

In Talmud Yerushalmi (Yoma 4:6), commenting on the verse “אֵשׁ תָּמִיד תּוֹקֵד עַל הַמִּזְבֵּחַ, לֹא תִכְבֶּה” – “A continual fire shall be kept burning on the altar; it must not be extinguished” (Vayikra 6:6) – the Sages teach that the fire on the altar had to remain burning even while the Mishkan was traveling from place to place, and not only when it was stationary.

### Tiferet Shimshon on the Torah Vayikra 6:6.

20th c. United States

How wonderful is the message embedded in these words of the Sages. Each of us dedicates the best of our time and energy to Torah, prayer, and the service of Hashem—regularly and consistently: three prayers every day, fixed times for Torah study, and careful observance of all the mitzvot.

Yet when one happens to travel to a distant place, or even a nearby one, the strength of that spiritual structure can sometimes weaken. Prayers may be rushed through, leniencies in the kashrut of food are sometimes relied upon—leniencies that one would normally avoid—and Torah study, all the more so, is no longer maintained with its usual consistency, quality, and quantity.

It is precisely to this that the teaching comes: the fire of enthusiasm for the service of Hashem must always burn upon the altar and must never be extinguished, even for a moment. And the emphasis is clear—even during the journeys.

### תפארת שמשון על התורה ויקרא ו:ו

רבי שמשון פינקוס

מה נפלא הרמז הטמון בדברי חז"ל אלו. כל אחד מאתנו מקדיש את מיטב זמנו ומרצו לתורה ותפילה ועבודת ה', תמידים כסדרם, שלוש תפילות בכל יום, קביעת עתים לתורה ושמירת כל המצוות. אמנם, כאשר מזדמן לנסוע למקום רחוק, או אפילו קרוב, לפעמים חל ערעור בחזקת הבניין. התפילות נחטפות איך שהוא, בכשרות המאכלים כבר מוצאים היתרים שבדרך כלל לא מקילים ולא סומכים עליהם, וכל שכן לימוד התורה שאינו בתמידות ובאיכות והכמות הרגילה. על זה באה הדרשה – אש של התלהבות עבודת ה', תמיד תוקד על המזבח, ולא תכבה אף רגע. והדגשה מיוחדת – אף במסעות.

Rav Pincus explains that this teaching of the Yerushalmi reminds us that our dedication to Torah, prayer, and mitzvot must remain constant even when our routine is disrupted, such as during travel. This “*continual fire*” symbolizes the inner enthusiasm for serving Hashem that must keep burning at all times—even during our journeys.

### Rambam Hilchot Temidim Umusafim Perek 2 Halacha 1

12th c. Egypt

It is a positive commandment that a fire be kept burning continually on the altar, as it is stated: “A continual fire shall burn on the altar.” Even though the fire descended from Heaven, there is nevertheless a commandment to bring fire from ordinary sources, as it is stated: “And the sons of Aaron, the Kohanim, shall place fire upon the altar”.

### רמב"ם הלכות תמידין ומוספין פרק ב הלכה א

רבי משה בן מימון

מצות עשה להיות אש יקודה על המזבח, תמיד שנאמר אש תמיד תוקד על המזבח, אף על פי שהאש ירדה מן השמים מצוה להביא אש מן ההדיוט שנאמר ונתנו בני אהרן הכהנים אש על המזבח.

The Rambam learns that the mitzvah of maintaining a continual fire on the altar exists even though a miraculous fire descended from Heaven the priests were still commanded to add their own fire.

## Orot Hakodesh 3, Derech Hakodesh 11

20th c. Israel.

The burning thirst for God that blazes powerfully in a person's heart must never be extinguished. If one who puts out even a single coal from the physical altar violates the prohibition "A continual fire shall burn on the altar; it must not be extinguished," then all the more so one must not extinguish a higher, spiritual spark on the spiritual altar—the Jewish heart, which is filled with holy life.

At the same time, a person must constantly add "fire from ordinary sources"—through sound understanding, wisdom, and insight, through the light of Torah and the lamp of mitzvot—so that the flame continues to rise higher and stronger, growing in strength and power in every area of life, from the highest heavens to the deepest depths.

## אורות הקודש ג דרך הקודש יא

רב אברהם יצחק הכהן קוק

את הצמאון האלוקי, הבוער וסוער בשלהבת עזו בלב, אסור לכבות. אם כל המכבה גחלת מעל המזבח הגשמי, עובר הוא בלאו של אש תמיד תוקד על המזבח לא תכבה, קל וחומר המכבה גחלת רוחנית עליונה מעל גבי המזבח הרוחני, המלא חיי קודש, הלב הישראלי. אמנם צריכים תמיד להוסיף אש מן ההדיוט, בשכל טוב, בחכמה ובבינה, באור תורה ונר מצוה, כדי שתהא השלהבת עולה ומתרוממת, עולה ומוסיפה כח וגבורה, בכל הדרגות של החיים, מרום רקיעא עד ארעית תהומא.

Rav Kook teaches that the deep longing for God that burns within the Jewish heart is like a sacred fire that must never be extinguished. Our responsibility is not only to protect that inner flame that already exists from Hashem, but also to continually strengthen it by ourselves.

### Questions for Reflection:

1. How do we balance the "continual fire" of spiritual enthusiasm with the challenges of daily life, travel, or distractions, and what practical steps can help ensure that inner flame never diminishes?
2. What does it mean for the "spiritual fire" to rise from the heart to all levels of life, and how can we cultivate a flame that impacts not just personal devotion but our actions and influence in the wider world?

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### KOLLEL WEEKLY COMMUNITY LEARNING

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<p>8:40-9:00AM <b>RAV KOOK CHABURA</b> Rabbi Reuven Brand Or Torah Beit Midrash</p> <p>9:00AM <b>GREAT CHASSIDIC MASTERS</b> Rabbi Reuven Brand Cong. Or Torah</p> <p>9:00-11:00AM <b>COMMUNITY BEIT MIDRASH</b> Cong. Or Torah</p> <p>6:30-7:30PM <b>SNL</b> For High School Boys Congregation K.I.N.S.</p>	<p>8:00PM <b>THE PARSHA BLUEPRINT</b> Rabbi Mayer Simcha Stromer Zoom ID: 9651 1249 8889 PW: 613613</p> <p>8:00PM <b>FROM THE DAYAN'S DESK</b> Rabbi Yona Reiss Cong. K.I.N.S.</p> <p>8:00-9:00PM <b>COMMUNITY BEIT MIDRASH</b> Cong. K.I.N.S.</p>	<p>10:00AM <b>PARSHA &amp; POSITIVE PSYCHOLOGY</b> Mrs. Alissa Zeffren Cong. Or Torah</p> <p>11:30AM-1:30PM <b>TALMUD TUESDAYS</b> For Men ICJA Beit Midrash</p> <p>8:00-9:00PM <b>GEMARA SHIUR</b> Mrs. Sara Krishitul Zoom ID: 817 6248 7799 PW: 613613 Cong. Or Torah</p>	<p>5:50-6:50PM <b>PARSHA AND PIZZA</b> 3<sup>rd</sup> &amp; 4<sup>th</sup> Graders Cong. Or Torah</p> <p>8:00-9:00PM <b>WINDOWS INTO THE WORLD OF TORAH</b> Writ Beit Midrash 8150 McCormick Ave.</p> <p>8:00-9:00PM <b>COMMUNITY BEIT MIDRASH</b> Kehilat Chovevei Tzion</p> <p>8:00PM <b>BATTLEFRONT HALACHA: QUESTIONS FROM GAZA</b> Chabura with Rav Itai Jacobs Kehilat Chovevei Tzion</p>	<p>Online Drop <b>PARSHA MIMEKORA</b> www.torahchicago.org/ parsha-mimekora</p> <p>11:30AM-1:30PM <b>THE JOURNEY OF HALACHA</b> For Men ICJA Beit Midrash</p> <p>8:00PM <b>MISHMAR CHABURA</b> Rabbi Yitzit Weiss Cong. K.I.N.S.</p> <p>8:45PM <b>MEN'S BEIT MIDRASH NIGHT</b> Rabbi Yonatan Gershman Darchei Noam Glenbrook</p>	<p>8:00AM <b>PARSHAT HASHAVUA</b> Rabbi Yehuda Rosenberg Extended Care Offices</p> <p><b>VIDEO VORTS</b> Youtube.com/kollel613</p> <p><b>WHATSAPP LEARNING</b> MISHNA YOMI Rabbi Benoni Brand Drops Daily</p> <p><b>TEFILLAH TUESDAYS</b> Rabbi Reuven Brand Drops Tuesdays</p>

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