



BEHIND THE PICTURE

PRECISELY MEASURED

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Mathematical equations and architectural concepts are not on everyone's first choice of topics, yet as Chasidim, there are a number of times that we are encouraged to put our minds to this challenge.

One of the times concepts like these are encountered, are in Hilchos Beis Habechira during the annual cycle of *limud Horambam*, and also during the *bein hameitzarim*, when we learn the above halachos as per the Rebbe's hora'a.

It may be a short set of halachos in quantity, however it is focused on the subject of many of our Tefillos – the Beis Hamikdosh.

Without the guidance of diagrams and illustrations, the calculations and meas-



urements can remain a blur of knowledge. For this reason many Seforim have been published with pictures to assist the learning of these Halochos.

In 5752, Reb Dov Lavnuni took it a step further. Alongside a book he was publishing which explained these Halochos clearly with the aid of pictures, he built a 3-D model of the Beis Hamikdosh. Painstakingly, he insured that every single detail should be included in it's correct measurements, scaled down 200\1.

On Sunday, 26 Adar 1, 5752, he had the great privilege of bringing his work before the Rebbe by dollars.

As Reb Dov passed before the Rebbe, Rabbi Groner announced his name. Reb Dov then pulled out a binder with all the pictures he had created for the book that was going to be printed shortly. Handing it to the Rebbe he said,

"I brought the pictures to give to the Rebbe and the model to show to the Rebbe." (Picture 1)

Holding up the model for the Rebbe to view it, he pointed out various locations and details of the Beis Hamikdosh (Picture 2). It was built with every intricate detail and the roof was removable to allow viewers to see the interior of the structures.

The Rebbe wished him Brocha V'hatzlocha and Reb Dov then requested a Brocha for the success of his project. As the dollar line seemed ready to proceed to the next individual, the Rebbe's next remark caught everyone by surprise, most noticeably Reb Dov himself. "Where is the ramp? The ramp for the Mizbeiach?" the Rebbe asked. (Picture 3)

Not fully grasping the Rebbe's intention, Reb Dov quickly pointed out the location of the two Mizbeichos, as well as the ramp and its details.

As soon as he had finished, the Rebbe explained the problem, "It must be much bigger..."

"I measured it," he replied, "it's scaled down at a ratio of 200\1."

Seemingly not wishing to push the matter further, the Rebbe concluded, "You probably measured it..." and gave him a Brocha that he should be zoche to see the third Beis Hamikdosh.

Understandably, Rabbi Lavnuni was slightly perturbed by the Rebbe's comment and so he went ahead and rechecked it before sending his book to print. Indeed, the ramp's measurement was off by three millimeters (approximately 0.118 inches, an amount which is hardly discernable to the human eye), which would equal over half a meter (approximately 19 inches) in real size.

With true care and sensitivity the Rebbe made him aware of his 'tiny' mistake. ■

