

Parshas Mishpatim

This week is Parshas Mishpatim, as well as Rosh Chodesh Adar 1. The Lubavitcher Rebbe drew an analogy from the laws of Kashrus: just as something distasteful is diluted 1/60 (like milk in a meat mixture), so too are bad things diluted 1/60 in the 60 days of happiness between the two months of Adar.

In 23:5, “When you see the donkey of someone you hate, buckling under its load and refrain from helping it, you must help him unload it...” The Baal Shem Tov explains that the Hebrew word for donkey is Chamor, which also shares the root with the meaning of the word for material. The Baal Shem Tov further elucidates that this is an internal battle of the soul and the material body that encloses it. While it may make sense to resist helping “the enemy,” the Torah says, nevertheless, you must help him [it].

The Torah’s purpose is to show us, physical beings, how to connect with our spiritual selves and, more importantly, ensure that we connect with the G-dliness of everything. Every part of the Torah relates to that connection; therefore, even in practical halachic terms, the purpose is for that connection.

So we see, therefore, the Rebbe’s take on the halachic 1/60 dilution as a spiritual perspective on diluting bad within good, not simply on a practical halachic level, but for the spiritual application such a law may have in a 2 Adar year, like this year.

On that note, may the blessings of the month of Adar be plentiful, and we should

see the true dilution of all the bad things in the world in the 60 days of happiness. As it is known, happiness breaks all barriers. With this happiness and Simcha abound, we should celebrate with Mashiach speedily in our times.

Good Shabbos