

"If he offers it by reason of gratitude." (7:12)

The accepted definition of the word "*todah*" is the acknowledgment of gratitude and appreciation to one who has performed a specific act. In reality there is another concept expressed by the word *todah*. We may define *todah* as an act of admission and concession. When one confesses to another, he is in fact conveying a message of agreement with the other party's opposing view.

The idea which connects these two contrasting approaches to the meaning of "*todah*", whether it be an expression of gratitude, or as an act of admission, lies in the depths of man's natural instinct. Man's innate nature is to be independent, aspiring and eager to show that he is capable of "taking care of himself" without requiring the services of another individual. Therefore, when one expresses his appreciation and gratitude to another person, he is actually confessing and acknowledging that he really needs others. This concept which applies to every individual in his relationship with others, is manifested greatly in one's attitude toward Hashem.

Ingrained in people is the belief that "*it is my strength and the power of my hand which has performed this greatness*". The ludicrous belief that man has his own power, without acknowledging Hashem as the source of all power, has mislead and destroyed many. By the offering of the *todah* a person confesses that he is nothing without the will of Hashem.