

# SICHA POEM

PROJECT LIKKUTEI SICHOS | 5783 - YEAR OF HAKHEL



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## Nasso, Sicha 1

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Following the Mishkan's eight-day-long ceremony of inauguration  
The Nesi'im took turns bringing korbanos for a twelve-day duration  
The Nasi of Ephraim brought his korban Shabbos day  
And the Midrash brings two opinions as to whether that was okay

In chapter thirteen of Midrash Rabbah it says that in three places  
The Nesi'im acted wrongly yet Hashem allowed it in all three cases  
A private korban may not be brought on Shabbos but it had been  
Which shows how precious Hashem considers the korbanos of the Nesi'im

In chapter fourteen we read that Hashem told Moshe He would let it  
If Ephraim brings his korban on Shabbos it will be to his credit  
And Hashem said, "Yosef, you kept Shabbos before it was a commandment  
I'll reward you by accepting a korban on Shabbos brought by your descendant"

In Chapter thirteen we see that what Ephraim did was wrong  
And in Chapter fourteen we read that Hashem wanted it all along  
So what exactly is the basis of the two differing views  
And is there something that Shevet Ephraim teaches their fellow Jews?

The first view held that it was forbidden to bring the korban then  
But it was allowed "just this once" because it's so precious to Hashem  
The second view says the korbanos of the nesi'im were never meant to be  
Included in the Shabbos prohibition of bringing korbanos privately

Yet even in the positive views there are levels B and A  
Hashem says to Moshe, "These are so precious, bring them even on Shabbos day!"  
But what Hashem said to Yosef was much more than "I'm going to allow this"  
Ephraim's korban was a lofty form of keeping Shabbos!

On a deeper level Yosef and Ephraim both represent the art  
Of bringing in the "outside" world and making it a part  
Of holiness and kedusha where it seemingly doesn't fit  
Like Yosef keeping Shabbos before Hashem commanded it

And Ephraim's offering a korban on Shabbos that didn't belong there  
Transforming pain into flourishing which to Hashem is so dear  
And with Hashem's encouragement, the beauty of Shabbos it does express  
Transforming the "forbidden" into an affirmation of Shabbos holiness.

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