

## "And Hashem said to Moshe, say unto the Kohanim, the sons of Aharon." (21:1)

In most circumstances when the *Torah* states *mitzvos* or laws it use the word "*And He spoke*" which is considered a stronger and harsher terminology than "*and He said*" which is used here. What is the significance of this? The *Kohanim* who are charged with teaching the *Torah* and its laws to *Am Yisroel* represent the teachers and mentors of *Am Yisroel*. As it is their possession of greater holiness which mandates this charge, they must accept upon themselves greater stringencies than the rest of *Am Yisroel*. These laws must be accepted with joy and complete subordination of one's will, which is expressed by the softer terminology of "*And He said*". In order for the proper image to be projected and for their mandate to be accepted by the people, they must be in total acceptance of their charge. This lesson must be understood by all those who engage in instructing and spreading Hashem's laws and *mitzvos*. Although they often encounter difficulties and hardships, they must realize their charge, that they are engaged in holy work, and must carry out their responsibility with joy and alacrity.

This concept applies also to parents. In order to properly instruct children, it is necessary to project an image of happiness and excitement regarding the fulfillment of Hashem's *mitzvos*. When parents complain about the various hardships which they encounter in order to serve Hashem, they are sending negative messages to their children. We must be cognizant of this so that the proper instruction we give our children will be successful.