

דברי מנחם

Diarei Menachem

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In this week's Parsha we come across the incident whereby persons who had become contaminated by contact with the dead were unable to offer up the Korban Pesach at the required time, namely, 14th Nissan (Bamidbar 8:1-9) - possibly, because these people were carrying Yosef's bones or because they had buried an unidentified corpse (Sukka 25a). Feeling slighted because their condition was no fault of their own, the complainants implored Moshe to make an exception and to allow them to offer up the sacrifice they would otherwise miss.

Moshe inquires of Hashem who offers the said people a second chance to bring the Korban Pesach, one month later, albeit in different circumstances. This occurrence is what we know of today as Pesach Sheni. Of note is that Moshe, in the name of G-d, also directs this second opportunity to those who are "on a distant road" and would not be able to reach Yerushalayim in time for the Korban Pesach.

When we contemplate these matters, we might take much comfort in realizing that we, too, might benefit from such arrangements. We, in our musings and "unclean" moments, might have a chance to redeem ourselves; we, whose distance from Hashem can reach such extreme limits, might yet make the long journey to reach our spiritual goals. It seems from the parsha, however, that in Moshe's absence, we must first beseech our "better side", thus to give ourselves that second opportunity to make up for lost ground.