

## UNCONDITIONAL LOVE

It is interesting to consider whether the relationships in our lives are performance based or if there or is something much more powerful that intrinsically connects us to others. Is our behaviour towards the other in our relationships based on how they behave towards us or should our relationships be governed by a more profound dynamic that is a reflection of the underlying bond that connects us for reasons sometimes we even struggle to understand.

A most profound insight into the nature of relationships can be derived from a fascinating dialogue between G-d and Moses that takes place straight after the sin of the golden calf. In response to G-d's initial position to sever his connection with the Jewish people, Moses suggests that the nature of the bond between G-d and the Jewish people is much more profound and that in fact it transcends their performance, (which in this case was a grave betrayal of their relationship as they built an idol.) He implores G-d to therefore review his relationship the Jewish people, based on the inherent love that underwrites the relationship, which is the fatherly bond that began at Mount Sinai.

Eventually G-d concedes and the relationship between G-d and the Jewish people is born, but this time it is fortified with even greater strength. This growth in the relationship between G-d and the Jewish people should serve as a guide and inspiration to all of us in all our human relationships.

On the one hand life is about performance and the way we behave towards one another will determine the kind of relationships we have. However sometimes things can go wrong and we are often treated badly by others in whom we have invested much kindness and goodwill. As a result we consider severing our relationship, especially when we invest much and it is not reciprocated.

It is at this point that we must remember the timeless and inspiring words of Moses that were spoken on Mount Sinai thousands of years ago. For whilst it is true that we all want and expect a good return on our investments, all the more so when it pertains to our intimate relationships with others. There are times when we must be prepared to be patient and exercise an understanding of the weaknesses of our friends and partners, so that we may continue to invest in them with unconditional kindness and love, despite the fact that we may not get equal returns on our investments.

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 one that is able to transcend the times when the going gets tough.

If we are able to display this noble trait of being able to surrender ourselves for the sake of the relationship, it will stand us in good stead and we will be able to weather the storms that occur through time, and surface stronger and more enriched and humble for the experience.

May we all only know brachot and strength so that we are able to endure the trying times in the relationships in our lives, as we strive to become greater and more sensitized individuals.

*Warm regards,  
Yosef Vogel*

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14th February

**Ki Tisa**

Shabbat Begins: 4:58 pm

Shabbat Ends: 6:03 pm