



RAV AVRAHAM CHAIM TANZER SPEAKS
PINCHAS



“To share, to care. To make the world a better place....”

Parsha favorites of **Moreinu HaRav Avraham Chaim Tanzer zt'l**. Including his uplifting and edifying teachings. Ideas and values with which he raised and educated 4 generations, including lessons gleaned from his great character. Compiled and elucidated by Rav Dov Tanzer *le'iluy nishmas* Abba Mari hk'm.

Please share at your table as an *Aliyas Neshama*

THOSE RARE MOMENTS, DAILY

את הכֹּבֵשׁ אֶחָד תַּעֲשֶׂה בַבֹּקֶר וְאֶת הַכֹּבֵשׁ הַשֵּׁנִי תַעֲשֶׂה בֵּין
הָעֶרְבָיִם

*The one lamb you shall make in the morning and
the second lamb in the afternoon (28, 4)*

The Medrash (Ein Yaakov in his preface), records a debate amongst the Sages: Which Pasuk in the Torah is the 'Kollel' – the single verse which encapsulates the entire Torah. Ben Zoma said: *Shema Yisrael*, whilst Ben Nanas opined ' *Ve'ahavta lerei'acha kamocho*'. Shimon ben Pazi rejected both opinions. In his view the Pasuk which states 'the one lamb you shall offer in the morning, and the other in the afternoon', is the 'Kollel' verse which incorporates in it the entire Torah.

Abba zt'l used to wonder: We can certainly understand that *Shema Yisrael* could be the Pasuk that lies at the essence of Torah; we could also accept the *Ve'ahavta lerei'acha kamocho* could gain that standing. Why, however, would any Sage think that the seeming prosaic verse: '*Es Hakeves echad ta'aseh Vaboker...*' could possibly represent the totality of Torah?!

He would enjoy answering, that sure all will respond to the clarion call of 'Shema Yisrael' – for which millions gave their lives, and with which so many went to gas chamber at the cruel of the Nazis (*Yemach shemam*). Everyone of us would all be roused to a '*Ve'ahavta*' moment. We all know which way is North, and what the truth is.

Mostly, however, we don't fail because of lack of knowledge of the facts. We don't come up short because of lack of inspired ideals and high-sounding values. Where most of us fail, is in the third Pasuk: One offering in the morning and one in the afternoon – every morning. Every afternoon.



To show up regularly. To get there early. To put in the practice and the service. Even when there seem to be more exciting things calling your attention. Even, Dad would say, when it don't seem to be getting anywhere. Stick with it over the days, weeks and years.

This then is the Chiddush of Ben Pazi: It's not sufficient to have the right inspiration and sentiments – as crucial as they are. The real 'binder' of Torah and Mitzvos must be Service – practical, regular and defined.



Many people get to Shul for *Kol Nidre* – and that is of great value, to be sure. The greater inspiration however, lies in getting to Minyan three times daily. Investing your every day and moment with Torah and Mitzvos – not just the high moments.

In this world, you need to be able to apply your values in small and incremental steps. You need some coins in your pocket as well. You can't just have diamonds in your pockets, because you

can't do the grocery with a diamond – precisely because of its great worth.



Dad used to answer, tongue-in-cheek, when asked about his tremendous accomplishments, and of being one of the few Rabbanim who remain at their same post over 6 Decades: 'Nothing special. I guess I just stuck it out. I just kept showing up'. Truthfully there is more than Dad's traditional self-deprecation and humour in his responses: They talk of his belief that Torah Greatness is measured essentially by this ability to 'show up' and to keep performing under almost all weather and life conditions. 'People never know how bad you feel', he answered a Rav who asked if he should remain in bed because he 'wasn't feeling well'; they will think you don't take them seriously.



עלת תמיד העשֶׂיהָ בְּהַר סִינַי לְרִיחַ נִיחַח אֲשֶׁה לַד'

A daily offering, which had been offered upon Har Sinai, as a satisfying aroma, a fire offering to Hashem (28, 6)

This Pasuk raises the bar, and tweaks the challenge somewhat. In speaking of the Daily *Olah* sacrifice, the Torah adds two significant points on the GPS. The first point is that it's really not sufficient to just show up each day, as an act of drudgery or boredom. Rather the very idea of the Daily Offering requires that each day over the course of a career and a lifetime, you show up inspired – offering your routine, almost mundane offering as an offering that 'had been offered on Sinai'; implying that it must in some way reflect that most High and most Holy moment in Jewish and World History.



Bearing in mind that momentous event, has the potential to raise you up from acting in a boring mundane plain manner. It raises you to the realisation that you might be achieving something epic and historic, even though it seems like just another day at the coal face.



Be there – indeed, but more importantly, be inspired! Know the value of your choices, your contributions. Don't lose sight of them. Don't 'shrink the children' – was a favourite line of Dad for many years. It's possible to get so busy with the stresses of life, and the pressures, that threaten to destabilise and overwhelm us, that in our haste, in our shortness of breath and shortness of vision, we tragically 'shrink the children' – the people we value most, love most, and most wish to build up...



Our Pasuk adds another layer: '*Rei'ach Nicho'ach LaHashem*'. Dad used to say: Don't just celebrate the high moments, the obvious times of joy and success and gift; find inspiration in your every day – in appreciating the 'space' of your life, savouring the blessings of your personal world. Appreciating the ability and the nobility of serving each day, and of contributing each day.

The secret of the Daily Offering, is that we need to reflect upon our own lives, and discover the more real and the greater value of the things that we do. Then we can attend to them with more holy zeal and enthusiasm. We can connect the dots, to what Moshe Rabbenu offered at Sinai, and to the notion that our Daily Service can indeed become and inspired source of Satisfaction to Hashem, as the Service of the Kohen Gadol in the Holy of Holies.

