

Sefer Shemos

IN MEMORY OF R' SRULY MILLER A"H

GRANDSON OF RAV AVIGDOR MILLER ZT"L
DEDICATED BY HIS CHILDREN

פרשת תרומה

WITH

R' AVIGDOR MILLER ZT"L

BASED ON HIS BOOKS, TAPES & WRITINGS OF TALMIDIM

The Jew, A Sanctuary

Contents:

Part I. We're Holy - 1

Part II. He's Holy - 4

Part III. Gaining Holiness - 7

Part I. We're Holy

Many Mishkans

Everyone remembers the promise made by Hakodosh Boruch Hu to the Am Yisroel in this week's *sedrah*: וְעָשׂוּ לִי מִקְדָּשׁ – *And they should make for Me a mikdash*, וְשָׁכַנְתִּי בְּתוֹכָם – *and I'll dwell in their midst* (Terumah 25:8). Now, we don't really think too much when we read the *chumash* and so we gloss over these words without too much thought but actually it's an astonishing idea. That the *Shechina* – the One who created the entire universe from nothing and continues to maintain its existence – should come down and dwell in the

midst of the camp of the Am Yisroel? It's staggering!

But the truth is that what this *possuk* is telling us is even more astonishing than that! Because when Hashem said, "I will dwell among the sons of Yisroel," He meant much more than merely, "I'll move into the *Mishkan* and dwell there among you in the middle of the camp." Oh no! That's only the beginning; it's much more than that! *V'shochanti b'socham* means: "I'm going to dwell *b'soch kol echad v'echad* – inside each and every one of the Bnei Yisroel."

It means that besides for residing in the *Mishkan*, the Presence of the *Shechina* in the middle of the camp was a symbol of the *kedusha* that resides in each one of us.

Proof From an Authority

How do I know that? I have it on the authority of a certain person. When I tell you his name you might not think he's an authority worth quoting, but I think he's a very big authority. He was a very great Torah sage, a great genius and a tremendous thinker. And so why did I say you might not think he's worthy of quoting? Because it's none other than Korach! Korach was a very great man – he was everything that I said about him and much more and we should listen to his words carefully.

You remember when he was trying to convince Moshe Rabeinu of the righteousness of his position he made a statement as follows: כִּי כָל הָעֵדָה כֻּלָּם – *The entire congregation, every single one of them is holy*. וּבְתוֹכָם הָשֵׁם – *and in their midst is Hashem!*

EasyPrint edition sponsor:

Please contact us for sponsorship opportunities.

Now what was Korach telling Moshe, “Hashem is in their midst”? Did he mean that in the middle of their camp, there was a *Mishkan*?

That doesn't make sense! How would that help his argument? Korach was telling Moshe, “Why are you taking for yourself all the authority? You're taking all the good jobs – you are the leader, the *melech*, and Aharon your brother is the Kohen Gadol and us you leave out! We're also somebody!” So what would it help Korach's argument to say that “Hashem is in the *Mishkan*”? That's no argument to prove that he is worthy or somebody else is worthy just like Moshe and Aharon are.

A Holy Nation

But the answer is that Korach is talking here not about the *Mishkan*; he's talking about the people! וּבְתוֹכָם הַשֵּׁם – “In the midst of each one of us is Hashem.” That was the real argument of Korach: בְּלִמָּוֶת קְדוּשֵׁים – “We're all *kedoshim*, הַשֵּׁם – because the *kedusha* of Hashem is in every one of us! Not just you and Aharon! Every single *ben Yisroel* and *bas Yisroel* deserve the greatest of honor because the *Shechina* resides in all of us.

Now that's a concept that's very difficult even to talk about! It's difficult enough to talk about the *Shechina* dwelling in the *Mishkan* but that He dwells within us?! That *we* are holy because His holiness dwells within us?! It seems beyond our ability even to discuss. But that's exactly what happened to the *Am Yisroel* in the beginning of our history – we became not only the chosen nation but the *holy* nation.

Ancient Sacrifice

Everybody knows that from the beginning of time, Mankind always offered sacrifices. Adam brought *korbanos* – Kayin and Hevel and Noach too; it's written openly in the Torah that they brought offerings. When Mankind still had some *seichel* – before they were bamboozled by ignorant

writers and “philosophers” who belittled the offerings – everyone understood that bringing offerings was a form of expressing devotion to the Creator.

And yet we note that all of these offerings throughout the history of man were *olos*, burnt offerings; it means an animal was burnt in its entirety on the *mizbeiach* and the smoke carried heavenward the product of the combustion as if to feed, *k'viyachol*, Hakodosh Boruch Hu.

But never in history did it occur to anyone that a human being should eat from an offering. It would have been a sacrilege to even imagine such a thing! That someone should take what is dedicated for the table of the Creator and he should profane it by putting it into his mouth? It was out of the question!

A Revolutionary Idea

And then came the night of the *korban pesach* and a revolution occurred. On the night that Hashem took us out of Mitzrayim to be His nation the entire picture of history changed. What happened? We were commanded to eat from the *korban Pesach*. וְאָכְלוּ אֶת הַבֶּשֶׂר – *The bnei Yisroel must eat the flesh of the sacrifice* (Shemos 12:8).

But you shouldn't think it was just a *mitzvah* and finished – you have to understand what's doing here. You know that every offering requires that part of the entrails, part of the fats, be burnt on the *mizbeiach*. There's no such thing as a *korban* without that – what kind of sacrifice could it be if there's no burning up to Hashem? And yet in Mitzrayim, on the night of Pesach, we don't find that they did that – there was no *mizbeiach*! And that's a big puzzle. How can there be such a thing as a *korban pesach* if there was no place to burn the fats?

And the answer is this – it's quite astonishing so pay good attention. When they put the *korban* into their mouths, *that* was the *mizbeiach*. When a

Yisroel consumes a *korban* it's like the fire of the *mizbeach* is burning it! And that's the answer to how it could be such a thing now that never happened before, that a human being eats from a *korban*. Because a Yisroel is not a human being! He's much more than a human being! That's a very important lesson. At that time Hashem declared that the Jewish body is *kodesh kodoshim*. When they ate from the *korban Pesach*, that was the *mizbeach*, it was a fire of the Jewish spirit consuming the *korban Pesach* in their body.

Holy Bodies

Now, such a concept is extremely difficult even to talk about but there it is, black on white: We are commanded to put the *korban pesach* into our mouths and to chew it and swallow it because we are now a *mizbeach*. It's a remarkable thing! Just like the *mizbeach* is considered *kodesh kodoshim* the body of a Yisroel is no less holy.

But not only it's like the *mizbeach* – the Jewish body is *more holy* than the Beis Hamikdosh itself. Suppose *cholilah*, there is a fire on Shabbos in the Beis Hamikdosh, do you have the right to put out the fire to save the Beis Hamikdosh? No!

But suppose there is a Jewish child lying in a crib, a crippled child. *Rachmana litzlan*, a sick child who can't live much longer, and there is a fire on Shabbos that endangers his life, we would do everything to save his life. You can put out the fire, you can run to the drugstore, you can write a prescription, you can cook for him, you can do anything needed.

One Nation

So we see that a Jewish life is more holy than the whole Beis Hamikdash with its *mizbeach* and with all its appurtenances; with the *sifrei Torah*, and the *aron habris* and everything else – nothing is as *kadosh* as a Jewish body. As long as a Jew is alive and he has the *cheilek Eloka mima'al*, the

portion of Hashem, within him, there is nothing more holy. We are not just another nation; we are an entirely different entity in the world. The Jew parted company with the nations of the world and became an entirely different kind of existence.

מִי כַעֲמֹד יִשְׂרָאֵל גּוֹי אֶחָד בְּאָרֶץ – Who is like Your people Yisroel, one nation in the world – it doesn't mean a chosen nation, it means we're the one nation, entirely different from all others. You peoples of the earth, your bodies are not sacred. You may have noble attitudes sometimes, why not? Every human being is capable of nobility; everybody has a great soul within him if he utilizes it properly, but Hakodosh Boruch Hu has rested His Shechina only *b'socham*, only in the Am Yisroel and even the bodies of every Yisroel is now *kodesh kodoshim*.

A Nation of Holy Habitations

And included in that is that our bodies became holy. That's why from now on, we cannot put into our mouths just anything, unless it's sanctioned by the Torah. Just like you cannot put an offering on the holy *mizbeach* unless the offering is approved by the Torah, our bodies are no less holy. That's what the Torah (Devarim 14:21) says: כִּי עַם קָדוֹשׁ אַתָּה – *You are a holy nation to your G-d and because of that, לֹא תֵבֶשֶׁל גְּדֵי בְּחֵלֶב אִמּוֹ – you can't eat meat and milk together.*

Other places too: You can't eat *neveilah* because you're holy (*ibid.*). You can't eat *treifeh* because you're holy (Shemos 22:30). You can't put into the holy place of your body what is considered unholy. And that's why a Jew, when he guards the laws of *kashrus*, he should know it's because he is sacred; because he's a *makom kadosh* he can't put something unclean into that holy habitation.

Now, these ideas may seem exaggerated when they are heard the first time, nevertheless, that's Torah and that's the attitude that Hashem expects us to gain and to live with as much as possible. As

I said before a number of times, whether we are ready to accept that or not, that's Torah and we have to think about this idea as much as possible. And the more we do, the more we'll appreciate the words *v'shochanti b'socham* and the *kedusha* we have within us.

Part II. He's Holy

Thanking for What?

Now, to explain this a little more, we'll turn for a few minutes to *shemoneh esrei*. You know that all the *brachos* in the *amidah* are expressions of gratitude. That's what *boruch atah* means: "I bend my knees in gratitude to You."

The first *brocha* is thanking Hashem for being the shield of Avrohom and his descendants. The second *brocha*, we thank Him for *techiyas hameisim*. It's a long list – nineteen thank Yous. *Rofei cholei amo Yisrael*; we thank Him for giving us health. *Boruch atah Hashem mevorech hashanim* – we thank Hashem that He blesses the land and gives us the produce to provide sustenance; we're thanking Him for *parnasah*. Every *brocha* expresses gratitude for something.

Only that when we come to one of the blessings, we don't understand: בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' הַקָּדוֹשׁ – *You're holy, Hashem and we thank You, Hashem that You're so holy*. Now, if we're thanking Hashem for that, so we understand that we're being grateful for some benefit that we are receiving from Him. It's puzzling however. What is the purpose of thanking Hashem because He's holy?

Isn't it a pity – we say it three times a day and don't understand what we're thanking for! It's a frustration of the purpose of the *brocha*. You get up early in the morning to run to the synagogue – sometimes it's still dark outside – and then again in the afternoon and again at night, and you don't

even know what you're saying. "Thank You for being the *Keil Hakadosh*," but you don't know what you're grateful for.

The Most Perfect

Now, if we're going to understand this, the number one question we have to answer is what does the word *kadosh* mean? And so we'll say that the word *kadosh* means, "perfect."

What does "the perfect Hashem" mean? Anything good that can be said in this world, anything good that can be found in this world, any standard of good, is in Hashem. The most perfect standard of wisdom and the most perfect standard of power and kindness and everything else, it's all included in His perfection.

Now of course that's immediately minimizing *Hakadosh Boruch Hu* because there's no question that He is far beyond any perfection that we are able to discover in the world; He's infinite in His perfection! But what can we do? We have to use language that human beings use; we cannot talk with any language other than ours and so the best we can do is to say *kadosh* means "perfect."

If you came here just to hear that, believe me it was worth the trip. And you can put it into practice right away. By *maariv* tonight we should arm ourselves beforehand – when we come to that third *brocha* we won't waste that *brocha* by saying meaningless words; at least one *maariv*, one time, you can think about what it means. *Atah kodosh* means "You are the most perfect one, Hashem. You are so vastly perfect that nothing – not only that we know about, but nothing that we could imagine – will ever even remotely approach Your perfection. Everything in the world is limited; everything has weaknesses and flaws while You Hashem are the One who is intrinsically perfect."

Source of Our Perfection

Very good! We know now what the words mean but still we come back to our original question: It's true, You're holy, You're very holy, infinitely holy but what are we *thanking* for? "You, Hashem, are perfect" may be a valuable subject for meditation –certainly it's an important principle that illuminates the mind—but it seems to us that there's nothing to be grateful for here. What are we thanking for?

The answer is that the greater Hashem is, the greater *we* are! Because Hashem chose us to invest with His *kedusha*, it means that according to His perfection so is the perfection of the nation He chose. And therefore we say, "*Boruch Atah Hashem*, We thank You Hashem for being *ha'Keil hakadosh*, the highest perfection we could imagine, because all that perfection reflects to *our* credit and *our* greatness. We're thanking Him for *v'shochanti b'socham*, for putting within us an infinite greatness that no other nation can ever come close to; for a greatness that's reflected upon us from Him.

Resembling Our Father

That's why we're called His children, because children resemble their parents. *Banim atem laHashem Elokeichem* – "You are My children," Hashem says to us. Now that statement is a stunning statement. Of course today it's meaningless because in America we're accustomed to saying, "We're all the children of Hashem." That's why the reform Jews get together with the NAACP, because they say we're all children of G-d. But it's ridiculous! It's not Torah. You, the Am Yisroel, are children of Hashem and make no mistake about it. We don't care what the world says, we stick by the Torah. "*You are My children and nobody else.*"

And children resemble their parents, you know. When the parents are more aristocratic, the children are also more aristocratic. When the parents are more gifted, the children are also more

gifted. And who are we? We are children of the One who is perfect. If You're our father and we're Your sons, it means we are endowed with some of Your perfection. And the more perfect You are, the more perfect we are.

Caricature Gods

That's why we're so grateful! Nobody in the world that has a god as perfect as Hashem Elokei Yisroel. *L'havdil elef alfei havdalos*, even according to the fabrications of the *umos haolam*, they let slip now and then and they say something about their god that's a little bit embarrassing. Now is not the place but I would like to show you in the New Testament how many places Yoshke Pandreh let slip statements that really are a *bizayon* for a decent person to say. Of course they have *peirushim* on it. They try to cover it up with falsehoods, with wrong *peshatim*, wrong *peirushim* on *pessukim* in *Tanach*, but all that shows is their ignorance and criminal intent to twist the *pessukim*.

We don't worship any caricature of a god; we don't worship a three-in-one shoe polish. Our G-d is One and He's perfect and He's forever – He never dies. We don't worship a god that died. Maybe you think it's a small remark, but it's a big remark. Because once a god dies, you need excuses and new stories about how he'll come back again – but it already spoiled the whole thing.

The Ventriloquist Prophet

So you'll tell me Mohammed; Mohammed's god didn't die – but the truth is he was never born either. Because when we have a look at Mohammed's god we understand that really Mohammed was holding a big puppet. He had a big ragdoll named Allah and that doll was saying everything Mohammed wanted him to say. Mohammed wasn't a prophet – he was a ventriloquist; he was just throwing his voice through Allah's mouth. The Koran after all, that's

what Allah is supposed to be speaking. Mohammed swore that every word comes from Allah but what it really meant is that he was holding a big puppet named Allah on his arm and he's talking into his mouth. "Mohammed! There's no prophet like Mohammed," Allah said. But it's all imagination and *sheker*; the ventriloquist was putting words into the mouth of the puppet.

Mohammad has shown himself to be one the biggest liars that ever lived, besides being one of the biggest boasters. Now don't think I'm saying it merely because I'm a Jew. I can show it to you scientifically. I have a Koran that I keep in my bathroom, and I can show you many cases where this man lied through his teeth; he was *megalah ervaso* too! And it's a shame that he is a founder of a religion.

Gift of Greatness

We don't worship any puppet gods or dead gods. The *Elokei Yisroel* is the perfection of all good qualities – there's nobody in the world that has a G-d as perfect as *Hashem Elokei Yisroel*. And the more perfect He is, the more perfect our nation becomes.

And therefore we say *בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' הַקֵּל הַקְרוֹשׁ*; we thank You for that. We say thank You Hashem for being so perfect because the greater You are, that much greater we are. We are His people, and if He is holy, we are holy; if He is a million times more holy, so we are that much holier.

And so we begin to understand now at least something about the gratitude we have to Him for His of *kedusha*; it's a great gift, one of the greatest benefits that Hashem could confer upon us—*v'shochanti b'socham*, that He placed within us something of His *kedusha ki'viyachol*—and we can be infinitely great too.

His Holiness is Superior

Now, what that means certainly must be explained because we'll never understand what the infinite perfection of Hashem includes. All we can say is that He certainly does have greatness and glory and His greatness and glory are infinite. He has wisdom and His wisdom is infinite. He has perfection of every kind and His perfection is infinite. And because Hakodosh Boruch Hu is *bli gvul u'bli tachlis*, because He is infinitely great, so what He put into the Am Yisroel by means of *v'shochanti b'socham* is also infinite.

Now you might think it's an exaggeration but pay attention to the following statement that you heard already from me. There's a *possuk* that says, *כִּי קְרוֹשׁ אָנִי – קְרוֹשִׁים תִּהְיֶינָה* – *because I am perfect (Vayikra 19:2)*. So the Medrash says, *Yachol* – I might think *kikedushasi*, that a Yisroel can be as holy, as perfect, as Hashem, that our holiness is the same as His holiness. *Talmud lomar ki kadosh ani* – I am holy. *Kedushasi lema'aleh mikedushaschem* – My holiness is superior to yours.

Do you hear such a thing?! Such a *hava aminah*?! *Yachol!* I could think to say that maybe we are *kadosh* the same as He is *kadosh!* Who could have thought such a thing?! But it states there that the Am Yisroel is so holy that Hakodosh Boruch Hu found it necessary to say He is superior to us.

Infinite Potential

Which means that every Jew has such potential and greatness that if we could understand who he really is, we'd be so amazed, we would think it's divinity itself! No matter how you'll imagine the perfection that's concealed in the potentiality of the Jewish soul, no matter what you'll say, you're always understating it! There's so much *kedusha* there that there's a possibility we might think, *kikedushasi*, it's equal to the holiness of Hashem. So Hashem has to come along and say, "No. I am

superior to you. You're infinitely holy, but I'm something even bigger than that."

It doesn't mean that you're already perfect but it means that you possess within your soul a capability for endless perfection. *V'shochanti b'socham* means that Man has within him potential for infinite nobility, infinite glory, infinite wisdom, and infinite perfection. Of course, nobody will live long enough to bring forth all of the qualities of *kedusha* that are concealed within his *neshama*. But as long as you live you continue to have that opportunity to draw forth that reflection of Hashem's infinite perfection. And it's such a *kedusha* that if you could live forever you would be capable of drawing forth endless greatness.

Part III. Gaining Holiness

Who Is Holy?

Now, before we go further we should clear the decks for action and understand that being a *kadosh* doesn't mean you're a holy man who fasts. It doesn't mean a person who dresses like a *tzaddik* or says a lot of *Tehillim*. Could be those things are included, I can't tell you, but what a *kadosh* actually means is a person who is ambitious to become more perfect. *קְדוּשִׁים תִּהְיוּ*, says Hashem. "Each one of you should make yourselves more and more perfect, *בִּי קְדוּשָׁא אֲנִי*, because I am holy. It means that I want to see each one of you bring forth as much as you're capable of, the greatness that I stored up in you."

Now what does Hakodosh Boruch Hu do to help us realize some of this greatness in practice? After all, He made this world and He made it for us and therefore we understand that the conditions in the world are so designed to give us endless opportunities. And as long as we're willing to be aware constantly of our potential, we'll be able to bring forth that infinite *kedusha* – only that we

must be willing to cooperate with His plan and utilize the opportunities.

A World of Tests

The *Mesillas Yesharim* says, "*Kol inyanei haolam nisyonos hem* – everything in the world is for the purpose of testing us." *Kol inyanei haolam* doesn't mean some things; *kol* is everything. A husband is a test for a wife, a wife is a test for a husband. Children are tests. Parents are tests. Neighbors are tests. The weather is a test. The sun is a test. The moon is a test. The sidewalk is a test. There's nothing in the world that's not a test.

Now, that has to be explained because why does Hashem need all these tests? A chemist has to make tests. Doctors have to make tests. They don't know unless they make tests and even after they make tests they also don't know much. But why does Hakodosh Boruch Hu need tests? He knows everything already! Even though we have free will, the Rambam explains that Hashem knows the future anyhow. So what's the purpose of all these tests?

The answer is that *nisayon* doesn't mean test. We call it a test but *nisayon* comes from the word *nun sin alef*; *naso* or *nisa*, to lift up. *Nes* means a banner, something that's on high. *Ve'Elokim nisah es Avraham* means Hashem lifted up Avraham by means of a test. By putting Mankind to test, Hashem brings forth the greatness that is buried inside of our *neshamos*; the tests bring forth from us the potential *kedusha* in a measure far beyond what we possessed before.

A World of Opportunities

And so, we're learning now that everything that happens is for the purpose of eliciting the perfection that's hidden within you. Of course, it takes some thought, some preparation, to see how you can achieve perfection from this event or from

that object or this happening but there are *always* opportunities in our lives to choose greatness.

How many opportunities? They're endless! Children can utilize their parents and parents can utilize their children. Parents are a tremendous opportunity for perfection for children. When children make it their business to honor their parents properly and even when the parents are not there they're thinking about them, they're becoming more and more perfect.

A fellow Jew, every Jew, is an opportunity for you. Every Jew is a *nisayon* for you. It's a waste if you see a Jew pass by and it makes no impression on you. A Jew passed by! Man or woman, boy or girl, a *mikdash* is passing by; an infinite holiness is passing by. And so, when you see a *frum* Jew and you're able to muster a certain amount of respect for that person you should know you're passing the test. It's a *nisayon*; it's a test that is bringing forth the greatness from within you and you become more and more *kadosh* because of that.

Learning Torah

For a man, of course, the *sefarim* on the shelves are a *nisayon*. They're for the purpose that we should utilize them. When people pass by and never take a *sefer*, they're missing one of the most important *nisyonos* of this world. Opening a *sefer* and reading the words makes you a *kadosh*. The holiness of the *sefer* comes from the letters and enters into your *neshamah*. Saying the words is even better. Saying *divrei Torah* with your mouth certainly makes you more *kadosh*.

Of course when a person learns such subjects that elevate his mind more easily – let's say he learns *Chovos Halevavos* and *Sha'arei Teshuvah* and *Mesillas Yesharim*, no question he becomes *kadosh*. Every minute his *neshamah* is rising higher and higher. He can even feel it, how he's changing. When someone attempts to improve himself by learning, by gaining understanding; by learning

mussar, or by practicing self-control, that's an elevation. Of course, learning *halachos* is very important; learning *lamdus*, very important. Whatever it is, *sefarim* are a ladder for a man to ascend to greatness.

The Jewish Family

Now, a woman's way is not the man's way. A woman becomes perfect from her family. She brings up her children and she puts effort into them; not just effort – she puts *kedushah* into them. A mother can train the children with *emunah* and *yiras shamayim*, like Dovid Hamelech said about his mother (Tehillim 116:16). Shlomo Hamelech also said his mother taught him (Mishlei 1:8). Yes, besides for bringing him up, Shlomo's mother elicited more and more *kedusha* from her son every day. A mother's role, because women love children more than men do, is much greater in the home than her husband. By means of raising the children *al pi Torah* a mother brings forth the *kedushah* in her children and herself at the same time.

A husband and a wife of course are one of the great opportunities to gain perfection. A husband and a wife supply tests for each other all the time and the purpose is to bring forth more and more *kedusha* as the years go by. Men and women many times have a tendency to disagree and nevertheless each one tries to be gentle, each one tries to speak politely; each one has self-control and they try to yield to each other as much as possible.

It's not easy; it's not easy at all but there's no question that the *Shechinah* dwells in the home according to the efforts of the participants and a lifetime of such practice makes them *kadosh*. It's not easy but the rewards are infinitely great because the *Shechinah* dwells not only in their homes, but in their bodies.

Growth Through Happiness

Outside the home too. You should know the outside world is made in such a way to attract us to certain ideals. That's why when you see a beautiful day, a blue sky, beautiful trees, you should think it's for the purpose of bringing forth in you a certain appreciation of the greatness of Hashem, the *chasdei Hashem*. "Hashem, what a beautiful world You gave me!" It's a lifetime career to learn how to appreciate the kindness and the wisdom of Hashem all around you.

When you see happiness in the world, when you enjoy certain things, use that to elevate yourselves. You enjoy your sleep? Say, "Thank You Hashem for my good sleep! Thank You for my pillow." You should enjoy your health and thank Hakodosh Boruch Hu for it. It's all made for the purpose of *nisayon*; it's a test to bring forth the perfection within you.

Growth Through Mitzvos

Mitzvos! We can't leave that out! Of course a *mitzvah* makes a person *kadosh*; every time you do a *mitzvah* you become more *kadosh*. An old Jew is more *kadosh* than a young Jew. He did more *mitzvos* and it adds up; the *kedusha* that you gain each time doesn't go lost.

That's why we thank Hakodosh Boruch Hu, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו – We thank You for giving us a great gift of becoming more *kadosh* by means of fulfilling your commands. We're so happy, so grateful for those opportunities!

If you utilize the *mezuzah*, that's a great addition of *kedusha*. Don't just pass by the *mezuzah* like people pass by and give it a kiss. Think about what's inside. *Hashem echad!* It means Hashem is everything! He's the Creator. He made the world out of nothing and He's *Elokeinu*, He's ours. He proclaimed that He belongs to the *Am Yisroel*. The Master of the universe is ours! Think these thoughts as you pass by a *mezuzah*.

When you put on your *tefillin*, think about what's in the *tefillin*. It's very important. And *tzitzis!* Not only when you put them on. You see your husband or your son, even a little boy walking in the street, you see he has *tzitzis*, think about it. It's a *nisayon* for you and if you don't think about it you're failing the *nisayon*. Take a look once in a while at the *tzitzis* – yours or someone else's – and think: וּרְאִיתֶם אֹתוֹ וּזְכַרְתֶּם – You should see them and remember the *mitzvos*. Think of *shatnez*, think of *taharas hamishpachah*, think of *shemiras halashon*, think of *ribis*. Whatever it is, think of something. Of course, you're surrounded with *tzitzis* on all sides, it's a big job. But a little bit, once in a while think about that. That's the purpose. Because when people think these thoughts, they're bringing out the greatness inside of them.

Evoking the Greatness

Now this subject you should know is only the beginning; it's just a *hakdamah* to a very great system of training for how to attain the perfection of *veshochanti besocham* because there's no end, no limit, to what you can achieve.

Everybody should know that he has an endless store of perfection within himself and people who live their lives without this attitude of yearning for perfection are making one of the most tragic errors in their lives; it's a big misuse of continued existence. If you don't attempt to become better and instead you're satisfied to continue as you always were, it's a tragedy. What's the purpose of continuing to live if not for the purpose of becoming better and better?

And that's what Hakodosh Boruch Hu is waiting for because He has put into man this infinite perfection for the purpose that it should be utilized. Hakodosh Boruch Hu breathed into you His *kedusha* and by your efforts to solicit the greatness within, you're bringing it forth from potentiality into actuality and that is the success of creating a personal *Beis Hamikdash*. You are

evoking from within yourself the infinite *kedusha* of Hakodosh Boruch Hu and you're fulfilling the great program of life: *Vi'asu li mikdash veshochanti besocham*.

Have A Wonderful Shabbos

LET'S GET PRACTICAL

Seeing the Holiness

When the Mishkan was built in the *midbar* we learned the eternal lesson that Hashem dwells within the body of each Jew. A Jewish body is endowed with the potential for endless holiness and each *mitzvah*, each opportunity for greatness, brings out more of that holiness. This week, three times each day when I see a *frum* Jew I will reflect on the fact that Hashem dwells within him and he is infinitely holy.

This week's booklet is based on tapes:

289 - The Wilderness Sanctuary | 293 - Shmoneh Esreh 3
382 - Shmoneh Esreh 8 | E-191 - The Jew, A Sanctuary for The Shechina
E-171 - The Holy Family

Listen: 718.289.0899 Press 1 for English and 2 for Thursday Night Lectures

thousand dollars from a Jew named Neier for that purpose. And the United Hebrew Federations of Los Angeles gave their first annual award to Neier. So the Federation of Charities gave their first annual award to Neier for a special service to the Jewish people. And he was the one who gave fifty thousand dollars to get the Nazis recognized.

Throughout history, our worst enemies have been Jews. You have to know that. In the communist upheaval, when the Bolsheviks took over, we suffered from the Jewish communists more than from anybody else. They were the ones that sent Reb Dovid Rappaport, the Tzemach Dovid, to his death. He was a *gadol baTorah*, a *rosh yeshiva*, and they packed him off to a concentration camp where he died. They sent off many other *tzaddikim* to their deaths too. The Jews were the worst ones. Leon Trotsky, *yimach shmo v'zichro*, was one of the worst enemies of the Jewish people.

And therefore we have to remember that Amalek was a brother. Amalek was Esav's grandson – he was a brother of the Jewish people and therefore he had more *sinah* than anybody else. So all the nations heard, *שָׁמְעוּ עַמִּים יְרָגוֹן* – *The nations heard and they trembled*. But Amalek was a brother and therefore he mustered enough impudence to attack the *Am Yisroel*. He wanted to show – “It's nothing.” He wanted to demonstrate to the nations, “Don't be impressed by these people; we know them – they're just *frummies*. My grandfather had business with their ancestor, Yaakov. He's a crook, a *ramai*.” And that's why they went out to fight against our people and nobody else did. Because a brother who is no good is the worst enemy.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

שאל אביך ויגידך זקניך ויאמרו לך

Q:

Why did Amalek attack the Jewish people when they knew that Hashem had just performed remarkable miracles for them?

A:

Now we have to know who Amalek was. Amalek wasn't such a wicked nation as we think. The fact is, the children of Yisro all throughout history associated with Amalek; they lived together with them. You remember when Shaul came to battle against Amalek he had to send a messenger to the Bnei Keini warning them to separate from Amalek because he's going to war against them now. Now, the Bnei Keini, children of Yisro, they wouldn't live with Amalek if Amalek was that bad.

The answer is this: Amalek was a brother. Amalek was the children of Eisav *and nobody is an enemy like a brother who turns sour*. The worst enemies that we have are Jews that turn bad. Who were the ones who battled that the Nazis should be recognized by the Supreme Court as a legitimate organization? Jews! The ACLU, the American Criminal Liberties Union, they got fifty

TAPE # 268 (June 1979)