

# Craving Mitzvos

Our Sages tell us that Hashem wants our heart. Purity of intention and proper feelings in our Avodas Hashem are not merely an added bonus. These emotions are a critical component in our fulfillment of Mitzvos, and at times, determine the value of our actions. Therefore, it is integral that we not only work on performing the actions of the Mitzvos properly, but that we also invest time and effort into developing our attitudes and feelings.

In this week's Parsha, Rabbeinu Bachya (27:20) shares with us a Medrash Tanchumah that can have a powerful impact on our emotions, specifically in regards to our value and appreciation for Mitzvos. The Medrash Tanchumah quotes a Pasuk in Iyov (14:15) that says that Hashem craves our Mitzvos. It is with this Pasuk that he explains the purpose in Hashem commanding Klal Yisroel to do many actions in the Mishkon that seem unnecessary. The Medrash states, "You bear the entire world..and you command the children of Kehos to carry the Aron on their shoulders! You provide sustenance to the entire world, and you command Klal Yisroel to bring you a Korban of bread! You provide light for the whole world, and you command the Klal Yisroel to kindle a light constantly in the Mishkon!

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*"Purity of intention and proper feelings in our Avodas Hashem are a critical component in our fulfillment of Mitzvos."*

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Therefore it says I crave their actions, meaning I don't need their light as I provide light for the whole world. Rather the purpose is to elevate and merit them."

This Medrash can help us expand our perspective on Hashem's view on Mitzvos. It is not just that Hashem wants us to elevate ourselves so that He can do kindness. It seems from the Pasuk In Iyov, that a more intense feeling than a want is being expressed. The Pasuk's intent is for us to relate to Hashem's feeling towards our Mitzvos as a craving, and a passion. This idea can really enhance our value of Mitzvos, as we see how valuable they are to Hashem.

We can glean a similar idea from the end of the Rabbeinu Bachya. He continues quoting from the Medrash Tanchumah, "Rebbi Meir says; Hashem said Aharon's candles that he lights are more dear to me than the light in the heavens. This is because when the leader of the other Shevatim brought Korbonos at the dedication of the Altar, Aharon was pained at the lack of ability to partake in this, as Shevet Levi was not assigned to this service. Hashem said, 'All the Shevatim brought Korbonos for one dedication, you will make a dedication for yourself.' This is what the Pasuk in Tehillim (10:17) means when it says, 'Hashem hears the desires of the humble.'"

From this Medrash we can derive a further insight into the value of our feelings to Hashem. Hashem said that Aharon's candles were more precious to him than the sun, moon and stars. If we think about the accomplishments of the celestial lights, the many hours of learning and Mitzvos that were enabled by their lights, we would think that Aharon's lights would not trump their dearness to Hashem. Yet to Hashem the expression of a feeling of pain that I can't partake in a Mitzvah, even when I am privileged to have so many other Mitzvos, surpasses such great accomplishments. This craving for Mitzvos is so cherished by Hashem that He says it's more dear to Him than the lights in heaven. This idea can serve to motivate us to further develop our value and appreciation towards Mitzvos, as those feeling are so dear to Hashem.

BASED ON THE WEEKLY SHMUESS GIVEN BY HARAV SHAYA COHEN, ROSH HAYESHIVA ZICHRON ARYEH

לעילוי נשמת גיטל בת הרב אליעזר מנוח  
לעילוי נשמת הרב יוסף חיים בן מאיר  
לרפואה שלמה רפאל חיים דוב בן ריסא שושנה