

GREAT FOR SHARING  
AT THE SHABBOS TABLE!

# בשבת



אור ישראל

Self Inspired

PARSHAS  
VAYIKRA

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## THE SMALLER SACRIFICE

**P**arshas Vayikra brings with it the laws of the various *korbonos* people would bring to the *Mishkan* and *Beis HaMikdash*. The *chatas*, the *asham* and the *minchah* are all mentioned in this week's *parsha*. However, there is a very intriguing *korbon* called the *oleh v'yored* that has a particular feature not found in the other *korbonos*.

This *korbon* is known as an 'adjustable' sin offering, as the type of *korbon* brought depends on the bearer. A person of means must bring a ewe or goat, but one who is of meager earnings may bring a bird or even flour. Fascinatingly, the *Sefer HaChinuch*<sup>1</sup> (attributed to Reb Aharon HaLevi, 1235–1290) asserts that if a pauper brings a ewe or goat, they did not fulfill their *mitzvah*, and must bring a bird or flour as their sacrifice.<sup>2</sup>

Why would the Torah disallow one from bringing a great gift to the *Beis HaMikdash*? If one wants to stretch their means in their service of Hashem, isn't that to be lauded? Why, then, does the Torah reject the pauper's *korbon*?

The *Sefer HaChinuch* explains that there is an important lesson to be learned in this seemingly arbitrary law. Once Hashem has allowed the pauper to bring an acceptable *korbon* from a less-expensive item, it is not proper to bring something beyond one's means.

From this, says the *Sefer HaChinuch*, one should take heed not to spend beyond one's abilities. If, in the service of Hashem, one is cautioned to be prudent with one's spending, certainly one should not be frivolous in other areas!

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### Mind the Gap - Taking the Next Step

It might seem intuitive to not spend money that one doesn't have, but unfortunately, that is not always the case. Sometimes our eyes desire something that our wallet cannot handle, and we need to bolster ourselves to make a proper choice. How can we do that?

A very good *middah* to try to strengthen is the *middah* of foresight.<sup>1</sup> One who 'sees that which will occur' spends the time and focus necessary to think about the consequences of one's actions.

Contrary to what one may think, this is a *middah* that one can become better at, just by a little practice.

A simple practice is to choose a time during the day, perhaps by setting an alarm, and taking that moment to think about one's next course of action, and the impact it will have.

Thinking in this way will, over time, start to carry over to more areas in one's life. This *middah* is essential in helping one stay within one's means.

<sup>1</sup> ר' שמעון אומר. *Rabbeinu Yonah* s.v. חס ר' שמעון אומר הלואה and הרואה  
Avos 2:9

<sup>1</sup> *Mitzvah* 123

<sup>2</sup> See *Mishneh L'Melech* 121 in *Derech Mitzvosecha*, Chap. 4 for the source of this *halacha*.

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**If one does not learn middos, one is going to take the sword of his Torah learning, and tear apart his friend. - Chazon Ish in Emunah U'Bitachon 4:12**

# INDEBTED TO A CHILD

Eight-year-old Leeora\* bounded into the living room and stopped short when she saw her father. “Daddy! I want to go to Target this Sunday. Can we?”

Mr. Ezzy Stolper looked up from his crossword, “Why? What’s the occasion?”

Without a word, Leeora placed her wallet on the table, and gave a nod towards the bulging pockets, as if that explained everything. Ezzy stared for a moment, then smiled in recognition. “You saved up for something?”

“I sure did! The money I got for helping the Shafers with their baby gave me just enough. So, can we go?”

The next Sunday found Mr. Stolper and his daughter in Target, just like he said he would. Up and down the toy aisles they walked, Leeora’s eyes wide in anticipation. Earlier she counted every crumpled dollar bill and it totalled thirty-three dollars. That should be enough for something good, but what?

Finally she spotted something, and it was well within her budget! “Can we have this?” Leeora asked, pointing to a toy jewelery maker.

Mr. Stolper eyed the child’s toy, with a furrowed brow. “Yes, I think so. I don’t think Mommy would object either.”

“How much do I have left?”

Ezzy did some quick math. “You have about seven dollars left. Do you want to hold on to it for next time?”

Leeora thought for a moment. “No. I want to get a doll!”

However, a doll was hard to come by. There were very few choices in Leeora’s price range. The minutes were ticking by, and it was soon time for *mincha*. Mr. Stolper didn’t want to rush Leeora, as this was a good experience for her, but what to do about *mincha*?

“Dear, I have an idea. You remember that doll on aisle four, the one with the brown hair? I saw that you liked it, but it was three dollars more than what you have. If you want, I can lend you the three dollars, and you’ll pay me back when you get the money. What do you think?” As soon as the words were out of Ezzy’s mouth, he regretted it. He wanted to teach his daughter financial responsibility, not borrowing beyond your means!

Before he could say anything, Leeora piped up. “Thank you Daddy, but I don’t want to do that. I don’t want to owe you any money.”

Leeora ended up buying a smaller doll, but it was wonderful, because it was bought with her own money.

*\*Based on a true story, names have been changed.*

## DID YOU KNOW?

- *Yaakov Avinu* was extremely frugal, and risked his well-being for a few pots<sup>1</sup> but was willing to give away all of his money for a *mitzvah*.<sup>2</sup>
- Though a person should not be miserly, even stinginess has a positive aspect to it — when a person chooses to avoid spending money on *aveiros*.

<sup>1</sup> *Chullin* 91a

<sup>2</sup> *Rashi* s.v. אשר כריתי on *Bereishis* 50:5