



Parshas Shoftim

Shmuz by Rabbi Shimon Max

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The Torah (Devarim 20) talks about those who are exempt from going to war and included in that is a person who just built a new house and didn't begin to live in it yet.

The Ralbag explains the reason why the person shouldn't go to war is because if he goes to war he's going to worry that he won't get to live in his new house and he'll think "Because of this, Hashem caused the war to happen, in order to make him not have the opportunity to live in his house", and he'll be a detriment to the army because of this.

The question can be asked is - this guy sounds nuts?! Is it possible to really think the whole entire war was caused by Hashem so that he can't live in his house?!

That is beyond illogical! Why is the Torah writing for someone who's nuts?

So we have to say that perhaps this guy isn't nuts! Rather this is the approach of a human being that when a person is in fear or he's stressed out, he can become saddened and depressed that he can begin to think and believe at least on a subconscious level the most illogical things that sound crazy, but it's like he is possessed due to his current situation!