

Dvar Torah

by Rabbi Chanoch Yeres

Beit Knesset Beit Yisrael, Yemin Moshe

Graciously shared with PhiloTorah



B'REISHIT

In Memory of our friend

Chaim Abramowitz

Chayim Aharon ben Naftali Fischel z"l

Following the sin of eating from the Eitz HaDaat, when Adam HaRishon is confronted by G-d, he deflects the blame and argues that "The woman that You placed with me, she gave me from the tree and I ate."

Rashi comments, quoting the Gemara in Avoda Zara, that Adam revealed here his ingratitude to G-d for providing him with a wife. It would seem at first observation that the ingratitude was the blaming of his wife for his own misconduct.

However, I saw an interesting thought that gives a deeper perspective to what really took place. One can suggest that

the ingratitude was not what Adam said but how he said it. The creation of woman came out of the realization that man was no good on his own. Without a mate, man was simply incomplete, he required woman to help him achieve completion, and this is what G-d provided for Adam.

The word IMADI, used by Adam to mean "with me" which implies lack of

appreciation of this quality of woman. By using the word IMADI, Adam showed that he saw woman as an opposing force and did not appreciate her true virtues. Rashi explains this in D'varim (32:39) that the word IMADI implies opposing me. The word LI however, has much different connotations. Had the Torah written ASHER NATATA LI, it would have implied that Adam understood that Chava - was for his own good. That form of the word LI "for me" is always used to suggest personal benefit. Had, Adam argued HA'ISHA ASHER NATATA LI, HI NATNAH LI", using the word LI instead, which would have implied "the woman whom you gave me for my benefit, gave me from the tree", that Adam recognized and understood how much Chava was necessary for the completion of our world, Rashi would perhaps not have made his comments of Adam's ingratitude.

There is a message here of learning how to appreciate those around us and to express that gratitude to them. Now, after the Holiday period, I would like to thank all those who were instrumental in contributing to the very wonderful Chag Sukkot we had at Beit Yisrael, this year.

On a sadder note, I would like to send our condolences To Debbie and the entire Abramowitz family on the loss of our good friend Chaim Abramowitz

who was very instrumental in our community for many years and would like to express our appreciation to all that he bestowed to each and every one of us.