

A PROJECT OF
**KA'ASHER TZIVA
HASHHEM**

SPREADING AWARENESS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING KAVANAH B'MITZVOS

"Without proper *kavanah*, one has not fulfilled their *mitzvah* obligation and must do the *mitzvah* again."
-*Mishna Berura* (60:4:8)

The *kavanah* "*Ka'asher Tziva Hashem*" which is discussed in the *Mishna Berura* is found in the Torah itself. Whenever the Torah wants to convey the ideas the Moshe Rabbeinu was a faithful servant of Hashem, it says that Moshe followed Hashem's instructions to the letter **כאשר צוה השם את משה** -just as Hashem commanded Moshe.

The *Ohr HaChaim* (*Shemos 39:1*) says that this is also the way which Klal Yisroel built the *Mishkan*. The words **כאשר צוה השם את משה** are what the Bnei Yisroel had in mind when they built each part of the *Mishkan*. He writes:

שהיו אומרים בשעת המלאכה "הרי אנו עושים דבר זה כאשר צוה השם את משה."

The *Chovos Halevaros* (in his *Hakdamah*) writes that as we know, if a person accidentally kills someone, they do not receive the death penalty. Similarly, if a person unintentionally transgresses a Torah prohibition whose intentional violation would incur death by *beis din* or *kares*, they are only required to bring a sin-offering. This, writes the *Chovos HaLevaros*, proves that a punishment is only given when both a person's mind and body are united in doing the *aveirah*, the mind contributing the *kavanah* and the body contributing the physical action.

The *Chovos HaLevaros* goes on to explain that the same principle applies to reward for *mitzvos* as well; one who does a *mitzvah* without *kavanah* *L'Sheim Shamayim* will not receive the reward.

Hagoan Rav Elya Lopian ztz"l once encountered a man who was taking his son to yeshiva. The man did not seem happy. Rav Lopian greeted the man warmly, asking him where he was going.

"I am taking my son to school," the man responded.

"Yes," said Rav Lopian, "But why are YOU doing it?"

"Who else should do it?!" exclaimed the man. "I am his father, the one responsible for him!"

"True," responded the Rav. "All parents take care of their children. But YOU are being given the opportunity to do a great *mitzvah*- taking your son to learn Torah! You must understand that every step you take is another *mitzvah*!"



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