



PARASHAT VAYERAH

כל אדם צריך שיהיו לו שני כיסים

כתוב בפסוק (יח:כז) "ויען אברהם ויאמר וכו' ואנכי עפר ואפר". הרבי ר' בונים מפשיסחא היה אומר, שכל אדם צריך שיהיו לו שני כיסים, באחד – "בשבילי נברא העולם", ובשני – "אנכי עפר ואפר". אלא שצריך לדעת איך להשתמש בהם, בכל אחד במקום המתאים ובזמן נכון, לפי שהרבה טועים ומשתמשים בהם במדה הפוכה.

Doing Mitzvot Even In Abnormal Circumstances

In this week's Parashah the Torah relates in great detail the wonderful kindness that Avraham did with the Angels. The Alter Mi'Kelm asks, "Why did the Torah choose to elaborate about the kindness that Avraham did with the Angels after his Brit Milah, rather than on some of the other kindnesses that Avrohom did with the people of his generation, those of which were only hinted at in the words "vayitah aishel"(Perek 21 Pasuk 33)? Reb Chatzkel Levenstein zt"l explains that all the other kindness of Avraham as great as they may have been, were so to speak normal. The episode with the Angels on the other hand was really the epitome of what Avraham was, and the 'model' of what we should be trying to achieve. During the span of Avraham's lifetime he was constantly involved in helping people and teaching them the Torah way of life, but it was always done under normal circumstances, and therefore it was expected of him. The Torah here is teaching us that the kindness of a Jew goes beyond what is expected. Even when Avraham was at the height of his sickness and was really not expected to be involved in helping others, he still wanted to be able to assist anyone he possibly could. Avraham didn't do kindness only because he was obligated to rather he did it because his love of Hashem was so great that he had a burning desire to fulfill the will of Hashem, no matter what.

Fullfilling the Will of Hashem

Regarding fulfilling Hashem's command to send away Hagar and Yishmael, the Pasuk states (21:14): "And Avraham got up early in the morning, and took bread, and a bottle of water, and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, and the child, and sent her away." The Torah is telling us that Avraham woke up early in the morning to fulfill the will of Hashem even though this was really not what Avraham wanted. Avrahams getting up early in the morning to fulfill the command of Hashem, and not procrastinating, teaches us a tremendous lesson. Our job as servants of Hashem is to do what Hashem deems right, even if at times we may not fully understand the reason why.

