

Parshas Yisro - Losing Focus!

Shmuz by Rabbi Shimon Max Written by Moshe Reuvein Sussman

The Pasuk of (18,9) "יַּרָהַ יִּרְהֹיִ עֲל כָּל־הַטּוֹבָּה" explains that Yisro was "happy" about all the good that Hashem did for Klal Yisrael, and how He saved them from Mitzrayim. The Seforno explains that his happiness was not because of the Kiddush Sheim Shomayim of Yetzias Mitzrayim, as would have been expected for someone like Yisro who cared and stood up for the Honor of Heaven, but rather his happiness was a result of his appreciation for all the good that was done for Klal Yisrael, like someone who has pity on the tears of the oppressed. One can ask, if Yisro should have been more happy about the Honor of Hashem that was exhibited with Yetzias Mitzrayim, what stopped him? This very Seforno describes Yisro as one "who cared and stood up for the Honor of Heaven." Thus, the accusation of the Pasuk towards Yisro seems so hard to understand.

It seems that we must say even though Yisro had come to the Midbar because of Torah, and Hashem's Honor was of course so dear to him, he was so overcome with mercy - rachmonis (which I am sure Yisro felt and and did to emulate Hashem, as it says Ma hu Rachum), that it caused him to lose focus even on something so very dear to him as the Honor of Hashem.