



Parshas Behaalosecha 2020, light yourself & illuminate

The Parsha Perspective is dedicated by the Cohen family. May G-d bless them with much health, success, and happiness.

Our Parsha begins with G-d telling Moshe that Aaron's job is to light the Menorah each day in the Mishkan. G-d then gave Moshe the process of purification that the tribe of Levi had to go through before working in the Mishkan. They needed to shave all the hair from their body, be sprinkled with the ashes of the Eglah Arufha, and bring two sacrifices.

On the anniversary of the exodus from Egypt, the Jewish nation brought the Pesach sacrifice in commemoration. But some Jews were ritually impure from carrying the bones of Yosef HaTzadik; thus, they were not allowed to participate in the Pesach sacrifices. So they went to Moshe and asked him why we should lose out on bringing the Korban Pesach. Moshe turned to G-d, who responded that they will be able to bring the Korban Pesach one month later.

However, a question comes to mind: When G-d told Moshe that it was Aaron's job to light the Menorah, He said, *"Speak to Aaron and tell him you shall light the Menorah and have the lamps shine towards the face of the Menorah."* The regular Hebrew word for lightning is **Lehadlik**. As millions of Jewish women across the world say each Friday afternoon to usher in the Shabbos, *"Lehadlik Ner Shel Shabbos Kodesh."* Conversely, the word **Behaalosecha** just means when you rise up. Why did the Torah use the word Behaalosecha instead of Lehadlik?

Rashi writes that the reason G-d used the word *"Behaalosecha"* rather than *"Lehadlik"* was because there was an actual step that Aaron needed to climb to light the candles.

Rashi explains that since the Menorah was approximately five and a half feet tall, Aaron had to go up a few steps to reach each branch of the Menorah. The job of lighting the Menorah included cleaning out the used oil and wicks to make room for the new ones. G-d is instructing Moshe that Aaron should go the steps to fulfill his duty of lighting the Menorah.

However, the Lubavitcher Rebbe gives a deeper and more powerful explanation. He explains that the purpose of the Menorah was not just to light up the room in the Mishkan and Beis Hamikdash. But rather to illuminate the entire world with G-dliness.

Torah used the word *“Behaalosecha”* instead of *“Lehadlik”* because Aaron had to rise up and inspire himself before he could illuminate the world. Aaron’s job was to be a conduit and channel for G-d’s holiness to spread across the globe. But he first had to ignite the fire within in soul to inspire others to do the same.

The Lubavitcher Rebbe continues that G-d tasked every Jew with the duty and ability to Lamplighter. To be a person who shares G-d’s holiness and kindness throughout the world.

But to be a Lamplighter, you must ignite your own lamp before kindling others. You must rise up to light your own Menorah. This process is as simple as doing acts of goodness and kindness and encouraging others to do the same. This will raise awareness of G-d across the globe and hasten the coming of Moshiach and the ultimate redemption.

In our daily life and during these trying times, it is imperative that we be kind and compassionate towards each other, even if they do not deserve such kindness. A seemingly small act of kindness can drastically impact a person’s life. This may inspire and encourage them to do the same, creating a snowball effect of goodness and kindness across the globe!

“Instead of fighting darkness, just bring the light.”

Have a meaningful Shabbos!

Rabbi Sholom Yemini