

NEW

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תרומה TERUMAH

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LIKKUTEI SICHOS

INSIGHTS INTO THE WEEKLY PARSHA
BY THE LUBAVITCHER REBBE

Dedicated to

Emmanuel (Mendel) Karp

1905 - 1989

son of Bernard (Berl) and Rose (Rezele)



Manny Karp was the first of his family born in the United States, in 1905. His first language was Yiddish. Losing his mother to the Spanish Flu shaped his resilience and commitment to helping others, ultimately leading to a career as a guidance counselor in Philadelphia public schools. He also served many years as the director of Camp Akiba in the Poconos.

Karp's legacy is characterized by his optimism and unwavering dedication to learning and mentorship. Emmanuel Karp died in 1989.

TERUMAH I | תרומה א

Adapted from *sichos* delivered on *Shabbos Parshas Mishpatim*, 5715 and 5718 (1955 and 1958)

Introduction

When soliciting donations, fundraisers are often caught in a quandary: Should contributors be asked to give according to their means? Should the matter be left to their generosity? Or, perhaps, a standard amount should be asked from everyone?

When the Jewish people were commanded to contribute to the construction of the Sanctuary that they built during their journey through the desert, some donations – those for the sockets and the sacrificial offerings – were fixed at a half-*shekel* per man. Others – those necessary for the construction of the Sanctuary as a whole – were left to the generosity of the heart of every man and woman.

Why each person was asked to donate according to his or her individual tendencies is readily understood. Every person had something special that only he or she could contribute to the Sanctuary. Similarly, today, each one of us has unique potentials and qualities that were granted to us individually. These gifts must be used to build a Sanctuary for G-d – in the world at large and in our individual world.

However, we are bonded together by a commonality that transcends our personal “I,” who we are and what capabilities we possess. That transcendent potential becomes manifest in a uniform gift.

Both dimensions of our beings – the individual and the transcendent – find their most complete expression by being included in constructing G-d’s Sanctuary.

In the *sichah* that follows, the Rebbe demonstrates how the seemingly technical details of the Sanctuary’s construction open a window into understanding the proper sequence and structure necessary to balance these two dimensions of our being in our Divine service.

This teaching carries particular relevance for contemporary spiritual life as we strive to maintain equilibrium between our individual spiritual expressions and our participation in the Divine service of the Jewish people as a collective. The Rebbe’s analysis shows how these apparently opposing approaches – universal versus personalized service – complement each other in building both our personal and communal sanctuaries.

The Foundation of Our Spiritual Sanctuary

Three Contributions; the Differences between Them

1. The word *terumah* (“contribution”) appears three times at the beginning of this week’s Torah reading: a) “Take a contribution for Me”; b) “You shall take My contribution from every person whose heart is so moved”; c) “This is the contribution that you shall take from them: gold, silver, and copper.”¹

The Talmud² explains that these three *terumos* included: a) a half-*shekel* contribution that every man was required to give from which the sockets for the Sanctuary were fashioned; b) a second half-*shekel* contribution required of every man “for the altar,” to purchase the communal offerings; and c) the contribution for the construction of the Sanctuary and its implements that was given voluntarily by all Jews, both men and women.

There was a distinction between these contributions. The contributions used for the sacrificial service and the sockets were a standard amount, a half-*shekel* per man, each one giving the same sum. By contrast, the contribution for the Sanctuary and its implements had no predetermined amount. Instead, the contributions varied; every person gave as much as he or she wished to contribute.

This requires explanation: Why were the contributions for the sacrifices and sockets

א. אין אנהויב פון דער היינטיקער סדרה שטייטן דריי מְאֵל דָעֵר וּוְאֶרְט “תרומה”: א) ויקחו לִי תְּרוּמָה; ב) אָשֶׁר יִקְבְּנוּ לְבּוֹ תְּקַחְוּ אֶת תְּרוּמָתִי; ג) וּזְאת הַתְּרוּמָה אֲשֶׁר תְּקַחְוּ מִאֶתְּמָם זָהָב וּכְסָף וּנְחַשָּׁת. זֶאת אָוֶרֶף דָעֵם דִי גַּמְרָא, אֲזִי דָרְיִי תְּרוּמֹת זַיִנְעָן: תְּרוּמָת בְּקָעַ לְגַלְגָּלָת שְׁנָעָשָׂו מִהָּם הַדְּנָנִים (א) תְּרוּמָה וּוְאָס יַעֲנָעָר אִיד הָאָט גַּעֲדָאָרְפַּט גַּעֲנָנָן אַמְּחַצִּית הַשְּׁקָל, פָּוּן וּוְעַלְכָּן מְעַן הָאָט גַּעֲמָאָכְט דִי שְׁוּעָלָן צּוֹם מַשְׁקָן). תְּרוּמָת הַפּוֹזָבָה בְּקָע לְגַלְגָּלָת לְקֹפּוֹת לְקֹנוֹת מִהָּם קָרְבָּנוֹת צְבּוֹר (די תְּרוּמָה פָּוּן מִחְצִית הַשְּׁקָל וּוְאָס יַעֲדָר אִיד הָאָט גַּעֲדָאָרְפַּט גַּעֲנָנָן, פָּוּן וּוְעַלְכָּן מְעַן הָאָט גַּעֲלָוִיפְּט קָרְבָּנוֹת צְבּוֹר). תְּרוּמָת הַמַּשְׁקָן נְדַבֵּת כָּל אָחָד וְאָחָד (די תְּרוּמָה פָּאָרְן מַשְׁקָן אָוּן זַיִנְעָן כְּלִים).

עַס אִיז פָּאָרְן אָבָעֶר צְוּוִישָׁן זַיִי אַחֲלָוק. דִי תְּרוּמֹת וּוְעַלְכָּעַ מְעַן הָאָט גַּעֲנָצֶט פָּאָר דִי קָרְבָּנוֹת אָוּן פָּאָר דִי אַדְנִים זַיִנְעָן גַּעֲוָעָן בְּקָע לְגַלְגָּלָת, אַהֲלָנוּ שְׁקָל פָּאָר יַעֲדָן – אַלְעַ גַּלְגִּילִיק. אָבָעֶר דִי תְּרוּמָה צְוִילִיב דָעֵם מַשְׁקָן וּכְלִיּוֹן, אִיז נִיטָּגָעָן אִין דָעֵם קַיִן בָּאַשְׁטִימָטָעָר סְכוּם, נָאָר וּוּפִילִי עַקְעָר אִינְגָעָר הָאָט גַּעֲוָוָאָלָט גַּעֲבָן.

דָאָרֶף מְעַן פָּאָרְשָׁתִין, פָּאָרְוָוָס זַיִנְעָן תְּרוּמָת קָרְבָּנוֹת אָוּן תְּרוּמָת אַדְנִים

1. *Shmos*. 25:2-3.

2. *Talmud Yerushalmi, Shekalim* 1:1.

different from the contributions for the other articles necessary for the construction of the Sanctuary?

אנדרוש פון דער תרומה פאר די
אייבעריךע באַזערפֿענִישן פון דעם
משקן?

An All-Encompassing Blemish

2. The reason why the contributions for the communal sacrifices were set at a half-*shekel*, the same for everyone, is understandable. These contributions were meant “to atone for your souls.”³ As *Rashi* comments, this phrase refers to the contributions used to purchase communal offerings, “since the sacrificial offerings are brought for atonement.” More particularly, the sacrificial offerings were intended to bring about atonement for the sin of the Golden Calf, as stated in the *Talmud Yerushalmi*⁴ and the *Midrash*.⁵

Now, the sin of the Golden Calf was a collective sin, affecting not only those who participated in it, but also the tribe of Levi who did not participate in the sin, and even Moshe, our teacher, who, at the time of the sin, was on Mount Sinai, far from the immediate vicinity of the sinners. In other words, he could not even be considered as one who was able to protest against the sin and possibly prevent it. Nevertheless, the sin affected him as well, as reflected in the directive G-d gave him afterwards,⁶ “Go, descend,” interpreted by our Sages⁷ as meaning, “Descend from your greatness.”

The sin of the Golden Calf constituted a failure on the part of the entire Jewish people, affecting their perfection as a collective entity, creating a blemish for the people as a whole. Therefore, the rectification and atonement for it also had to be brought about through a collective act requiring

ב. דאס ווֹאָס תְּרֻוָּמָת הַמִּזְבֵּחַ
איַז בָּקָע לְגַלְגַּלְתַּ, פָּאָר אַלְעַמְּעַן
גָּלִיהַ, איַז פָּאָרְשְׁטָאַנְדִּיקַ, וּוְיַיְלַ
תְּרֻוָּמָת הַמִּזְבֵּחַ איַז צָוִילַב “לְכַפֵּר עַל
נְפָשׁוֹתֶיכֶם” (וְכַדְפִּירְשׁ רְשַׁיָּי), אוֹ דָאָס
גִּיאַת אַוִּיכָּת תְּרֻוָּמָת הַמִּזְבֵּחַ לְקִנּוֹת מְהַם
קְרָבָנוֹת צָבָוַר, “שְׁהַקְרָבָנוֹת לְכִפְרָה
הַם בְּאַיִם”), דָאָס הַיִּסְטַּ אַ כִּפְרָה
אוֹיְפֵן חַטָּא הָעָגֵל, וּוְעַס שְׂטִיטַת אַיִן
יְרוּשָׁלָמִי אַוְן אַיִן מַדְרַשַּׁ.

דָּעַר חַטָּא פָּוּן עַגְל אַיִן גַּעֲוֹעַן אַ חַטָּא
כָּלְלַיַּ, וּוֹאָס הָאָט אַנְגָּעָרִירַט נִיט נָאָר
דַּי וּוֹאָס הָאָבָן זִיךְ דָּעָרִין בָּאַטְיַיְלִיקַט,
נָאָר אַוִּיכָּ שְׁבַּט לְזַי, וּוְעַלְכַּע הָאָבָן זִיךְ
נִיט בָּאַטְיַיְלִיקַט אַיִן דָּעַם חַטָּא, אַיִן
אַפְּיַלוּ מְשַׁה רְבִינַג, וּוֹאָס עַר אַיִן בְּשַׁעַת
מְעַשָּׂה אַפְּיַלוּ גָּאָרְנִיט גַּעֲוֹעַן אַיִן
אַט דַּי דַּ אַמּוֹת, דָאָס הַיִּסְטַּ עַר אַיִן
גָּאָרְנִיט גַּעֲוֹעַן אַפְּיַלוּ אַיִן דָּעַם גַּדְרַ פָּוּן
מַיִּשְׁיַש בְּיַדוֹ לְמַחְזָות כּוֹ (וּוֹאָס מִיט
וַיִּיְעַ מַעְגָּלָעַכְּיַתַּן הָאָט עַר גַּעֲקָעַנְטַ
פָּאַרְוּעַרַן), פָּוְנְדָעַסְטוּוֹעַגְן הָאָט אַיִיךְ
אַיִם אַנְגָּעָרִירַט דָּעַר חַטָּא, אַזְוַי וּוְעַס
שְׂטִיטַת: “לְהַ רְדַּ” וְאָמְרוּ רְבּוֹתֵינוּ זְלִי:
רְדַּ מַגְדַּלְתַּה (גִּידְעֹר אַרְאָפַ פָּוּן דִּין
גַּוּוִיסְקִיַּט).

אַזְוַי וּוְיַחְטָא הָעָגֵל אַיִן גַּעֲוֹעַן אַנְ
עַנְנַן אַיִן וּוְעַלְכַּן כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל, אַלְס

3. *Shmos* 30:15.

6. *Ibid.* 32:7.

4. *Talmud Yerushalmi, Shekalim* 2:3.

7. *Berachos* 32a.

5. *Midrash Tanchuma, Parshas Ki Sissa*, sec. 10.

everyone to give equally, as appropriate for a matter that affected all the Jewish people .

Since the sin of the Golden Calf affected the Jews as a collective, creating a blemish that impacted the people as a whole, the rectification and atonement for it also needed to come through a collective endeavor. Everyone had to give equally because it influenced the Jewish people as a whole.

שְׁלִימָוֹת פּוֹן כָּלְלָה, אֵין דָרְכַּגְעַפְּאַלְלָה,
דָּאַס הַיִּסְט אָז דָּאַס אֵין גַּעֲוָעָן אָ
קְלַקְוֵל כָּלְלִי, דָּעַרְפָּאָר הָאַט אָוִין
דָּעַר תִּיקְוָן אָנוּ דִּי כְּפָרָה אַוִּיף דָּעַם
גַּעַדְאָרְפָּט וַיְיַזְרֵר אָן עֲנֵנוּ כָּלְלִי,
וְוָאָס אַלְעַה הָאָכָן גַּעַדְאָרְפָּט גַּעַבְנָה
גַּלְיִיה, וְוָאָרְוָם עָס אֵין גַּעֲוָעָן אָן עֲנֵנוּ
פּוֹן כָּלְלִי שִׁירָאֵל.

Of Cosmic Significance

3. To understand this matter more thoroughly: It is well known that the sin of the Golden Calf was similar in nature to the sin of the Tree of Knowledge. The sin of the Tree of Knowledge caused spiritual impurity to descend into the world. This impurity was eliminated at the Giving of the Torah but returned due to the sin of the Golden Calf.⁸

Accordingly, we can gain a clearer understanding of the sin of the Golden Calf by contemplating the nature of the sin of the Tree of Knowledge and the change brought about by the Giving of the Torah.

At the beginning of creation, “The world was created in a state of perfection”⁹ and “the essence of the Divine Presence was present in the lower realms.” Due to the spiritual impurity that descended into the world as a result of the sin of the Tree of Knowledge, the world could no longer serve as a conduit for the overt manifestation of G-dliness¹⁰ True, as is well known, “The Patriarchs observed the entire Torah before it was given.”¹¹ However, their observance of the *mitzvos* did not penetrate the physical substance of the world in

ג. פָּאַרְשְׁטִיּוֹן דָּעַם עֲנֵנוּ מַעַד
אוֹסְפִּירְלָעַכְעָר:

עַס אֵין בָּאוֹאוֹסְט, אָז חַטָּא הָעֲגָל
אֵין אַיִן דָּעַם סָוג פּוֹן חַטָּא עַז הַדְּעָת.
דָּוָרָךְ חַטָּא עַז הַדְּעָת יְרָדָה זָהָמָא
לְעוּלָם, וּבְשָׁעַת מַתָּן תּוֹרָה פְּסָקָה
זָהָמָתָן וְעַל יְדֵי חַטָּא הָעֲגָל חַזְרָה.

דָּעַרְפָּוֹן אֵין מַובָּן, אָז מַעַן קָעָן
קְלַעַרְעָר פָּאַרְשְׁטִיּוֹן דָּעַם עֲנֵנוּ פּוֹן
חַטָּא הָעֲגָל דָּוָרָךְ אַרְיִינְטָרָאַכְטָן אֵין
וְוָאָס עַס אֵין בָּאַשְׁטָאַנָּעָן דָּעַר חַטָּא
עַז הַדְּעָת, אֵין אַיִן דָּעַם עֲנֵנוּ פּוֹן מַתָּן
תּוֹרָה.

אֵין אַנְהָוִבְּ פּוֹן דָּעַר בְּרִיאָה אֵין
גַּעֲוָעָן “עוֹלָם עַל מַלְאָאָנוּ בְּרָאָה”, אֵין
עַיקָּר שְׁכִינָה בַּתְּחִתּוֹנִים הִתְהָה.
דָּוָרָךְ דָּעַם חַטָּא עַז הַדְּעָת אֵין יְרָדָה
זָהָמָא לְעוּלָם, אָז צָוְלִיב דָּעַם אֵין דִּי
וּוְעַלְתָּ נִיט גַּעֲוָעָן קִינְיָן כְּלִי צָוָאָלְקָוָת
בְּגִילָוִי. וְוִי עַס אֵין בָּאוֹאוֹסְט, אָז
הָגָם קִימָהוּ הָאָבּוֹת כָּל הַתּוֹרָה עַד שְׁלָא
נִיתָנָה (כְּאַטְשׁ דִּי אָבּוֹת הָאָכָן מַקְיָיִם
גַּעֲוָעָן דִּי גַּנְצַעְעָדָה אַיְקָעָר זִי

8. *Shabbos* 146a; *Zohar*, Vol. I, p. 52b.

11. See *Yoma* 28b, *Kiddushin* 82a, *et al.*

9. See *Bereishis Rabbah* 12:6.

10. *Ibid.* 19:7, *et al.* See the *maamar* entitled *Basi LeGani*, 5710.

an internal way. The spiritual and the physical remained two distinct spheres,¹² separate from one another; spirituality could not reside within physicality in an internalized, integrated manner.¹³

The accomplishment of the Giving of the Torah was that it removed this spiritual impurity, refining the world. This refinement made it possible for the Torah and its *mitzvos* to permeate physical objects, thereby enabling physicality to become a conduit for G-dliness.

The sin of the Golden Calf reawakened the spiritual impurity of the sin of the Tree of Knowledge, affecting the world as a whole.

The accomplishment of the Giving of the Torah certainly remained even after the sin of the Golden Calf,¹⁴ for even now there exists a distinction between Jews and non-Jews. At present as well, the Jews retain the potential to connect and unite physicality with G-dliness through their observance of the Torah and its *mitzvos* with material entities. Nevertheless, a measure of spiritual impurity returned. This impurity affects not only individual people and specific matters but also the world as a whole.

The rectification for the sin of the Golden Calf came through the half-*shekel* contribution, regarding which the Torah states,¹⁵ *Zeh yitnu*, “This [is what] they shall give.” The word *zeh*, “This,” indicates revelation. This understanding is reflected in our Sages’¹⁶ interpretation of that word regarding the miracle of the splitting of the Sea of Reeds. At that time, the revelation of G-dliness was manifest so openly that “each person would point with his finger and say, ‘This (zeh) is my G-d.’”¹⁷

The implication of *zeh yitnu* is that giving the half-*shekel* and the service of the sacrifices that

are געגעבען געוויאָרָן), איז דאס אַבעָר ניט געוווען פֿאַרְבּוֹנְדָן מִיטָּן גַּשְׁם פֿוֹן וועטלט באָפָּן פֿנִימִי, ווּאָרוּם רַוחַנִּית מִיט גַּשְׁמִיוֹת זַיְנְגָן גַּעוווען ווּוִיט אַיְנָע פֿוֹן דִּצְוֹוִיְטָע – רַוחַנִּיות הָאַט ניט גַּעַקְעַנְטָשְׁטִיְינִין אַיְן גַּשְׁמִיוֹת אַיְן אַפְּנִימִיוֹת אָוָן אַיְן אַן אַוְפָּן פֿוֹן קְלִיטָה.

דעָר אַוְיְפָטוּ פֿוֹן מְתַנְּן תּוֹרָה אַיְן גַּעַוְועָן, אָז עַס אַיְן אַרְאָפָּה דִּי זַוְהָמָא, עַס אַיְן גַּעַוְועָרָן אָן אַוְיְסְלִיטְעַרְוָוָג אַיְן וְועַלְטָ, אָוָן דַּעֲרָפָאָר קְעַנְגָּן זַיְן תּוֹרָה וּמְצֹוֹת אַיְן דְּבָרִים גַּשְׁמִיּוֹת, מַעַן זַאל קְעַנְגָּן מַאֲכָן פֿוֹן גַּשְׁמִיוֹת אַכְּלִי צַו גַּטְלָעַכְקִיּוֹת.

חַטָּא הַעֲגָל הָאַט מַעֲוָרָג גַּעַוְועָן צְוִירָק דִּי זַוְהָמָא פֿוֹן חַטָּא עַז הַדְּעָת אַיְן בְּלִלוֹת הַעוֹלָם.

דעָר אַוְיְפָטוּ פֿוֹן מְתַנְּן תּוֹרָה אַיְן זַיְכָּר גַּעַבְלִיבָּן אַוְיךְ נַאֲכָן חַטָּא הַעֲגָל, ווּאָרוּם אַוְיךְ אַיְצָטָר אַיְן דָּא אָחִילָק צְוּוִישָׁן אַיְן מִיט, לְהַבְדִּיל, נִיט-אַיְן. בַּיְ אַיְן אַיְן אַוְיךְ אַיְצָטָר גַּעַבְלִיבָּן תּוֹרָה וּמְצֹוֹת בְּגַשְׁמִיוֹת, ווּאָס זַיְיָעָר עַנְנָן אַיְן צַו בְּאַהֲעַפְּטָן אָוָן פְּאַרְאַיְנְצִיְּהָן גַּשְׁמִיוֹת מִיט אַלְקוֹת. אַבְעָר פְּוֹנְדָעַסְטּוֹעָגָן אַיְן אַגְּעַוְועָס מַאֲס זַוְהָמָא צְוִירָק גַּעַקְוּמָעָן, אָוָן דִּי זַוְהָמָא אַיְן נִיט נַאֲר אַיְן אַנְשִׁים פְּרַטִּיּוֹם אָוָן עַנוּיִנִּים פְּרַטִּיּוֹם, נַאֲר אַוְיךְ אַיְן בְּלִלוֹת הַעוֹלָם.

דעָר תִּיקְוָן אַוְיְפָן חַטָּא הַעֲגָל אַיְן מַחְצִיתַה הַשְּׁקָל, ווּאָס בַּיְיָיָן דַּעַם שְׁטִיטִיָּה: וְהִתְנוּ, “זה” ?שָׁוֹן גִּילּוֹי, כְּמָאָמָר רָזָל: כָּל אַחַד וְאַחַד מַרְאָה בְּאַכְבָּעָן וְאָוּמָר זֶה אַלְיָם, דָּאָס הַיִּסְט אַז דָּוָרָה מַחְצִית הַשְּׁקָל אָוָן עַבְדָּות הַקְּרָבָנוֹת,

12. To quote *Shmos Rabbah* 12:3, there was a Divine decree separating the two realms.

13. See *Likkutei Sichos*, Vol. 1, p. 41.

14. See the gloss of *Nitzutzei Oros* on *Zohar*, Vol. III, p. 14b.

15. *Shmos* 30:13.

16. *Shmos Rabbah* 23:15.

17. *Shmos* 15:2.

it made possible – and in present times, the service of prayer that was instituted in place of the sacrifices¹⁸ – remove spiritual impurity and draw down the revelation of G-dliness within the world again.

From this, we can understand that both the sin of the Golden Calf and its rectification are matters that affect the world as a whole.

און בזמנן הוה דורך עבדות התפללה
וועאָס במקומן קרבנות תקנות, נעמיט
מען אַרְאָפֶן דַי זוּהָמָא און מען איין
מְמַשְׁיךָ צוּרִיק גִּילִי אַלְקָות איין
וועעלט.

דערפּון איין פֿאַרְשְׁטָאנְדִּיק, אָז סִי
דַעַר חַטָּא הָעֲגָל, סִי דַעַר תִּקְוֹן אָוִיףּ
דַעַם, זִיְנָעַן עֲנֵנִים כְּלִילִים.

Subsumed in a Communal Entity

4. On this basis, we can understand several laws applying to the half-shekel contribution:

a) The money that each man gave became communal property.¹⁹ True, each man gave his own money. However, he had to give it in a manner that caused it to cease being his private property. Moreover, the money from these contributions did not even resemble the resources belonging to a partnership of several individuals. Instead, it no longer belonged to any one or group of persons; it became communal funds.²⁰

b) The money from the half-shekel contributions was used specifically to purchase communal sacrificial offerings and not individual sacrifices.

In his Commentary to the Mishnah, in the Introduction to the Order of *Kodshim*, *Rambam* explains that there are four categories of sacrificial offerings: a) communal offerings, b) individual offerings, c) communal offerings that resemble individual offerings, and d) individual offerings that resemble communal offerings.

Communal offerings are those that have a fixed

ד. דערמיט וועט מען פֿאַרְשְׁטִין
פֶּמֶה דִּינִים וְוָאָס זִיְנָעַן גַּעֲוֹעַן איין
מְחַצִּית הַשֶּׁקֶל:

א) דַי גַעַלְט וְוָאָס יַעֲדַר אַיִינְעַד
הָאָט גַעֲגַעַבָּן איין גַעֲוֹאָרָן מִמְּנוֹן
צְבּוֹר. יַעֲדַר אַיִינְעַד הָאָט גַעֲגַעַבָּן
זִיְנָעַן אַיִגְעַנָּע גַעַלְט, אַבְּכָר עַר הָאָט
דָאָס גַעַדְאָרְפַט אַוְעַקְגַעַבָּן אָוִיףּ אָזָא
אָוְפָן אָז עַס זָאַל וְעַרְן אָוִיס מִמְּנוֹן
יְחִיד, אָוִיךְ נִיט קִיְין שׁוֹתָפּוֹת פָּוּן
עַטְלָעַכָּע יְחִידִים, נָאָר צִיבּוֹר-גַעַלְט.

ב) פָאָר דַי גַעַלְט פָוּן מְחַצִּית
הַשֶּׁקֶל הָאָט מען גַעַקְוִיְפַט קְרַבְנוֹת
צְבּוֹר דָזָקָא.

דַעַר רַמְבָ"ם אַיִן זִיְין הַקְדָמָה צַו
פִּירּוֹשׁ הַמְשִׁנִוּת (סִדְרַ קְדָשִׁים)
דַעַר קְלָעַרְט, אָז סִזְיִנְעַן פָאָרָאָן פִּיד
מִינִים אַיִן קְרַבְנוֹת: א) קְרַבְנוֹת צְבּוֹר,
ב) קְרַבְן יְחִיד, ג) קְרַבְן צְבּוֹר דָוּמָה
לְקְרַבְן יְחִיד, ד) קְרַבְן יְחִיד דָוּמָה
לְקְרַבְן צְבּוֹר.

קְרַבְן צְבּוֹר זִיְנָעַן דַי קְרַבְנוֹת וְוָאָס

18. *Berachos* 26b.

19. In Jewish Law, a *tzibbur* ("community") represents more than a collection of individuals who join together for a common purpose. Instead, it constitutes a communal

entity that takes on an identity greater than the sum of its parts. See *Mafaneiach Tzefunos*, ch. 4, secs. 2 and 4, *et al.*

20. Indeed, the question whether the communal offerings share any

connection to the individuals who donated to them is the subject of an intricate and complicated *halachic* inquiry. See the discussion in *Likkutei Sichos*, Vol. 33, p. 109ff.

time and are offered on behalf of the community, e.g., the daily and additional offerings brought on *Shabbos*, *Rosh Chodesh*, and the festivals. Individual offerings are those that have no fixed time and are offered by each person as an individual. Communal offerings that resemble individual offerings are those that are offered on behalf of the community but have no fixed time, such as the bull offering brought when the *Sanhedrin* make an oversight in judgment. Individual offerings that resemble communal offerings are those that are offered by an individual but have a fixed time, such as the *Pesach* sacrifice.

Only communal offerings in the most complete sense were purchased with money from the half-*shekel* contributions. Individual offerings – even those that resemble communal offerings – were not purchased with those funds. The Sages²¹ differ regarding whether funds from the half-*shekel* contributions could be used to purchase communal offerings that resemble individual offerings. Nevertheless, the final legal ruling is that even these may not be purchased with such funds.

The inner, underlying reason for both these laws: Since the half-*shekel* contributions were a communal matter, the funds collected had to become communal property and had to be used specifically only for communal offerings in the most complete sense.

האבן א באשטיימטן זטן אוין מען אויז זי' מקריב אלס צבור, אזווי ווי תמיידין אוון מוספין. קרבן יחיד זיינען די קרבנות וואס האבן ניט קיין באשטיימטן זטן אוון יעדר אינער אויז זי' מקריב אלס יחיד. קרבן צבור דומה לקרבן יחיד זיינען די קרבנות וואס מען אויז זי' מקריב אלס צבור, זי' האבן אבער ניט קיין באשטיימטן זטן, אזווי ווי פר העלים דבר. קרבן יחיד דומה לקרבן צבור זיינען די קרבנות וואס מען אויז זי' מקריב אלס יחיד, אבער זי' האבן א באשטיימטן זטן, אזווי ווי קרבן פשת.

קרבן יחיד, אויך קרבן יחיד וואס דומה לקרבן צבור, האט מען ניט געקויפט פון די געלט פון מחלוקת השקל. וועגן קרבן צבור דומה לקרבן יחיד אויז פאראן א פלאוגטאַי, אוון די הילכה בליבט, או אויך אויף זי' האט מען ניט גענומען פון מחלוקת השקל, נאר דוקא אויך קרבן צבור ממש האט מען גענומען פון מחלוקת השקל.

דעך טעם פנימי אויף ביידע דינים: וויבאלד או מחלוקת השקל אויז געוווען אן ענין כללי, האט עס געדארפט זיינ מומזן צבור אוון מען האט עס פארנווצט אויף קרבנות צבור ממש.

Why Uniformity?

5. The above explains why every man gave an equal amount for the contribution used to purchase the sacrificial offerings. However, the need for a uniform contribution for the sockets still requires clarification: Why did this contribution need to be specifically a half-*shekel* per man?

ה. דאס אויז די דערקלוּרונג פארוועאס תרומות המובהך האבן געגעבן אלע גליין. אבער בנוגע תרומות האדנים אויז ניט פארשטאנדיין, פארוועאס האט אוין דעם געדארפט זיינ בקע לגלאלה דוקא?

21. *Menachos* 52a.

An even stronger question can be posed: The sockets were, after all, part of the Sanctuary. Thus, both contributions – the contribution for the sockets and the contribution for the construction of the Sanctuary as a whole – were given exclusively for the Sanctuary and its implements (distinguishing them from the contribution for sacrificial offerings). If so, why were they divided into two separate categories? And why the difference in the laws applying to them – that the contributions for the Sanctuary as a whole were given by “every person whose heart [was] so moved,” according to their individual desire, differing from person to person, while the contributions for the sockets were a standard amount, “a half-shekel per man”?

נאר מער איזניט פארשטאנדייך: די איזדים זייןען דאך א טיל פון משכן, קומט דאך אויס או ביידע תרומות (תרומות האדנים אוון תרומת המשכן) זייןען נאר צוליב דעם משכן אוון זייןע כלים (ויאס דערמיט טילין זי זיך אויס פון תרומת המזבח), היינט פארויאס טילין זי זיך גופא אויף צווי באזונגעראן תרומות, וואס זייןען פארשין אויך אין זי ערע דינים, תרומת המשכן אויז “איש כפי אשר ידבנו לבו” אוון תרומות האדנים – בקע לגלגת?

The Uniqueness of the Sockets

6. The *Talmud Yerushalmi*²² explains how each of the three mentions of *terumah* in the verse hints at a different contribution: “Take a contribution for Me,” refers to the contribution for the sockets; “You shall take My contribution” – refers to the contribution used to purchase sacrificial offerings; “This is the contribution that you shall take from them...” – refers to the contribution for the Sanctuary.

The obligation to give these different contributions is derived from the verses in the following manner: The verse, “This is the contribution that you shall take from them” – which mentions “gold, silver, copper” and proceeds to list all thirteen²³ or fifteen²⁴ items given by the Jews – refers to the contributions for the Sanctuary. The verse, “You shall take My contribution,” includes the phrase, “whose heart is so moved,” and thus, refers to the sacrifices regarding whose offering the intention of the heart is significant.²⁵ Similarly, the prayers that were instituted to correspond to the daily offerings are deemed “service of the heart,”²⁶ for the essential aspect of prayer

ו. דער ירושלמי טיעטשט אויס די דרי מאל תרומה וואס אין פסוק, יעדר איננו, אויף וועלכער תרומה זי איז מרבז: ויקחו לי תרומה גיט אויף תרומות האדנים; תקחו את תרומת – אויף תרומת המזבח; זואת התרומה אשר תקחו מאתם גו – אויף תרומות המשכן.

דער אופן הלמוד אין פסוק אין: בי זאת התרומה אשר תקחו מאתם זאגט ער זהב וכסף ונחשת וגו, די אלע דרייצן צי פופצן ואכן – גיט דאס אויף נדבת המשכן. בי דעם פסוק תקחו את תרומת זאגט ער אשר ידבנו לבו, דערפאר גיט עס אויף קרבנות וואס אין זי איז נוגע מחשבה שבלב (אויז אויך תפלוות שנגננד תמיין תקנות, אין דאך תפלה – עבודה שבלב,

22. Enumerated in *Shmos* 25:3-7. See *Rashi*, *Shmos* 25:2; *Yechezkel* 16:13; *Zohar*, Vol. II, p. 148a.

23. See the supercommentaries on *Rashi*, loc. cit., which offer different reckonings of the total number of items donated. See also *Likkutei Si-*

chos, Vol. 3, p. 902, footnotes 1 and 2.

24. See *Zevachim* 46b.

25. *Taanis* 2a.

is thought, sincerely praying to G-d²⁶ while focusing on bonding with Him.

Thus, the remaining verse, “Take for Me a contribution,” is interpreted as referring to the contribution for the sockets. According to this explanation, **לְ**, which means “for Me,” appears specifically in connection with the contribution for the sockets.

In truth, the phrase “take for Me” applies to all three contributions – and on a deeper level, to the Torah and its *mitzvos* as a whole. As explained in *Tanya*²⁷ (which cites the *Zohar*²⁸), “Take for Me” implies that through the Torah and its *mitzvos*, “you are [in effect] taking Me.” Nevertheless, the word **לְ**, “for Me” is explicitly stated only regarding the sockets.

Building on this, we see yet another distinction between the sockets and the other elements of the Sanctuary and the sacrifices: Specifically in connection with the sockets, is the concept of “for Me” explicitly stated. The use of that term is significant, as our Sages taught,²⁹ “Whenever [the term] ‘for Me’ appears [in Scripture,] it [implies something that] is not subject to change.”

דער עיקר פון תפלה איז מהשבה.).

בליבט איבער דער פסוק פון ויקחו לי תרומה, וואס גיט אויף די אדנים.

לויט דעם – שטיטיט דער וווארט ליל” ביי דער תרומה פון אדנים דוקא.

באמית גיט דער ויקחו “לי” אויף אלע דרי תרומות, און נאך טיפער – אויף כלות התורה והמצוות, ווי עס שטיטיט איז פניא בשם הוהר”, או דורך תורה ומצוות איז ויקחו לי – אוטי אטם לוזחים, אבער פונדאטוווען שטיטיט דער וווארט ליל” בפירוש בי אדנים דוקא.

וועט מען דערפונ נאך א חילוק פון די אדנים מיט די איבעריקע טילן פון משכן (און די קרבנות), וואס איז די אדנים דוקא איז דער ליל” בגילוי, וכל מיקום שניאמר לי אינו זו לעולם.”

The Sockets Within Our Souls

7. The difference between the sockets and the other elements of the Sanctuary, vis-à-vis the two distinctions mentioned, can be understood more clearly by first exploring the counterpart of the sockets within a person’s soul.

Commenting on the verse,³⁰ “They shall make Me a Sanctuary and I will dwell within them,” our Sages³¹ note that the verse “does not say ‘within it,’ but rather [uses the plural], ‘within them’ – [meaning] within each and every Jew.” Accordingly, we understand that all the elements of the Sanctuary,

ז. דעם חילוק פון די אדנים מיט די אנדעיש טילן פון משכן אין ביעד דערמאנטע חילוקים, וועט מען פארשטיין דערקלערנדיק פריער דעם עניין פון אדנים אין גוף האדם.

אויפן פסוק וועשו לי מקדש ושכנתה בתוכם, זיינען מדיק די רזיל”: בתוכו לא נאמר אלא בתוכם בתוק כל אחד ואחד מישראל. במליא איז מוכן, או אויך אין דעם משכן ומقدس הרוחני וואס אין

26. See *Likkutei Sichos*, Vol. 22, p. 116; Vol. 35, p. 127.

29. *Vayikra Rabbah* 2:2. See also *Likkutei Torah*, *Bamidbar*, p. 9c.

27. *Tanya*, ch. 47.

30. *Shmos* 25:8.

28. *Zohar*, Vol. II, p. 140b.

31. See *Reishis Chochmah*, *Shaar*

HaAhavah, ch. 6 (close to the beginning); *Shalah*, *Shaar HaOsios*, *os lamed*; *Maseches Taanis*, s.v. *mei-inyan haavodah*; *Parshas Terumah*, *chelek Torah Or*, pp. 325b, 326b.

including the sockets, exist in the spiritual Sanctuary within every Jew.

יעַדְן אִידָן, זַיְנָעַן פָּאָרָאן אַלְעָטָרִילְן פָּוּן דָעַם מַשְׁכָּן, אַוְיךְ דָעַר טַיְלְלִילְ פָּוּן דִי אַדְנָיִם.

What Supports Everything

8. The sockets were the lowest elements of the Sanctuary. Nevertheless, specifically they served as the foundation for the entire Sanctuary, supporting even the beams and the curtains although they were higher – and represented loftier spiritual levels – than the sockets.

In a person's Divine service, the counterpart of the sockets is humility and *bittul* ("self-nullification"). In a person's soul, the spiritual counterpart to the beams are the internalized powers, intellect and emotions. Therefore, they were ten cubits high, corresponding to the ten powers of the soul.³² The curtains represent the encompassing powers, will and pleasure, that transcend a person's conscious powers.

The sockets, the lowest element of the sanctuary, correspond to Divine service which is lower than all the other particular forms of Divine service. This alludes to the qualities of humility and *bittul* that characterize *kabbalas ol* (the acceptance of G-d's yoke.) Nevertheless, specifically the sockets, and their spiritual counterpart, *kabbalas ol*, served as the foundation of the entire Sanctuary. This is reflected in the phrase from our prayers, "Let my soul be as dust to all," which leads to the blossoming of our inner powers, as the phrase continues, "open my heart to Your Torah and let my soul pursue Your commandments."

ה. דִי אַדְנָיִם זַיְנָעַן גַעֲוָעַן דָעַר נַיְעָרִיקְסְטָרָר טַיְלְלִילְ פָּוּן מַשְׁכָּן. פָּוּנְדָעַסְטּוּוֹעָגָן זַיְנָעַן זַיִי דָקָא גַעֲוָעַן דָעַר יִסּוֹד פָּוּן דָעַם גַאֲנָצָן מַשְׁכָּן, אַוְיךְ פָּוּן דִי קְרָשִׁים וַיְרִיעָות, קָאָטָש זַיִי זַיְנָעַן גַעֲוָעַן הַעֲכָרְ פָּוּן דִי אַדְנָיִם.

אַיִן עֲבוֹדַת הָאָדָם אֵיזְ דָעַר עַנְיָן פָּוּן אַדְנָיִם – שְׁפָלוֹת וַיְטָול.

דִי קְרָשִׁים בְּנַפְשַׁ הָאָדָם זַיְנָעַן דִי פְּחוֹת פְּנִימִיִּים, שְׁכָל אַוְן מְדוֹת. דָעַרְפָאָר זַיְנָעַן זַיִי עַשְׂרָ אַמּוֹת, כְּנֶגֶד עַשְׂרָ כְּחֹות הַנַּפְשָׁש. דִי יְרִיעָות זַיְנָעַן דִי כְּחֹות מַקִּיפִים.

דִי אַדְנָיִם זַיְנָעַן נַיְעָרִיקְעָרָ פָּוּן אַלְעָטָרִילְ עֲבוֹדֹות פְּרָטִיות, דָאָס אֵיזְ דָעַר עַנְיָן פָּוּן שְׁפָלוֹת אַוְן בִּיטּוֹל פָּוּן קְבָּלָת עַל. פָּוּנְדָעַסְטּוּוֹעָגָן אֵיזְ דָאָס דָקָא דָעַר יִסּוֹד פָּוּן גַאֲנָצָן מַשְׁכָּן, וַיִּמְרֵיד זָאָגָן: נַפְשִׁי כְּעָפָר לְכָל תְּהִיה, אַוְן דָוְרָק דָעַם דָקָא אֵיזְ פַּתְח לְבִי בְּתוֹרָתְךָ וּבְמִצְוֹתְךָ תְּרַדּוֹפְ נַפְשִׁי.

Laying the Foundation

9. The identification of the sockets with humility and *bittul* also explains why the contribution for the sockets was collected only in the first year, while the other

ט. דָאָס אֵיזְ אַוְיךְ דָעַר טִיעָם וּוְאָס תְּרוּמָת הָאַדְנָיִם אֵיזְ גַעֲוָעַן נָאָר דָעַם עַרְשָׁתְן יָאָר,

32. See *Tikunei Zohar*, tikun 19, p. 61a.

contributions continued in subsequent years.

The fundamental point is: Humility and *bittul* are the foundation and beginning of Divine service. These qualities must be established first. Afterwards, once this foundation is in place, one can proceed with the particular and more developed levels of Divine service.

This is why each day's Divine service begins with the recitation of *Modeh Ani* immediately upon awakening and the opening prayer of *Hodu LaHavayah*, the first rung in the ladder of prayer.³³ Divine service must begin with – and be based on – acknowledgment and *bittul*. Only afterwards can the particular and more advanced stages of the prayer service follow: the verses of praise, the blessings before the *Shema*, the *Shema* itself, etc.

אבל די אנדרען תרומות זייןען געווין אויך שפטער.

דען ענין איז: שפלות און ביטול זייןען דער יסוד און אנטאג פון עבוזה, דאס דארף מען האבן צום אלען ערשותן, און דערנאנך, בשעת מען האט שווין דעם יסוד, דארף מען טאן אין מדריגות פרטיות אין עבודה.

דענפאר אין דער אנהוב פון דער עבודה פון טאג – מזקה אני און הוודו להו, ווארום הוודאה וביטול זייןען התחלת ויסוד העבודה, און דערנאנך קומען די מדריגות פרטיות: פסוקין דזמרה, ברכות קריית שמע, קריית שמע וכו'.

A Fundamental Commonality

10. Based on the above, we can understand the two distinctions between the sockets and the other elements of the Sanctuary:

When it comes to internal Divine service – service with our powers of intellect, emotion, will and pleasure – that are represented by the beams and curtains – there are differences between individuals, for each person must serve G-d with his own unique powers and faculties. However, variations between the Divine service of different people only exist concerning the Divine service of the heart and the mind. By contrast, *kabbalas ol* gives expression to a level of *bittul* in which all are equal.

How does one connect with G-d's Essence, the

לויט דעם ווועט מען פארשטיין בייען חילוקים צוישן די אדנים מיט די אנדרען טילן פון משכן:

אין עבדות פנימיות – קרשין און ירידות – אין דא א חילוק, פון איינער בוי א צוינויטער, וויל יעדר דארף דינען דעם אויבערשטן מיט זייןע פחות וחושם. אבל אין דעם ביטול פון קבלת על זייןען אלע גליין.

דורך וואס נעם מען עצמות,

33. Both the words *modeh* and *hodu* reflect the service of *hodaah*, "acknowledgment." Acknowledgment of another's position as correct involves a humble recognition that that even though one does not comprehend that position entirely

because it is above his own level of understanding, he realizes its truth and accepts it, recognizing it as a higher perspective above his own.

Similarly, regarding our relationship with G-d, *hodaah* reflects the will-

ingness to go beyond our own limited perspective and bend ourselves to His will. As we renew our bond with G-d each day — upon awakening and as we begin our prayers — we emphasize our humble submission to His will.

dimension alluded to by the word **לִי**, “for Me,” and stated explicitly only concerning the sockets? Specifically through *bittul*. As Scripture relates regarding the revelation to the Prophet Eliyahu,³⁴ “G-d is not in the wind... not in the earthquake... not in the fire,” but in “the still, small voice.” However, as the *Zohar*³⁵ relates, in that “still, small voice... there the King comes.” (These four aspects of Divine service, alluded to in the above verse, are explained at length in the series of *maamarim* entitled *BeShaah Shehikdimu*, 5672.³⁶)

לִי” – דורך ביטול דוקא. לא באש הו’, לא ברעיש הו’, ולא ברוח הו’, נאר אין קול דממה דקה – תפנין קא אתי מללא (וכמברואר בארכוה ד’ עניינים אלו בעבודת האדם בהמשך תער’ב).

Taking Further Steps

11. Although *kabbalas ol* and *bittul* form the foundation of Divine service, as discussed above, they are only the foundation. Consummate Divine service requires devoting one’s internalized powers – intellect and emotions – to G-d as well. For this reason, a half-*shekel* is insufficient. When offering a sacrifice, our Sages teach,³⁷ “A wealthy person who brings a poor person’s offering does not fulfill his obligation.” Similarly, in the spiritual counterpart, every person must commit all of his entire intellectual and emotional capacities, to G-d’s service.

Conversely, however, “A poor person who brings a wealthy person’s offering fulfills his obligation.” As stated by the commentators on that source,³⁸ this maxim does not merely apply after the fact; doing so is acceptable, even as an initial preference. Indeed, it is a conduit for blessing.³⁹

What is the spiritual parallel to a poor person bringing an offering fit for a rich man? Our Sages teach,⁴⁰ “[The true definition of] poverty is solely a dearth of knowledge.” Similarly, in the instance at hand, one may be “poor in knowledge” – lacking in his study of *ni-*

יא. הגמ דער יסוד העבודה איז קבלת על און ביטול, אבער, ווי גערעדט פריער, איז דאס נאר דער יסוד. שלימות העבודה איז, מען זאל אונעקגעבן צום אויבערשטען אויך די כחوت פנימיים, שכל און מדות. און איז זעם קען מען ביט יוצא זיין מיט מלחיצית השקל, נאר אווי ווי דער דין איז בי קרבנות: עשיר שהביה מנהת עני לא יצא. בי יען איזנעם מאנט מען, איז דער זאל אונעקגעבן זיין גאנצן שכל מיט די גאנצט מדות צום אויבערשטען.

פונ דער אונדער זייט שטייט דארט: עני שהביה מנהת עשיר זיא, און ווי מפערשים טיטישן איז ניט נאר יצא בדיעבד, נאר אויך לכתחה, און נאך מערער: תבוא עלי ברכה.

דער ענין פונ דעם איז רוחניות איז: אויך אן עני בדעת, וואס

34. *I Melachim* 19:11-12.

pp. 407ff, 822ff.

35. *Zohar*, Vol. III, p. 227b.

37. *Negayim* 14:12.

36. The series of *maamarim* entitled *BeShaah Shehikdimu*, 5672, Vol. 2,

38. Rabbeinu Asher and Rabbeinu Shimshon of Shantz.

39. The concluding phrase translates a common Rabbinic expression that literally means “May blessing come upon him.”

gleh (the revealed, primarily legalistic dimension of the Torah) and perhaps even in his meticulous observance of *mitzvos*. Even so, he is asked to bring “a wealthy man’s offering,” to study *p’nimiyus haTorah* (the Torah’s inner, mystical dimension).

This approach will serve as a conduit for blessing for him. Such an approach leads to a figurative interpretation of our Sages’ words,⁴¹ *Aseir bishveil shetisasher*, “Act like a wealthy man so that you will become wealthy.” “[The true definition of] wealth is solely an abundance of knowledge.”⁴² One who studies *p’nimiyus haTorah* will become spiritually wealthy, gaining abundance in his faculties and capabilities. This will also be translated into wealth in its simple sense: abundant children, health, and prosperity.

40. *Nedarim* 41a.

that you will become wealthy.”

41. *Taanis* 9a. The literal meaning of our Sages’ statement is, “Tithe so

42. Numerous Rabbinic sources building on *Nedarim*, loc. cit.

שער האותיותאות ל, מסכת תענית ריש ד"ה מענין העבודה. פרשת תורה חלק תורה א/or – שכה, ב. שכוי, ב. י"ד) ועתקוני זהר תיקון יט (סא, א). טו) נעים בסופה.

ח) שמות רבה כג, טו.

ט) מנחות נב, א.

י') תענית ב, א.

יא) תניא פמ"ז. זהר ח"ב קמ, ב.

יב) ויקרא רבה פ"ב, ב. וע אויר לקוטי

יג) וע ראשית חכמת שער האהבה פ"ז

(נאענט צום אנפאנג) און אין של"ה

א) שקלים ריש פ"א.

ב) ברכות לב, א.

ג) שבת קמו, א. זהר ח"א נב, ב.

ד) זע בראשית רבה יט, ג.

ה) בראשית רבה יט, ג.

ו) זע וועגן דעם אליעם לקו"ש ח"א עמוד

.41.

ז) זע ניצוצי אורות להדר ח"ג יד, ב.

עם פעולות אים אין לימוד נגלה דתונה און אפילו און קיימ האמצעות בהידור, אויה בי אים מאנט מען ער זאל לעונגען פנימיות התורה, מנחת עשר, און דאס גופא וועט ברענגען או תבוא עליו ברכה, עס וועט זיין דער עשר (מאכן זיין ריין) בשביב שתחתעשר, ואין עשיר אלא בדעת, ער וועט זיין אן עשיר ברוחניות, אין זיינע חושים ויכולה, און עס וועט אראפקומען אויך אין עשירות כפשוטו בגשמיית, בבני חי ומאוני רוחחי.

(משיחות שבת פרשת משפטים

תשט"ג, תשח"ג)

TERUMAH II | תרומה ב

Adapted from *sichos* delivered on *Shabbos Parshas Mishpatim*, 5715 and 5718 (1955 and 1958)

Introduction

Sometimes, moderation isn't enough.

By and large, Judaism advocates following *Rambam*¹'s advice to maintain a middle path – to balance the expression of our emotional qualities through mindfully controlling the course of action we should follow. That approach is mirrored in conventional wisdom, which also generally favors adopting a balanced, measured approach to life.

Unquestionably, in ordinary situations, this is a valid path. However, there are moments that demand we transcend the structures of our ordinary conduct, times when the circumstances require us to step beyond the norm.

How do we navigate the balancing act involved in knowing when to follow the norms and when to disregard them? The answer lies at the heart of a teaching concerning the wooden boards used in constructing the Sanctuary in the desert.

The Torah specifies that these boards were to be made from *shittim* (acacia) wood. The root of that Hebrew term is related to the Hebrew root of *hataya* meaning “deviation” and also to that of *shtus* meaning “foolishness.” These two concepts are related because foolishness is a deviation from the rational path.

Now, why would G-d's Sanctuary be constructed from materials whose very name suggests irrationality?

The Sanctuary – and the individual sanctuaries we construct in our lives – are intended to refine the elements of our personalities and the world around us so that they can become conduits for the revelation of G-dliness. Now, much of our day-to-day interactions involve foolishness, conduct that pulls us downward, involving a deviation that is below than the path of reason. How can a Sanctuary be made from such activity?

By introducing a different type of foolishness. Within each one of us lies the potential to break beyond the limits of reason and commit ourselves to G-d without any limits whatsoever. In this way, the foolishness below reason is transformed into the foolishness transcending reason. In doing so, we create a Sanctuary for G-d.

This teaching carries particular relevance today when much of the conduct we see in the world at large is illogical, breaking standards of normalcy that were taken for granted in previous generations. To transform the negative aspects of the breakdown of society's ongoing patterns, there is a need for breakthrough moments in the realm of holiness, committing ourselves to spreading goodness and truth without worrying whether our actions conform to the ordinary guidelines of reason and logic.

1. *Rambam*'s introduction to Tractate ch. 4; *Hilchos De'os*, ch. 1
Avos, entitled *Shemoneh Perakim*,

Breaking Through the Barriers of Holiness

Two Types of Folly

1. Commenting on the verse,¹ “And you shall make the upright boards (*kerashim*) for the Sanctuary from acacia (*shittim*) wood,” in his classic *maamar* entitled *Basi LeGani*,² my revered father-in-law, the Rebbe Rayatz, explains that *shitim*, shares its root letters with the word *hataya*, which means “deviation.” Similarly, it shares its root letters with the word *shtus*, meaning “foolishness.”

These words share an inherent connection. There exists a middle path, which is the path of intellect and comprehension. Deviating from this middle path is identified with *shitim* and ultimately results in *shtus*, “foolishness.”

In particular, there are two types of deviation: a) one below intellect, the foolishness of the “opposing force” (*leumas zeh*), as our Sages state, “A person will not transgress unless a spirit of folly enters him,”³ and b) one above intellect, holy foolishness (*shtus d’kedushah*) similar to our Sages’ statement, “The elder’s folly benefited him.”⁴

The service of the Sanctuary in the desert and the *Beis HaMikdash* in Jerusalem involved transforming the foolishness of the “other side”⁵ and converting it into holy foolishness, as explained at length in that *maamar*.

א. אויפן פסוק ועשה את הקרשים לפישען עצי שטים עומדים, איז מבאר בבוד קדשת מורי וחמי אדונינו מורהנו ורבינו, או שטים איז מלשון היטה – אפנוייגונג.

עס איז פאראן א מיטל-וועג, דאס איז דער וועג פון שכט און השגה, און דאס אפנוייג פון מיטל-וועג וווערט אונגעראופן “שטיט,” שטוט.

און אין דעם זייןען פאראן צוין אויפנים: א) די היטה למיטה מהשכל, שטוט דלעמת זה, וכמאמיר רוזל: אין אָדָם עֹבֵר עַבְירָה אֶלָּא אֵם כָּן נָכַנְסֶה בָּו רֹוח שְׁטוֹת. ב) די היטה למעללה מהשכל, שטוט דקדושה, ועל דורך מאמיר רוזל אהני ליה שטוטיה לסבא.”

די עבדת המשכן ומקדש איז צו מההפ זיין שטוט דלעמת זה און מאכן פון איר שטוט דקדושה, עיין שם בארכיות.

1. *Shmos* 26:15.

4. *Ketubos* 17a, describing the manner in which Rav Shmuel bar Rav Yitzchak would rejoice at weddings. In recognition of the unique positive nature of his celebration, a pillar of

2. *Basi LeGani*, 5710, secs. 3-5.

3. *Sotah* 3a.

fire was revealed at the time of his passing.

5. A Kabbalistic term for the forces of evil.

When Moderation is Not Enough

2. One cannot be content with the middle path. Holy folly, conduct that transcends reason and logic, is of fundamental necessity.

Had there not been unholy foolishness in the world, the middle path would have sufficed. However, the sin of the Tree of Knowledge introduced spiritual contamination into the world as a whole, leading to unholy foolishness. A moderate, balanced path of holy conduct cannot overcome this influence. That is possible only through holy folly.

The same pattern that applies to the world as a whole applies regarding every individual. A person who has sinned, caused a spiritual blemish, and strayed from the proper path – or even done only one of these three – can no longer follow the middle path. Rather, he must pursue a path that transcends moderation. As explained in *Igeres HaTeshuvah*,⁶ when a bond has been broken, reestablishing the connection requires a two- and even a multi-fold bond.

This aligns with *Rambam*'s advice:⁷ While generally he counsels following the middle path, when a person has deviated too far in one direction, *Rambam* advises that the way for him to correct this is by temporarily going to the opposite extreme.⁸

ב. מען קען זיה ניט באנונגענען מיטן מיטל-וועג, נאר מען מוז האבן שטוח דקדושה דוקא, למעלה מיטעם זדעת.

וואלט אין וועלט ניט געוווען די מציאות פון שטוחות דלעמת זה, וואלט דעמאלאט גענוג געוווען אויך דער מיטל-וועג. קשעת אבער אויך דער חטא עץ הדעת אויך געוווען אין כללות העולם זוהמא, שטוחות דלעמת זה, אין, אין מיט וואס קען מען דאס ב'יקומען –

מיט שטוחות דקדושה דוקא.

אווי ווי דאס אין אין כללות העולם, אווייך ער האט חוטא געוווען און פוגם געוווען און עבר את הדר, איזער אפילו נאר איני פון די דריי זאכן, קען ער דאן ניט גיין אויפן מיטל-וועג, נאר ער מוז גיין למעלה מדרך המיצוע, און לויט ווי עס ווערט דערקערט אין אגרת התשובה, און במקומ הקשר זאך זיין כפול ומכפֶל.

אווי זאגט אויך דער רמ"ס, און בכלל זאך מען גיין אין מיטל-וועג. אויב אבער מען אויז געגאנגען אין אין ריכטונג צופל, אין בקדי דאס צו מתקן זיין, מוז מען גיין אין דעם צויניטן קצה.

Breaking Down Barriers

3. Along these lines, we can understand why, when describing G-d's promises to our Patriarchs, the Talmud⁹ distinguishes the consummate virtue

ג. לויט דעם וועט מען אויך פארשטיין, וואס די גמרא באצ'יכנט

6. *Tanya*, *Igeres HaTeshuvah*, ch. 9.

7. *Rambam*'s introduction to Tractate *Avos*, entitled *Shemoneh Perakim*, ch. 4.

8. *Rambam* is speaking about the

correction of a particular character flaw – that one attribute is imbalanced. Therefore, only a temporary adjustment is necessary. However, here the Rebbe is speaking about an all-encompassing negative pattern.

Therefore, it must be corrected by an ongoing approach of holy folly.

9. *Shabbos* 118b.

conveyed by these promises and blessings by using the word *ufaratzta*¹⁰ “and you shall spread out,” explaining that the unique promise and blessing to Yaakov was “not like [that which was given to] Avraham... nor like [that given to] Yitzchak....” Instead, the promise and blessing G-d gave Yaakov was, “You shall spread out westward, eastward, northward and southward.”¹¹

At first glance, this is puzzling: What is so remarkable about *ufaratzta* that makes it a greater promise and blessing than all the other promises and blessings cited in that Talmudic passage?

This query can be clarified by first explaining another aspect of *ufaratzta*. *Ufaratzta* does not simply mean “and you shall spread out”¹² – it means “you shall break through” or “you shall break down barriers.” A breach (*pirtzah*) cannot occur in an open field. In order for there to be a breach, there must be a building or a wall from which a section is removed. By doing so, one creates a breach – he has broken through.

The building and the barriers which we must break through must certainly be holy structures and barriers within holiness. After all, in truth, there is no such thing as a building of unholiness. On the contrary, what appears to be a building of unholiness is nothing but a ruin, something that has been broken down. In that vein, our Sages¹³ state, “Tyre was built up only through Jerusalem’s destruction.” Breaking down such a ruin would not appropriately be termed *ufaratzta*, “breaking through.” Instead, it would truly be considered building because the destruction of a negative influence is a constructive activity. When the Torah of truth uses the term *ufaratzta*, we must say that this refers to something that truly involves breaking down, rupturing a structure of genuine substance, i.e., a breach in holiness.

10. Starting approximately 5718 (1958), the Rebbe associated Lubavitch outreach activities with the term *ufaratzta*, “you shall spread forth.” A catchy melody based on that verse was composed in *Eretz*

Yisrael. When it was sung at one of the Rebbe’s *farbrengens*, he encouraged its singing. Afterwards, the melody became somewhat of a signature song for Lubavitch and the term became a byword for Lubavitch

outreach efforts.

11. *Bereishis* 28:14.

12. See *Ramban* on *Bereishis* 38:29.

13. *Pesachim* 42b, *Megilah* 6a, using slightly different wording.

“דַּי הַעֲכַסְתָּע מַעַלה מִיטָּן וַיַּאֲרַת וַיַּפְרַצְתָּ”. לֹא כְאַבְרָהָם כֵּי וְלֹא כִּיחַק כֵּי אֶלְאָכַעַב שְׁפָטוּב בָּו וַיַּפְרַצְתִּי מֵהָ וְקָרְמָה וְצָפְנוֹה וְנָגְבָּה¹⁰. אֵין פָּלוֹג אָזְנִית פָּאַרְשָׁטָאנְדִּיק, וְוָאָס אַיִ אַזְוִי דַּי גּוֹאַלְדִּיק עַמְּלָה פּוֹן וַיַּפְרַצְתָּ”, וְוָאָס דָּאַס אַיִ גְּרָעָסְעָר פּוֹן אַלְעָ אַנְדָּעָרָע מְעָלָות, וְוָאָס עַד רַעֲכָנְטַ דָּאַרְטַן אַוְיס אַיִ גְּמָרָא?

וְוָעַט מַעַן עַס פָּאַרְשָׁטִיָּין דָּעַרְקָלְעַרְגָּנִיק פְּרִיעָר נָאָך אַפְּרַט אַיִ זָעַם עַגְגָּן וַיַּפְרַצְתָּ”.

דָּעַר וַיַּאֲרַת וַיַּפְרַצְתָּ בַּאֲדִיטִיָּן נִיט סְתָמֵץ עַשְׁפְּרִיִּיטֵן זִיךְיָה, נָאָר – אַרְאָפְנָעָמָעָן מְחִיצֹתָה. אַיִ אַפְּעַלְדָּי אַיִ נִיט שִׁירְדָּי קִיְּין פְּרַצָּה, נָאָר וְוָעַט אַיִ זָא אַבְנִין אַוְיס אַמְוִיעָר, אַוְיס מַעַן גַּעַמְטָ אַרְאָפְנָעָמָעָן דָּעַם אַחֲלָקָי, הַיִּסְטָע עַס פְּרַצָּה – וַיַּפְרַצְתָּ”.

דָּעַם בְּנִין אַוְיס גָּדָר – אַוְיִיפְנָעָלְכָן מַעַן זָאָגְט אַז אַיִ אַמְּסָ דָּאַרְטַן זִיךְיָה וַיַּפְרַצְתָּ – אַיִ זָאָךְ מְכִירָה אַז עַס אַיִ אַבְנִין דְּקָרוֹשָׁה. וְוָאָרָוָמָ אַוְיִבְנָא בָּאַמְּתָה נִיט קִיְּין עַגְגָּן פּוֹן בְּנָוָן, נָאָר אַנְעַנְיָן פּוֹן חָוּבָן אַוְיס פְּרַצָּה (עַל דָּרְךְ מְאָכָר רַזְלִיבִּי לֹא נְתַמְּלָאָה צָוָר אַלְלָא מְחֹרְבָּה שֶׁל יְרוּשָׁלָם) אַוְיס בְּרַעֲכָן אַזְוָא בְנִין אַיִ, אַיִ זָעַם אַמְּתָן, נִיט קִיְּין וַיַּפְרַצְתָּ, נָאָר, אַדְרָבָה, בְנִין. אַוְיִבְנָא תּוֹרָת אַמְּתָה רַוְפְּטָעָס אַנְעַנְיָן וַיַּפְרַצְתָּ, מַזְוּ מַעַן זָאָךְ זָאָגְט, אַז זָאָךְ אַיִ אַפְּרַצָּה בָּאַמְּתָיותָה.

At first glance, this is puzzling: What purpose or benefit is there in breaking down a structure of holiness – one that the Torah itself deems a proper building?

Based on the above explanation, the resolution of this quandary can be understood: In an ultimate sense, Divine service involves holy folly, going beyond the middle path. True, the middle path is a valid and straightforward path according to the Torah. Nevertheless, *ufaratzta* is asked of a Jew – that he transcend all limitations, even the limitations and boundaries of holiness, which are themselves holy structures.

This capacity for holy folly that transcends logic and reason – surpassing limitations, even holy limitations – is identified with the inheritance which Yaakov, the chosen one of the Patriarchs, was promised. It is the ultimate level, the loftiest level of Divine service, surpassing the inheritance granted Avraham and Yitzchak.

אין דאך אין פלאג ניט פארשטיינדייך, וויאס פאר א תכליית אונ גוטס אין דא אין בירען א בנין, אונא בנין וויאס תורה רופט עס בנין?

אֲפָעַד לֹאִית דַעַם אַוְיָזְגַּעַזְגַּטְן וּוּעַט מַעַן עַס פָּאַרְשְׁטִיְינִין: דֵי עַבּוֹדָה אַיִז, שְׁטוֹתָה דְקָדוֹשָׁה וּוּאַס אַיִז הַעֲכָר פָוּן מִיטְלְוֹוָעָג, קָאַטְשׁ דַעַר מִיטְלְוֹוָעָג אַיִז דָאַך אַגְלִיכְעָר וּוּעַג עַל פִי הַתּוֹרָה, פָוְנְדָעַסְטּוּוֹעָג דָאַרְך זַיְינַן "וּפְרָצָת", אַרְוִיסְקִין פָוּן אַלְעַג הַגְּבָלָות, אַוְיך פָוּן הַגְּבָלָות וְגַדְרִים פָוּן קָדוֹשָׁה, וּוּאַס זַיְינַען דָאַך בנין.

אַנְהַר עַנְנִין פָוּן שְׁטוֹתָה דְקָדוֹשָׁה שְׁלַמְעָלָה מַטְעָם וְדַעַת, הַעֲכָר פָוּן הַגְּבָלָות, אַפְּיָלוּ פָוּן הַגְּבָלָות פָוּן קָדוֹשָׁה, דָאַס אַיִז נַחַלְתִּי עַיקָּב, בְּחִיר שְׁבָאַבָּות – תְכִלַּת הַפְּעָלָה, הַעֲכָר פָוּן נַחַלְתִּי אַבְרָהָם אַנְהַר פָוּן נַחַלְתִּי יִצְחָק.

In Practice, Not Only in Theory

4. This discussion leads to a practical directive: *Yeshivah* students and those who devote themselves to Torah study on the whole should not content themselves with the set times they have for Torah study. Even the schedules followed by the *mehadrin* ("the meticulous") – and even the *mehadrin min hamehadrin* ("the most meticulous") – are insufficient. Rather, there is a need to break through – *ufaratzta*. Like the folly of the elder that benefited him,⁴ there is a need for conduct that transcends reason and goes beyond any set schedule.

Businesspeople must follow a similar motif. Their primary focus in Divine service involves the fulfillment of *mitzvos* – particularly the *mitzvah* of *tzedakah* (charity), which is equivalent to all

ד. דֵי אַנְוֹנוֹיְזָנָג פָוּן דַעַם בְּנוֹגָע לְפֹזָל אַיִז:

תַּלְמִידִי הַיִשְׁיבָּה אַונְ יַוְשְׁבִּי אַחַל בְּכָל דָאַרְפָּן זַיְה נִיט בְּאַנוֹגָעַנְעַן מִיט דֵי זַמְנִים הַקְּבוּעִים וּוּאַס זַיְה אַבָּן צַו לְעַרְנַעַן תּוֹרָה. אַפְּיָלוּ דֵי זַמְנִים קְבוּעִים פָוּן מַהְדָרִין, אַונְ מַהְדָרִין מִן הַמַּהְדָרִין זַיְינַן אַוְיך וְזַיְינִיך, נַאֲר עַס דָאַרְך זַיְינַן – "וּפְרָצָת", אַתְּנִי לִיה שְׁטוֹתָה לְסַבָּא, הַעֲכָר פָוּן טַעַם וְדַעַת, הַעֲכָר פָוּן אַלְעַג זַמְנִים הַקְּבוּעִים.

בָּעֵלִי עַסְק, וּוּאַס זַיְיעַר עַיְקָר עַבּוֹה אַיִז קִים הַמְצֹוֹת אַונְ בְּפֶרֶט מְצֹוֹת הַצְּדָקָה שְׁשַׁקּוֹלָה כְּנַגְדָּל הַמְצֹוֹת, אַיִז דֵי אַלְעַג דְּבָרִים

the other *mitzvos*.¹⁴ True, the set measures of charity, even the most exemplary forms discussed by the earlier and later *halachic* authorities, all constitute a superlative structure according to Torah. But that is not enough; there must be *ufaratzta*, a breaking through all structures, without any limits. As explained in *Iggeres HaTeshuvah*¹⁵ and *Iggeres HaKodesh*,¹⁶ “A person will give all that he has for his soul.”¹⁷ Even those who think they need not give to this degree because their Divine service is not at all lacking should realize that their Divine service also involves a deficiency. There is no end to the expressions of unity that could be brought about in the sublime spiritual realms through their Divine service. As such, they also must give to charity in a manner of *ufaratzta*, without limiting their gifts at all.

הקבועים *שבצדקה*, און אפִילו צדקה מהטובייה ווי דערקלערט אין פוסקים ואחרונים, – *כאטש ס'אייז א בנין מובחר על פי תורה – אייז עס פאר זיין ופרצת אן הגבלות, און ווי עס וערט דערקלערט אונ אגורה התשובה* און אגורה הקדש, און כל אשר לאיש יתן بعد נפשו. און אפִילו זי וואס מיינען, און זיין דארפַן צו דעם ניט אנטקומען וויל זיין פעלט גארניט, – אבער אין דער עבודה פון יהודים עליוניים פעלט דאר אויה זיין, וואס די יהודים שלמעלה זייןען דאר אין סוף, במלא דארפַן זיין געבן צדקה אין אונ אופַן פון ופרצת.

When All Barriers Will Be Broken

5. *Mashiach* is referred to as *haporetz*, “the one who breaks through.”¹⁸ The *mitzvah* – the call of the hour – is to hasten his coming by studying Torah and fulfilling its *mitzvos*, particularly the *mitzvah* of *tzedakah*, in a manner of *ufaratzta*.

Unlimited Torah study by Torah scholars – especially *yeshivah* students – and unlimited fulfillment of *mitzvos* – particularly *tzedakah* by businesspeople – will lead to complete unity. In the words of the *maamar Basi LeGani*,¹⁹ “The roof and floor [will] become truly one.” The Torah, the “roof,” in spiritual terms, and its *mitzvos* – which are enclothed

ה. אויף מישיחן שטיטט דער לשון “פֿוֹרֶץ”. אייז די מצוות השעה, בכדי צו ברענגןן רעם פֿוֹרֶץ בקרוב – עס זאל זיין דער לימוד התורה און קיומ המצוות ובפרט צדקה אין אונ אופַן פון ופרצת.

דורך לימוד התורה אן הגבלות פון יושבי אהל און אבערוהיפט בני-הישיבה, און דורך קיומ המצוות ובפרט צדקה אן הגבלות פון בעיל עסַק, ווועט זיין קלשון המאמץ: “אג ווועצפה כאחד מפֿשַׁ,” תורה וואס אין רוחניות אייז דאס גג” (א דאר) און מצוות וועלכע

14. *Bava Basra* 9a.

gifts to charity when they are necessary to heal him spiritually.

Bereishis Rabbah, the end of ch. 85.

15. *Tanya*, *Iggeres HaTeshuvah*, ch.

19. *Basi LeGani*, ch. 9. Every year

3. In that source, it is explained that just as a person whose health is failing will give anything and everything he owns to regain it, so too, a person aware of the blemishes within his soul will not restrain his

16. *Tanya*, *Iggeres HaKodesh*, Epistle 10, *et al.*

on Yud Shvat, the anniversary of the passing of the Rebbe Rayatz, the Rebbe would review a chapter of the *maamar*, *Basi LeGani*. In the

17. *Iyov* 2:4.

year this *sichah* was delivered, he reviewed ch. 9.

18. See *Michah* 2:13. *Agadas Bereishis*, the end of ch. 63; *Rashi*,

in physical objects and therefore can be termed the “floor” – will become truly unified. All divisions, barriers, and limitations will disappear, and “the one who breaks through”¹⁸ will proceed before us. May it happen speedily in our days.

וַיִּנְעַן אֲנַגְעָטָן אֵין גְּשָׁמִיּוֹתֶיךָ וְאֵין –
”רַצְפָּה”, וְוַעֲלֵן זַיִן כְּאֶחָד מִמְּשָׁש, אָנוּ עָם וְוַעֲלֵן
אֲרַאֲפָגִין אָלָע הַבְּקָלָות, מְחִיצֹות וְהַגְּבָלוֹת, אָנוּ
עָם וְוַעֲט זַיִן יַעֲלֵה הַפּוֹרֵץ לְפָנֵינוּ בְּקָרוֹב מִמְּשָׁש.

(משיחת י"ז שבט, תש"ט)

כה) אגדת בראשית ס"פ סג. רש"ג.

כב) פסחים מב, ב. מגילה ו, א (בשינוי
בראשית רבה ס"פ פה).

כג) באתי לגבי תש"י ס"ט.

כא) שבת קיה, ב.

כב) סוטה ג, א.
לשון).

כג) פ"ג.

כד) ס"י, ועוד.

טו) באתי לגבי תש"י, ס"ג ואילך.

וי) סוטה ג, א.

ו) כתובות יי, א.

ט) פ"ט.

כ) פ"ד ממשמונה פרקים.

תרומה ג | TERUMAH III

Adapted from a *sichah* delivered on *Simchas Torah*, 5719 (1958)
(This *sichah* was included as a clarification of the concepts mentioned in the previous *sichah*.)

Introduction

U*faratzta* (literally, “And you shall spread out...,” or, “And you shall break through,”) has become a Chabad by-word referring to breaking through all manner of limitations. However, it is often discussed in abstract terms. Frequently, it remains there, in the realm of the abstract, without being applied to everyday life.

In the *sichah* that follows, the Rebbe provides detailed guidance for applying the concept of *ufaratzta* in various aspects of our lives. Starting with Torah study and moving through prayer and acts of kindness, he demonstrates how this principle can transform our approach to Divine service on a day-to-day basis.

Taking the concept past generalities, the Rebbe shows how it applies differently to various groups – Torah scholars, businesspeople, and teachers. For each, “breaking through” means transcending their particular set of limitations, whether those are time constraints, financial considerations, or professional boundaries.

To Break Through All Barriers

When No Barriers Present an Obstruction

As mentioned, the mode of *ufaratzta* (“breaking through”) should characterize all matters. Now is the beginning of the year and the beginning of a new order – a new pattern of Divine flow from above downward has begun. To enhance the outpouring of Divine blessing, first and foremost, there should be *ufaratzta* in Torah study. One should study Torah abundantly, without looking at the clock.

If the above directive needs to be emphasized to full-time scholars, how much more so should it be emphasized to businesspeople. A businessman should not remain content with the fixed times for Torah study that he establishes based on what he thinks is appropriate for him. Instead, his study should be characterized by *ufaratzta*.

One of the chassidim of the Alter Rebbe interpreted our Sages¹ dictum that a person fulfills his obligation for Torah study by studying *perek echad shacharis ve perek echad arvis*, “One portion in the morning and one portion in the evening,” as follows:

When interpreting the statement figuratively, “one portion” means that a person should study the Torah in a manner that G-d’s oneness (*echad*) takes him apart² (*mefereik*) and permeates him entirely.³ Then, it will be “morning” – his life will become illuminated. “And one portion” – when the G-d’s oneness takes him apart and permeates him entirely, there will be “evening” (*arvis*) – he will perceive the sweetness (*areivus*) of G-dliness.⁴

1. *Menachos* 99b.

2. The Hebrew root **פרק**, translated in the quote from our Sages as “portion,” also means “break apart.”

3. Possibly, it could be said that this concept is connected to *ufaratzta*, spreading forth without boundaries, in that the Torah spreads through the person’s entire being. It also

* מען האט גערעדט, או עס דארף זיין דער עניין פון “ויפרצת” אין אלע עניינים.

איזו ווי עס איז דאך דער אנהויב פון יאר און פון סדר, דער סדר ההמשכה מלמעלה למטה, איז די ערשות ואך דארף זיין דער “ויפרצת” אין תורה. מען זארף לערונען תורה בשופי, ניט קווק אויין זיגער.

אוייב מען דארף דאס באווארענען יושבי אهل, איז מכל שכן או מען דארף דאס באווארענען בעלי עסך. דער בעיל עסך זאל ניט וועלן יוצא זיין מיט א קביעות עתים לתזה ווי עס קומט אוייס לדעתו, נאר עס זארף זיין “ויפרצת”. פרק אחד שחרית ופרק אחד ערבית – האט געטיטשט דעם אלטן רבינס א חסיד – או דער לימוד התזה דארף זיין באופן פון “פרק אחד” – או דער “אחד” זאל אים פאנאנדען געטיטשט איז “שחרית” – ווערט ליבטיק. “פרק אחד” – בשעת דער “אחד” געטיט אים פאנאנדען, איז “ערבית” – ווערט זיס.

connects the concept explained above (p. 19) that *poretz*, the root of *ufaratzta*, means to break down.

4. **ערבית**, the root of the word, “evening,” also means “sweet.”

The approach of *ufaratzta* should be extended from Torah study to Divine service – prayer. One should pray – engage in Divine service – in a mode of *ufaratzta*. Full-time scholars should engage in extended contemplation before prayer, during prayer, and after prayer as well. Although businesspeople have an authorized limitation on contemplation during prayer, they should restrict this limitation. In other words, their prayer should not be so rushed and brief that there is no room for extended contemplation entirely. Such people must be able to pierce at least a “needle’s point” into their prayers, creating a moment when they open themselves up and contemplate G-d’s greatness. They can then rely on our Sages’ promise that if they provide “an opening [even] as narrow as a needle’s point, [G-d] will open for [them] an opening as wide as the entrance hall to the *Beis HaMikdash*.⁵

In material matters, there are times when, in one moment, it is possible to earn more than one could earn in several hours on another occasion. Similar concepts apply concerning prayer. It may be that one does not have much time, but in the time that he does have, he should thoroughly immerse himself in the Divine service of prayer. G-d will grant him success and enable him to achieve much in that short amount of time.

Prayer involves an approach of *ratzo*, yearning to ascend upward and unite with one’s source. Operating from this base, it is necessary to extend the approach of *ufaratzta* into the realm of acts of kindness as well.⁶

As discussed at length regarding the verse,⁷ “Those who support it are fortunate” – this refers to those who support Torah scholars. Giving a tenth

5. See *Shir HaShirim Rabbah* 5:3. See the *Tzemach Tzedek*’s notes on *Likkutei Torah, Bamidbar*, p. 55a, where he cites this teaching, noting that the *Midrash, Yalkut Shimoni*, and the *Zohar* use slightly different wording.

but highlights the wording used in the main text. See *Likkutei Sichos*, Vol. 1, p. 191, footnote 17.

6. In *Chassidus*, it is explained that the Divine service of *ratzo*, “yearning to cling to G-d,” must be balanced by

פונ תורה לארכ מען דאס ממשיך זיין אויך אין עכודה – תפלה, או עס זאל זיין דער “ופרצת” אין עבדות התפלה. בי’ יושבי אהל דארך זיין לאנגע התבוננות פארן דאוונען, בשעתן דאוונען און אויך נאכן דאוונען. בעלי עס, וואס בי זי איז די פודעטוען דארך די גבללה אויך האבן א גבללה, עס זאל ניט זיין באופן או ס’אי זניטא קיין ארט וואו קורץ או ס’אי זניטא קיין ארט, וואס דורך נפתחו לי כחודה של מחת’, איז “אפתח لكم כפתחו של אלום”.

פונקט ווי אין גשמיota, קען ער דאר אמאן אין אין אנדער פארדינען פיל מער ווי אין אנדער מל אין א סה שעה/ז, אויז אויך, להבל, אין זאוונען, הום ער האט ניט קיין סה צייט, אבער די צייט וואס ער האט, דארך ער טאן אין עבדות התפלה, און השם יתבונך ווועט אים געבן האלחה, או דורך דער ביסל צייט ווועט ער אויפטאן.

תפלה איז דאך רצוא, איז פון דעם דארך מען ממשיך זיין דעם “ופרצת” אויך אין קו פון גמילות חסדים. וואס דאס איז דאר וואס מען האט גערעדט באירוע דעם זותומכיה מאשר”, וואס תומכיה גיט אויף תמכין דאוריתא – מעשר

the opposite motif, *shov*, a return to balanced existence within this world. This is reflected in the performance of acts of kindness.

7. *Mishlei* 3:18.

of one's earnings to *tzedakah* is obligatory⁸ and giving a fifth was established as a desired standard by the Sages in Usha.⁹ Moreover, as explained in *Iggeres HaTeshuvah*¹⁰ and *Iggeres HaKodesh*,¹¹ one should give even more than a fifth to rectify undesirable matters. Those texts discuss extending such generosity from the perspective of rectifying sins. How much more so does this concept apply concerning generously offering charity or fulfilling other *mitzvos* with a totally positive intent.¹²

It is related¹³ that the Baal Shem Tov would give more than a fifth of his earnings to charity. He was questioned regarding this practice based on the teaching,⁶ “One who gives [to charity] extravagantly (*mevazbez*) should not give more than a fifth.” The Baal Shem Tov responded that the term *mevazbez* “gives extravagantly” is related to the word *bizah* (“plunder,” that is used in the context of war and similar situations). In other words, a person who does not want to give – and who must therefore wage war with himself, compelling himself as if through force and plunder, to tear the money away from himself – is told: Do not give more than a fifth. However, when one gives with joy and pleasure, what difference is there between charity and other pleasures and needs on which he spends money? Just as he spends lavishly on other things he wants, he will not content himself with giving merely a fifth to charity.

A person might argue that the above concept does not apply to him because he has not yet reached the level where he derives joy and pleasure from giving charity. However, the theme of *ufaratzta* must also be emphasized in such matters; one must break through his self-imposed barriers and limitations. Moreover, the possibility of giving with joy and pleasure is enhanced

איז דאך א חיוב, און חומש מצד תקנות אוישא, און אפילו יותר מחומש, איז ער דאך מבאר אין אגרת התשובה זאגראת הקדש, או מען דארף עס אויך טאן מצד תיקון אויף עניינים בלתי רצויים. דארטן – אין אגרת התשובה ואגרת הקדש – רעדט ער דאס מצד דעם קו פון תיקון על עזוננות כו, ומפל שכון בשעת דאס איז אין דעם אנדער קו¹⁴.

מען דערציאלית¹⁵, או ער בעל שם טוב האט געגעבען צדקה מעיר וויי א פינפטל, האט מען אים געפרעגעט, עס שטיעט דאך אל יזונז יותר מחומש? האט ער גענטפערט, או המבונז איז מלשון בזזה (וואס איז בי מלחיות וכיוצא בזזה), דאס הייסט ער דארף מיט זיך מלחמה און ער דארף מיט זיך מלחמה האבן, פועלין בדרכּ כפיה ובדרכּ בזזה, אפרײַסן דאס בי זיך, איז אל יזונז יותר מחומש. דאָקען ער וואס גיט דאס בשמחה ובעונג (איז מיט וואס איז אנדערש צדקה פון אנדערע תענוגים און באָדערפֿענישן אויף וועלכע ער גיט איס געלט?).

קען מען דאך טענזה, או מען האלט נאך ניט דערביי או די צדקה זאל זיין בשמחה ובעונג, איז דאך אבער אויף דעם ער “ופרצת”. בפרט, ווען מען איז דאך זיכער

8. *Rambam*, *Hilchos Matanos Aniyim* 7:5.

9. *Ketubos* 50a. See *Rambam*, loc. cit.

10. *Tanya*, *Iggeres HaTeshuvah*, ch.

3. See the preceding *sichah*, footnote

12.

11. *Tanya*, *Iggeres HaKodesh*, Epistle 10, et al.

12. See *Kesubos* 67b; *Zohar*, Vol. III, p. 9b; *Nimukei Yosef*, *Bava Kama*

9a; *Shulchan Aruch*, *Orach Chayim*, sec. 656, and commentaries. This is not the place for further discussion of the matter.

13. *Orach LeChayim*, *Parshas Terumah*; *VeTzivah HaKohen*, ch. 15.

since we are assured of G-d's promise,¹⁴ "Test Me, please, in this matter"— i.e., G-d has guaranteed that He will reward gifts of *tzedakah* with abundant prosperity.

Ufaratzta must also characterize those who work in holy institutions. Just as students are expected not to "watch the clock," so too, must the teachers and the others who work in the school approach their work with a similar boundless dedication. They should not merely "put in their hours," but should be completely immersed in their work, devoting themselves without calculations.

By conducting oneself with an approach of *ufaratzta* in all the above matters, G-d will enable each individual to experience *ufaratzta* in his personal matters, breaking through any restrictions that existed beforehand, thus, leading to "an inheritance without boundaries"¹⁵ in all his personal affairs.

14. *Malachi* 3:10.

15. The source of the phrase, "an inheritance without boundaries," is in the *Talmud, Shabbos* 118a. There,

it appears that it is identical with the concept of *ufaratzta*. However, in a *sichah* delivered on 13 Tishrei, 5719, (*Toras Menachem*, Vol. 24, p. 49), proof was brought from that

אין דעם צוֹאָג "זֶבְּחָנָנִי נָא בָּזָאת" – הָעַלְפֵט עַס צוֹ שְׁמָחָה וְתַעֲנָג. אָוִיךְ דָּאָרָף זַיְן דָּעַר "וּפְרָצָת" בַּיִּדְיָוָס אַרְבָּעַתְן אִין דִי מַוְסָּדָת הַקָּדוֹשִׁים. פּוֹנְקַט וּוּיְ מַעַן מַאֲנָט בַּיִּדְיָוָס תַּלְמִידִים זַיִּינְזָאָלְן נִיטְקָוָן אָוִיפָּן וַיְגַעַר, אָזְזִי אִין אָוִיךְ בַּיִּדְיָוָס וּמִיָּסָס, אֹזְזִי דָּאָרָפָן "אַפְּאַרְבָּעַתְן" וַיְיַעַרְעַז "אַרְבָּעַתְן שְׁעָוָתָס", נָאָר מַעַן דָּאָרָף לִגְנָן אִין דָּעַם אַן חַשְׁבּוֹנֹת וּכְוָן.

און דָּוָרָה דָּעַם וּוָאָס מַעַן וּוּעַט זַיִּיךְ פִּירָן לְוִיט "וּפְרָצָת" אִין דִי אַלְעָא אָוִיבְּגָעָזָגְטָע עַנְנִינִים, וּוּעַט דָּעַר "אָוִיבְּעַרְשָׁטָעָר גַּעַבְן דָּעַם "וּפְרָצָת" יְעַזְזָן אַיִּינָם אָוִיךְ בַּעֲנִינֵי הַפְּרָטִים, בַּיִּזְיָן צַו "נִצְחָה בְּלִי מִצְרִים".

(מושיחת שמחות תורה, תש"ט)

passage of the Talmud itself that the two – *ufaratzta* and "an inheritance without boundaries" – are separate matters, as stated in the main text.

מוכח לכורה אשר נחלה בלי מצרים הוא עניין אחד עם ופרצת, – כבר נתבאר בשיחת י"ג תשרי תש"ט ראה בגדרא זו גופא כמו שכותב בפנים.

אורח חיים סימן תרנ"ז ובנוסאי כלים שם. ואין כאן מקוםו. (ח) הובא בספר אורח לחיים פרשת תרומה ובספר זריזה הכהן פט"ו. (ב) הגם שדברי הגمرا (שבת קיה, ב)

*) צולב פולקלורדר דערקלערגונג פון די אוטיות טוֹטוֹ, ברענגן מיד די פְּאַלְגָּנְדִּיקָּע שִׁיחָה.

(ג) זו כתובות סז, ב. זוהר ח"ג, ט, ב. נמקוי יוסף צו בא קמא ט, ב. שולחן ערוך



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whose commitment has brought this sacred initiative to fruition

