



PARSHAS TERUMA – MR TOLLY ROSE

In this week's Parsha we learn how Hashem commanded Moshe to build a Mishkan and supplied him with detailed instructions.

At the end of the Parsha we learn of the copper yeseidos, or "pegs/stakes".

Rashi explains that these "pegs" held down the coverings of the Mishkan and the hangings in the surrounding courtyard so that the wind should not lift them. To ensure that the cloths and hangings would not sway to and fro in the wind they were held down to the ground with pegs.

Rashi then questions how exactly the yeseidos achieved this goal. Were they stakes driven into the ground or just weights tied to and hung upon the fabrics to pin them down? In other words, were they securely driven into the ground, or were they weighty pegs that sat on top of the ground and held the cloths down with their weight. After posing the question Rashi states that he prefers the first possibility, that the yeseidos were thrust into the ground.

Rav Moshe Feinstein (in Darash Moshe) provides us with a beautiful insight into this. These two possibilities described by Rashi may perhaps be applied to our individual efforts to achieve success in serving the Ribono shel Olom. What is it that enables a person to resist the many negative influences of the outside world that he faces each day? How best to ensure that one is not influenced by those that threaten our allegiance to Hashem and his Torah?

The answer, says Reb Moshe is that one should adapt and implement both possible models of yeseidos referred to by Rashi. Firstly, he should be driven into the ground i.e. firmly rooted in a kehila of true unwavering Torah observance and hashkafa. If a person is attached to such a kehila and religious community he is best placed to avoid the external influences that contradict the true Torah way of life. But, in addition, a person must be important in his own right – "weighty" - he must have internal strength and resolve to withstand negative influences on his own account. One cannot rely purely on the structure of the tzibur to grow spiritually. It is necessary to develop ones own inner resources to grow in avodas Hashem.