

## A LESSON FROM THE PARASHA RABBI MOSHE TZVI CRYSTAL

## Affection—With Direction



A CHALLENGE MANY PARENTS WITH YOUNG children face is the unbridled love children may have for newborn siblings. Although it is wonderful to see an older child doting on a younger one, smothering the baby with hugs and feeding the baby cookies might not be the safest manifestations of love. Such affec-

tion keeps parents on their toes. Indeed, the display of love has to be tempered by what is appropriate for an infant.

In this week's Torah portion, Nadav and Avihu, the older sons of Aharon, devise their own offering to Hashem. From their experience, we learn a parallel lesson pertaining to our service of Hashem.

Their offering came at a momentous time for our people. The *Mishkan* (Tabernacle) had just been completed. The nation now had a "home" for Hashem to dwell in—a special place for us to connect with Hashem.

Seized with a thirst to grow ever closer to Hashem at this special time, Nadav and Avihu brought their offering, with a tragic consequence: Their souls were consumed by a fire from Heaven.

Before relating their punishment, the Torah tells us, about their offering:

...They brought, before Hashem, a foreign fire that [Hashem] had not commanded them [to bring]. (10:1)

Hashem gave us the Torah as a guide for how to serve Him. We do not forge our own path in deciding how to bring ourselves closer to Him. A person must channel the desire for closeness within the parameters that the Torah sets for us.

Just as a child must learn the proper way to show affection, we are taught the proper way to show our love for Hashem—by observing the commandments He gave us, and fulfilling them correctly.

## TIDBITS OF CINCINNATI JEWISH HISTORY

RABBI MOSHE TZVI CRYSTAL

On 25 Kislev, 5623 (1862), General Ulysses S. Grant issued General Order No. 11, which expelled "Jews as a class" from the territory under his command at that point during the Civil War. Grant's intention was to curb illegal trading with the South, which was then quite rampant. Although it is known that Grant blamed illegal trading on the Jews, historians speculate as to what prompted Grant to issue the order just then. One possibility is that his father, Jesse Root Grant, and the Mack brothers, prominent members of Cincinnati's Jewish community, had requested that General Grant use his authority to issue them licenses to trade with the South. General Ulysses was already in a strained relationship with his father, and he was further infuriated by his father's attempt to capitalize on his son's military rank. He may have taken out his anger on his father's Jewish partners, by banishing all Jews from his territory.

SOURCE: SARNA, JONATHAN D., *WHEN GENERAL GRANT EXPELLED THE JEWS*. NEW YORK: SHOCKEN BOOKS, 2012.

## THE RABBI WAS ASKED

ADAPTED BY RABBI DOVID TZVI MEISSNER  
FROM ME'AH SHE'ARIM  
BY RABBI YITZCHOK ZILBERSTEIN

A young girl saw an ad for a job opportunity in a factory, and it interested her. She sent her resume to the owner and told him that she had experience in that field. The owner sent her to a senior employee to be tested.

When she arrived, she met the assessor, and whispered to her, "I really do not have experience in the field. However, please note that my parents are divorced, I move around from place to place, I have no home, money, or food."

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## A PARASHA Q 4 U

RABBI DOVID SPETNER

Where is the *Korban haTamid* (the daily offering) mentioned in our Torah portion?

Bring this question to the Shabbos table and see who knows the answer!

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## THE RABBI WAS ASKED

CONTINUED


This is the last place that I'm attempting to apply for a job, and if I'm not accepted here, I will kill myself."

The interviewer took her story to heart, and she responded, "I need to ask a rabbi what to do."

The interviewer spoke to a rabbi, told him the story, and said, "I was able to see potential in her, and it's clear to me that if I teach her the trade, within a few months she will be proficient in all the goings on of the plant."

**Q** "May I tell my boss that she's proficient in the work, and teach her the trade in the meantime? Or would that be deceiving him? While she's learning the ropes, she will be getting paid for doing nothing, and I will have to take some time from my work to teach her the trade."

**A** It is possible that telling the owner that the girl knows the trade would be permitted, and it would not be considered a falsehood—since this is her last option, she will learn the trade with much eagerness, and she will certainly be successful. (See Talmud, Kesubos 63a and Tosafos' commentary, regarding the exchange between Rabbi Akiva and his wealthy father-in-law.) Therefore, the interviewer can already say that the girl has proficiency in that area.

However, the money issue is more complicated. Although the senior employee is performing a mitzvah by teaching the new hire, and the owner has his own obligation to give charity, one may not actually take money from him against his will. Therefore, the money must be returned somehow to the owner, or the two women must work overtime to make up for any money received undeservedly. 

Yeshivas  
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## GREAT ACTS OF ORDINARY PEOPLE

AFTER THE FALL OF THE SOVIET UNION, A YOUNG family made its way to Jerusalem and celebrated the bar mitzvah of its oldest son. To the astonishment of all assembled, the bar mitzvah boy stood up and made a *siyum* on (that is, he celebrated the fact that he had finished learning) all the *Mishnayos* of *Shas*!

Many people asked the boy's father how it was possible to teach his child all the *Mishnayos* of *Shas* behind the Iron Curtain. The father's answer was just as amazing:

"My own father clandestinely raised me as an observant Jew in Moscow.

"As I grew older, I questioned, 'How do I know that this is how to worship Hashem? I have never seen another Jewish family practice Judaism; maybe they do it differently.'

"So my father sent me to spend a Shabbos with another practicing family in St. Petersburg.


"When I saw my hosts bring in Shabbos just as my parents did, I had no further doubts.

"But then, on Shabbos day, I saw something strange. There was no one home other than the father. He explained that the KGB was looking for Shabbos observers, so under the threat of exile in Siberia everyone had gone to work.

"I was suddenly very scared.

"When I returned home, I asked my father if we would be sent to Siberia.

"His response changed my life. He told me, 'I don't know what will happen tomorrow, but I know that today we are here, so today I can teach you more Torah.'

"It is with that attitude that I began to teach my son as well. And that is how we were able to accomplish so much under the grip of the Iron Curtain." 

**Cincinnati Community Kollel**

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