



Parashat VaYikra-Zachor

13 Adar II 5784 – March 23, 2024

The Book of VaYikra deals predominantly with korbanot (sacrifices/offerings) brought into The Mishkan (Tabernacle) and would also be brought into the Beit HaMikdash (Holy Temple) in the future. While there are intricate rules concerning korbanot, one must be cognizant of the word “korban.” It comes from the word “karov” which means to become close. The essence of the sacrifice was to get closer to HaShem.

The verse in VaYikra, “a satisfying aroma to HaShem.” The sage Rema Rabbi Moses Isserless (1530-1572 Krakow), says that when a person drinks on Purim, they do not need to drink excessively and have a hangover the next day. The opposite is the case. “It is the same whether one does much or whether one does little, provided the intention of the heart is for our Master in Heaven.”

The connection with the Parashah is linked with korbanot in that a person can bring different varieties of animals, each having different monetary values. Each category of sacrifice comes with the statement of, “satisfying aroma to HaShem.” Why? To teach that each offering large or small is valid as long as it is done for the sake of Heaven.

It is the same with Purim. There is no need to get “stinking drunk.” Have A “drink” with the intent to drown out Haman and Heaven will be pleased.

Good Shabbos!

Rabbi Nathan W. Langer