Shofar to others. We never heard that a Tzaddik will go and be involved in Shofar preparation. This is because that aspect is not something that it says in the Torah. It

doesn't say in the Torah to pick an Esrog off of the tree. Therefore, we don't find that Tzaddikim are Mevateil Talmid Torah to go pick an Esrog off of the tree.

However, we do find in Shabbos preparation as it says in Shemos 16:5 (וְהָיָה אֵת אֶשְׂרֵי-יַבְיאוֹ) that the Torah commands to prepare for Shabbos. It is still only a Hechsher Mitzvah. But it is a Hechsher Mitzvah that is mentioned B'feirush in the Torah. The same thing is true about the baking of the Matzos. Because the baking of the Matzos is mentioned B'feirush in the Torah with a commandment of making the Matzos, therefore, these things which are the preparation of the Mitzvah have a higher level of Chashivus, of importance, and we find that we are Mevateil Talmid Torah for these types of Hechsher Mitzvah.

And so, the Netziv's Yesod is that there are two types of Hechsher Mitzvah those mentioned explicitly in the Torah for which we are Mevateil Talmid Torah and those which are not mentioned and are not Mevateil Talmid Torah because it is Efsheir Al Yidai Achairim.

Perhaps, this explains the building of the Mishkan. V'asisa, the Torah constantly says and make them. Since the Torah says V'asu Li Mikdash, therefore, it is a Hechsher Mitzvah for which one should be Mevateil Talmid Torah. That would explain where the difference of opinion could be in whether one should or should not participate in the building of the Mishkan.

It is interesting that L'asid Lavo there is at least Rashi, Tosafos, some Rishonim who hold that the Mikdash will fall from heaven. We won't make it we will be cheated out of making the Bais Hamikdash. I guess it needs an explanation as to why it should be that way. At any rate we have a Vort on Vayakhel and a Vort on Parshas Pikudai.

3. A Halachik Vort and this Vort comes courtesy of my son Rav Eli Reisman who expressed the following doubt regarding something to do with the building of the Mishkan. We find in Parshas Vayakhel 36:13 (וַיְהִי הַמִּשְׁכָּן, אֶחָד), the Mishkan there refers to the different coverings of the Mishkan. As you know, the coverings were made in a layer of 10 strips and then 11 strips which were hooked together and they became (אֶחָד). We found this Lashon in Parshas Teruma 26:6 (וַיְהִי הַמִּשְׁכָּן, אֶחָד). That the covering despite being made from 10 parts and in one case from 11 parts had to be hooked together and the Torah talks about the (לְלֹאֵת) and the (קְרָסִים) which were used to connect them. So far so good, just Pshat in the Posuk. Most of the drawings which show the connection usually show S shaped connectors and the hooks on the Yerios. In other words, the cloth portion had a hook and those were the Kerasim. They were connected with the S shaped rings so that there was one hook on one side of the S and one hook on the other side of the S and with that they were connected. This is the picture that we are accustomed to. It would seem that that picture is Halachachly incorrect.

We find in Aruch Chaim Siman 10 S'if 7 regarding the Mitzvah of Tzitzis. If one has a tee-shirt and there is a slit on the side of the tee-shirt that creates two corners on each side. The Halacha is that if that slit is cut up Rov, the majority of the Begeg (of the shirt) then the corners are considered corners and one is obligated to put Tzitzis. If the cut however is less than the majority then one is Patur from placing Tzitzis. In other words, it has to be open a majority of the height of the tee-shirt. The Mishna Brura deals with the question and he brings this in the Terumas Hadeshen of a shirt such as this which has hooks that connect the opening. It is open Rov but in that Rov opening

there are hooks which connect them. Does that connection abolish the concept of it being open or is it considered open with hooks?

In other words, can one say that these hooks makes the Begeg totally connected. The Mishna Brura brings from the Terumas Hadeshen that if they are connected then obviously the Begeg is no longer Chayuv in Tzitzis. One who has neat Tzitz which is open most of the way but they are connected as one that opening doesn't count. However, the Terumas Hadeshen says that it depends if it is connected in such a way that it is hard to just open it with your fingers then that is a connection. If it is easy to open, just to unhook, then it is not considered to be connected.

In other words, if you would have this S shaped hook and attach it to Lulaos (ללאות) on each side of the Begeg, that is very easy to remove because you can remove it with your fingers easily, that is not considered a connection. In the case of Tzitzis it would be obligated in Mitzvas Tzitzis. If you wanted to connect it in a way that it would remove the obligation of Tzitzis you would have to take pliers and tighten the S so that you can't just unhook with your fingers.

Getting back to the coverings of the Mishkan, it would seem that the same thing is true. Even if they had this S shaped hook it is not enough. The Torah says (וְהָיָה הַמְּשָׁכָן, אֶחָד) it has to be totally connected. There would have had to be some manner, some method by which to make the connection a solid connection in order to be Mekayeim the Posuk of (וְהָיָה הַמְּשָׁכָן, אֶחָד). And so, a Vort on Vayakhel, a Vort on Pikudai, and a Halachik Ha'ara on the covering of the Mishkan.

4. Let me end with a Kasha I had. In the Sefer Hachassidim Taf Kuf Samech Ches, the Sefer Hachassidim writes regarding a person who is telling his son numerous instructions. He says when you give your son numerous instructions put last that which you want him to do first. He says, a man who tells his son to do certain things, what he wants him to do first he should tell him last. Interesting! He brings as a source the fact that we find in this week's Parsha Moshe Rabbeinu telling Klal Yisrael about the Mitzvah of Shabbos. Earlier we found in Parshas Ki Sisa that Moshe Rabbeinu was told and commanded to build a Mishkan and keep the Shabbos. There Shabbos was mentioned first and the Mishkan was mentioned second. When Moshe Rabbeinu told Klal Yisrael he first told them about the Mishkan in Parshas Terumah and Tetzaveh and only here in Parshas Vayakhel did he start to tell them about Shabbos. Says the Sefer Hachassidim from here we learn that when a man tells a son to do things whatever you want him to do first tell him last. An interesting piece of advice. The Pele is this flies in the face of what we have in Pirkei Avos that a wise person responds in the order that things are said to him. It would seem that if you tell your son to do two things then if he is a Chochom he should do the first thing first and the second thing second. Seems to be inconsistent with the Sefer Hachassidim.

Someone suggested that it is different when you tell your son. Children don't quickly respond to their parent's desires and it is likely that he will do the last thing first. In that case the Sefer Hachassidim is giving us a bit of psychological parent/child advice. But that is not correct. Because the Sefer Hachassidim is learning it from Moshe Rabbeinu's response to HKB"H's commands or the way HKB"H told Moshe to tell Klal Yisrael and therefore, that answer seems quite inadequate and for now we will leave it as a Kasha. Have a wonderful Shabbos!

Rabbi Reisman - Parshas Vayakhel - Pikudai 5773

As we prepare for Shabbos Parshas Vayakhel - Pikudai which is also Parshas Hachodesh and we prepare for the wonderful month of Nissan, Zman Cheirosainu.

This week's Parsha, Vayakhel-Pikudai although it seems not to have any big Chiddushim contained within it actually has what is most Chaviv to Bnei Torah and that is the very first Chiddush Torah. Chiddushei Torah a piece of Chiddush in Din that was said by somebody outside of Moshe Rabbeinu. And that is Betzalel. As you know, Betzalel was Michadeish that first the building of the Mishkan, the structure of the Mishkan should be erected and only after that should the Kailim be prepared as is brought down by Rashi in 38:22 (אמר לו בצלאל מנהג עולם לעשות תחלה בית ואחר כך) כי בוודאי כך צוה לי הקב"ה, וכן עשה משים כלים בתוכו. אמר לו כך שמעתי מפי הקב"ה. אמר לו משה בצל קל היית, כי בוודאי כך צוה לי הקב"ה, וכן עשה הכלים). That was Betzalel's Shtickel Torah it was his own Chiddush and Moshe Rabbeinu agreed to it. Therefore, Vayakhel Pikudai is really a time to celebrate the Koach of Chiddushai Torah.

The Gemara says in Maseches Avodah Zora 19a (21 lines from the bottom) (פִּי אִם בְּתוֹרַת יְרוּרָה, הֶפְצִי;) I believe it is in the very first Perek of Tehillim (1:2). It says (פִּי אִם בְּתוֹרַת) (וּבְתוֹרַתוֹ יְהִיָּה, יוֹמָם וְלַיְלָה) your desire is Toras Hashem and then (וּבְתוֹרַתוֹ יְהִיָּה, יוֹמָם וְלַיְלָה) when you are working on Torah and you do Yigiya and Ameilus BaTorah Rashi says Achar Shetorach Bo then it becomes your Torah. You have an ownership in it. Every person should have his own thoughts in Limud HaTorah. It doesn't have to be big Chiddushim. It can be just an understanding of something. Every human being should have a notebook at least on the Seder HaParshios. When you have a thought regarding the Parsha, a good Kasha regarding the Parsha, or if you hear a Kasha on a phone Shiur and you have a good Teretz regarding the Kasha. In any one of these situations mark it down, let it last, and let it be your Shtickel of Torah. It doesn't have to be printed for others. Perhaps you will be Zoche that your children and grandchildren will see it. Even if they won't at least you will have it yourself. As the Gemara says in Maseches Pesachim 50a 14 lines from the top (אֲשֶׁר מִי) (שְׂבָא לְכָאן וּתְלַמְדוּ בִידוֹ). Blessed is somebody who comes to heaven and he has in his hand his Chiddushai Torah. The Shelah says and the Maharsha says it as well, it means the Chiddushai Torah that he is able to create.

There is an interesting Nesivos in his Sefer Emes L'yaakov on Berachos where he writes that when it says that Hashem is (בָּחַר בָּנוּ מִכָּל הָעַמִּים), he chose us from among the nations. The Nesivos Teitches that that Koach is the Koach of being Mechadeish Chiddushai Torah and it becomes Shelo (אֲשֶׁר בָּחַר בָּנוּ מִכָּל הָעַמִּים. וְנָתַן לָנוּ אֶת תּוֹרַתוֹ). Hashem didn't chose us from the nations, he offered the Torah to the other nations but he gave us uniquely the ability to have Kinyanim in Torah.

In the Kraina D'igrasa from the Steipler, Cheilek Aleph letter 193, he writes regarding printing Divrei Torah of someone without the person's Reshus and without Reshus of his Yarshim. The Steipler was asked do I need permission of my Rebbi to print his Divrei Torah? The Steipler said the following. He said certainly if there is a financial benefit then there is no question that it belongs to whoever owns it. But we are not talking about financial benefit, it is just a Dvar Torah. If you want to print someone's Dvar Torah and he doesn't give you permission, the Steipler writes I don't know from what power can any Yoresh stop someone from printing Divrei Torah. Even a Rebbi

can't stop his Talmid from printing Divrei Torah that he heard from him. The Steipler says I don't know from where this could come.

I found in the new Aruch Hashulchan (that was brought out of Russia) in Hilchos Nedarim Siman 225:2 that he brings the Baal Hamaor in the introduction to the Sefer Baal Hamaor who writes that he is Mashbia (he forces everyone with the Koach of a Shevua) that they should never print his Chiddushim without the Hakdama (without the introduction that he wrote). The Aruch Hashulchan says much like the Steipler, I don't understand how is it possible to be Mashbia someone. The Aruch Hashulchan says what are you talking about? If a person didn't say I swear how could someone else say about him that I am Mashbia you. How can you force someone into a Shevua? It does not seem to make any sense.

The Aruch Hashulchan says like the Nesivos says that the Torah that you say becomes yours. It is not like physical things that after death are not yours. He says that the Baal Hamaor was Mechadeish it is yours and you can enforce control over it.

What we are learning here is that a person's Chiddushei Torah whatever a person says even if it is just a Teretz to a simple Kasha or an insight it is a Kinyan he has in Torah it is his Torah and it is in the Zechus of (אֲשֶׁר בָּחַר בְּנוֹ). Like Betzalel you also have Kinyanim in Torah. Every human being, every Yid has a Kinyan in Torah. Therefore, the idea of Chiddushei Torah, Parshas Vayakhel Pikudai is special to every thinking Yid.

Let's move to a Vort directly on the Pesukim of the Parsha. We know that in Parshas Pikudai Moshe Rabbeinu gave an accounting of all of the monies that had been donated and that had been used in the building of the Mishkan. The Meforshim already point out that when it comes to the copper and the silver Moshe Rabbeinu gives an accounting for where it was used. When it comes to the gold Moshe Rabbeinu gives no accounting. He says how much he received but he doesn't explain how it was used. That is a bit of a Davar Pele and there are many Terutzim.

I would like to share with you the Satmar Rebbe the Divrei Yoel, a thought that he said. He is Makdim that the Medrash brings from the Posuk in Parshas Ki Sisa in 33:8 (וְהִבִּיטוּ אֶחָדֵי מִשְׁפָּחָה). Literally, the people watched Moshe Rabbeinu as he walked through the camp. The Medrash says that they looked at Moshe Rabbeinu in a negative manner. That they accused him of becoming wealthy from the donations of the Mishkan. It sounds like they accused him of stealing from the donations of the Mishkan and therefore, Parshas Pikudai follows.

The Satmar Rebbe says it is not logical that the Dor Hamidbar would accuse Moshe Rabbeinu of stealing money. After all, even when the Jews were involved in the Bizas Mitzrayim where they were taking money B'heter and it was a Mitzvah to take from the loot of Mitzrayim, Moshe Rabbeinu was busy being Osek in the Arono Shel Yosef and not money. It can't be. But one minute what about the Medrash that says that Moshe was accused of stealing from the donations of the Mishkan?

The Satmar Rebbe has a Gevaldige insight. He says you know what it means? They were Choshed Moshe Rabbeinu that he grabbed for himself the Mitzvah of donating to the Mishkan. They were Choshed that when Hashem said that people should donate, that Moshe Rabbeinu grabbed. They

said I bet you that Moshe Rabbeinu himself donated to the Mishkan. We know that in the Zechus of donating to the Mishkan people became wealthy. So the people were Choshed Moshe Rabbeinu of donating to the Mishkan. What a beautiful Vort.

Therefore, Moshe Rabbeinu made an accounting. He made an accounting. This is how much silver you gave and this is how much silver was used. This is how much copper you gave and this is how much copper was used. What about the gold? The gold was given as a Kapparah for the Eigel Hazav. It was given as a Kapparah for the gold calf that they had made. When it came to that nobody accused Moshe Rabbeinu. He certainly didn't need a Kapparah for the golden calf. Therefore, when it came to gold he didn't have to give an accounting. What an absolutely beautiful Vort.

Let me move on to Chodesh Nissan. I want to tell you something unique about Chodesh Nissan which you may or may not know. We all know that the month of Adar can have two months. It is called an Ibur Yar. Did you know that it once happened that the month of Nissan had two months? It once happened in the days of Chizkiyahu Hamelech. The Gemara relates that Chizkiyah was (עיבר ניסן בניסן). It is in Maseches Pesachim on 56a (7 lines from the top) (עיבר ניסן בניסן) and the first Perek of Sanhedrin 12b (3 lines from the top) (מפני מה ביקש רחמים על עצמו שאין מעברין אלא אדר והוא עיבר ניסן בניסן) that king Chizkiyahu made Nissan 1 and Nissan 2 with Pesach in the second month. What made him do it?

Tosafos in Sanhedrin 12a says (שעיבר השנה מפני הטומאה. פי' בקונטרס שניטמאו בע"ז דע"ז (ג) מטמא בפרק ר' עקיבא (דף פב.) כמת אע"ג דטומאת ע"ז מדרבנן מאותה שעה שמא גזרו עליה דהא דריש ליה התם מקראי דדברי הקבלה ובירושלמי אמר דגולגלתו של ארונה היבوسی מצאו תחת המזבח ותימה שהרי (בט"ו) היו יכולין ליטרה ולמה עיברוה והא סגי בהזאת שלישי ושביעי ואפר פרה לא היו חסרים דכל בית ראשון עמד להם אפר פרה דמשה כדאמר (פרה פרק ג משנה ה) דשניי' עשה עזרא ושמא לא היה להם הדבר מזומן ליטרה). He brings from a Yerushalmi that they were getting ready for Pesach and they found a skull in the Bais Hamikdash. It was from Aravna Hayivusi (he owned the piece of land where the Bais Hamikdash was built). Dovid Hamelech purchased the land from him. Then they found his skull in the Bais Hamikdash in the days of Chizkiya. It was an emergency, Tumah in the Bais Hamikdash. They needed an extra month to get ready for Yom Tov so therefore, they declared a second Adar, after Nissan had already begun. It is a Pele. Could it be that for 300 years from Dovid Hamelech until Chizkiya Hamelech that the Bais Hamikdash was Tamei and they didn't know it? There was a skull there and people walking by became Tamei and nobody knew it? That is hard to understand. Besides, if they found a skull why do they need a month? Pick it up, take it out, and move on with life. It is a Pele this Chazal.

I would like to share with you a Chasam Sofer in a Teshuva in Yore Dai'a 340. I will tell it to you briefly. He explains that they found near the Bais Hamikdash the burial place of the family of Aravna. There were many buried there. However, that wasn't in the Bais Hamikdash. Now you all know that there were storage areas under the Bais Hamikdash. The wall that surrounded the perimeter of the Har Habayis was a wall which went down below the ground as can be seen today. The Kosel goes all the way down to the virgin rock. Now the reason why this was done was to block any possibility of caves or tunnels from bringing Tumah from outside the Bais Hamikdash into the Bais Hamikdash. That wall that went around protected them. Achaz was the father of Chizkiya and in his days there were tunnels and people came and did acts of destruction against

the Bais Hamikdash. Explains the Chasam Sofer, they found that the underground tunnels in the Bais Hamikdash were breached and open to the place of the Bais Hakvares of Aravna Hayivusi. They found a skull that had come there and therefore, they needed to postpone Pesach to give them the 30 extra days so that they could reconstruct the wall around the Har Habayis. It is a beautiful Chasam Sofer. He writes of additional points regarding this which is interesting to see in Yoreh Dai'a 340. This gives us an insight not only into this Chazal about Aravna Hayivusi but an insight into the depth of the reason why the Kosel goes so far down under the ground so far deep. A lot of it is because over the generations the floor level has been raised but besides that it actually went down to the virgin rock and they built walls that would block any Tumah from coming into the tunnels of the Bais Hamikdash.

I will end with a Tzorech Iyun. In the beginning of Parshas Vayakhel 25:23 the Posuk says (וְכָל-אִישׁ אֲשֶׁר-נִמְצָא אֹתוֹ, תְּכַלֵּת וְאָרְגָמֶן וְתוֹלַעַת שָׁנִי--וְנֹשֵׁשׁ וְעֹזִים; וְעֵרַת אֵילִם מְאֻדָּמִים וְעֵרַת תְּחָשִׁים, הֵבִיאוּ). Everybody who had the things listed in the Posuk brought. The language of (וְכָל-אִישׁ) is very puzzling. Does this literally mean every single Yid who owned (תְּכַלֵּת) brought without any exception at all? It is extremely difficult to understand the Poshut Pshat.

I would say that this seems to be a Raya to those who say that the word Kol in Tanach doesn't mean all and that the word Kol means many, most, or any. However, those who understand the word Kol quite literally then it is a Vadai Tzorech Iyun Gadol!

Rabbi Reisman - Parshas Vayakhel Pekudai 5772

In Vayakhel we find that Hakadosh Baruch Hu presents to Klal Yisrael a very gifted individual 35:30 (בְּצִלְאֵל בֶּן-אוּרִי בֶן-חוּר) who will be in charge of the building of the Mishkan. In Posuk 34 we read of a gift that Hakadosh Baruch Hu gave Betzalel (וְיִלְהוֹרֶת, נָתַן בְּלִבּוֹ). Hakadosh Baruch Hu placed in Betzalel's heart the ability to teach. Both the Ibn Ezra and the Ohr Hachaim Hakadosh write that there are some Talmidei Chachamim who are well versed and very learned however, are unable to teach and are unable to give it over. For that reason the Torah has to specify that in addition to being a Talmid Chochom, Betzalel (וְיִלְהוֹרֶת, נָתַן בְּלִבּוֹ). Hakadosh Baruch Hu gave him the gift of being able to teach.

Rav Aharon Leib Shteinman in the Ayeles Hashachar asks a Kasha here and makes a very nice point. He asks that there is a well-known quote from Rav Chaim Brisker. Rav Chaim used to say if someone cannot explain something it is a Siman (sign) that he doesn't really understand it. If someone understands something then he should be able to explain it to others. If a person cannot explain it to others it is a sign that he lacks in his fundamental understanding of the concept. This is a basic idea with which we work in the Yeshivos. However, it seems not to be true and it seems to be contradicted by this Ibn Ezra and Ohr Hachaim who say a person can be a Talmid Chochom and yet be unable to teach?

Rav Shteinman answers by quoting a GRA in Mishlei. The GRA in Mishlei explains that in order to be able to teach there is a very crucial ingredient that a teacher has to have. That is Seder, to be Mesudar. To have things mapped out (planned out) in an orderly way. Rav Chaim is correct. If you and I are discussing a Sevara if you can't explain the logic to me it means that you don't

understand it. But to be a teacher and be able to teach entire packages of things, there is something else that is very important and that is the various thoughts and Sevaras that you may have, have to be Mesudar, it has to be in the right order. (וילהורת, נתן בלבן), the gift of being a teacher is the gift of being able to be Misadeir, to be put in order whatever it is that you have to teach. Whether it be a Shiur, a Drasha, a speech, whatever it may be it has to go in a very proper order.

Rav Pam used to say that in order for a person to deliver a Drasha a person has to prepare three things. 1) What to say, 2) what not to say, and 3) how to say it. Rav Pam would add, most of the time the most important ingredient is to know what not to say. Many people who want to convey an idea or a thought confuse it with a lot of different thoughts that are mixed in. Things that have nothing to do with the message. Other thoughts regarding circumstances of the story that they are telling or anything else. That confuses the teacher's ability to teach. What to say, what not to say, and how to say it.

Listen to a person offering a speech the next time. While he may be very well organized, if he is not you will notice that what happens is that he has thought about what his speech should contain and he wondered if he should speak about A, B, or C. At the end he decided to speak about A but put in a little bit of B and a little bit of C. B and C made the entire speech ruined. If he would have focused on A it would be a great speech. I am not telling you to notice it for the purpose of knocking someone else but for the purpose of improving your own ability. Focus on the theme, something that has to do with the theme that clarifies it definitely belongs. What to say, what not to say, and how to say it. Seder is a very important part of a person being able to teach. (וילהורת, נתן בלבן), that was the gift to Betzalel.

In Parshas Pekudei right by Sheini we constantly have the message like in 39:1 (וַיִּצְוֵנוּ אֶת-בְּנֵי הַקֹּדֶשׁ, (כְּאֲשֶׁר צִוָּה יְרֵךְ, אֶת-מֹשֶׁה (כְּאֲשֶׁר צִוָּה יְרֵךְ, אֶת-מֹשֶׁה). It says over and over (כְּאֲשֶׁר צִוָּה יְרֵךְ, אֶת-מֹשֶׁה). As Hashem commanded Moshe. If I am not mistaken, it says it 18 times in Parshas Pekudei. Whatever they made, whether it be the Bigdei Kehuna they did it (כְּאֲשֶׁר צִוָּה יְרֵךְ, אֶת-מֹשֶׁה).

The Ohr Hachaim Hakadosh has a number of Peshatim with one of them being an especially fascinating Pshat in (כְּאֲשֶׁר צִוָּה יְרֵךְ, אֶת-מֹשֶׁה). Why keep on repeating this idea that they made it as Hashem commanded Moshe. Everything that was done was done as Hashem commanded Moshe. He responds as follows. He says that in the Kavana of the Bigdei Kehunah there was certainly very many deep Kavanos, with deep meanings in the Bigdei Kehunah. As we all understand with any Mitzvah there is a depth to it that cannot be appreciated by an average person. Certainly something like Bigdei Kehunah which was in the Beis Hamikdash had an extraordinary depth. The people making the Bigdei Kehunah said they were doing it Lishmah for the Mitzvah of Bigdei Kehunah. Which Kavanah? (כְּאֲשֶׁר צִוָּה יְרֵךְ, אֶת-מֹשֶׁה) they were doing it Lishmah for the Sheim of the (כְּאֲשֶׁר צִוָּה יְרֵךְ, אֶת-מֹשֶׁה). The Kavanah that they themselves weren't capable of which Hakadosh Baruch Hu revealed to Moshe. That was the Kavanah they put into the making of the Bigdei Kehunah despite the fact that they themselves were unaware of these Kavanahs.

This is important because for those who say L'sheim Yichud, there are different versions of L'sheim Yichud in different places but many people who have the custom of saying L'sheim Yichud before doing a Mitzvah find that there is a (Nusach) language that says K'ilu Kivanti Kol Hakavanahs. A person doing the Mitzvos says to Hashem let it be as if I have all of the Kavanahs all

of the thoughts that are necessary for the purpose of doing this Mitzvah. Occasionally it says K'ilu Kivanti Kol Hakavanas Shetiknu Anshei K'neses Hag'dolah. A person says it should be as if I had all of the Kavano of the great assembly of Geonim who were Mesakein this. The Michtam M'eliyahu in the 4th Cheilek has a piece in which he questions how a person could say K'ilu Kivanti Kol Hakavanas. What does that mean?

He explains that the Neshama Penimi of a Yid has the ability to understand all these concepts. We are not on a level to be totally in touch with our Neshama Penimi. We are Migusham, we are people who are connected to the physical world. Nevertheless, we have the right to say K'ilu Kivanti Kol Hakavanas, which is something that our Neshamos are connected to.

What is the source for such a unique idea? According to the Ohr Hachaim Hakadosh we have the source. The source is (כְּאֶשֶׁר צִנְהָ יְרֹרָ, אֶת-מִשְׁהָ). This is what the Torah is telling us here in this spot.

Before I move on I would like to share with you a question. Isn't it strange, we are going to Lain Parshas Vayakhel Pekudei and in Pikudai when we read about the different Bigdei Kehunah or even the parts of the Bigdei Kehunah we have 18 times that it is mentioned (כְּאֶשֶׁר צִנְהָ יְרֹרָ, אֶת-מִשְׁהָ). Why don't we find this language in Parshas Vayakhel when each of the Keilim of the Beis Hamikdash is made? It says it one time when it is complete. Why not when each of them is made. What is the difference between the Bigdei Kehunah and the Keilim of the Mishkan. It is certainly something which begs explanation. We will leave it a question for now.

Moving on to Parshas Parah which can be found in Parshas Chukas. We will take out another Sefer Torah this week. We will read from Parshas Chukas the commandment of the Parah Adumah.

There is a problem. The Chumashim of the Torah are pretty well defined. Shemos being the Exodus from Mitzrayim and the building of the Mishkan. Vayikra being Toras Kohanim, the Mitzvos of the Korbanos and the rules of Tumah and Taharah. Bamidbar is primarily the story of different Aveiros, different trials and tribulations that took place in the period in the Midbar. Basically from Parshas Behaloscha and on that is what it is all about. The Mitzvos that are found in Bamidbar such as Kehunah are related to the different difficulties. Korach argues with the Kehunah and in Parshas Korach we have Mitzvos that have to do with the Kehunah. Why is the Parah Adumah found in Chumash Bamidbar if all the Hilchos of Tumah and Taharah is found in Chumash Vayikra together with Tazria Metzora, Zav, Zavah, Tumas Meis. All the rules of Tumah are found in Vayikra. What is the connection between having the Parshas Parah Adumah smack in middle of the uprising of Korach on one side and the rebellion of Mei Miriva on the other? There has got to be some connection. What is the connection, what is it doing there?

As you know Parah Adumah is the Chok, the Mitzvah of the Torah which symbolizes the fact that we perform Mitzvos of the Torah without understanding the reason for the Mitzvah. Even those Mitzvos where we do understand the reason, nevertheless there is an aspect of Chok. We do it because it is Kiyum Ratzon Hashem.

The Michtam M'eliyahu in the first volumn page # 219 explains the idea of Chok. We don't question the reason for a Chok. It is not as if it is Assur to ask or don't ask, it is just a blank no. These Mitzvos have reasons which are hidden from us. So that when we perform them we

perform them with Ahavas Hashem with a total devotion giving ourselves over to the Ratzon Hashem. The idea of a Chok is the idea to accept Ratzon Hashem without having to question it, just with a full trust in Hashem's will and Hashem's desire. The Aveirah, the sin of great people is in their understanding of reasons for Mitzvos and their mistake in extending it too far. Certainly with Shlomo Hamelech that is what happened. He understood the reasons for the Mitzvos Hamelech the King's special Mitzvos and that led him astray. We find the same things by other great people where their sin can be understood in dealing with the purpose of the Mitzvah.

Korach too sinned in not giving himself over totally to Ratzon Hashem. He thought he understood the reason for the greatness of Klal Yisrael and he said Bamidbar 16:3 (כִּי כָל-הָעֵדָה כָּלָם קְדוֹשִׁים) Kol Ha'eida Kulam Kedoshim. They rejected the idea that certain Jews would be greater than others. In the Mai Miriva too there was a mistake in understanding the Ratzon Hashem and therefore, the Parah Adumah does belong in Bamidbar among the Aveiros that took place in the great Dor Hamidbar. All of the sins, the sins of the Meraglim as well, were sins that were based on a desire for holiness for Kedushah that was misplaced. The idea of Chok belongs right in middle of that. The lesson that we should do things because it is the Ratzon Hashem. As much as we understand the reason that is Talmid Torah, that is Learning Torah. In doing Mitzvos we do it because it is the Ratzon Hashem. And so that is the fundamental lesson of Parah Adumah and certainly the very important lesson of its place in Chumash Bamidbar.

The question of the week is: earlier in Parshas Terumah we learned about the building of the Aron and the fact that there were Badim (sticks that held the Aron). We were told there that Klal Yisrael was commanded to place these Badim (sticks) into the Aron and in the Aron specifically we are told right before Sheini in Parshas Terumah 25:15 (בְּטַבְעֹת, הָאֲרוֹן, יִהְיוּ, הַבַּדִּים: לֹא יִסְרוּ, מִמֶּנּוּ) Once the Badim were placed into the rings on the side of the Aron they would remain there forever. They were placed there once and they are never supposed to be removed. That is great. So now in Parshas Vayakhel Pekudei lets learn about the time that the Badim were placed. It was only done once. Where was that placing of the Badim, where did that take place?

We have a problem. In Parshas Vayakhel 37:4 we read (וַיַּעַשׂ בְּדֵי, עֲצֵי שִׁטִּים; וַיִּצַּף אֹתָם, זָהָב) that Betzalel made the staffs that were going to be alongside the Aron and in 37:5 (וַיָּבֵא אֶת-הַבַּדִּים בְּטַבְעֹת,) (עַל צִלְעֹת הָאֲרוֹן, לְשֵׂאת, אֶת-הָאֲרוֹן) he put these sticks and he put these staffs into the rings. So this is where it is. This is the one and only time it ever happened that the sticks were placed into the Aron.

When you get Parshas Pekudei and you get pretty far into the Parsha at 40:20 you will be puzzled to read (וַיִּקַּח וַיִּתֵּן אֶת-הָעֵדֹת, אֶל-הָאֲרוֹן, וַיָּשֶׂם אֶת-הַבַּדִּים, עַל-הָאֲרוֹן; וַיִּתֵּן אֶת-הַכַּפֹּרֶת עַל-הָאֲרוֹן, מִלְּמַעְלָה). That the Luchos were placed into the Aron and then the Badim were placed on the Aron. Again, once in Vayakhel and once in Pekudei? If it is the same thing why say it twice? This is very very strange. This is something which needs a Hesber. If you need some whip cream on the Kasha, go to the end of Bamidbar in 4:5 & 4:6 where the Posuk relates (וַיִּשְׂמוּ, בְּדֵיו) that the Badim were placed there. Therefore, that only serves to make the Kasha stronger. Something that is certainly a Mitzvah L'yasheiv.

A public service announcement for Daylight Savings Time. For families that are making early Shabbos, Women cannot be Yotzei the Mitzvah of lighting Shabbos candles before Plag Hamincha even if the husband goes to an early Mincha and you normally light candles before he goes to Shul.

Be careful. If it is before the Zman of Plag Hamincha which this week is approximately 6 PM it is too early to light. The general rule of thumb is to light when your husband is being Mikabeil Shabbos. If he goes to Mincha it is usually 20 - 25 minutes after Davening begins. Don't light candles earlier because you are not Mikayeim Mitzvas Hadlakah when you light early. That is my reminder to the women.

For the men, I would like to remind you that Shabbos day is now an hour and 10 minutes longer and getting 10 minutes longer each week. Don't waste your Shabbos day by sleeping. Spend the extra time in the Beis Medrash. If you do it the first week (this week) it will seem like you have a lot of time. Do it and you will get in the habit of doing it. People who are wasting their Shabbos day are unfortunately wasting the few optional hours you have during the week.

Kedushas Shabbos, Yom Zeh Michubad Mikol Yomim. It is a wonderful day, for what? Is it Michubad that you should spend it in bed with your eyes closed? Chalila! Spend it in the Beis Medrash, put in the extra time. You have an extra hour? Make an hour Seder and take a Masechta and do an Amud a week, do a Chazara. Use your Shabbos well. A Gutten Shabbos to one and all.

Rabbi Reisman - Parshas Vayakheil Pekudai 5770

35:3 השבת, היום, משבתתכם, בשבת, לא-תבערו אש, Parshas Vayakheil starts with the Lav of Loi Sivaru Aish. This is the only one of the 39 Melachos that is mentioned very clearly, although Hoi'tza'a is also mentioned indirectly. Mefarshim give numerous reasons as to why it is mentioned. The most simple reason is the one brought by the Kli Yakar on the Gemara in Maseches Shabbos. The Lav of not lighting fires in your home on Shabbos comes to let us know that the Issur of burning a fire is only in your home, however in the Bais Hamikdash it was permitted to light a fire to consume the Korbanos.

In the Shailos Uteshuvos of Rav Yonason Shteif there is a Shaila regarding using a mercury thermometer on Shabbos. The Issur of Medida which is measuring it wouldn't be applicable to someone who is sick, so what can be Assur about taking your temperature on Shabbos?

Interestingly enough, the mercury in the thermometer changes and expands as the heat of the body goes through it. If someone were to cook metal on Shabbos, he would Oiver on Havarah even though there is no food being cooked. So is a thermometer that is under your tongue considered like cooking? Rav Shteif says we know that the Issur of cooking is only on fire. The Gemara says that if one cooks in the sun there is no Issur of cooking. It would even be permitted to cook on metal that was heated by the sun. It however would be Assur Midarabanan. If cooking by the sun is Muttar, what would be by cooking the mercury in the thermometer by the heat of the body? Is this included in the Issur of Loi Sivaru Aish? At first glance, it is not fire and therefore should not be included. Interestingly, he brings a Shelah Hakadoish who says that Loi Sivaru Aish is an Issur on anger in a person's house. That if a person gets himself aggravated and allows himself to become angry because of the aggravation or because of the frustration, he is Oiver on Loi Sivaru Aish Bechol Moishvoisaichem. The type of heat which is in a person's house is human anger. So Rav Shteif says if a person's anger which is the body heat is something which is included in Loi Sivaru, maybe it should be Assur in the heating in the mercury of the thermometer as well. As a matter of

Halacha, he doesn't remain with this; however, it is interesting that the Shela says that if someone brings anger into his house on Shabbos that he is Oiver on Loi Sivaru Aish. The extension of Rav Yonason Shteif is rather fascinating to find in a Halacha Sefer.

Agav regarding what level of heat to metal is Assur is actually a Machloikes between the Chazoin Ish and Rav Moshe which is Nogea L'halacha. The Chazoin Ish says anytime you heat metal to Yad Soiledes Boi there is a Bishul and Rav Moshe holds that heating metal to Yad Soiledes doesn't change the metal, it has to come to a glow. A Nafka Mina would be if a person forgot to put on his Blech before Shabbos. Or if someone would put an empty pot on the Blech in order to warm things on the pot. According to Rav Moshe this is Muttar because the pot doesn't come to a glow, however, according to the Chazoin Ish it is Assur because the pot will become Yad Soiledes Boi. Rav Pam said that since it is a Shaila of a D'oiraisa one should be Machmir, however, most people are Maikil.

Parshas Pekudai is Moshe Rabbeinu's accounting of the gold, silver, and copper that he took in and where it was used. The idea of a person showing that he is honest to other people is something that is mentioned regarding Moshe Rabbeinu's accounting here.

The Medrash Rabbah in Parshas Pekudai writes, that Moshe Rabbeinu said when the Mishkan was finished being constructed I should have a full accounting so that people shouldn't say that Moshe Rabbeinu became wealthy from this. Moshe Rabbeinu had actually become wealthy from the etching of the Luchois. So Moshe Rabbeinu didn't want people to suspect him so he made this Cheshbon.

Rav Pam in one of the Schmuzzin which is printed in Atara L'melech page 76-77 talks about this idea. Should a person care about what other people say? If a person is being honest and is doing things straight and there are people who want to be Choished him, is it important that he be a Naki B'Hashem Uvi'Yisrael. Some people might take a stand in Hashkafa that it is not important because it is the other person's problem. Here we learn that it is not that way. A person must do what he can to show that he is a Naki Mai'Hashem Umi'Yisrael to be able to show that he is clearly honest in the eyes of other people.

Rav Pam brings a Chasam Soifer in Cheilek 6 Teshuva 59. He writes to a Talmid that he is failing in V'hiyisem Li Nekiyim Mai'Hashem Umi'Yisrael and that he must be more careful. Then he writes that it easier to be a Tzaddik in the eyes of Shamayim than to be a Tzaddik in the eyes of people. It is far more important to avoid a potential Chillul Hashem and to be a Naki B'yisrael as well. He writes that for that all should be worried. It is interesting that the Chasam Soifer says over the Posuk that everybody in the world has to sin sometime and maybe Shlomo Hamelech meant that regarding V'hiyisem Li Nekiyim. It is a Pele because I would think that the Posuk means that it is impossible to avoid sin all the time, however, the Chasam Soifer must of held that it is possible to avoid sin all the time from the standpoint of Shamayim, however, it is in the eyes of people that it is most challenging to avoid sin all the time. He writes that this is the reason that Gad and Reuvein went to Galus first, because when they asked for land Mai'eiver Hayarden, they failed in this area of V'hiyisem Li Nekiyim and that was the Aveira that caused them to go to Galus first.

Rav Pam ends this piece with a story of a man who was Chayuv a Shevua (oath) in Beis Din. After he swore he paid anyways. The question was if he was paying anyways why did he swear? The person said I want to pay Lifnei Mishuras Hadin. I want to pay you because you think that I am a Ganuf. Had I paid and not swore you would have said, look he really is a Ganuf. Therefore, I swore and I will pay Lifnei Mishuras Hadin because of Vihiyisem Li Nekiyim Mai'Hashem Umi'Yisrael. This is an important Hanhaga that we can learn from Parshas Pekudai.

If you pay attention to the Pesukim you see that Moshe Rabbeinu only gives an accounting of the silver and the copper. Why didn't he give an accounting of the gold as well? The Divrei Yoel says that in general, generous people don't accuse other people of being Ganavim, it is the stingy people that do. People who chose to give the gold were generous people and Moshe Rabbeinu wasn't afraid of being accused by them. He gave a Cheshbon of only the silver and the copper.

What is troubling with this is that the first Rashi on Parshas Pekudai says that the accounting is for everything including the gold and we don't find that in the Parsha.

Rabbi Reisman - Parshas Vayakheil-Pekudei 5769

When the Torah lists the things that were made in Parshas Pekudei, in 39:36, one of the things that are listed is the (אֶת-הַשְּׁלֶחֶן, אֶת-כָּל-כְּלֵי, וְאֵת, לֶחֶם הַפָּנִים). Why are the (לֶחֶם הַפָּנִים) listed here, they were no different than any Korban?

The Mishkan was built by the 25th day of Kisleiv and did not start functioning until Rosh Chodesh Nissan, so any (לֶחֶם הַפָּנִים) that were baked at that point would have been old and most probably Posul by the time Rosh Chodesh Nissan came around. So the inclusion of the Lechem Hapanim at this point seems to be very strange. It does mention Shemen by the Menorah and Ketoires by the Mizbaiach Haketoires, however, that is not shver, as we know from Chanukah that Oil was prepared in advance and we know from the Korbanois that the Ketoires was made once a year. Even though Rebbi didn't provide a Teretz to this Kasha, he offered an interesting idea. We learn the Lamed Tes Melachois out of the Mishkan. There is a Machloikes Rashi and the Bahag what that means. Rashi says we only learn the Melachois that were done in the building of the Mishkan. The Bahag as brought by Toisafos says, that we learn from the functioning of the Mishkan as well. One of the Kashas on Rashi is the fact that the Mishnah counts Oifeh (baking) as one of the Melachois, however, baking was not needed in the construction of the Mishkan. Rashi seems to answer that by saying they cooked the Sam Hamanim (dye) that they used to dye the wool. However, this is not satisfying, as the Mishnah should list Bishul (cooking) and not Oifeh (baking), as the dye was cooked. If there would be an answer that would state that the Lechem Hapanim is part of the Binyan Hamishkan, then we would be able to answer the Shittah of Rashi that we learn the Lamed Tes Melachois from the Binyan Hamishkan and despite that fact, the Mishnah counts Oifeh.

We know that Betzalel was instructed by Moshe Rabbeinu to first build the Keilim and then build the Oihel Moed, the building that the Keilim would be housed. Betzalel argued that the housing of the Keilim should be built first. Betzalel did as he thought fit, and Moshe was amazed. In 40:2 it says (וְשִׁמְתָּ שָׁם, אֶת אֲרוֹן הָעֵדוּת). Then (אֶת-מִשְׁכַּן אֱהֵל מוֹעֵד). Meaning the building was built first.

Then the Keilim were placed inside. By the Chatzeir in Posuk Vav we find (וַנִּתְּתָהּ, אֵת מִזְבַּח הָעֹלֶה,) , לְפָנָי, פֶּתַח מִשְׁכַּן אֹהֶל-מוֹעֵד ז וַנִּתְּתָהּ, אֵת-הַכִּיָּר, בֵּין-אֹהֶל מוֹעֵד, וּבֵין הַמִּזְבֵּחַ; וַנִּתְּתָהּ שָׁם, מִיָּמִים ח וְשִׁמְתָה אֶת-הַחֹצֵר, סָבִיב; (וַנִּתְּתָהּ, אֵת-מִסְכֵּה שְׁעַר הַחֹצֵר), that the Mitzbach HaOilah and the Kiyar are placed, and then the Chatzeir is put up as an enclosure around them as is found in Posuk Cheis. Why is the Chatzeir different in that the Keilim were placed first while the Chatzeir was made after? If Betzalel finished the construction of the Mishkan on Chaf Hei Kislev where was everything until now? He must have stored everything until Rosh Chodesh Nissan, so who cares what was built first?

In Parshas Vayakheil, the Posuk discusses donations to the Mishkan, in 35:22. The Posuk says, (וַיָּבֹאוּ הָאָנָשִׁים, עַל-הַנָּשִׁים), The bottom line is, the men and women came together. Why is this significant for the Torah to mention it? Why didn't the husbands just bring those donations?

The Ragechavah has a vort why we perform Kiddushin with a ring. Kiddushin can be performed with any Shavah Kesef, yet our Minhag is to always perform it with a ring. Why? We have a principle that Ma Shekana Isha Kana Ba'alah. There is an exception to that rule noted by the Rambam, who says that a woman's clothing is exempt from this rule. In addition, her clothing does not fall into the category of Nichsei Milug. In the time of the Gemara when the time between Kiddushin and Nisuin would be a year apart, you could give her anything that is Shavah Kesef as the husband has no rights to it until Nisuin. However, in our times, where Kiddushin and Nisuin are performed instantaneously, if the husband gave money, he would retain the rights to use it. Therefore, we Davka give a Tachshit that the husband has no rights to use. So in our Posuk, the men came to donate Tachshitin that belonged to the women because men didn't have gold and silver. So the men had to bring their wives with them in order for them to give permission to donate it. The Posuk says they brought jewelry, so it fits good.

By the Maaseh HaEigel the women were not interested in donating their jewelry. How did the husbands get jewelry to donate? They took it against the woman's will. They stole it. So it really was an Aveira Goireres Aveira. So now by the Mishkan, the husbands no longer had Ne'emanus, so they brought their wives who agreed to the donation of their jewelry.

In the Mah Nishtanah, it is brought B'sheim the GRA that Halaila Hazeh seems improper, as we know that any word that ends in a Komeitz Hei is Lashoin Nekaiva. So it should be Halaila Hazois to make it that both words are Lashoin Nekaiva? The GRA explains, that by the night of Pesach it was Yom and it only appeared to be night. Night symbolizes Tzarois and difficulty. The night of Pesach is like day because it is a wonderful and bright period. So we say Halaila Hazeh in the Lashon Zachor which is a Lashoin of Yom. The Torah Temimah brings this Vort and he is tremendously upset over it, he says it is not Emes and the Kasha does not begin. The word Laila is an exception to the rule, it is always Lashoin Zachor. We just had in the Megillah, Balaila Hahu Nadida Shnas Hamelech. We have Laila Hahu Yotzah Mimitzrayim. Hahu is Lashon Zachor not Lashon Nekaivah. Obviously, Laila is Lashon Zachor. Ai, it says Mikol "Haleilois" in the Mah Nishtaneh ehich is a Lashoin Nekaivah? We find the word B'chor which is Lashon Zachor, and we call it Makos "B'choirois". So there are exceptions to the rule. The Torah Temimah still maintains that the Kasha does not begin and that Laila is Lashon Zachor and there is no Shaila on the Mah Nishtaneh. The same exact Vort is brought B'sheim the Shla Hakadoish. He says that 2 mistakes should come up is a very strange thing. 1) Laila Hazeh instead of Laila Hazois and 2) Laila K'Yoim Yair. Rabbi suggested an answer, that Laila symbolizes Tzarois. Really it should be Lashoin

Nekaivah, however, when darkness is secretly very good then it is Lashoin Zachor. Then it is Laila K'yoim Yair. The truth is, every Laila is that way. Laila in Tanach typically doesn't mean nighttime it means a period of difficulty a time of Tzarah. In Tehillim it is certainly that way. All Lailois appear B'Lashoin Zachor. Balaila Hahu Nadida Shnas Hamelech, it looks like a difficult time for Klal Yisroel, however, the Yeshua was beginning. Any difficult time a person goes through, the secret is Laila Kayoim Yair. It is not a difficult time it is a wonderful time, it's just that we don't see it. Therefore, the GRA and Shla who's Vort is primarily aimed at the Megillah is applicable everywhere.