

לחיות את הפרשה LIVING THE PARSHA

בְּקַע לְגִלְגֵּלֶת מִחֲצִית הַשֶּׁקֶל (שמות לח, כו)
"A beka for every head, a half shekel" (Shemos 38:26)

לראות את עצמו כחצי

לעולם האדם צריך לראות את עצמו כ'חצי', הן ביחס לאשתו - פלגא דגופא. הן ביחס לקב"ה שהוא חלק אלוקה ממעל, והיינו רק חצי..

למעשה

בכל דבר שהאדם עוסק עמו עליו להביט, מה הוא יכול לקבל מדבר זה. ואזי להרגיש שלולי שיקבל מדבר זה את הראוי לו, הוא חצי. כך האדם נעשה בבחינת 'לומד מכל אדם', וכן 'לומד מכל דבר'. 'מכל מלמדי השכלתי'.
מחד על ידי כן הוא קונה תפיסה של חסר. אולם מאידך הוא קונה שלימות, וכן קונה אחדות שלמה עם הנבראים.

TO CONSIDER ONESELF A HALF

A person should always view himself like he is a half. In regards to his wife, he should consider himself as a "half-body" (Zohar, Vayikra 7b), and in regards to Hakadosh Baruch Hu, he should realize that he is "a part of Hashem, Above" (Iyov 31:2), which means he is only half.

IN PRACTICE

With every matter that a person is occupied in, he should think, "What can I receive from this?" He should understand that if he doesn't receive his needs from this matter, he remains only a half. With this mindset, he will be "a person who learns from all people" (Avos 4:1) and he will be "a learner from every matter", as it states, "From all my teachers, I grew wise" (Tehillim 119:99).

With this approach, he recognizes how much he lacks, and on the other hand, in this manner, he will attain perfection, and he will attain a perfect oneness with all creations.

[EXPANDED BASED ON EDITORS UNDERSTANDING]

TO CONSIDER ONESELF A HALF

Every person has his own set of talents, specialties and abilities, and factors that he lacks and needs others to help him. A person shouldn't feel so proud that he doesn't need to seek the help of others, because everyone is merely "a half".

The mitzvah of giving a half-shekel is to remind us of this truth. No one can manage entirely alone. He is merely a half, and he needs others to help him, to complete him.

An example of this is one's spouse. Chazal (Zohar, Vayikra 7b) say that without a spouse, a person is a "half-body".

Certainly, without Hashem, a person is incomplete. A person is also called "a part of Hashem, Above" (Iyov 31:2). This means he is a part, a half, but incomplete when alone.

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

When dealing with people, one should think, "What do I lack, and what can I learn or receive from this person, to help me complete my needs?"

This also applies to items, situations, experiences. There is something that one can learn from every situation.

In this manner, he becomes "a person who learns from all people" (Avos 4:1) and he becomes "a person who learns from every matter," as it states, "From all my teachers, I grew wise" (Tehillim 119:99).

Especially, he must remember that he can't manage without Hashem. Without Hashem's aid, he won't succeed in any of his attempts.