

Parshas Terumah

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The *Yalkut Shimoni* asks on the verse “וְיִקְחוּ־לִי תְרוּמָה” - and you should take for Me a gift”, that why did *Hashem* need to ask for donations? ***Hashem* owns the entire world from the heavens to the earth! He therefore explains the word “לִי” as not about asking for the donations but rather as an overarching purpose for the *Mishkan*!** *Hashem* desires to live amongst his people like a father desires to be with his son and therefore *Hashem* is expressing that the purpose of the *Mishkan* is for “Me” - For *Hashem*’s sake because he wants to dwell amongst us!

The *Yalkut Shimoni* goes on to explain that *Hashem* used a terminology of “דִּבֶּר” which means speak to the Jewish people gently with compassion and pacification. It’s very difficult to ask people for money despite the fact that the *Mishkan* served a great benefit for the Jewish people as a repentance for the sins of the golden calf and a great honor that they had *Hashem* in their midst. *Hashem* therefore asked *Moshe* to speak to them gently. It seems that the *Yalkut Shemoni* is expressing that because the main purpose of the *Mishkan* is for a fulfillment of *Hashem*’s desire, so to speak, *Hashem* therefore needed to pacify the Jewish people.

We see from here the great love that *Hashem* has for the Jewish people. That *Hashem* expressed the purpose of the *Mishkan* primarily as “For Me” is incredible! And the fact that it was so for *Hashem*’s sake that *Hashem* had to pacify them shows that *Hashem*’s purpose was very much the primary purpose! Despite the fact that the Jewish people had so many reasons to **want** and to **need** the building of this *Mishkan*, *Hashem* still saw it, so to speak, as mainly for Him!

We cannot possibly fathom the great and eternal love that *Hashem* has for the Jewish people!

We have many reasons why we love *Hashem* and need *Hashem* among us but His love for us dwarfs all! This is what is being expressed when it says “לִי”!

When we read this in the *Torah* this week, we should keep in mind this *Pasuk* expresses the highest degree of *Hashem*’s love for us!