

לחיות את הפרשה LIVING THE PARSHA

וַתֵּצֵא אֵשׁ מִלְפָּנֵי ה' וַתֹּאכַל אוֹתָם (ויקרא יב)

"A fire went forth from before Hashem and consumed them" (Vayikra 10:2)

THE LIGHT THAT BEFITS HIS MADREIGAH

For each individual, there is an *or pnimi* (internal light) and *or makif* (encompassing light).

The *or pnimi* is the person's spiritual level, the *madreigos* that he has already attained.

The *or makif* is the next stage, precisely one level above his present *madreigah*. The *or makif* shines to him from the distance, and the person should toil to make this level his own.

When a person doesn't know the exact levels that he has acquired, he won't be able to differentiate between his *or pnimi* or his *or makif*.

This confusion is a problem. Sometimes, due to the confusion, he will even try to jump to levels that are far above his actual *madreigah*.

IN PRACTICE

A person must know his present level and to know precisely the next level, which he should strive to attain.

If a person doesn't know all of this and strives to attain a light far above his *madreigah*, then, *chas v'shalom*, "A fire went forth from before Hashem and consumed them" (Vayikra 10:2). This occurs when one connects to a light and fire far beyond his present *madreigah*.

[EXPANDED BASED ON EDITORS UNDERSTANDING]

THE LIGHT THAT BEFITS HIS MADREIGAH

Some *miforshim* say that Nadav v'Avihu were *niftar* because they wanted to reach a high, spiritual level before they were spiritually prepared for that divine revelation.

Every individual has an *or pnimi* (internal light) and an *or makif* (encompassing light). The *or pnimi* is the spiritual light that can go into the person. The person is at this level, so the holiness can shine within him. The *or makif* is the spiritual level that encompasses him, hovers above him, and shines onto him from the distance. It cannot come into him because he hasn't reached this level. The light that he sees from the distance inspires him to strive for it, until he attains this level. It is exactly one level above the *or pnimi*.

A person has to know his level, where he is now, and the next stage that he has to get to. To climb too high, too fast, will not be beneficial. Also, if he underestimates himself, he will be an "underachiever".

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

This is where self-awareness is so important. A person must know what is his level (his own *or pnimi*) and what is the next level that he should strive to attain (his own *or makif*). If he doesn't know, he can misjudge himself. He might consider himself lower and less capable than he actually is, and be an underachiever. Or, he might think he is at very high levels and strive too far, too fast.