

Parshas Reeh- Two Drashos from Toras Chaim of Kossov

By Rabbi Eliyahu Kirsh

Forbidden is Impossible

In Devarim 12: 17 the Torah states that ‘you cannot eat in your gates the tithes of your grain wine and oil ,the first born of your sheep and cattle as well as your other offerings to Hashem’. Rather they are to be brought up to the place Hashem will choose and are to be eaten there. There are many things that are forbidden to be eaten based on this verse. This verse extends to meats from korbonos that are meant to be put on the altar and meats that are meant for eating but prohibited till the blood is sprinkled. Rashi quotes Chazal who state that it is physically possible but not permitted. The Toras Chaim of Kossov quotes this Rashi and adds that once something is forbidden, it should not even enter the mind as remote possibility that it could be done. Once Hashem said no it is no, even in terms of capability.

Watch Where You Bring Olos-Elevations

In Devarim 12:13 we read, ‘Be careful of bringing your olos, burnt offerings everywhere you see’. The Toras Chaim brings the verse in Bereishis 46:26 that Yosef was the distributor of food for the land of Mitzrayim. Besides the simplest meaning of the verse the allusion is to the fact that Yosef was separating the sparks of kedusha that had gone down to Mitzrayim and needed to be elevated. [This idea of going into exile to recapture sparks of kedusha sent there by wrongdoings is frequently found in Kabbalistic and Chassidic writings.] All of this began on Rosh Hashanah when Yosef was let out of prison on that day. Mitzrayim was the lowliest of nations in morality and sparks of kedusha caused by sins would descend there. All of the arguments in parshas Mikeitz between Yosef and his brothers were actually the sifting out of sparks of kedusha. The Toras Chaim then explains that this verse in Devarim stating to be careful of bringing olos everywhere we see is to tell us that we cannot aim to lift sparks of kedusha from everywhere we see. We can do this only in the place Hashem will choose because not every place is fit for this purpose. Similarly, Am Yisroel wanted to pass through Edom but the time was not right for this. Edom will only be elevated in the future as Chazal tell us that the lands keni, kniz and kadmoni [Bereishis]refer to Ammon Moav and Edom which are going to be part of EretzYisreol I the days of Moshiach . The only time it is appropriate to elevate a place is when we see a tzaddik is forced into a place against his will. Only Hashem decides where and when elevations such as these are appropriate.