
*Understanding our
actions...*

Rabbi Alon Meltzer

*A New Page of Talmud –
Chukat 5782*



This is the ritual law that God has commanded: Instruct the Israelite people to bring you a red cow without blemish, in which there is no defect and on which no yoke has been laid. **Bamidbar 19:2¹** Because Satan and the nations of the world taunt Israel, saying, “What is this command and what reason is there for it”, on this account it (Scripture) writes (uses) the term chok about it, implying: It is an enactment from before Me; you have no right to criticize it— **Rashi on Bamidbar 19:2²** This is the ordinance - As it is said (Job:14): Who gave (brought forth) purity from impurity? such as Abraham from Terah, Hezekiah from Achaz, etc , Israel from the nations of the world, the world to come from this world. Who did so, who commanded so, who decreed it so, if not The One! (the world's only!)! There we learned (Parah 4:4): those who occupy themselves with the Parah from beginning to end, impurify their clothes, but it makes clothes Pure. God said: I carved a law (into the fabric of creation), I made a decree, you have no ability to transgress (override) My law! – **Midrash Bamidbar Rabba 19:1³** Certainly the text did NOT come to tell us that G-d who is pure, so too his utterances are pure and therefore has pure servants. Rather that G-d’s words purify the person; as is written “not the Parah purifies, but the law I inscribed”. For the whole world was created only by Hashem’s word as it is written “with ten utterances...etc”. However that inner life and energy in this world is hidden. And one needs to contemplate- who commanded, who decreed - to draw it out etc. “Who commanded”-is the power Hashem is giving to Israel that they can continue to draw to this world the energy and life force in His sayings. “Who commanded” God give power to attach and connect everything back to Him thru all the commandments. And by contemplating all of the above we return & connect it all to the source- and that brings purity. This is called a Chok –that the force and power of G-ds utterance enacted and

maintains all. This power comes from Torah and is hidden in all worldly acts and is called a Chukah. And man was created to live, and draw the spiritual life energy and flux into everything by contemplating and delving into these concepts. And It [chok] is referred to as food (mazon) as is written [and they ate] chukam. This concept sustains and draws the energy and flow to everything in this world & gives blessing and abundance for all, and is the essential point that connects everything to the Source of life.– **Sefas Emes on Bamidbar 19:2⁴**

This is the ritual law that the Lord has commanded

ואת חקת התורה אשר צוה ה'
Bamidbar 19:2

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