

א ביסל תורה!

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ג' אדר תשפ"ו · תרומה

ושכנתי בתוכם

By Fraydel Groysberg '29

In פרשת תרומה, בני ישראל are commanded to build the משכן, a portable sanctuary that they would carry with them in the desert. This was going to be the place where Hashem's presence would rest among the Jewish people. Hashem tells משה, "וַיֵּשׁוּ לִי מִקְדָּשׁ וְשִׁכְנֹתֵי בְּתוֹכְכֶם," "They shall make a Sanctuary for Me, and I will dwell in their midst" (שמות כה:ח).

Something interesting about this פסוק is that it does not say, "I will dwell in it," meaning in the משכן. Instead, it says "among them." Some commentators explain that this teaches us an important lesson: Hashem does not just want to live in a building. He wants to live within each and every one of us.

The תורה goes into a lot of detail about what materials were needed to build the משכן: gold, silver, copper, special fabrics, acacia wood, oil, and precious stones. But before listing all these items, Hashem says that the donations should come from "מֵאֵת כָּל-אִישׁ אֲשֶׁר יִדְבְּנֵנוּ לְבָב" "every person whose heart moves him" (שם ב). This shows that the most important part was not the materials themselves, but the attitude behind giving. It had to come from the heart.

This teaches us a big lesson about serving Hashem. It's not only about what we do, but how we do it. If we do מצוות just because we feel forced or pressured, it's not the same as doing them with excitement and sincerity. Hashem values when we put our heart into our actions.

Another important idea in this פרשה is that everyone had a role. Some people gave expensive materials like gold, and others gave simpler items, but every donation mattered. The משכן could not have been built without the contributions of the entire community. This reminds us that every Jew is important. No one is too small or unimportant to make a difference.

Today, we do not have the משכן, but the message still applies. We can each create a place for Hashem in our own lives. When we act with kindness, give צדקה, learn תורה, and treat others with respect, we are building a "משכן" inside ourselves.

פרשת תרומה teaches us that Hashem does not just want a beautiful building. He wants our hearts. When we give from the heart and include everyone, we create a community where Hashem truly dwells among us.

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The Reason Behind the Donations to the משכן

By Dina Wagner '26

At the beginning of this week's פרשה, פרשת תרומה, Hashem tells משה that the משכן will be built out of materials donated by בני ישראל. This donation is called a תרומה, the name of the פרשה. However, this begs the question: Why does Hashem need a building and why does he require donations to build it?

An answer one can suggest is that Hashem does not need the building; he needs the builders. The משכן stood as a symbol of בני ישראל's connection with Hashem. This is not because בני ישראל needed the משכן to have a connection with Hashem; rather, it was the connection with Hashem that built the משכן. Hashem was using the building of the משכן to form this connection and to teach בני ישראל a lesson. By asking בני ישראל to donate some of their belongings, Hashem is teaching them how important it is to give. These required donations were meant to help Bnei Yisrael recognize Hashem and His role in their lives.

We learn a valuable lesson from this story: A connection with Hashem is not fostered by prayer alone but by effort and giving, dedicating a part of one's self and one's life to Hashem, just like בני ישראל did when they gave their

belongings to help build the משכן. Today, there is no בית המקדש or משכן to donate to, thus, one should give and donate to others. By giving to others, one recognizes what Hashem has given and appreciates it. If one does not recognize Hashem's role in one's life, then one would feel as though everything is only because of one's self, as a result of one's work alone. However, when one willingly gives to others, one shows the recognition of how the product of one's own work is from hard work and is a gift from Hashem. It is easy to overlook Hashem's role in one's life, but if one makes giving a part of one's day-to-day life, it will be a little easier to recognize and be thankful for everything Hashem has done.



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