

QUESTIONING G-D/FINDING AND KEEPING YOUR BASHERT

Background

We are taught that Avrohom Avinu was tested ten times and passed each test. The *Tosfos Yom Tov* quotes Rashi as saying, “This teaches us that the test was not to see if Avrohom would listen. On his level, it was a given that if HASHEM commanded him to do something, he would. The actual test was to see whether he would question HASHEM.” And, in fact, Avrohom passed all ten tests, never once questioning HASHEM.

Questions

How can Rashi say that Avrohom Avinu passed all of the tests without asking questions when the Medrash clearly tells us that Avrohom did have a question? From the first time that HASHEM told him to take Yitzchak as an *olah* (sacrifice), Avrohom had a question: “HASHEM had promised me that Yitzchak would be the progenitor of the Jewish Nation, and now I am being asked to slaughter him?”

מדרש רבה בראשית פרשה נו פסוק י
 (י) ויקרא אברהם שם המקום ההוא ה' יראה ר' יוחנן אמר אמר לפניו רבון העולמים בשעה שאמרת לי קח נא את בנך את יחידך היה לי מה להשיב אתמול אמרת כי ביצחק וגו' עכשיו קח נא את בנך וגו' וחס ושלום לא עשיתי כן אלא כבשתי רחמי לעשות רצונך יהי רצון מלפניך ה' אלהינו בשעה שיהיו בניו של יצחק באים לידי עבירות ומעשים רעים תהא נזכר להם אותה העקידה ותתמלא עליהם רחמים

Rebbe Yochanan said: Avrohom said to HASHEM, “When You said to me, ‘Take your son, your only son,’ I had what to say. Yesterday You told me that ‘Yitzchak will be my future’ and now You say to ‘kill him.’ Yet I didn’t answer You, but I conquered my mercy to do Your will. May it be the will of HASHEM that when the children of Yitzchak need mercy that You remember this act.”

משנה מסכת אבות פרק ה

(ג) עֲשֶׂרָה נְסִיחוֹת נִתְּנָה אֲבֹרָהּ אֲבִינוּ עָלֵינוּ הַשְּׁלוֹם וְעַמְד בְּכֶלֶם

There were ten tests that our father Avrohom went through, and he withstood all of them.

תוי"ט על מסכת אבות פרק ה משנה ג

ועמד בכלם - שלא הרהר אחר מדותיו. רש"י

Tosfos Yom Tov (quoting Rashi): Withstood all of them: That he didn't question HASHEM.