



Parashat Pinchas - #288

Ask Rav Aviner: toratravaviner@yahoo.com

Prepared by Rabbi Mordechai Tzion

Visit our blog: www.ravaviner.com

On the Three Weeks...

Loving Those with Opposing Views

[This was broadcast on Arutz-7 approximately one week prior to Yitzchak Rabin's assassination. To our great distress, it still applies]

A friend of mine asked me, "How can I not hate those people? They have terrible opinions and ideas which are simply dangerous for the Nation, the Land, and the State of Israel! Must I retain cordial relations with them and nod to everything they say?"

The answer, of course, is no, he need not agree with all that they say, and no, he must not hate them. The question is based on the blurring of two different concepts. Disagreements are legitimate, and sometimes even necessary. One is obligated to wage a forceful intellectual confrontation against ideas that may destroy the Jewish People. But this is a far cry from an obligation to hate the person expressing those ideas. Divided opinions - yes; divided hearts - no. We must understand that even when an idea is hateful, the man expressing it is not.

"But," comes the response, "it is too difficult to make this distinction! After all, it is only natural to identify the person with what he says." The answer to this is that it may be hard, but we have no choice. We must make this distinction. We cannot make one big salad out of everything. We must understand that if, for example, one takes a certain political stand, this opinion doesn't constitute his entire identity. We must remind ourselves that the man is not a "political animal" whose entire being is merely a support system for his party's opinions; he also breathes, goes to work, has a family, and does kind acts for others. Why must we box his entire personality into one narrow compartment? It is incumbent upon us to separate in our minds between the man and the opinions that he holds. For if we don't, but instead form stereotypes, and create mental caricatures blowing this one aspect of his personality way out of proportion, this distorted portrait replaces our knowledge of him as a human being created in the image of G-d, and we begin to view him as a foreign object, a "political animal."

From here easily arises the (mistaken) dispensation to hate, to attack, and, who knows, even to murder.

True, it is often natural for the relationship between people with opposing ideas to deteriorate. At least one side will almost inevitably begin to feel less respect for the other. The solution for this is simple: communication. They must talk with each other, listen to each other, and exchange ideas. Should we then start to organize symposia, or public meetings? No, no - nobody ever really understands each other in those types of settings. I am referring to small groups, such as one-on-one, or maybe a few more. The English sociologist Parkinson once said that the exchange of ideas is effective between three and five people; if there are any more than that, the person is no longer talking, but making a speech. Speeches don't help bring about true understanding among people; talking does.

Everyone knows people who holds different opinions from them: friends, colleagues, family members. In every family there are Jews of Ashkenazic descent and Sephardic descent, religious and non-religious, conservatives and liberals, Charedim and Zionists. Open a friendly dialogue with them, and you will reap a double profit. First of all, it will destroy his caricatured perception of you, and second of all, it will destroy your caricatured perception of him. I'm not saying that you will convince him of your position, but rather that each of you will begin to see the other as a human being, and therefore deserving of your respect and love.

Rav Aviner on... Veggie Dog with Cheese

Question: Is it permissible to eat a veggie hotdog with cheese or is there a problem of "Ma'arit Ayin" (the appearance of violating the prohibition) of eating meat and dairy together?

Answer: It is permissible for two reasons:

1. It is true that our Sages decreed that one may not eat almond milk with meat unless one leaves the almonds out for everyone to see (Rama, Yoreh Deah 87:3), but almond milk is a rarity. In my entire life, I have never seen almond milk. Everyone has seen and knows about veggie dogs. There is therefore no problem of "Ma'arit Ayin."
2. We do not make new decrees. That which our Sages decreed is decreed, and that which our Sages did not decree is not decreed. They did not make a decree against eating veggie dogs with cheese. Perhaps you will say that they did not make such a decree because veggie dogs did not exist at their time, but it is included in the original decrees of "Ma'arit Ayin." The halachic authorities explain that we do not make such an argument and it is not included.

I remember when I was a little kid and they invented parve margarine. Some people ate the margarine with meat and other people did not know what it was. Many people were strict and put the wrapper on the table. There is also non-dairy creamer which looks like milk. There is a responsa of Ha-Rav Ovadia Yosef in Shut Yechaveh

Da'at (3:59) which permits these items because they are well publicized and everyone knows about them.

Shut She'eilat Shlomo - Questions of Jewish Law

Har Ha-Bayit - Temple Mount

Soldier on the Temple Mount

Q: If a soldier is required to enter the Temple Mount on account of a life-threatening situation must he immerse in a Mikveh?

A: Yes, if possible (Rambam, Hilchot Biat Ha-Mikdash 3:16. Mechusrei Kapparah 2:6, 3:1 and onward). And he should also try to limit the amount of clothing he is wearing, because it is susceptible to impurity. It is preferable to wear synthetic clothing (and this is the ruling of Ha-Rav Yosef Shalom Elyashiv. Kav Ve-Naki #692).

Sacrifices in the Future

Q: When the Temple is rebuilt will there be sacrifices?

A: Certainly. They are mentioned in the prayers. They will only cease in the far off distant future. See Pinkasei Ha-Re'eyah of Maran Ha-Rav Kook vol. 1.

Special thank you to Orly Tzion for editing the Ateret Yerushalayim Parashah Sheet



Yeshivat Ateret Yerushalayim P.O.B. 1076 Jerusalem 91009 Tel.02-6284101 Fax.02-6261528

www.ateret.org.il To subscribe, send e-mail to: mororly@bezeqint.net

