

פינחס - Pinchas

# Knowing Hashem

## Toras Avigdor

Adapted from the teachings of Rav Avigdor Miller z"l

## Junior

By: Ari Ben-Ami

Illustrations by: Yocheved Nadell

צו את-בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וְאָמַרְתָּ אֲלֵיהֶם, אֶת קִרְבְּנֵי לַחֲמֵי  
לְאִשֵּׁי רֵיחַ נִיחֹחַי תִּשְׁמְרוּ לְהַקְרִיב לִי: (במדבר כ"ח ב')

Command the Bnei Yisroel and say to them: My offerings, My bread on the fires, it smells good to Me; you should make sure to bring for Me...

Totty and Yitzy sat together after supper at the dining room table, chazering the mishnayos Yitzy had learned that day. Little Yaeli was sitting on the floor trying out her new crayons.

"Totty?" asked Yaeli, without looking up from her mess of squiggly lines. "I'm making a picture of Hashem. How many hands does he have?"

Yitzy and Totty laughed. "Yaeli," Yitzy said. "Hashem doesn't have hands."

"But then how does he move things?" Yaeli asked. "And He's blue, right? Because I made him blue."

Totty scooped up his little girl and put her on his lap. "Yaeli, Hashem doesn't have a body at all. He is a "kol yachol" - that means he can do anything! So he doesn't need hands to move

things or eyes to see. He doesn't need a body like we do."

"Wow," said Yaeli, amazed. "I want to be like Hashem when I grow up!"

Just then Mommy walked in from the kitchen, took Yaeli from Totty to get her ready for bed, and whispered to her, "We'll talk about what you want to be when you grow up tomorrow morning. Right now it's very late and if you want to be healthy when you grow up, you have to get a good night's sleep."

"Yaeli is such a cutiepie," Yitzy said as he bent down to clean up the mess of crayons and paper that she had left on the floor. "But her question makes me think. The Torah always makes it sound like Hashem does have hands and eyes. We say 'Yad Hashem' and that

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Hashem 'sees'. It seems a bit funny when we know that's not true."

"That's a great point," said Totty, stacking up the seforim on the table. "It is super important to know that Hashem has no body or body parts; the Rambam says that it's a big aveirah to even think that He has a body. But, we need to feel as if He does."

"I don't understand," said Yitzy. "We should know He's not like us but feel like He is a person?"

"That's exactly it!" said Totty. "Hashem has no body and we can't see Him so that makes it easy for us to forget about Him. But that's a big problem because we have to remember Hashem as much as possible."

"That's why the Torah is so careful to mention Hashem in ways that we can understand; it talks about Hashem's eyes and His hands. Even His nose and His throne. Hashem is the King of Everything but He doesn't need a throne to sit on! He sees everything but He doesn't have eyes. And He can do anything even though He has no hands. But we say these words so that we can imagine Hashem and make sure that it is super real to us that Hashem is the realest thing in the Universe."

I was just learning about this in Rav Avigdor Miller's sefer on chumash. He talks about the possuk in our Parsha that says that the korban we burn on the mizbeiach is a sweet smell for Hashem. But Hashem doesn't have a nose! And He doesn't smell! He's not a person! Chas veshalom! But the point is that bringing a korban makes Hashem more real to us – we feel like He's there, He's enjoying the gift we bring Him.

"I'll tell you a story," Totty said. "One morning in Berditchev, the Kedushas Levi sent his gabbai to give a loud klop on the bimah in the middle of Shacharis and make an announcement: 'Rabboisai!' the gabbai said. 'The Rebbe wants everyone to know that there is a Ribono Shel Olam!'"

"What?!" Yitzy exclaimed. "The Berditchiver Chassidim who were davening didn't know that there is a Ribono Shel Olam?! What did they think? That they were davening to their shtenders?!"

"Did they know?" Totty said. "Sure they knew, just like you and I know. But does it feel real to us? Do we daven thinking 'I'm talking to Hashem right now?' Do we imagine that Hashem is leaning over and listening to us? You know Rav Avigdor Miller used to say that the most important word in a bracha is 'atah, You'. Because even if you say all the other words with the best kavanah in the world, if you don't realize you're talking to a Real Hashem so what's the point? You're not thanking the wall for the food are you?"

One of the most important things to do in life is that while we know that Hashem doesn't have a body, He is still more real than anything, and we need to know it, and feel it - it should feel as real as you and me talking right now."

"Amazing," said Yitzy. "I never thought of it like that. When Yaeli wakes up I'm gonna tell her that not only is she a cutie pie but now she's my rebbi too. Because of her I just learned one of the most important lessons of my life."

**Have A Wonderful Shabbos**



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