

In פרשת ראה the Torah emphasizes many of the מצות which we have heard before, in line with the rest of ספר דברים משנה תורה, where Hashem gives us an opportunity to hear once again from the greatest rebbi of all, משה רבינו. One of the main aspects of פרשת ראה is the concept of time. Time, as we know, is a gift of הקדוש ברוך הוא. Time is an invention of הקדוש ברוך הוא, there was no such thing as time before בריאת העולם. Time was given to us as a gift from הקדוש ברוך הוא to utilize it in עבודת השם to better ourselves and to bring ourselves closer and closer to הקדוש ברוך הוא.

Probably the מצוה in ראה which is the most involved with time is ספירת העומר, counting the days from פסח to שבועות. ספירת העומר is utilizing time itself as the fulfillment of the מצוה. As all of you know, Bobbi's grandfather, Papa, had a tremendously interesting מנהג which I picked up when I shortly after I joined the family, and that was to count the ספירה the next morning in davening before the שיר של יום. I'm not sure where he got that from, because I never asked him, I don't know if anybody ever asked him, but I assume he got it from someone before him, from פריערדיגע דורות.

But I came across in sefer פלאות התורה אוצר a really remarkable essay on exactly this מנהג. It does not follow his מנהג exactly, but I want to read it to you because it's quite enlightening and it's quite beautiful. He brings down there was a מנהג of the Munkatche Rebbe, the מנחת אלעזר no less, that every day of the עומר he would count the עומר ten times. He said whoever does this is guaranteed that you're not going to miss this ספירה, because if חס ושלום one night you forget to do it, you're certainly going to do it the next morning without a ברכה, and you'll be able to continue all the other nights.

I thought that that was a very interesting הערה on the פרשה to re-emphasize to us how important time is. Those of us who are young, [I consider myself included in that category], think that our time on this world is endless. We have all the time in the world to do that which whatever we want to do. And as we all know, some of us have this realization later in life, some of us earlier in life, that our time is very limited. And as I've said many, many times, כאפ אריין, always grab the opportunity to do a מצוה, you never know if you have a chance to do it again. And in that זכות, may we all see ישועות גדולות and נחמות, and all the people who require ישועות and רפואות should have them.

