

This week's is about Parshas Tetzaveh

DVAR TORAH

THE BLUE PONCHO

Dingle, dingle, dingle.

You might envision the Holy Temple in Jerusalem, or for that matter, the portable temple of the desert, as quiet solemn places. But come on, have you met Jews? If we have a temple, you can be sure there will be hand shaking, back slapping, loud praying, kiddush making (was there a Kiddush club?), louder praying, Cantorial gargling... oh and don't forget the mooooing, baaaaaa-ing and neighhhhing (but probably not oinquing).

Our Holy Temples were dynamic, active, loud places. Can you imagine if the Torah reading was going on in your synagogue and somebody would walk in with a goat on a leash? "Don't mind me. Billy and I are just gonna hang out here and wait for the cholent." But the Beis Hamikdash was like that. Perhaps a different day we'll discuss why that has changed, and why our modern synagogues are usually better off as relatively quiet places.

CONTINUED

You can sponsor a week of Nageela Shabbos in honor of a special occasion or in memory of a loved one.

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Deep Thoughts

Why do we park in driveways, yet drive on parkways?

I'm running out of good ideas here people. Send me some good ones!



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DVAR TORAH

CONTINUED

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One of the intentionally noisy features was the 'me'il' which was a poncholike robe worn by the head kohein. It was blue, and its hem was lined with alternating cloth pomegranates and bells. Bells on your clothing? The Kohein Gadol would wear this and "Its voice would be heard when he entered the sanctuary." Let's focus for a sec. This is the most important spiritual leadership position in the Jewish people. The wearer of these robes entered the holiest areas, offered the most sacred of offerings, and had special restrictions on many areas of his life.

Why was his outfit blue? To reflect the color of the sky, as a reminder of the supremacy of God.

When an athlete hits a grand slam or dives into the end zone, you'll often see them pointing to the sky. What do they mean by that gesture? It can usually be translated as, "I think I'm awesome and should be worshipped, but it's not cool to say that, so I'll pretend I'm thinking about God." In reality, any person, even the most spiritual and devout can get caught up in their own efforts and forget who is the true boss, let alone a narcissistic celebrity who's getting paid millions to play a game.

The Kohein Gadol wears his blue poncho to remind himself, even during his holy service, that he is not in charge, and that God is. This isn't a football game. He is actually bringing sacrifices to God, yet even during that time, it's possible for him to get full of himself. You can be studying Torah, and think you're brilliant for figuring out what Rashi meant. You could be distributing charity, and be certain that you're the absolute GOAT (the kind that hangs out in shul), or leading the congregation in Yom Kippur services while admiring your own dulcet tones. We need consistent reminders of our own human limitations and God's ultimate, um, ultimateness. Ultimity? Ultimation?









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AGEELA WEST GIRLS SESSION



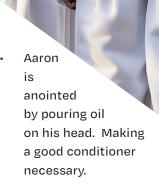
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PARSHA L PARSHA

a brief summary of the weekly Torah porshon

PARSHAS TETZAVEH-WHAT ARE CANONICALS?

- The light of the Menorah is supposed to stay lit all day long, leaving a huge carbon footprint.
- Aaron and his sons are selected to be the Kohanimthe main service operators of the Mishkan (and subsequently the Holy Temple). They had special uniforms.
- Aaron and his successors as head Kohen wore an 'Efod- Apron' made of specially woven material, attached with gemstones listing the tribes of the Jewish people on each shoulder (6 on each).
- This apron is attached to the Choshen, a chest garment containing twelve stones, again with the names of the Jewish people.
- There's a robe with bells and little cloth balls at the bottom, which makes noise whenever the Kohen Gadol would walk around and prevent him from sneaking up on the other Kohanim or succeeding at any game of hide and seek.
- The 'Tzitz' is a golden plate worn on the head of the Kohen Gadol.
- All Kohanim wore linen long shirts, pants, belts and turbans.





- The Torah describes the procedure for the 7 day inauguration for the Mishkan.
- There's another Altar- the golden 'Mizbayach' which had a daily burning of incense, which was intense, but only happened in past tense, so let's not sit on the fence, but repent.



Question of the Week

What do Aaron (the Kohein Gadol and brother of Moses) and Achashveirosh (the King in the the Purim story) have in common? Find at least 3 things.

Torat Scene-A-Eye Explained

This week's Parsha describes many of the items and clothes used in the Beis Hamikdash.

One was the Ephod, or 'ApRon,' here represented by an 'ape' named 'Ron.' There were a couple of lambs brought as inauguration sacrifices, and there are probably around 7 sheep to represent the 7 inauguration days. There's oil dripping on the heads because that's the way the kohanim were annointed, and there's an additional jug of oil to represent the menorah light which stayed on constantly. There are a total of 14 precious stones, 12 for the breastplate, and 2 for the shoulders.



NA-NA-NA-NA-NA-NA-NA-NA-NA-NA-NA-NA-NAGEELA



How much do you love being Jewish?







AZ HERE I COME!

This Wednesday, stay tuned for Phoenix and Scottsdale Jewnior NCSY programs!



Answer of the Week

Their first names both start with the letter ALEF, and they each married a woman whose name starts with the letter ALEF (Elisheva and Esther). They also both wore the 8 garments of the Kohein Gadol!

DID JEW KNOW?

One of the fixtures in the Mishkan was the 'Shulchan," the This bread was used to feed the Kohanim on duty that

However, the table was never allowed to be empty, because the Torah says there should be bread on it conbread without removing it from the table?

Each week when it would be time to switch, they would slide the old bread off! Think Indiana Jones swapping an artifact with a bag of something to fool a weight triggered booby trap. This way, the table was never breadless.



Happy Birthdays!

Akiva Gross Nuni Piriyeva Panina Rast

Leah Kantor Noah Montoya Adina Rothman



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