

## A Taste of Torah Finger Pointing

By Rabbi Mordechai Fleisher

Ever wonder why G-d gave you fingers? If you have, you likely concluded that fingers are extremely important for innumerable daily tasks and activities that humans engage in on a daily – nay, minute-to-minute – basis. If that was, indeed, your conclusion, hopefully you thanked Him for giving you fingers, asked Him to allow your ten fingers to remain healthy, and moved on with your day.

I hate to break this to you, but our Sages saw things differently. In this week's Torah portion, the Torah discusses the details of a meal-offering. One of the key components of a meal-offering is the process of kemitzah, where the Kohen would scoop flour from the offering with his cupped three middle fingers, placing the ring finger into the flour first. The Gemara states that the purpose of the ring finger, known as the kometz, is to enable the kemitza to be done. The aforementioned Gemara also discusses the mitzvos that the other fingers are associated with.

Rabbi Aharon Kotler (1891-1962; founder of the Lakewood Yeshiva) points out that our Sages are essentially stating that the primary cause for the creation of fingers is due to their need in mitzvah performance! Sure, life would have been quite difficult without fingers, but that in of itself is not reason enough to give humanity fingers. But once there's a mitzvah that needs a hand, fingers appear on the scene.

On a practical level, Rabbi Kotler is reminding us that G-d did not place us in this world to merely have a good time. Rather, we are here for a very real purpose: to grow spiritually, become better people, and thereby merit to enter the Next World. Thus, everything – everything – that we are presented with throughout life is a means to grow, by attaining the good and rejecting the bad. And while not every single action or move we make can be defined strictly as a mitzvah, it can be defined as positive or negative. So be it your head, shoulders, knees, or toes, use it to serve G-d – that's why He gave it to you in the first place!

## Ask the Rabbi Flour Power

Debbie in Canada wrote:

Dear Rabbi,

A woman in synagogue told me that I need to give “kimcha d'pischa” (or something like that). Rabbi, would you tell me what she was talking about? Thanks a million!

Dear Debbie,

Kimcha D'pischa means “flour for Pesach.” In other words “Kosher for Passover Flour.” This refers to the age-old custom of giving charity before Pesach to the city's poor so they will be able to afford all their Passover needs.

## Stories For The Soul

### Boundless Opportunity

It is said that when the Vilna Gaon (1720-1797) lay dying, he held onto his tzitzis and began to weep.

His disciples, standing around, were astonished.

“Surely after living such a pious life and contributing so much to Torah learning you cannot be afraid of what awaits you in the next world, Rebbi,” they said. “Why are you crying?”

The Vilna Gaon looked up and answered, “Because here on this Earth, while alive, with just a little string I can fulfill one of G-d's mitzvos, tzitzis.

“No matter how fabulous the next world is, I will not be able to do that there.”

We can never overlook the small stuff. Here, on this earth, with the right mind set, everything is possible. You can even follow Hashem's commandments with just a little string, if you think about it. Even just a penny fulfills the commandment of tzedaka. A simple smile can fulfill the mitzva of *chesed*, kindness. This is a wonderful world of boundless opportunity.

In this week's Parsha, we read about the *karbon oleh*, elevation offering, which was brought when a man or woman wanted to express his/her love and closeness to Hashem.

How fortunate we are to have the mitzva vehicles and ability to foster our devotion to Hashem.

Some erroneously consider mitzvos to be a burden, while in fact they are a precious opportunity.

*Adapted with permission from Shul-Week by Rabbi Boruch Lederman.*

## Kollel Happenings

### A DEEPER LOOK AT KORBANOS WITH RABBI SHACHNE SOMMERS

Join Rabbi Shachne Sommers to delve into the topic of Korbanos. Class will be held on Tuesday at Aish from 8-9 p.m. For information, contact Rabbi Moshe Heyman at [rmf@denverkollel.org](mailto:rmf@denverkollel.org) or 303-820-2855



### HEART OF THE TORAH - AT AISH OR ANYWHERE

Join Rabbi Aron Yehuda Schwab and Rabbi Yechiel Erlanger to learn the Ten Commandments—the heart of the Torah in depth. This 14 part series will complete the in-depth study of the Ten Commandments just in time for the August 1st national and local Grand Siyum Hashas celebrations. Classes are held at Aish and broadcasted via [gotomeeting.com](http://gotomeeting.com). For more information, contact email [info@denverkollel.org](mailto:info@denverkollel.org) or call 303-820-2855-820



### DERECH HASHEM SERIES MON. NIGHTS

Join Rabbi Mordechai Fleisher for “Derech Hashem: Who is G-d and Why Did He Create the World?”, a series for women based on Derech Hashem by Rabbi Moshe Chaim Luzzato. The classes are held on Mondays at 7:45 p.m., at EDOS. For info, contact Mrs. Tzippy Sommers at [pit@denverkollel.org](mailto:pit@denverkollel.org) or 303-257-1089.

## Interpersonal Issues Returning Lost Objects

A distinguished individual, such as a Rabbi or wealthy person, for whom it would be considered demeaning to retrieve a lost item, is exempt from the mitzvah. This applies only if the finder would not pick it up due to his dignity

if it was his own item.

*Adapted with permission from “The Halachos of Other People’s Money” by Rabbi Pinchas Bodner (Feldheim Publishers)*

## Ask the Rabbi

*Continued from front*

This custom is ancient, first mentioned in the Jerusalem Talmud. The idea behind it is that it was hard to find “Kosher for Passover” flour to buy during the holiday. So poor people who live on a day to day basis would not have food to eat on Pesach, because there would be no flour to buy to bake matzot with. Hence began the custom to distribute flour before Pesach.

Today, most people don’t bake their own matzos, so kimcha d’pische has been adjusted to meet the needs of the poor people of today. All over the world Jewish communities give money to the needy before the holiday so they can prepare. In many communities food supplies are distributed for free or at great discount. In my community, charity organizations give money to the supermarket to credit the accounts of needy families, in addition to food distribution and cash donations.

It is said that before Pesach there are two types of people: Those who give kimcha d’pische and those who get. In other words, anyone who can is obligated to help the needy meet their holiday expenses.

You should make a donation to the kimcha d’pische organization, in your

community if possible. If there are no needy in your city, or no existing organization, you can choose to help out the poor of Jerusalem by sending a donation via Ohr Somayach, POB 18103, Jerusalem 91180 Israel.

There is a wonderful story about how charity money is distributed before Pesach. A woman once approached the Rabbi of the city of Brisk, Rabbi Yosef Dov Soloveitchik, with a strange question. She wanted to know if one could use milk instead of wine for the four cups of the Seder. She explained that she could not afford wine. He answered her by giving her a large amount of money. Asked the Rabbi’s wife, “I understand you gave her money because she can’t afford the wine, but why so much?”

Answered the Rabbi, “If she wants to drink milk at the Seder, it is obvious she has no meat for Pesach (as there is a prohibition to eat meat and milk at the same meal). So I gave her enough to buy wine and meat for the entire Holiday.”

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