


מצוות
עשה
#127

 We learn this mitzvah from Parshas Korach: (במדבר יח:כד)

כִּי אֶת מַעֲשֵׂר בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל
אֲשֶׁר יָרִימוּ לָהּ תְּרוּמָה

Today we learn the *mitzvah* of *Maaser Rishon*. We need to take 1/10th of the food that grows in our fields and give it to the *Leviim*.

 The details of this mitzvah are explained in Mishnayos & Gemara:
Mesechta Maasros

Rambam: Hilchos Maaser

PERAKIM ALEF, BEIS, AND GIMMEL

In today's Rambam, we learn the first three *perakim* about *Maaser Rishon*, which goes to the *Leviim*.

One *halacha* is that *Maaser* is not as holy as *Terumah*, it is called "*chulin*." It doesn't have *kedusha* in it the way *Terumah* does.

Another interesting *halacha* is that even though *Maaser Rishon* is given to the *Leviim*,

there was a time when it was given to the *kohanim*! Ezra Hasofer, who brought many *Yidden* back to Eretz Yisroel right after the second *Beis Hamikdash* was built, was upset that the *Leviim* did not come! So he gave them a *knas* (like a punishment), he made a *takanah* that *Maaser Rishon* would go to the *Kohanim* instead of to the *Leviim* for a period of time.