

Rabbi Aharon Ziegler - Parashat VaEtchanan- 2021, 5781 Shabbos Nachamu

The week began with Tisha B'Av, now B'H is a time of happiness. There are no catering halls available in all of Yerushalayim from now to end of Elul, for every one of them is booked for weddings. The fulfillment of the words of Yirmiyahu HaNavi [33:11] "ODE YISHAMA BE'AREI YEHUDAH KOL SASONE VEKOL SIMCHA KOL CHATAN VEKOL KALAH" have come to life. This idea is implanted in the very name of the month "AV", first half of word is an Aleph, standing for *arur*, [curse and sadness] but second half of word is a Bet, standing for *beracha* [blessing and happiness].

In this parsha we are commanded "Ve'Ahavta Et HaShem Elokecha", you shall love HaShem your G-d [6:5]. How does one fulfill this command? It sounds like a simple Mitzvah, but according to Chazal, saying or declaring or even wearing a T-shirt with "I Love HaShem" on it, will not suffice. The Gemara Yoma [86a] teaches us, "She'ye'hei Shamayim Mit'ahev Al Yadeicha", that the name of Heaven become beloved **through you**. How does one accomplish this? To which the Gemara suggests- "Our dealings with people should be conducted in a pleasant manner". That people who observe our mannerism should say "How pleasant are his ways, how refined are his deeds". Loving every Jew, Ahavat Yisrael is mandated, for HaShem loves every Jew, as we state in our Tefillah "Baruch Ata HaShem Ohev Amo Yisrael". If there would exist love in our hearts for every Jew there could not possibly be any "Sin'at Chinom" hatred and hostility amongst our people. After internalizing this, I wonder how many of us have fulfilled the Mitzvah of Ahavat HaShem. That's not easy, but it's our goal and mandate. Hopefully we will succeed in fulfilling this Mitzvah the way it should be.

But there is another way of fulfilling this Cardinal Mitzvah, noted in the Sefer HaChareidim. That is, by sharing with someone a great Dvar Torah. Now, by merely teaching someone a Dvar Torah we have fulfilled the Mitzvah of VESHINANTAM LEVANEICHA of teaching Torah. But by telling someone that same piece of Torah in a way that ignites the emotion of the listener, so that he not only adds to his knowledge of Torah, but his excitement and enthusiasm for Torah and Mitzvot has increased, then we have fulfilled an additional Mitzvah of VE'AHAVTA ET HASHEM., to love G-d with all your heart.

If you ever enjoy any of these Divrei Torah- so here is a wonderful opportunity to follow up with Ahavat HaShem.

Shabbat Shalom from Yerushalayim
Rabbi Aharon and Libby Ziegler