

GREAT FOR SHARING
AT THE SHABBOS TABLE!



אור ישראל

Living Life Deeper

PARSHAS
NASO

שבת

BY RABBI NETANEL NAAMAT
RABBI NAFTALI ZIONS

SHABBOS: A DAY THAT'S BLESSED

A large part of *Parshas Naso* describes the *Korbanos* and gifts that each *Nassi* brought to the *Mishkan*. Elishamah ben Amihud, the *Nassi* of Ephraim, brought his *Korban* on Shabbos.¹ The *Medrash*² clarifies that only a communal *Korban* may be brought on Shabbos, not an individual's *Korban*. Why, then was Elishamah allowed to bring his *Korban* on Shabbos?

The *Medrash* explains that Elishamah's great-grandfather, Yosef *HaTzaddik*, made sure to prepare for Shabbos,³ despite the fact that the *Mitzvah* of Shabbos was not yet given. Therefore, as a reward, his grandchild was allowed to bring a *Korban* on Shabbos.

Rabbi Zev Hoberman⁴ (1930-2012) points out that this seems to be counterintuitive. It doesn't make sense that the reward for caring about Shabbos should be the allowance to violate Shabbos! To answer this, he explains that the nature of this *Korban* was changed, and it was elevated and reclassified into a '*Korban* of Shabbos.' Instead of violating Shabbos, it enhanced Shabbos, which now had another *Korban* in its honor.

In a slightly different vein, the *Eshed HaNechalim*⁵ explains that the *Korban* was elevated to a point where it was even greater than Shabbos, and therefore, was allowed to supersede Shabbos!

No matter which way one understands why the *Korban* was allowed to be brought on Shabbos, we see that Yosef received an amazing reward - not only for keeping Shabbos, but even for his preparation for Shabbos. Yosef's desire to honor Shabbos caused Hashem to change the nature of his descendant's gift, to the point where he was allowed to do something that no one else in history was allowed to do. Shabbos is an amazing gift which is given to us on a weekly basis. It's a special time that affords us the opportunity to remove ourselves from the daily grind, take a deep breath, and come close to Hashem. In addition to all that we gain from Shabbos, when we properly keep and prepare for Shabbos, we receive reward beyond anything that we can imagine.

1 *Bamidbar* 7:48

2 *Bamidbar Rabbah* 14:2

3 Based on *Bereishis* 43:16

4 *Ze'ev Yitraf Shabbos* 2:9

5 *Bamidbar Rabbah* 14:2 s.v. קרבנו בשבת

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Mind the Gap - Taking the Next Step

Shabbos comes with many rules and guidelines, and it may be difficult to appreciate Shabbos. How can one develop an appreciation for this day, especially against the backdrop of what seem to be various inconveniences?

One very important idea is the concept of *חיצונה מעוררת הפנימית* - that one's external actions affect one's internal feelings.¹ There are times where one has to take the initiative, and act in a certain way until they truly feel it. If one doesn't have positive feelings for Shabbos, one can engender them by acting, or even thinking, in a certain way.

Most of us do some sort of preparation for Shabbos - cooking, cleaning, showering, etc. We may go through these actions by rote, without thinking of the impact of what we are actually doing. Taking a moment to think about, or even verbalize,² the purpose of our actions - we're getting ready for Shabbos! - can generate good feelings, give deep meaning to our routines, and help us really recognize the gift of Shabbos.

1 *Mesillas Yesharim* Chap. 7

2 *Mishnah Berurah* 250:2

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JUST ONE SHABBOS

Billy Alter* was a regular kid in the suburbs, growing up in the mid 60's. His parents, though Jewish, had little connection to their heritage, and passed even less down to their son. However, they understood that there is something important about having an authentic Jewish education, and though they sent their son to public school, they paid to have a rabbi study with him once a week, on Sundays.

After a couple of months, Billy was introduced to the idea of Shabbos - a day of rest and peace. After much discussion, Billy had made a decision. Billy was going to keep Shabbos. At seven years old, Billy didn't have much say in the family's level of observance. Nevertheless, he knew that for himself, he'd do whatever he could to make sure that he kept Shabbos.

His parents didn't mind, and even went out and bought some grape juice for him. However, on Saturday afternoon, his parents informed Billy of their plans to go out, and wanted to bring Billy along. "I can't do it!" said Billy. "I can't drive in a car on Shabbos!"

"Oh, c'mon Billy. You're not driving, I am," said his exasperated father. "Anyway, why not do this next week? This week we're going out, and we can't leave you at home."

Billy was adamant. "No. I will not go. You can leave me at home if you want, but I'm not going." The truth was, Billy really wanted to go. He was afraid to stay at home alone, and he always got a special treat when he went out on Saturdays. But he knew that if he gave in now, he'd never try to keep Shabbos again.

Billy and his parents argued back and forth for a half-hour. Finally, Mr. Alter said, "Billy, that's it. We're going. Good luck by yourself." And with that, the Alters walked out the door, and drove away.

Billy sat in his house by himself. He didn't know when Shabbos was over, so he waited and waited until he was sure it was dark outside, before he made his way to the phone, and called the rabbi, to tell him what happened.

Billy Alter is now well-known in the world of Jewish education. "I don't know where I got the courage to do what I did, but I can tell you, I owe my life to that little boy."

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**Based on a true story, heard from Billy Alter. Names have been changed.*

DID YOU KNOW?

- Though there are certain jobs that may be beneath one's dignity, one should go out of their way to do them if they are being done for Shabbos.¹
- In order to properly appreciate the arrival of Shabbos, one should envision a king coming to visit.²
- Shabbos is a reminder of Hashem's mastery over the universe, which is a reason why we refrain from doing *Melachah*.³

¹ *Orach Chaim* 250:1

² *ibid. Mishnah Berurah* 3

³ *The Nineteen Letters*, Letter 13