



PARASHAT BO

החושך הגרוע ביותר

כתוב בפסוק (י:כג) "לא ראו איש את אחיו ולא קמו איש מתחתיו". החידושי הר"ם מסביר את הפסוק בדרך דרש: החושך הגרוע ביותר הוא כאשר אינו רוצה לראות את אחיו בצערו ולהושיט לו עזרה.

Doing Our Best

During the period that Pharaoh thought he could negotiate the exact terms of the Jewish people's exit from Egypt, he told Moshe: "Go – serve Hashem, only your flock and your cattle shall stay put; even your children may go with you." Moshe responded: "You, too, will give into our hands feast- offerings and elevation-offerings, and we shall offer them to Hashem, our G-d. And our livestock, as well, will go with us — not a hoof will be left — for from it we shall take to serve Hashem, our G-d; and we will not know how we shall serve Hashem until we get there" (Shemot 10:24-26). The Chiddushei Harim once commented that the words "we will not know how we shall serve Hashem until we get there" were not only meant for the Egyptians. These words were meant for every Jew in every generation until the end of time. We will not know how successful we were in our service of Hashem. All Hashem expects from us is to do our best.

Influenced By Our Actions

In this week's Parashah the Sefer Hachinuch (teaches us a tremendous lesson with regards to learning torah and doing Mitzvot. He writes that a person's thoughts and character are directly connected to his behavior. When a person involves himself in good behavior and in positive actions, he will actually be influencing and shaping his overall character and thoughts. He goes on to say that even if a wicked person devotes himself to the study of Torah and the performance of Mitzvot, eventually his heart will follow in this path of good behavior and he will become a better person. It is for this reason, explains the Sefer Hachinuch, that there are so many Mitzvot that we do that are in remembrance of going out of Egypt [i.e: Korban Pesach, Kriat shemah, Kiddush on Shabbat]. The more Mitzvot we do that remind us of our going out of Egypt, the more we will be influenced by the lessons that can be learned from that experience, namely the recognition that Hashem runs the world.