



Terumah 5776

February 12, 2016

A Taste of Torah

Personal Sanctuary

By Rabbi Shmuel Halpern

Imagine that a team of expert architects puts together a master plan for a building. You, as the general contractor, decide to leave out some of the details, as they seem superfluous to you. What you don't realize is that not all of the construction plans are here for structural purposes. Rather, the homeowner was trying to replicate his ancestral home, and, to that end, wanted to incorporate all these details in his home.

In this week's parsha, we find myriad details in the construction of the Mishkan (Tabernacle) and its utensils. One may think that all these details are for structural purposes. For example, when the Torah calls for fifty hooks to connect the curtains of the Mishkan, one may decide that forty-nine hooks would also do the trick. The Netziv (Rabbi Naftali Tzvi Yehuda Berlin; 1816-1893) points out that the details of the Mishkan have an entirely different purpose. As the Midrash Tanchuma in Parshas Pekudei explains, the Mishkan is a microcosm of the world. Just as Hashem is present in the created world, so, too, His presence would rest amongst the Jews through the Mishkan.

An additional source for this idea is brought in the name of the Vilna Gaon (Rabbi Eliyahu Kramer of Vilna; 1720-1797). The universe that was brought into existence by G-d, says the Vilna Gaon, required thirty-nine forms of labor, and it was these very same forms of labor that

were used to build the Mishkan.

The Netziv goes on to explain that Hashem commanded the Jewish People (Terumah 25:8), "And they shall make a Sanctuary for Me, so that I may dwell among them." The Jewish People, explains the Netziv, were commanded to build a Mishkan whose parts and details would parallel every aspect of the entire universe, thereby strengthening Hashem's presence amongst the Jewish People.

Perhaps we can explain that the construction of the Mishkan teaches the Jewish People, for all time, the correct path to serving Hashem and strengthening His presence in our world. This is accomplished by showing how every aspect of the world can be used to serve Hashem. The service of Hashem isn't confined to the synagogue or study hall; rather, it permeates every aspect of our existence. In the Mishkan, every facet of creation was represented in the service of Hashem. In our daily lives, as well, we should strive to incorporate Hashem in each and every aspect, be it our business dealings, family life, or recreation. The Nefesh Hachaim (Sha'ar 1, Ch. 4) explains that man has the entirety of Creation incorporated within himself. It turns out that when a person fills his life with G-dliness, he is building a personal Mishkan, as he brings the Divine into every aspect of existence.

Stories For The Soul

What Are You Doing?

The story is told of an unannounced visit by President John F. Kennedy to the space center at Cape Canaveral in the mid 1960s. Kennedy toured the complex and met a man working diligently. "What do you do here?" asked President Kennedy. The man replied, "I'm earning a living."

Kennedy nodded and moved on. He met another man and asked him the same question. "I work on the booster rockets for the space shuttle," the fellow said.

Kennedy smiled and strode on until he met another man sweeping the halls and posed the same question again. This time, a big smile came across the face of the man, and he replied, "Mr. President, I'm helping to put a man on the moon!"

In this week's parsha, Hashem commands the Jewish People to build Him a sanctuary where His *Shechina* (Divine Presence) would reside. The entire nation responded, not just each person doing his or her part, but united in the recognition that each person was needed to construct the edifice that would allow G-d to reside among them.

Kollel Happenings

KOLLEL'S 18TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION MARCH 15TH

The Denver Community Kollel will hold its 18th Anniversary Celebration on Tuesday, March 15th at 6:30 pm at Aish Denver. Kollel founders Rabbi Myer J. and Mrs. Bruria Schwab will be the guests of honor. The Kollel will recognize the 18 current and past Kollel families who reside in Denver. To reserve or place and ad, visit www.denverkollel.org, email journal@denverkollel.org, or call 303-820-2855.

FULL DISCLOSURE VS. BUYER BEWARE AT NEXT TORAH FOR TYCOONS

Join Brad Licht, Managing Broker, Licht Realty Company and Rabbi Aron Yehuda Schwab, Dean, Denver Community Kollel, as they reveal how much one must reveal in a deal. March 2, 12-1:15 p.m. at the East Side Kosher Deli. Cost: \$25. RSVP info@denverkollel.org.

RAV SCHWAB ON CHUMASH AVAILABLE FROM KOLLEL

The Denver Community Kollel is pleased to offer *Rav Schwab on Chumash*, a seminal collection of Rabbi Shimon Schwab's insights on the weekly parsha, for sale.

The book is available through the Kollel at a special discount rate of \$24.

To order, call 303-820-2855, email info@denverkollel.org, or go to www.denverkollel.org.

Increase Your Jewish IQ

By Rabbi Yaakov Zions

Last week we asked: Is it possible to have a complete Jewish calendar year without any Shabbos coinciding with Yom Tov, Rosh Hashana or Yom Kippur?

A: Yes. In Eretz Yisroel (where Yom Tov is only observed for one day) it is far more common; this phenomenon will occur in 5777, 5780, 5783, 5786,

5790, 5793, and 5797. In the Diaspora it will occur in 5777 and then only again in 5797.

This week's question: Can you think of a custom that is universally accepted, but is based on another custom which is not universal?

To submit an answer to Rabbi Zions, email ryz@denverkollel.org.

Lives of Our Torah Leaders

Rabbeinu Tam, Part IV

Rabbeinu Tam's tremendous scholarship, wealth and influence with the Gentile nobility made him the foremost leader of French Jewry during the upheavals following the destruction wrought by the Crusades. He firmly led the Jewish communities through difficult times, issuing rulings for thorny questions regarding commerce in a hostile environment, issues of those who had converted to Christianity under duress, and marriage, among others. He sought to abolish customs that he felt were without basis, while strengthening those that he saw as halachically proper and true.

Rabbeinu Tam wrote a work named *Sefer Hayashar*, a halachic work, which is still extant today, though its text is not always accurate and is missing parts. He also authored many responsa. Rabbeinu Tam authored *piyutim* (liturgical pieces) as well as poetry. His many students went on to become scholars and leaders in their own right, including a number of *Ba'alei Tosafos* and authors of other classic halachic and Talmudic works.

In 1146, during the Second Crusade, a mob captured Rabbeinu Tam and were about to murder him. Just

then, a noble who was friendly with Rabbeinu Tam passed by, and told the mob to hand their victim over to him. The noble assured them that he would convince Rabbeinu Tam to convert to Christianity; if not, he told them, he would return him to them to finish their work.

Upon leaving the scene with Rabbeinu Tam, the noble released him. Following this near-death experience, Rabbeinu Tam left his hometown of Ramerupt and relocated to his grandfather Rashi's city of Troyes.

Rabbeinu Tam passed away in 1171, and he was buried in Ramerupt. He, his brothers the Rashbam and Rivam, and many other *Ba'alei Tosafos* are buried in the same cemetery, and the cemetery can be visited even today.

Rabbeinu Tam's leadership allowed the Jewish communities of France to continue despite the persecutions they endured. By the time he passed away, however, French Jewry was in decline, decimated by the Crusades and the resultant Gentile enmity that arrived in their wake, although many of the great *Ba'alei Tosafos* continued on in France for many years thereafter.

The Torah Weekly is made possible through a generous grant from the Harry H. Beren Foundation of Lakewood, NJ, in memory of Harry H. Beren, z"l.

Denver Community Kollel: 1516 Xavier Street, Denver, CO 80204 Tel: 303-820-2855 Fax: 303-820-2806

Email: info@denverkollel.org Web: www.denverkollel.org

To receive Torah Weekly by email, send an email to torah-subscribe@denverkollel.org