



Awesome Adam

The section enumerating the laws of *tzara'at* opens with the following verse, “Adam *ki yihyeh be'or besaro se'et o sapachat o baheret ve'hayah be'or besaro lenega tzara'at* – If a person has a [white] blotch, discoloration or spot on the skin of his body, and it [is suspected] of being a mark of *tzara'at* on his skin.” (*Vayikra 132*) The *Netziv* notes that the Torah uses four different words to describe a person, “*enosh*,” “*gever*,” “*ish*,” and “*adam*.” The term “*adam*” refers to the highest level of Man. Clearly the question begs itself; why, when we are referring to a person who has committed a sin punishable with *tzara'at*, does the Torah use the superior term “*adam*” to describe him?

Ramban explains that *tzara'at* is not a physical disease, rather it is spiritual in nature. He maintains that an affliction on one's house and clothing will only be found in Eretz Yisrael since this is the land that is most closely connected to the Divine. Thus, one who is afflicted with *tzara'at* is someone whose spiritual consciousness is usually attuned to a higher level. Although we tend to look at *tzara'at* from a negative perspective, in reality, it expresses Hashem's infinite love, as a means to awaken a person to become even better. Only one who is open to such sublime

elevation can be afflicted with *tzara'at*.

Rav Scheinerman notes in *Ohel Moshe* that we often make a mistake and think that great people never have any faults or areas that need improvement. Further, we even get judgmental and believe that when they do display limitations, they can no longer be considered great. *Shlomo HaMelech* reminds us, “*Ki adam ein tzaddik ba'aretz asher ya'aseh tov ve'lo yecheta* - For there is no righteous man on earth who does good and sins not.” (*Kohelet 7:20*) Here, again, we see man referred to as “*adam*.” The purpose of *tzara'at* was to motivate a person to go to a Kohen, where he would receive guidance to improve his faults and do *teshuvah*. Such a person is indeed worthy of the description “*adam*,” denoting a willingness to grow spiritually and genuinely connect to a Higher place.

In a famous letter, Rav Hutner *zt'l* bemoans written biographies of *gedolei Yisrael* that depict their subjects as being perfect from a young age. Such books are damaging, says Rav Hutner, as they focus on the end result without sharing the struggles and difficulties that these *gedolim* experienced in their journeys toward greatness. No human being is born perfect, we each have our battles and conflicts that propel us to achieve our spiritual aspirations and yearnings. To pretend that greatness just happens on its own is not only false, it dishonors the value of sincere effort to continuously strive toward a better self.

The Tosher Rebbe in *Avodat Avodah* teaches that it is specifically our leaders who are

often faced with situations in which they must reprove or admonish others without letting their egos get in the way. They may find themselves challenged to avoid speaking and hearing loshon hara or to judge others favorably. Here the Torah is telling them how careful they must be work on developing their middot tovot to maintain the lofty ideal of “adam.”

Greatness involves struggle and challenge, yet with consistent, focused growth and openness to constructive guidance we can all achieve the quintessential form of man – the elevated state called “adam.” ■

A small Sefer Torah with its own Aron Kodesh is available to shiva houses or for any other necessary occasion on a temporary free-loan basis. If needed call Uri Hirsch 0545513173

SINCE 1974
Zimuki
JERUSALEM REAL ESTATE

****SALE! PRICE DROP! Makor Chaim, Quadra project.** 105 sqm, 3-beds duplex + 25 sqm private garden. Storage + parking. Direct access to buildings pool. 4,780,000 ₪

****SALE! BEST INVESTMENT! Old Katamon, Bruryah St.** 3.5 beds, 85 sqm + 30 sqm balconies, 1st floor. The property in an advanced Tama procss for a 4 bed apt. Asking price: 4,150,000 ₪

****SALE! Rechavia, KKL St.** exclusive complex. 89 sqm. 2 beds apt. Including indoor pool, and 24 hr security. Parking and storage. 3,850,000 ₪

****SALE! PRICE DROP! Rechavia, Diskin St.** 130 sqm. 3 beds + 2.5 baths + private parking. Facing city view. Needs renovation. 5,600,000 ₪

****SALE! German Colony** On a private and secluded St. Second floor apt in a small two unit cottage. 70 sqm. 2.5 beds + 1 bath. Small Sukka high ceiling balcony. 3,500,000 ₪

****RENTAL! Talbiyeh,** 130 sqm penthouse. 3.5-beds, F/F, large terrace, private parking + storage. 13,000 ₪

Ruth Abrahami - 054-8070677 02-5638221
WWW.ZIMUKI.COM

משפחה אחת
מתגברים על הטרור ביחד



OneFamily
Overcoming Terror Together

WHEN TERROR STRIKES IN ISRAEL ONEFAMILY PICKS UP THE PIECES



Providing Support to 4500 Terror Victim Families

Family is the circle of people we know we can count on to be there when we need it most.

We are a support system of people and resources to empower terror victims to heal, recover, renew their lease on life, and flourish.

OneFamily – helping “Our Collective Family” achieve emotional and economic independence

WWW.ONEFAMILYTOGETHER.ORG
INFO@ONEFAMILYFUND.ORG