



## **Parshas Metzorah**

Shmuz by Rabbi Shimon Max

Written over by Shmuli Stern

4 Nissan 5782

April 5th 2022

The Pasuk in Parshas Lech Lecha (14,19) discussed the capture of Lot and subsequently Avram going to war to war against the 4 kings to bring back Lot. After Avram's tremendous victory bringing back Lot and the people of Sedom and their wealth, Malki Tzedek came out to greet Avram and blessed Avram and afterwards he blessed Hashem. The Midrash says that Hashem took away the kehuna from Malki Tzedek because he blessed Avram before Hashem. The Aitz Yosef writes that even though Malki Tzedek was a tzaddik, he was still overcome by the righteousness of Avram and he was so overwhelmed emotionally that it caused him to make a mistake and bless Avram first! It is further explained that this was a very very small mistake.

It's difficult to understand what the problem is with Shaim forgetting and therefore making a mistake. Obviously Malki Tzedek was very concerned about Hashem's honor, and becoming emotionally attached to the righteousness of Avrom actually stems from honoring Hashem! Why was it not considered an אגון - a total mistake that he forgot, by being so engrossed and impressed by Avrom's righteousness. We see from here that even when a person at times may have a right to forget, a person should, can and needs to always have antennas up to the sensitivity of the honor of HaShem. It therefore follows that in fact there is no possibility ever for a Tzadik like Malki Tzedek to be excused because he forgot and therefore lacked a sensitivity towards Hashem's honor. This idea/דיוק really comes from our Rosh Hayeshiva Morainu Reb Henech Leibowitz Zatz"l as the Rosh Yeshiva used to say even when someone is very engrossed in deep Torah learning he is obligated to be aware of other's suffering and needs around him when he may be able to assist and help them. The Rosh Yeshiva would say that this does not take away from the focus of one's learning because even while one is fully engrossed we can have antennas (perhaps they are even subconscious). The claim against Malki Tzedek is not that he forgot about Hashem. The claim against him is that even while he became engrossed in Avram's righteousness, he should've had his antennas pick up on Hashem's honor! And the fact that he didn't have these antennas showed something was something was lacking within him. The Aitz Yosef calls it his חוק was lacking, seemingly that it was not a punishment but a מציאות something missing within his nature to have the כוונה transmitted from himself to his children and therefore the Kohen status was taken from his family and given to Avrohom. We must always have our antennas up when the honor of heaven is at stake!