

## Emor

The Torah portion of Parshas Emor contains according to the *Minyan Hamitzvos*,<sup>1</sup> 63 separate Mitzvos, (precepts). There are 24 *Mitzvos Asay*—positive precepts— and 39 *Mitzvos Lo Sasay*—negative precepts, Commandments not to do a certain act. Indeed, all Mitzvos are commandments either to perform or not to perform a particular action.

How do we create for ourselves, as thinking Jews, the atmosphere and the will to do as HKBH has ordained? If we carefully examine the language of Parshas Emor, we will find instructions on how to accomplish all mitzvos.

Among the *p'sukim* we come upon<sup>2</sup>—“And you shall keep My commandments and do them, I am the L-rd.” *Rashi* says<sup>3</sup> “*Ushmartem Zo Hamishna*,” this denotes study; “*Va'asisem zeh Hama'aseh*,” this denotes practice. But *Toras Kohanim* also says—*V'chol She'aino B'mishna Aino B'maaseh*—“One who is not up to learning and study cannot properly observe Mitzvos.” *Rabbeinu Hillel* on *Toras Kohanim* explains that *Zo Hamishna* means that one must learn all the Mitzvos in the Torah, and one who has not learned cannot know what is permissible and what is forbidden. *Rabbeinu Hillel* further states “Great is Torah study for such study brings one to practice.”<sup>4</sup>

It is always difficult for an individual to keep up with *Mitzvos Maasios*. Every day, every waking hour, the Torah discipline calls upon the Jewish people to do and act according to the rules of Halacha. In every walk of life, in every business transaction, in every social activity between individuals, there is a rule of Halacha. And this Halacha contains a very healthy respect and consideration for the sensitivities of human beings, indeed even taking into consideration their innermost feelings.

But how shall we master this tremendous amount of exacting rules and regulations? Only through learning and study. “*Gadol*

*Talmud Shehatalmud Mayvi Liday Maaseh*" is real, it's alive, but YOU, each and every individual of Klal Yisroel, has to manifest it by diligent study.

There is yet another *Rabbeinu Hillel* that says—"He who has not learned can NEVER distinguish what is permissible and what is forbidden, nor ever properly observe the Mitzvos."

#### FOOTNOTES

1. Sefer Ayleh Hamitzvos, by Maharam Hagiz
2. Vayikra 22:31
3. Quoting Toras Kohanim
4. Anaf Hillel cites the Talmudic reference: Baba Kama 17a; Kiddushin 40b