

"And He called unto Moshe."(1:1)

It has long been a Jewish tradition to begin a child's *Chumash* education with *Parshas Vayikra*. The *Yalkut Yehudah* maintains that this custom is based upon the essence of this *parsha*. The *korbanos*, the focus of this *parsha*, represent sublime purity. Similarly, young children are pure and innocent of all sin. Let those who are pure involve themselves in Torah study through this *parsha*, which deals with man's pure activity and duty - sacrifices to Hashem.

The *Avnei Azel* employs the theme of sacrifice to address a parent's necessary attitude towards Jewish education. In order to properly inculcate *Torah* values in Jewish children, one must make sacrifices. One must pay for his child's education even at the expense of providing for his own basic needs. The obligation to provide for the future of one's children is a parent's greatest concern. This obligation can only be fulfilled by making the most comprehensive *Torah* education available to our children during their early years. This early orientation will guide them along the suitable course to follow throughout life. Introducing children to learning through the *parsha* dealing with *korbanos* instructs parents that they must exert every effort and make every appropriate sacrifice in order to imbue a child with *Torah* values.

We may boldly suggest that sacrifice in contemporary society can be viewed from a somewhat different perspective. Indeed, financial sacrifice is a pressing issue, as parents will often make extreme financial sacrifices in order to provide their children with *Torah* education. The compromise of the parent's established lifestyle, so that it coincides with their child's *Torah* studies, represents another form of sacrifice. Parents will often demand that their children adopt a lifestyle to which they themselves do not subscribe. This not only sends mixed messages to children, but also eventually causes discord in the home. In order for a child to properly benefit from a *Torah* education, it is incumbent upon the parents to conform to the requirements of this education. Parents must be willing to sacrifice more than just money in order to ensure their children's future.