

Singer-Jordan Edition

BeHa'alsecha

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In memory of **Eliyahu ben Esther, HY"D**, who was killed by the Jordanians on the streets of Beit Yisrael in *Yerushalayim*, on the 25th of *Iyar*, 1948



One of the greatest gifts you can give a person is inspiration. And though giving gifts on *Chanukah* is not really our thing, the holiday of *Chanukah* itself is the gift of inspiration. The *chayn* in *Chanukah* and the *Menorah* of *Chanukah* tell you that.

Parashas BeHa'alsecha begins

God spoke to Moshe, saying: "Speak to Aharon and tell him: 'When you light—*beha'alsecha*—the lamps, the seven lamps will illuminate towards the face of the *Menorah*.'" (*Bamidbar* 8:1-2)

regarding which *Rasbi* comments:

When you light: literally, when you cause to ascend. . . He (Aharon *HaKohen*) is required to light the candle until the flame rises by itself. Our rabbis further elucidated from here that there was a step in front of the *Menorah* on which the *kohen* stood to prepare [the candles]. (*Rasbi*)

These two ideas are not only necessary to explain the word, *beha'alsecha* in the verse, they also clue us in to the actual source of inspiration itself. After all, though most people know what inspiration is, they don't really know *what* it is. This inspires us to figure it out. *Chanukah*, which the *Ramban* says is alluded to in this *parsha*, inspires us to *try* it out.

That was the easy part. Now for the more difficult one.

Everything exists because of God's infinite light called *Ohr Ain Sof*—Light Without Limit. Everything is made from it, and everything lives because of it. Take *Ohr Ain Sof* away from anything and it immediately ceases to exist. Everything we see or feel is just another form of the light, because there is nothing else but God's *spiritual*, *unlimited* light.

Yet, the world that this spiritual and unlimited light created and runs is so *physical*, so *limited*. How does that work? We call it a miracle because, *naturally-speaking*, it is not natural at all. From where we stand it should not be possible at all, but it is anyhow, thanks to something God created called *sefiros*.

The *sefiros* don't really answer the question, but they do tell us the means by which God makes the miracle happen. They are spiritual creations, also made from *Obr Ain Sof*, but with a capacity to reduce the spiritual intensity of the *Obr Ain Sof* so that the physical world can exist and function.

I'm going to skip the next, very technical (but informative) part, which is in my latest book, *b"H*, called "Inspired." The main idea is this. The *sefiros* are organized like a human body, which we are modeled after. Just as our limbs live and function because of the light of the soul within them, the *sefiros* also have a light inside of them that acts as their soul, a very specific light called "*Da'as*." The light of *Da'as* is the source of life, sense of being, and spiritual energy to accomplish.

In short, the light of *Da'as* that courses through the *sefiros* that govern our history (*Chesed* through *Yésod*) is the source of all inspiration, in the *sefiros* and in humans as well. Motivational speakers may be entertaining, but it is what they say more than how they say it that talks to us inside and inspires us to get up and do great things. Great ideas inspire great things.

The *koben* climbs three stairs he didn't need to reach the *Menorab* to teach that only inspired people inspire others. Being a conduit for the light of God, the *koben* had the incredible job of "lighting" our fires, by channeling that light, the light of *Da'as*—that the *Menorab* represents—to us. And he cannot stop what he is doing until he sees that we "burn" with the light of the *Menorab* on our own.

This is what happened through the *kobanim* in the time of the *Chashmonaim*. They were inspired to fight the Greeks regardless of the consequences, because inspired people do not need goals, to encourage them to fight their battles. They don't ask questions that might intimidate them from trying. They just put everything they have into what they are doing and let the results take of themselves.

This is only the beginning of this life-altering discussion. Hopefully it will inspire you to learn the rest of it on your own.

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