

Honing the Honey

Honey, the sweetest additive and food enhancer, was prohibited as part of offerings on the *mizbeach*. Indeed, had it been added to the incense offering, the smell would have been so powerful that it's influence could have barely been tolerated. Why indeed, was honey rejected from the *avodah*?

Rabbi Shraga Grossbard in *Daas Shraga* learns a powerful lesson from this restriction. We often think in life that we know what is better, what is sweeter. In actuality, that which the Torah commands is the ultimate good; it guides and directs us constantly. Rabbi Rice in *Merosh Tzurim* adds that although we no longer have the sacrifices in the *Beit Hamikdash*, we do have the ability to

heed the word of Hashem and submit to His desires. This is the ultimate good and sweetness in this world.

Indulgence in material gratification detracts from one's capacity to find pleasure in Torah learning and mitzvah observance

An interesting property of honey notes Rabbi Moshe Dandrovitz in *Imrei Chemed*, is that anything that falls into honey becomes absorbed and the honey itself remains unchanged. Likewise, one who is spiritually apathetic may experience many opportunities for growth, yet nothing will affect any change. Living a Torah oriented lifestyle is predicated on movement and growth; honey on the other hand represents apathy and self-indulgence which has no place in the service of Hashem.

Rabbi Chaim Friedlander in *Siftei Chayim* underscores the self-indulgent, pleasure-seeking aspect that honey symbolizes. Honey is an additive that is not essential, it reflects the added dimension of pleasure. Pursuit of pleasure inhibits spiritual growth and creates a lethargy in mitzvah observance. Rav Moshe Feinstein deplored



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this “honey” lifestyle which he classified as a concentrated focus on experiencing the “good times”. He writes that buying every available kosher product is a mistake; excessive worldly pleasures are equally *‘treif’*. Indulgence in material gratification detracts from one’s capacity to find pleasure in Torah learning and mitzvah observance.

Rav Mordechai Gifter adds that although adding honey to sacrifices is forbidden, salt is a mandated ingredient. Salt draws out the inherent flavor in a food. In contrast, honey adds a taste that is not essentially in the food. The message for us is significant; bring to the fore all the talents and abilities that are found within and do not try to impose that which is not inherently part of us. ■

Urgent Tzedakah Appeal

Very ill,lonely widow with no children or relatives, cancer survivor and other serious illness,very serious heart condition that constantly needs monitoring and care desperately needs money for basic needs and medical.

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ENDORSED BY RABBONIM BADATZ STAMP including R.Zev Leff, R.Yaacov Hillel,R.Simcha Sheinberg, Rebbetzin Deena Weinberg. Rebbetzin Tzipora Heller was accepting donations for her at Neve Yerushalayim but it closed to corona situation, will continue afterwards.

Donations can now instead be made through Kupat Ha'ir .Be sure to include her Fund Number 6336 ,when making a donation.Kupat Ha'ir's 24-hour hotline is 1-800-394-747 and they provide tax- deductible receipts.

אריאל

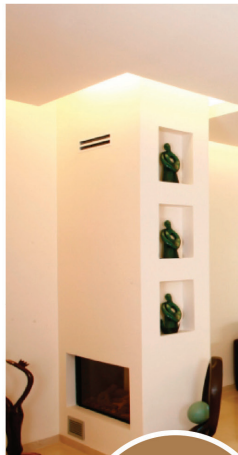
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