Bais Yaacov Bnos Malka Newsletter

לעילוי נשמת יצחק עקיבא בן אהרן ז"ל

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Parshas Teruma

פרשת תרומה אדר תשפ"ד



The Mishkan Serves the Aron

In *Parshas Teruma*, the Torah discusses the building of the *Mishkan*. What was the main function of the *Mishkan*? The Ramban explains that the main purpose of the *Mishkan* was to be a home for the *hashra'as haShechina*, a place for the divine glory to rest. *Am Yisroel* is a holy nation, and they therefore deserve to have a *Mishkan* in which the *Shechina* will rest among them.

The Ramban explains further that the *Mishkan* was supposed to be, in a sense, a continuation of *ma'amad Har Sinai*. At *Har Sinai*, there was a *hashra'as haShechina begaluy*, in a public way; that *hashra'as ha'shechina* would continue in the *Mishkan* in a hidden way. Thus, the Ramban explains, the main *kli* in the *Mishkan* is the *aron*, because that is where the *Shechina* rested. The Ramban notes that there are many *pesukim* relating to the construction of the *Mishkan* whose language parallels the *pesukim* that describe *Matan Torah*. This supports the idea that the *Mishkan* was supposed to serve as a continuation of the *hashra'as haShechina* of *Matan Torah*.

Rav Yaakov Kaminetsky *ztz"l* writes that the Ramban's explanation clarifies the meaning of a difficult *midrash*. The Torah introduces the command to build the *aron* with the word, "ועשור," "and they shall make" (*Shemos* 25:10) – in plural. The other *keilim*, in contrast, are introduced with the word, "ועשיר," "and you shall make" (25:23, 31) – in singular. Why? *Chazal* explain that the *menora* represents the *kohanim*, since they prepare the *neros* of the *menora* for lighting, and the *shulchan* represents the *melachim*, kings, as the *shulchan* symbolizes wealth. The *aron*, in contrast, has a broader symbolism; it symbolizes the Torah, and all Jews should have a connection with the Torah. This explains why the plural is used by the *aron* – the *aron* and its contents relate to everyone.

In discussing the plural form of the word "ועשו," the *midrash* writes: "יבאו הכל ויעסקו בארון," "Everyone should come and be involved in the building of the *aron*." In order to symbolize that everyone can and should learn Torah, all the Jews were involved in the actual building of the *aron*. The *meforshim* struggle with the *pshat* of this *midrash*. How is it possible that two million Jews would be involved in building the *aron*? It is hard to picture the reality that the *midrash* describes.

Based on the Ramban, Rav Yaakov suggests that although not every Jew was involved in building the *aron* directly, every Jew was involved in building the *Mishkan*, either through the actual construction or through their contributions. As the Ramban explains, the main purpose of the *Mishkan* was to be the home for the *Shechina*, and the specific place for the *Shechina* was over the *aron*. It follows that the entire *Mishkan* serves the *aron*. The purpose of the *Mishkan* was to create an environment with a certain level of *kedusha* to house the *aron* so that the *Shechina* would rest there. Had the *aron* been placed in the street, the *Shechina* would not have been there. The *aron* needs the *Mishkan* and the *Mishkan* serves the *aron*. Thus, any Jew who was involved in helping to construct the *Mishkan* is viewed as if he was involved in building the *aron*. In this way, all Jews were *zocheh* to Torah. This may be the intent of the *midrash*.

This is a major *yesod* in Torah *hashkafa*. In many areas of life, there is a "*Mishkan*" and an "*aron*." Anyone who is involved in building the "*Mishkan*" gets partial credit for building the "*aron*" as well. Similarly, the "*aron*" of a school are the educators- those responsible for the classes and the learning that goes on. However, every school requires a "*Mishkan*" in order for it to function and succeed. The "*Mishkan*" of a school includes the secretary, who makes sure that everything gets done when, how, and where it is supposed to. And, of course, the "*Mishkan*" includes financial office, who attends to the money of the school- and every school needs money to function and flourish. It also includes the cleaners! Just like whoever contributed to the *Mishkan* gets credit as if he helped build the *aron*, whoever gives money to a Torah institution gets credit for the Torah learned in that institution. How much credit? *Hashem* knows exactly how much credit each particular contributor deserves.

This is a major *yesod* in life. Every person has to find his *tafkid* and evaluate whether he can and should be the "*aron*" or the "*Mishkan*" (or sometimes both). *Am Yisroel* needs people to fulfill both roles, and whoever helps to build the "*Mishkan*" receives credit for the "*aron*" as well.

Have a wonderful and peaceful Shabbos!

Chana Ginsburg

This Dvar Torah has been adapted from the seforim of Rabbi Beinish Ginsburg

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