

Unconditional Love

By: Yosef Vogel

Are the relationships in our lives performance related or is there something much more powerful that intrinsically connects us with others. Is the behaviour towards each other the sum total of the value in a relationship or must there be a more profound dynamic that creates the underlying bond between individuals.

A most profound insight into the nature of relationships can be derived from a fascinating dialogue between G-d and Moses straight after the sin of the golden calf. In response to G-d's initial position that he wanted to sever his connection with the Jewish people, Moses suggest that the nature of the bond between G-d and the Jewish people is much more intense and that it transcended their performance and therefore G-d should review his relationship with them in that light.

Eventually G-d concedes and a new and more profound relationship between G-d and the Jewish people is born which in turn can serve to guide and inspire us in all our human relationships.

On the one hand life is about performance and the way we behave towards each other and to the degree that we are kind and considerate we build stronger and more meaningful relationships with people.

However sometimes things can go wrong and we are often treated badly by others in whom we have invested much kindness and goodwill and as a result we consider severing our relationship. After all what is left in a relationship if one party does not perform accordingly.

It is at this point that we must remember the timeless and inspiring words of Moses on Mount Sinai thousands of years ago. For whilst it is true that we all want and expect a good return on our investments into the relationships we have with others. We must sometimes be prepared to have patience and an understanding of the weaknesses of our friends and partners and to continue to invest in them with much kindness and love.

For ultimately it is this kind of unconditional love that can sometimes turn a cold or hostile relationship we have with a loved one, into a most profound and powerful kind that transcends the brief lapses of inappropriate behaviour.

9 March

Ki Tisa

Shabbat Begins: 5:40 pm

Shabbat Ends: 6:43 pm