

BILVAVI

BUILDING A SANCTUARY IN THE HEART

לחיות את הפרשה LIVING THE PARSHA

BAMIDBAR #449

שָׂאוּ אֶת רֹאשׁ כָּל עֵדוּת בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל לְמִשְׁפְּחֹתָם לְבֵית אֲבוֹתָם בְּמִסְפַּר שְׁמוֹת כָּל זָכָר לְגִלְגֻלְתָּם (במדבר א, ב)

"Take a census of the entire assembly of Bnei Yisrael according to their families, according to their fathers' household" (Bamidbar 1:2).

A PERSON'S INDIVIDUAL PORTION AMONG THE PUBLIC

Each person has place in Yisrael which is his personal portion where no one is like him in this realm.

IN PRACTICE

It is true that initially, a person doesn't know the quality of his *nefesh*. However, he does see that he has a certain ability, which he excels in, and he pursues it. To the extent a person serves Hashem *l'shem shamayim*, so will this strength become more revealed.

As he toils to elucidate this unique strong point of his *nefesh*, his specialty improves, becomes more refined and more revealed.

To the extent a person serves Hashem *l'shem shamayim*, so will this strength become more revealed. His strength empowers him, and this is his quality that connects him to Hashem, *Baruch Hu*.

EXPANDED BASED ON EDITORS UNDERSTANDING

A PERSON'S INDIVIDUAL PORTION AMONG THE PUBLIC

The counting of each individual (discussed in this week's parashah) indicates that each person in Yisrael is special. His importance isn't solely that the sub-total number of *Klal Yisrael* increases because of him. Rather each person is special, on his own right, and therefore, worthy of being counted. He has qualities and abilities – and a mission – that no one but he can perform.

This awareness is also encouraging and also obligating. It is encouraging because he becomes aware that he isn't merely a small fraction of a large group. He has goodness, and talent – an individual place in Yisrael.

It is also obligating, because he has a mission to perform, which solely he can do. He mustn't be lenient with his role.

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

One must discover his unique quality. There are people who have a talent to teach Torah, there are those whose skills lay in their ability to give good counsel, there are others who excel in *bikur cholim*, and so on. Each person has something, that no one else has. It is important that one knows his strengths, with all their details, so he can use them.

It is true that initially, a person doesn't know the quality of his *nefesh*. However, he will see that he has a certain ability, where he excels. He should pursue that path, serve Hashem in this approach, and to clarify for himself exactly what it is.

As he toils to elucidate this unique strong point of his *nefesh*, his specialty becomes improved, more refined and more revealed.

To the extent a person serves Hashem *l'shem shamayim*, so will this strength become more revealed. This is the strength that empowers him, and this is his quality that connects him to Hashem, *Baruch Hu*.

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