



Parashat Vayikra

March 2023

1 Conversation

A young Hasidic guy is walking by himself by the lake. So when I ask him about Parashat Vayikra he says that at the last part of the previous Parashah Pekudei the Mishkhan was filled with smoke. And Moshe, he says, Moshe felt he couldn't come in. There wasn't any room for him because of the Mishkhan being filled with smoke. So Vayikra, this week's parashah, starts out with Vayikra (he called). Hashem called to him, you may think there's no room for you Moshe but there is room for you, come in. And so that's the word Vayikra.

And then why does the word Vaykra have a small alef at the end? Because in Aramaic, alef is like ulpana to learn. And so, just like Moshe made himself small that there wasn't a place for him, in the end Hashem said, Come in. Come into the Mishkhan, and then also learn the importance of learning, even if you think you're not worthy of it or able to do it. To do like the small alef ulpana, come and learn.