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A SHORT VORT | BY RABBI CHANUCH YERES
RAV, BEIT KNESSET BEIT YISRAEL, YEMIN MOSHE

וכי תזבח זבח תודה לה' לרצונכם תזבחו (כב:כט)

"And when you sacrifice a sacrifice of thanksgiving to G-d, from your own **free will**, you shall sacrifice it." (22:29)

The Korban Todah is offered when a person is saved from a perilous situation and mortal danger, to express thanksgiving to G-d. However, how can an individual be commanded to bring such an offering of one's **own free will**, when no one would have wanted to be placed in this situation in the first place? Rashi expresses this conundrum by saying "At the start of your sacrificing, be careful that it should be **acceptable** to you. And how is it acceptable?"

The Ktav Sofer (Rabbi Avraham Shmuel Binyamin Sofer 1815-1872, Pressburg) offers an interesting insight. A person should be accepting of all that happens to him, whether the incident is rewarding or includes anguish. We should always consider that the experience that unfolds before us is in our best interest; perhaps due to our errors we need to overcome these trials and deflect worse outcomes. We now can understand the need to bring this "thanksgiving" offering in joy and full acceptance, for G-d has removed these difficulties from us through His mercy. Thereby, the Torah instructs us to bring this Todah offering with our free will in a positive way, accepting all that happens to us with benevolence.

- Shabbat Shalom

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לליעם יעקב ניסן בן אורה**

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