



PARSHAS PEKUDEI – BY NAFTALI & SHUA GERSHLICK

Parshas Pekudei, by Naftali Gershlick

יכס הענן את אהל מועד וכבוד ה' מלא את המשכן -

The cloud covered the tent of meeting and the Hashem's glory filled the dwelling. (Shemos 40:34).

How can we understand this Passuk and relate it to our lives? We can answer this by bringing a Mashal. One of the most admired and hallowed personalities in the Vilna region for generations was the "Ger Tzedek," (i.e. "Righteous Convert"). Having been raised as Duke Valentine Pototzki, his name became Avrohom ben Avrohom on his conversion.

When the Ger Tzedek was sentenced to death by the Polish authorities, the tailor who had spoken the Lashon Hara against the Ger Tzedek, (by informing the authorities of his conversion), came to the Ger Tzedek to ask for forgiveness. The tailor was afraid that the Ger Tzedek would take revenge on him. The Ger Tzedek answered him with the following Mashal:

Two children were playing on the beach. One built a sand castle and the other kicked it down. Years later the one who had built the castle became king. The one who had knocked it down was petrified that the king would avenge what he had done when they were boys. He came to the king and fell on his knees begging for forgiveness. The king answered: "Don't be foolish! I am now king of many large nations. Do you think a sand castle is important to me?"

The Ger Tzedek continued, "You have nothing to worry about. Yes you spoke Lashon Hara about me, but that only really affects my body. Once I'm in Olam haEmes, (the True World.) I won't really care at all about my body. Then I will be king over 310 worlds, and I won't care about such a small thing!"

The Ger Tzedek knew what is important (the ikar) in our lives and what is quite simply unimportant (the tafel). Our Guf and physical reality are merely transient. Unless they are connected to Mitzvos, they have no importance or longevity. Whereas our Neshama and a life imbued with Torah and Mitzvos is eternal and priceless, a life without Hashem's glory is empty.
Good Shabbos!
(With the help of The Illustrated Mashal, by Rabbi Ze'ev Greenwald.)

Parshas Pekudei, by Shua Gershlick

ויהי בחדש הראשון בשנה השנית באחד לחדש הוקם המשכן -

"And it came to pass in the first month in the second year, on the first day of the month, that the tabernacle was reared up" (40:17).

In all the days that the Mishkan was being set up and the Kelim were placed inside; the Mishkon could not be used. Why was that? Why could the Mishkon not be used? The answer is simple; it would be improper for the Shechinah to rest on the Mishkan, if the Mishkon were incomplete.

The answer is clear; the Shechinah cannot rest on anything if it is incomplete. The Shechinah cannot rest on the Jewish people, unless they keep all the Mitzvos of the Torah.