

## SHABBOS NOSO – AUTHOR: MR JOEY JOSEPH

In Parshas Noso we read about the twelve nesi'im who each brought the same korban. One of the items they brought is mentioned as follows: KAF ACHAS USORO ZOHOV MELAYO KETORES. The literal translation is one spoon of gold of ten shekolim full of incense. Rashi on Perek 7 Posuk 20 learns that KAF can mean a palm and therefore we are referring to the Torah which is given from the hand of Hashem, and has USORO ZOHOV being the useres hadibros which are MELAYO KETORES, full of sweet smelling incense. Rashi points out that the gematria (numerical value) of KETORES is 613, the sweet smelling incense representing all the mitzvos. However, KETORES will only add up to 613 if we interchange the KUF with a DALET using the concept of A" T B" SH G" R D" K where the first letter of the Aleph Beis can be changed with the last letter, the second letter with the second last etc. Now, 4+9+200+400=613. Surely Rashi is not simply playing with numbers and there must be a hidden meaning to this.

The Gemara in Eruvin, Daf 13b asks, is it better that a man is born or not? Bais Shamai and Bais Hillel argue as to whether it would have been better for a person not to have been born as of the 613 mitzvos, 365 represent LO SAASEI (negative) and 248 represent ASEI (positive). Therefore, the chances of doing an aveira are greater than doing a mitzvah (365 v 248). The Gemara answers that really we should not have been born but now that we are YAMUSHMASH BEMUUSOV which Rashi explains to mean having MUCHSHOVO when we do a mitzvah. Therefore, this could be taken to mean that if you do a mitzvah with the proper MUCHSHOVO, this would count as two, one for the mitzvah and one for the MUCHSHOVO. If so, mitzvos can be taken as 248 times 2 which is a higher number than 365 and therefore it is good that a person has been born as positive mitzvos will now outnumber negative aveiras.

We can now understand what Rashi is saying in Parshas Noso. Rashi is answering the question of how can the posuk say that the Torah that Hashem gave us is MELAYO KETORES? Surely, the chances of doing an aveira are greater than doing a mitzvah! Rashi therefore answers that KETORES will equal 613 if we change the KUF for a DALET. If you write out the letter Kuf, the gematria is 186. If you write out the letter DALET the gematria is 434. The difference between 434 and 186 is 248 and therefore Rashi is hinting that if we do the 248 mitzvos with MUCHSHOVO, then 248 + 248 will be greater than 365 and therefore all TARYAG mitzvos will be considered as KETORES.

(Reference: Reb Zvi Benedict z"l in the name of the Kedushas Zion.)

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### SHABBOS TIMES



**Starts: 7.45PM**



**Ends: 10.32PM**