

SICHA POEM

PROJECT LIKKUTEI SICHOS | 5783 - YEAR OF HAKHEL



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Vayakhel - Pekudei

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This week we have two parshas, Vayakhel and Pekudei
Just reading their names raises a question right away
The names are contradictory, they do not seem to
Convey the content of the parsha, as most parsha names do

Vayakhel means to assemble, like a group gathering
Yet the parsha talks of the Mishkan's vessels each detail and specific thing
Pekudei means to count, seeing parts individually
Yet the parsha speaks of the complete Mishkan, how it's all one entity

The explanation can be seen in one of the ways we can
Describe the role of each item as part of the larger plan
Sometimes an individual thing has no value of its own
But when it becomes part of a greater whole, its own value is also shown

This was true of the Mishkan, and the keilim that it needed
Each utensil had no value until the Mishkan was completed
But once the Mishkan was fully built, Hashem's earthly home
Each utensil now also has a tremendous value of its own

So Vayakhel describes each utensil, yet the group all together is stressed
The individual keili has no value yet, it's just a part of a process
Pekudei though tells us how they had all that they needed
And Hashem's home was ready, the mishkan was completed

Once the Mishkan is complete, every keili now is special
We begin to see the qualities of each specific vessel
The individual parts did not have a value of their own
But as part of the greater Mishkan whole their value now was shown

There's a practical lesson that we all should learn:
Our individual growth is not our primary concern
We must discover our place in the community
And only then our individual value can be seen

This is why we start our daily prayer with a line or two
Rededicating ourselves to loving every Jew
Because only by merging with the whole community
Do we actually discover our own identity

This may seem like a paradox or contradictory
But that is only when we view it all externally
Yet from Hashem's perspective, each person and the community
Are an expression and reflection of Hashem's unity
