

Baruch Hashem, we are in the midst of preparing for a fantastic, beautiful שמחה. In recognition of that, we will find a connection between פרשת תצוה and the upcoming שמחה between Chaim and Bracha.

The פרשה begins with וְאַתָּה תְּצַוֶּהָ. There is a מדרש תנחומא (תצוה ה'ה') on the פסוק in (א:ט"ו) שִׁיר הַשִּׁירִים in פסוקים. The מדרש explains: "your eyes are like doves." - עֵינֶיךָ יוֹנִים מִהַיּוֹנָה הַבִּיאָה אוֹרָה לָעוֹלָם, אֵף אַתָּם שְׂנַמְשְׁלֶתֶם כְּיוֹנָה, - just as the יונה, in various ways, brings light to the world, so too, you bring light it, and bring illumination. This is the meaning behind וְאַתָּה תְּצַוֶּהָ וְיִקְחוּ אֵלֶיךָ שְׂמֵן.

The ספרים ask, in what way does שמן זית, or the יונה for that matter, bring light to the world?

The answer lies in the מדה of הסתפקות - contentment and satisfaction. One who is content with what he has brings light to the world. This is exactly what we find with the יונה in the story of נח. The יונה preferred בשר ודם from מתוקים כדבש rather than receiving sweet מזונות מרורים כזית. The ספרים explain that the word תצוה is not only a לשון of command but also comes from the לשון of ציווה - attachment, connection. This is found in the ספר תפוחי חיים, written by R' Chaim Alter Panet, which is related to the name of Benet, the famous R' Benet, [which people ask me at least once a year if I am related to him, which I'm not].

This idea of הסתפקות is also reflected in the יונה's loyalty and faithfulness to its mate and family. So too, כְּלָה שְׂעִינִיָּה יָפוּת (תענית כ"ד ע"א) גמרא says that a כְּלָה שְׂעִינִיָּה יָפוּת, which means that she is satisfied, she's content, don't have to check her out any further, because we know that this is a very, very wonderful elevated נשמה, a very special מדה, a very special person.

So וְאַתָּה תְּצַוֶּהָ - if the הקדוש ברוך הוא sees that you are satisfied, that you're content, then the שכינה will rest upon you and rest upon the house. שכינה שריא ביניהם. This idea is also connected to the מנורה, which brings light. Light is a symbol of satisfaction, comfort, and joy. When the מנורה is lit, it serves as an עדות that the שכינה is שורה בישראל.

This concept is also fundamental to הדלקת נרות which is done every שבת by the אשת חיל. We're מתקן הדלקת נרות on שבת to signify and to increase שלום בית. And the best way is with שמן זית, teh there will be even more שלום בית in the house.

It's a great lesson for us all, a great lesson to learn, and in our hectic society, we're constantly seeking more and more and more. Maybe we should stop and take a moment to reflect and be satisfied with what we've got. The last word is אֵיזֶהוּ עֲשִׂיר, הַשְּׂמִימָה בְּחֶלְקוֹ (אבות ד'א'). The true richness in the world, the true satisfaction, is in being satisfied with what the הקדוש ברוך הוא gives us. Not to say the famous line of the rich man, "I just want a little bit more". Let us be happy with what we've got. Let us be satisfied and walk around happy all the time, happy with our lives, happy with our families, and Baruch Hashem, we should have a lot of ברכות from all of them. And I'm looking forward to a huge שמחה. Good Shabbos!

