



אמרי בנימן

דברי תורה, מחשבה וסיפורים מאת צדו של
הגאון רב בנימן קמנצקי זצ"ל

*A Dvar Torah from the writings of Rav Binyamin Kamenetzky zt"l,
transcribed by his grandson, Rabbi Shmuel Kamenetzky*

5780 - Parshas Tzav - Thinking Cap

Parshas Tzav further discuss the laws of korbanos. The parsha opens with the halachos of the korban olah - a korban which is completely consumed by the fire of the mizbeach. The passuk uses the term "Tzav - Command" to tell Moshe to command Aharon in the laws of this particular korban.

Rashi explains that the word "tzav" is apropos over here, as "much care is needed regarding something which has a "chisaron kis - a loss of money."

The word "kis" literally means "wallet" and the phrase "chisaron kis" is loosely translated as "a monetary loss." The commentaries offer various explanations why exactly the korban olah contains a possible monetary loss, but is there perhaps a deeper meaning?

The Klausenberger Rebbe, Rav Yekusiel Yehuda Halberstam, was known besides for his greatness in Torah, but for his loving heart which touched every Jew he met. After losing his wife and eleven children in the Holocaust, he arrived in Williamsburg and rebuilt his life, along with establishing a congregation of orphans and families longing for a community.

He would share the pain of so many Jews, and listen with heart as they renounced their religion and spoke angrily about G-d. He responded with a kind word, love and concern, and eventually turned these Jews into his loyal followers.

One freezing snowy day, he was driving down the street when he spotted a man walking with his head completely bare. "Stop!" he told the driver, as he pulled up next to the man. "Reb Yid," he called out, "You must be freezing! Please come in to my warm car! I'll take you where you need to go." The man agreed and got into the car.

"How did you know I was Jewish?" asked the man. "I wasn't wearing anything on my head!" The Rebbe smiled. "Only a Jew would walk outside in the freezing cold and make sure to have nothing on his head!"

My grandfather, Rav Binyamin Kamenetzky zt"l, quotes Rav Yitzchok Meir Alter zt"l, the first Rebbe of Gur, who explains in his Sefer Chidushei HaRim.

The korban olah atoned for "hirkurei aveira - thoughts of sin." Even if one did not actually commit the sin, but he thought about it and resolved to commit the act, he requires a korban olah to atone.

Now, the word "kis," besides meaning "money", or wallet," also means a "cover." Most organs in body have a cover. We have eyelids for our eyes, lobes for our ears, and lips which seal our mouths. They all protect that specific organ, and ensure that we are using them correctly.

The mind, however, has no cover. One who is not careful, can think many improper thoughts, without the ability to stop himself. One must train himself to think positive and spiritually-friendly thoughts, lest his mind turn automatically to sinful thoughts.

The Chidushei Harim explains, that since there is no "cover" for the mind, one is more prone to sin with improper thoughts, thereby requiring a korban olah to atone for him. Therefore, the Torah uses the expression - "Tzav - command," requiring more care for the sins of a "mind without a cap."

Good Shabbos!

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