

## And you shall not erect for yourself a pillar. (16:22)

It is forbidden to set up a single stone for worship – even if it is in order to worship the true G-d, Hashem. He has despised these stones ever since the pagans decided to employ them as a means for their own worship. Only an altar comprised of numerous stones or of earth creates the proper modality of worship. **Horav Levi Yitzchak, zl, m'Berditchev**, renders this prohibition homiletically as referring to the most common form of worship: self-worship.

*Chazal* state (*Pirkei Avos* 4), “This world is compared to a vestibule before *Olam Habba*, the World to Come.” Our world is but a bridge, a means of attaining entrance into the real world, the World of Truth, of eternity, *Olam Habba*. Any type of physicality is a medium by which we survive our stay in this world. Thus, physicality must be recognized as nothing but a means, a vehicle, but certainly not an end unto itself. Without food, we cannot survive. We eat to live – we do not live to eat.

*Lachem*, for you, denotes man’s physical dimension. We find that, on *Yom Tov*, we celebrate *lachem*: half for “you”; and half for Hashem. *Lecha/lachem*, both represent preoccupation with physicality. Therefore, the *pasuk* is teaching: Do not transform the *lecha*, you/physical dimension into a single pillar of significance, through which it becomes an entity in its own right, rather than a means for spiritual ascendancy.