



Completing The Job

The Finishing Touches

There is a concept that a mitzvah is attributed to the one who finishes it. In other words, if someone begins to do a mitzvah, and for whatever reason he is unable to complete it, the *zechus* of the mitzvah goes to he who completes it.

For example, Rashi says regarding the bones of Yosef: “Moshe alone occupied himself in bringing them up.” Meanwhile, the rest of the Yidden were busy searching Egyptian homes for silver and gold according to Hashem’s command. It is clear that Hashem intended for this *avodah* to

be done by the Jews, while the *avodah* of dealing with Yosef’s bones was set aside for Moshe. Nonetheless, it was the Jews in the end who buried the bones of Yosef since Moshe had passed away by that time. They completed the mitzvah and therefore it is attributed to them.

Our Generation

This is the great advantage of our generation of “*Ikvesa deMeshicha*” – the generation which will finally fulfill the very reason of creation.

As we know, the world was created

because Hashem desired a dwelling-place in the lowest realm. This was the mission of the Jewish people – to prepare this world for Hashem’s presence. The ultimate completion of this preparation is the coming of Moshiach, which will be brought about by our generation.

Understandably, the fact that the earlier generations did not complete this *avodah* does not mean they lacked the capability to do so. On the contrary – the work they did in *birur hanitzotzos* covered the majority of what needed to be



לזכות
החתן הרה"ת ר' מנחם מענדל שיחי'
ברוך
והכלה המהוללה מרת חנה רבקה תחי'
טייכטל
לרגל נישואיהן ביום ח' אלול תשפ"ג
שיבנו בית ישראל בנין עדי עד

נדפס ע"י הורי הכלה
הרה"ת ר' יצחק וזוגתו מרת אסתר
שיחיו טייכטל
נאשוויל, טענעסי



done. Our generation, in the words of the Frierdiker Rebbe, must only “polish the buttons” in preparation for Moshiach. All we need to do is focus on the small things that make a difference, and because of this, the entire *avodah* of the Jewish nation throughout all the generations will be completed by and attributed to us.

The Last Month

The same concept applies to the month of Elul, through which the *avodah* of the entire year is completed. Just like the seven days

of Aseres Yemei Teshuvah between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur correspond to the days of each week from the previous year, so too the entire month of Elul reflects the months that come before it. Not only should this month be used to atone for the wrongdoings of the past year, but also any mitzvos that one did without the proper motivation can be done in Elul with a new energy.

During this month, a Jew can reach the level of doing mitzvos out of his own love for Hashem, rather than doing them because he is being told to

do it or because everyone else does the same. This will raise all the mitzvos he did throughout the year to this level, because a mitzvah is attributed to the one who completes it. The way he does this mitzvah in the month of Elul can affect and change the way he may have done it the whole year.

Through elevating the *avodah* of the whole year to the level attained in the month of Elul – “*Ani ledodi*,” we receive the “*Dodi li*” – Hashem’s blessing in all aspects of our lives. **T**

*Adapted from the sicha of Shabbos
Parshas Shoftim 5727*