

SICHA POEM

Likkutei Sichos, Vol. 27

Acharei, Sicha 1

— By Mrs. Chanie Gourarie, Chabad Toms River

Every word in Torah is a lesson for you and me,
The lesson from the death of Nadav and Avihu, the Torah tells us clearly.
A Cohen should not go into the Mishkan so holy,
When he is drunk with wine, it says in Parshas Shemini,

The second lesson the Torah does say,
Two and a half Parshios later, In Parshas Acharei.
A Kohen Gadol may not enter the Holy of Holies whenever he does desire,
To represent all the Yidden he can only go in on Yom Kippur.

To tell us the second lesson why is there a delay,
Why doesn't the Torah tell us the two lessons together right away?
In order to answer this question we need to understand the flow,
Of the Parshios that go from high to low.

In Terumah, Tetzaveh, Vayakhel and Pekudai, the Torah does share,
Holy matters, like building the Mishkan and the garments that the Kohen does wear.
With Korbanos, Chumash Vayikra starts,
Teaching us to serve Hashem with all our hearts.

In the beginning of Parshas Shemini we learn about the Mishkan's dedication,
A day of great celebration,
On the eighth day, Hashem's Shechinah came down to rest,
But sadly, Nadav and Avihu died when on their own they brought up Ketores.

After the Torah teaches us how to live in a holy way,
And tells us that from the world we shouldn't run away,
The Torah teaches us about how to deal with things that are worldly,
Where distinguishing between good and evil is necessary.

In the second part of Parshas Shemini the Torah begins to discuss,
The animals that are kosher and not kosher for us.
In Parshas Tazria and Metzora we learn about purity and impurity,
That results from a person's body.

In Parshas Acharei we learn about Yom Kippur, the holiest day of the year,
So why is the second lesson that we learn from Nadav and Avihu only stated here?
To place the lessons in their perfect spots Hashem did choose,
The clue is that Hashem is speaking to two categories of Jews.

In Parshas Shemini, Hashem addresses the people that learn Torah all day,
Hashem warns them that from the world they shouldn't run away.
Wine which brings pleasure represents the secrets of Torah that they learn,
To cleave to Hashem and reach Olam Haba they yearn.

For those who Torah is their occupation the lesson is clear,
The essence of Torah isn't in heaven, it is down here!
Don't just think about your spiritual development but help another Jew,
Our mission is to transform this world into a home for Hakadosh Baruch Hu!

The second lesson is for the business people who from the world want to run,
When they see the dangers and temptations that seem glittery and fun.
The message for them is clear,
You have the power of Torah so you have nothing to fear.

To teach us what is kosher and pure the Torah is our guide and light,
The Torah clarifies the difference between wrong and right.
Only when we learn Torah and do Mitzvos down here do we fulfill our mission,
Of uniting with Hashem and creating a Dira Bitachtonim.

We might fall it is true but we can always return to Hakadosh Baruch Hu,
Because on Yom Kippur we are forgiven for all the sins that we did do.
Once we are confident that over evil we can win,
This is the perfect place to tell us about the second lesson.

Don't be like Nadav and Avihu who ran away from the world so physical,
We can't always enter the realm that is spiritual.
Inspiration is great but it must bring us to elevate the physical with action,
Only by transforming this world will we merit Moshiach, our final redemption!
