



Parashat Vayikra

Rav Yosef Zvi Rimon

When the Torah explains how to bring a sacrifice it says **אַזְمָן כִּי־יָקְרֵב מִקְרָב קָרְבָּן** לְהָ, “A person when he offers ‘from you’ a sacrifice to HaShem.” This is very strange language! In Hebrew, one should say **אַזְמָן מִקְרָב כִּי־יָקְרֵב** לְהָ. “When a person from among you offers a sacrifice...” The Torah says - **אַזְמָן כִּי־יָקְרֵב מִקְרָב** - a person, when he sacrifices, **מִקְרָב**, only then does it say ‘from you.’ What is this word? Why is it not in the expected location in the sentence?

Ramban says one should read it as if it is written, **אַזְמָן מִקְרָב כִּי־יָקְרֵב מִקְרָב**, when a person from among you offers a sacrifice....

But the Seforno says, **אַזְמָן כִּי־יָקְרֵב מִקְרָב**, when you bring a sacrifice, you should not feel that it is something symbolic you are bringing, something outside of yourself. On the contrary, you are bringing yourself, as if you are making yourself a sacrifice to Hashem. This is **אַזְמָן כִּי־יָקְרֵב מִקְרָב**, from your inside, from your body, from your soul.

Maybe we can add another explanation. When you want to be close to Hashem, of course you have to work on yourself, you have to be pure, but you have to understand another thing. You need to have a connection to Klal Yisrael, to Am Yisrael. Only as a part of Am Yisrael do you have the ability to be close to Hashem. **אַזְמָן כִּי־יָקְרֵב מִקְרָב קָרְבָּן לִיהְיוֹה**, you have to feel a part, **מִקְרָב**, of Am Yisrael.

Only if you are a part of Am Yisrael, then you can be close to Hashem, a part of Am Yisrael, a part of Eretz Yisrael, a part of Medinat Yisrael. If you are a part, then you have the ability to be close to Hashem.

Shabbat Shalom.