

SICHA POEM

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Parshas Shekalim

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Before the month of Adar comes, on Shabbos Mevorchim,
We read an extra portion from the Torah, called Parshas Shekalim.
In Temple times in the month of Adar every person had to give a donation,
Of a half of a Shekel to purchase sacrifices on behalf of the entire nation.

To remember this Mitzvah annually,
We give a half a coin of our currency.
This Mitzvah is unique because it is the only time that we see,
That we need to give a half specifically.

In the days of old,
A Shekel was worth 20 Gerah we are told,
But instead of the Torah telling us to give 10 Gerah,
To give a half a coin are the specific words from the Torah.

With regards to things that are holy,
Complete and whole, everything has to be.
The vessels used in the Beis Hamikdash had to be full, it is a fact,
They surely couldn't be chipped or cracked.

Only animals that were blemish free were able to be brought,
And the Kohanim themselves couldn't have a blemish we are taught.
Even the Challah that on Shabbos we eat,
For Lechem Mishna, it must be whole and complete.

Although only half a coin can be given,
There is an obligation on the person,
All at once, to give his donation,
To give the money in installments is not an option.

This is unique, because usually,
When it comes to obligations that relate to money,
There is no Halacha found that demands that a person come,
And give the money in one lump sum!

We need to understand,
Why is it that on one hand,
The obligation is to give an incomplete part,
In a complete way, with all of one's heart?

The explanation according to Chassidus is that a half has a great advantage too!
Every Jew is compared to one half and the other half is Hakadash Baruch Hu!
Being defined as the other half of Hashem is understood clearly,
Based on the Tanya which says that every Jew has a part of Hashem within, actually!

The Neshama is united with Hashem from the beginning,
A Jew needs to reveal his G-dly soul and the feeling,
That he is a half that has a desire,
To unite with his other half, with passion and fire!

In the area of Mesiras Nefesh, this is expressed,
When a Jew is faced with the ultimate test,
Hashem he can not deny,
Rather than bowing to the cross he is willing to die.

When a person comes to the realization,
That his life force comes from his G-dly connection,
Into parts he can't divide his dedication,
His devotion to Hashem is complete without limitation.

To Moshe, from under His throne, a fiery coin, Hashem did show,
Because He wants us to know,
That giving physical money isn't the only goal,
But Hashem wants that the giving should be permeated with the fire of the soul.

Machatzis Hashekel is a foundational Mitzvah,
Because the money was used for Korbanos which was called the Avodah.
The purpose of all of our Avodah is to bring us closer to Hakadosh Baruch Hu,
From the word Karov/close, which stems from Korban we see this is true.

A person's Avodah is complete when he is aware,
That without his other half, Hashem, he wouldn't get anywhere.
Even when he serves Hashem with all his powers and might,
Without Hashem, with his Yerzer Hora he wouldn't be able to win the fight.

A person shouldn't make a mistake and say,
That since everything comes from Hashem anyway,
He could just do a little and Hashem will do the rest,
But in a complete way, he must do his best!

When we give it all we've got,
Not in installments but in one shot,
We will merit the coming of Moshiach today,
In a complete way!

Another explanation to share,
About the fact that to a half a coin every Jew does compare,
Is that the other half is our fellow Jew so dear,
Even if they are far, physically or spiritually, about them we care!

We are able to have Ahavas Yisrael for every Jew,
Because their Neshama is what we view.
When we unite with their piece of Hashem, we touch the whole thing,
We automatically unite with Hashem our King.

This Avodah begins as soon as we say "Modeh Ani Lefanecha,"
When we wake up and thank Hashem for returning our Neshama.
We realize that with Hashem we are one,
And therefore we can unite with everyone!

Another lesson that we can learn,
Is that we should give Tzedaka from the money that we earn.
To get the Mitzvah action done, we shouldn't just give the money,
But into our giving we should invest our thought, speech and a ton of energy!

Through giving Tzedaka in this way, to help our fellow Jew,
We will hasten the coming of Moshiach Tzidkeinu,
When Hashem will perform the greatest Tzedaka,
And gather us from all over the world, at the time of our Geula!