

**Good Shabbos Everyone.** The primary discussion in this week's Torah portion Vayikra is regarding the Korbanos - sacrifices which we brought in the Mishkan - tabernacle and later in the Beis HaMikdash - Holy Temple, in Jerusalem. The root of the word Korban is "Karov" meaning closer. By bringing sacrifices back then, Jews came closer to their Creator. Currently we do not have the Korbanos - sacrifices. Hashem did not however deny us alternative ways of growing closer to Him. The Sages tell us that in place of the Sacrifices, we can grow closer to Hashem through doing Chesed - acts of kindness for others. The following touching and true story illustrates this concept.

One Succos many years ago, the Gaon Rav Chaim Dov Roth, z'tl was sitting in his succah in Bnei Brak, and he heard a knock at the door of his succah. A Chassidishe man was standing in the doorway, and he introduced himself as Rav Yosha Lipshitz, the head of the Sanz community in Netanya.

Rav Lipshitz informed Rav Roth that the Klausenberger Rebbe wished to speak with him, and the taxi to Netanya was already waiting downstairs. Rav Roth was completely bewildered by this turn of events, and when he asked Rav Lipshitz why the Klausenberger Rebbe wished to speak with him, Rav Lipshitz simply repeated his request to join him for the trip to Kiryat Sanz.

Rav Roth joined Rav Lipshitz in the taxi, and the whole trip he sat deep in thought, trying to figure out why the Klausenberger Rebbe would want to see him, but he could not solve the mystery.

When he arrived, he entered the room, and the Rebbe turned to him and said, "I wish to appoint you as the Rav of the hospital (Laniado) which we established in the Kiryah." Rav Roth was astounded. He was then only 26 years old. He learned in a kollel in Bnei Brak, and he was also active in learning practical halacha, but he certainly did not feel qualified to serve as a Rav of a hospital, where complicated medical shaalos arise on a daily basis.

"In order to be a Rav of a hospital, one must have years of experience in medicine and halacha, and this certainly doesn't apply to me." Rav Roth replied in shock. The Rebbe calmed his guest down, requested that he sit down, and began explaining his reasoning to him

"You're mistaken in your outlook." Began the Rebbe. "In order to be a Rav of a hospital, and command enough authority that even the secular doctors will adhere to your rulings, the most important thing is that you are loved and respected by the doctors. I have pondered for a long time which special characteristics the Rav of a hospital require. I finally reached the conclusion that in order for the doctors to be willing to follow a Rav's instructions, the Rav must be capable of endearing himself to everybody. If the Rav is loved and respected, the doctors will follow his wishes even when he's not physically in the hospital and is not actually supervising them."

"And how does one endear himself to the doctors? This is only through the middah of chessed. When the doctors see that the Rav performs chessed, they will want to repay him and listen to all his instructions."

Rav Yosha Lipshitz now interrupted the conversation, and related that the Rebbe had instructed him to seek out a true gomal chessed, someone whose middah of chessed is innate. Rav Lipshitz continued, "I went to Bnei Brak, and I began to make inquiries, until I heard a wondrous thing about you concerning an ailing talmid chacham." This talmid chacham was stricken with his illness when he was still a child, and he slowly lost all his friends and acquaintances, until he was forgotten and neglected. Rav Roth was the only one who visited his house - six times a day, every day - before and after each learning period in kollel.

The Rebbe said, "It's fitting for a person like you to be the Rav of a hospital," and right there he officially appointed Rav Roth as the Rav of Laniado. Rav Roth served as the Rav for several years, and he then requested to leave his position to move back to Bnei Brak for his children's education. (Barchi Nafshi, cited on <http://www.revach.net>) **Good Shabbos Everyone.**