



Parashat Vayakhel

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Blog

The Energies of Parashat Vayakhel: The Energies of the Heart vs. the Energies of Things

Parashat Vayakhel presents an extraordinary energies-contrast between the energies of the heart versus the energies of things - the energies of the heart are encouraged and praised, while the energies of things have limited value and even reach the point of being "too much" in this week's portion. Let's take a look at how Parashat Vayakhel relates to energies.

The central role of the heart and the importance of the energies of the heart are reiterated continuously throughout Parashat Vayakhel. "Take ye from among you an offering unto the Lord, whosoever is of a willing heart" (Exodus 35:5), "And let every wise-hearted man among you come" (Exodus 35:10), "And they came, every one whose heart stirred him" (Exodus 35:21), and continually throughout the parashah the Resonating~Torah is telling us of the value and importance of the authentic energies that come from a person's heart. Far more frequently than the technical details of what needs to be done in preparing the Mishkan, Parashat Vayakhel tells us the root from which all Mishkan-related activities must sprout, that being the pure energies of the hearts of the people.

Unlike the energies of the heart, which are encouraged so continuously and so "wholeheartedly", a things-oriented focus that describes the energies of things is explicitly related to differently. To be sure the people were encouraged to bring things for use in building the Mishkan, but unlike the heart-aspect of this activity the things-aspect reaches and even exceeds what is appropriate or desirable. "For the stuff they had was sufficient for all the work to make it, and too much" reports Exodus 36:7.

The Resonating~Torah does nothing but encourage heart-energies, but places a cap on things-energies. There is much for us to learn from this approach.