



## ***Parshas Vayakhel & Pekudei 2020, honesty before G-d***

**The Parsha Perspective is in honor of Eretz Yisroel. May G-d protect our brave soldiers.  
May G-d return all the hostages in Gaza immediately.**

Our Parshas begins with Moshe descending from Mt. Sinai with the second pair of Luchos. He did so only after successfully attaining forgiveness from G-d for the sin of the Golden Calf. He tells the Jewish people what is necessary for building the Mishkan and its vessels.

The Torah portions then go through the construction of the Mishkan and its components. From the beams and sockets comprising the Mishkan walls to the Menorah and priestly garments worn during their service. Once completed, G-d instructed Moshe to assemble the Mishkan and anoint his brother Aaron and his sons to perform all the daily work in the Mishkan.

A question comes to mind: At the beginning of Parshas Pekudei, Moshe explains what was donated for the construction of the Mishkan and what it was used for. As the Pasuk states (38:24-25), *“All the gold that had been used for the work in the Mishkan was twenty-nine kekars and seven hundred and thirty shekels. The silver was one hundred kekars and one thousand seven hundred and seventy-five shekels.”* However, G-d did not command Moshe to give an accounting of what was given, so why did Moshe tell the Jewish people what the materials were designated for?

The Midrash Tamchuma explains that Moshe gave an exact accounting of what was used in the Mishkan to show the Jewish people that he or any of the workers had not taken any of the precious materials for themselves. Moshe knew that he was

being looked at and analyzed everywhere he went. As the Pasuk says (Shemos 33:8), *“When Moshe went to the tent of meeting, all the Jewish people would stand by their tents and watch Moshe until he was inside the tent.”*

The Midrash continues that the Jewish people would look at Moshe and tell each other that whatever Moshe had was theirs. He had complete access to all the precious materials donated for the construction of the Mishkan. When Moshe heard what was being said, he replied that he would give them an exact accounting of what materials were used.

The Kli Yakar on this Pasuk explains that Moshe did not want to build the Mishkan, a house of G-d, with any appearance or suspicion of wrongdoing. Therefore, he gave the Jewish nation precise accounting of what was given and how it was used.

The Shulchan Aruch writes (*Yoreh De' ah, 257*) that people who collect charity must go in pairs and are not allowed to separate from each other in the streets. And when they count the coins they received, they should not do two at a time, but rather, one at a time to avoid all suspicion. As the Pasuk says (Bamidbar 32:22), *“And you shall be clean and guiltless before the G-d and the Jewish people.”*

In our daily life, it is imperative that we understand that you should avoid all places or situations that may cast doubt in our physical or spiritual life. Instead, always seek honesty, integrity, and virtue in all that you do. It takes only one rumor or tale to ruin a whole life's worth of work.

***“A person is not given integrity.***

***For it comes from the relentless pursuit of honesty at all times”.***

*Have a meaningful Shabbos!*

*Rabbi Sholom Yemini*