Project Likkutei Sichos Volume 18, Matos 2



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One day the messengers of the emperor, Knocked on the door of Rashi's father, a famous jeweler. They came to purchase a diamond that was missing, From a big idol that the emperor was serving.

Rashi's father wanted to make sure that there wouldn't be a possibility, For his gem to be used to make Hashem so unhappy, So he told the messengers that he would travel with them by sea, To deliver the gem to the emperor personally.

On the boat, he showed the gem to a sailor, And pretended that by mistake his gem fell into the water, The messengers pitied him for his loss, But in his heart, Rashi's father was happy of course.

Rashi's parents were childless until that date, But as a result of his sacrifice so great, They merited to have a son, who was known as Rashi, Whose commentary every day we study!

In Parshas Matos the Yidden were taught,
What to do with the vessels and dishes that were brought,
From the nation of Midyan,
Who in battle they won!

First they had to make each pan and pot kosher,

By heating it to the same temperature,

As when it prepared the food that was forbidden,

To remove the flavor that remained in the vessel which is hidden.

Immersion into the Mikvah's waters is step two,
So that it can be elevated for the use of a Jew,
Because even if the dish is brand new,
It needs to be purified from the possibility of being used by a non Jew.

These Mitzuos weren't mentioned before, When the Yidden conquered Sichon and Og at war. Because although they took plenty of booty, Koshering and Toiveling weren't necessary.

Because Sichon and Og were considered to be,
Part of Eretz Yisrael, our inheritance so holy,
Therefore until the Yidden were done conquering their land,
They were permitted to eat everything that came to their hand.

Usually pig is Asur, which means tied, forbidden because it can't be lifted, While Mutar means untied and therefore it is permitted.

According to Chassidus, at that time, even pig wasn't prohibited,

Because everything was able to be elevated.

Everything was permitted was a given,
So not only wasn't Koshering a consideration,
But they didn't have to worry about immersion,
Because there was no possibility of something forbidden.

Potential is key,
In two more cases we will see,
That if there is no real potential for negativity,
Then Toiveling is unnecessary.

Even before the Torah was given, Between milk and meat the Yidden kept a separation. So when the laws of Shechita they did hear, Their dairy dishes were still permitted, it is clear.

Although they were going through a conversion, Their dishes didn't need immersion, Because in their possession were their vessels, There were no forbidden potentials.

When Pesach is over,
We don't immerse our dishes in water,
Because they were in a non Jew's possession Halachically,
They were not used by the non Jew practically.

The lesson is that we should stay away from things that are wrong, And from places where we don't belong, So that we shouldn't have the possibility, To fall and sin even temporarily.

Just like the father of Rashi, Who threw his precious diamond into the sea, So that there shouldn't be a possibility, For his diamond to be used for idolatry.