

Understanding Motives

In this parasha[11:1], we encounter the Mit'o'nenim [the complainers]; who wanted to eat meat. They remembered all the food they ate in Mitzrayim and bemoaned the fact that they were lacking these same foods in the Midbar (Wilderness). "All we have is this Mahn" (11:6), they cried. They longed for the onions and garlic they had in Egypt, and Moshe heard the people crying to each other *bochim le'mish'pechotov*, concerning their families, at the opening of their tents. Chazal (our Sages) see a deeper meaning in these pesukim.

Rashi, citing the Sifrei states, they would gather in family groups out in the open to publicize their complaints to one another, thereby each one reinforcing the other. Furthermore, Chazal forbade sexual relationships that the Torah legislated for the Jewish nation; it was not about onions and garlic. This event occurred not long after having received the Torah, and the Torah prohibited many women from marriage—the relationships known as the "arayot" prohibitions. Their tears said "onions" but their desires were about "arayot"

Chazal, without having taken courses like psychology 101, descended to the depths of man's psyche, and are telling us something very profound about human nature, and how they function. Everyone has subconscious feelings and desires that perhaps even the person himself is not completely aware of. Something deeper goes on inside a person that is more than meets the eye. When people gather on their front doorsteps and cry together about onions, it's pretty certain they are crying about something else. When people go to psychiatrists and tell them their problems, he/she, will recognize that what the person is saying is NOT what he really means. A wise individual or a highly trained professional will detect what is really happening deep within a person's mind.

Once Moshe realized that the issues are far greater than gastronomical he realized that this was something he couldn't handle alone, so he beseeches HaShem for help. G-d tells him to appoint seventy men that are sensitive and compassionate (11:16) and then says, "I will increase some of the spirit that is upon you and place it upon them, and they shall bear the burden of the people with you".

We learn a great lesson in human relations from this Parasha. We are not a Moshe Rabbeinu, and none of us has the burden of caring for an entire nation. But we do have our share of responsibilities towards our children, family, and our social friendships. Quite often conflicts and disagreements arise and when trying to resolve the issues we must step back, pause, and realize that not always what they are "arguing about" is what is really bothering them. Things will only improve if we can get to the underlying issues. For example, a teenager, defying his parents, and stealthily goes for a cold glass of milk immediately after a meat-meal is showing a greater problem than a craving for milk.

Very often parents are unable to get to the bottom of the issue, so then we refer to the advice in Pirkei Avot, "Make yourself a Rav [Accept a teacher upon yourself] and acquire for yourself a Chaver" [a friend] (1:6), in other words, Get professional help! Moshe asked for help, so can we!

MY LECTURES THIS WEEK.

Shabbat, June 15, **PARASHA AND PEREK**, at Israel Center, 22 Keren HaYesod, J'lem,
5:00-6:00 PM

Tuesday, June 18- Halacha-“Proper way to Kasher a Knife”-11:30-12:15

Wednesday, June 19, **DAF YOMI** at Israel Center, 11;15-12:15

QUESTIONS FOR PARASHAT BEHA'ALOTECHA:

A-At what age were the alevi'im retired from Service?

B- In our Parasha, (9:7) the Pmen who were Tamei (spiritually impure) and could not fulfill the Mitzvah of Korban Pesach on the 14th of Nissan, complained to Moshe, saying, “Why should we be deprived of fulfilling such an important Mitzvah?”. Who else in the Torah used the identical expression about being deprived of a Mitzvah?

C-Which Pasuk in the Parasha can be found in our Siddurim pertaining to kriat HaTorah?

D- Where do find that “fowl” can be considered as “meat” and that fish do not require Shechita like animals and birds?

E- What 5 words did Moshe use to obtain a Refu'ah for his sister Miriam?

F –In Perek Yud Alef Passuk Alef (11:1) there is a large inverted letter Nun. Rashi explains that this is to indicate that the Torah wants to show as separation between two calamities that happened to our people at that time in the desert. One was a general complaint from the “Mit'o'nenim” which angered Gd, the other was is not so clearly stated. What was that second calamity all about??

KOL HA'KAVOD TO THOSE WHO ANSWERED LAST WEEK

***Yaakov Doerschuck-Kollel Agudath Achim-Bern, Switzerland// *Mordechai Ziegler-Elazar,Israel// Rabbi Levi VanLeeuwen-Elazar//*Rabbi Steven Mauner-KollelAA-Beit HaKerem//*Dr.Michael Rose-Kollel AA-Jerusalem//*Rabbi Charles Meisels-Far Rockaway,NY//*Pechman Family-Jerusalem//Libby Ziegler-Yerushalayim//*Dr. Joseph Taitelbaum-Statensland, NY//**