

"Moshe commanded that they proclaim throughout the camp, saying, 'Man and woman shall do no more work towards the gift of the Sanctuary' and the people were restrained from bringing." (36:6)

Why did the people cease to bring donations for the *Mishkan*? The command was only that the people should stop building the *Mishkan*. Who mentioned money? **Rav Shalom**, the **Admor M'Belz, zl**, suggests a practical explanation. When people are involved in a *davar she'bikdushah*, holy endeavor, the spirit of sanctity and the desire to give more and more *tzeddakah* is overwhelming. As long as one is engaged, the *mitzvah* captivates him, inspiring him to contribute time, effort and money towards achieving its goal. Indeed, it is highly unlikely that one who is totally involved in a *Torah* endeavor will refrain from contributing toward it. Only when the work stops, when he is no longer under the influence of the *mitzvah*, when he is not suffused in the sanctity of the endeavor will he likewise refrain from contributing toward it. Moshe told the people to stop working. This led to the end of the donations.

We may derive a significant lesson from this *pasuk*. In order to encourage people to contribute towards a holy cause, we must first

involve them in it. Through their involvement, they will become inspired by the sanctity of the endeavor. People donate when they have a personal investment in a project. They contribute when they have a sensitivity toward a given endeavor or institution. They must feel they are a part of it, stimulated by its effect. One who is alienated from an organization -- either in a philosophic sense or in an active manner-- will not maintain a financial involvement.