



Parshas Behaloscha

Shmuz by Rabbi Chaim Juni

Written over by Shmuli Schwartz

16 Sivan 5781

June 14th 2022

This week's Parsha says (11,4) "וְהָאִסְפָּסֵף אֲשֶׁר בְּקִרְבּוֹ הִתְאַוּוּ תַאֲוָה" when Klal Yisrael complains that they want meat to eat.

The Ramban seems to be bothered by the terminology of "הִתְאַוּוּ תַאֲוָה", so he explains that in the desert they really had everything they could want, they had the manna which they would make into all types of delicious delicacies, yet they created in themselves these desires, like a desire to eat disgusting foods and dirt! These people went on to say "וַיַּעֲתָה נַפְשֵׁנוּ יְבוֹשָׁה אֵין כֹּל בְּלִתי אֶל־הֶמָּן עֵינֵינוּ" and the next Ramban explains that they were complaining that the manna doesn't give them enough moisture (nutrition) so they need real meat to eat.

How does "תַאֲוָה" work? Simply our animal soul desires something our imagination builds up further and further. However, what's going on over here? We don't naturally desire disgusting foods, we only want things that we like, so what's the explanation for what the Ramban is saying?

It seems that he's saying that "תַאֲוָה" is the desire for things that we don't have, not a desire for something necessarily better. These people had the best things! "תַאֲוָה" is not that there's something appealing and therefore we want it, **rather "תַאֲוָה" is that we want it, so therefore it becomes appealing!** So why do we want it? It seems we just want things that we don't have, and therefore it goes on things that make no sense to desire!

From the next Ramban we also see they needed to give a logical reason why we want it. Why would they need a logical reason? It seems that in order to fully have a "תַאֲוָה" we need to explain it logically to justify it!