

## Terumah

G-d instructs Moshe in this parsha to, “Build me a sanctuary that I may dwell among them”. G-d didn’t say to build a sanctuary that I may dwell in it, but among them. The Hebrew word for dwell (which can also mean rest) is shchanti.

This is root for where Shechinah comes from, which is commonly translated as the Divine Presence. In other words, the Divine Presence, or G-d is to dwell not only in the physical structure of the mishkan, but within each individual Jew! After all, if our bodies are a temple, then by extension, doesn’t it make sense that indeed HaShem would dwell within us?

It is interesting to note that the Zohar and Midrash Ne’elam both state that there are 613 parts of the Mishkan (the portable sanctuary) which directly correlate to the 613 mitzvot. The 613 mitzvot are comprised of 248 positive commands which correspond to the bones and major muscle groups of the body and 365 prohibitive ones, which correspond to the days of the year. I believe that the implied message here is to serve G-d with totality, with every essence of our being every day.

For only when we devote our thoughts, speech and actions in the performance of his will, do we as human beings realize our true potential and the reason for which we were created.

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