

Parshas Vayikra

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3 Nissan 5781
March 16th 2021

The *Rambam* in *Mishna Torah* writes that a husband who has to divorce his wife but refuses, can be beaten until he writes a get, and it's not considered a forced get which is invalid. His explanation is that his *Yetzer Hora* was trying to force him to do something that he really doesn't want to do, and we "help" him overcome his evil inclination for this *mitzvah* and reclaim his will to live like a Jew and keep ALL the Mitzvos. Rav Eliyahu Alpandri in *Michtav M'Eliyahu* (1723) infers from the *Rambam* that this only works for someone who still otherwise wants to be a Jew and acts like one, but if a *meshumad*, a complete rebel against *Hashem* would give such a get, it would be *invalid* because he in fact, really does not want to keep all the mitzvos. In *Parshas Vayikra*, *pasuk* 3, the *Torah* states, "*yakriv oso l'ritzono*", "He shall bring it willingly" referring to a korban he pledged to bring, " From the words, "He shall bring," the *gemara* learns out that once he designates the animal as a *karbon*, *Beis Din* forces him to bring it. The *Ralbag* explains further from the word "willingly " we learn that he has to want to do it also. Again, the same issue applies - that if *Beis Din* is beating him, its seemingly not with his will, but the *Ralbag* further states that a person is naturally drawn to keeping the *mitzvos* of the *Torah*, it's just that his *Yetzer Hora* brings him away from them and when *Beis Din* punishes him and he says he wants to bring it, we assume he accepted the courts rebuke. But here, unlike the *Rambam*, the *Ralbag* does not limit it only to a person who wants to act like a Jew. But how can we bring this man's *Korban*, its *chulin lae'azarah*, an unfit sacrifice, it doesn't fulfill the *Torah's* requirement of *Lertzono* - willingly?

We see a tremendous *chiddush* from the *Ralbag*, that any Jew, anywhere, anytime, even the biggest self-hating, atheist you can imagine, desperately WANTS to keep the entire *Torah*. **It's often said there is a Jewish spark, deep, deep down in every Jew, however from this Ralbag we see that it's not just a tiny spark, but it's more like a raging bonfire, of deep desire to serve Hashem and keep the entire Torah.** May all Jews get in touch with their bonfire and find their way back to *Torah* and greet *Moshiach* speedily in our days.

