

## **Prepare for Tomorrow**

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**Rabbi Zev-Hayyim Feyer**

*Parshat B'ha'alot'cha*

**Say to the people, "Prepare yourselves for tomorrow and you shall eat meat, for you have wept into G\*d's ears, saying, 'Who will feed us meat?'"** (Numbers 11:18)

**Prepare yourselves.** The Hebrew word, התקדשו (*hit'kad'shu*), is derived from the linguistic root קדש, meaning *holiness* or *sanctity*. Thus, **sanctify yourselves**.

**For tomorrow.** Tomorrow, that is, the World to Come. We are directed to sanctify ourselves in This World in preparation for our entry into the World to Come.

We will be asked, however, whether we have devoted ourselves to the substance of the Divine Wisdom. Therefore, we **shall eat meat**. Let not those who are vegetarians be distressed, however, for it is not a steak dinner to which this injunction refers. Rather, "meat" is symbolic of substantive, rather than merely formalistic, wisdom, the "meat" of the teachings. When we prepare ourselves in holiness, in sanctity, we will find the substance of Divine Wisdom.

If the learning becomes too difficult for us, however, then we can weep **into G\*d's ears, saying, "Who will feed us meat?"** As Rabbi Isaac Luria, the holy Ari, teaches us, one who tries to learn but finds it too difficult should pour out one's woes to G\*d, and G\*d will respond by granting the supplicant wisdom.

There is another option as well. Our master and teacher Rebbe Nahman of Breslov, great-grandson of the Baal Shem Tov, was known for the tales which he told. He is said to have remarked to his disciples concerning his tales, "My stories contain very deep and important spiritual lessons, and it is important that you listen to the stories and learn the lessons. If you are not ready for the depth of the lessons, however, you should still listen to the stories, for they are really very nice stories."

Shabbat Shalom.