



TETZAVEH - תצוה

WHAT HAPPENS IN THIS WEEK'S PARSHA?

The Parsha begins with Hashem instructing the Jewish people to bring **pure olive oil** to light the lamps in the **Mishkan**. Next, Hashem tells Moshe to find craftsmen for the **clothing for the Cohanim**, the priests, who descended from **Aharon**, Moshe's brother, and his four sons: **Nadav**, **Avihu**, **Elazar**, and **Itamar**. The first garments commanded are the **breastplate**, a unique garment called the **ephod**, a **robe**, a **tunic**, a **headdress**, and a **sash**. Four of the garments were only worn by the Cohen Gadol, the High Priest: the **ephod**, the **meil**, tunic, the **breastplate**, and the **tzitz**, headband. They were all made with gold, blue, purple, and crimson yarn, and linen. The **ephod** had two shoulder-pieces with a stone on each side. The stones were engraved with the names of the sons of the Yaakov, which were the 12 tribes of the Jews, and were placed on the **ephod** in order of their birth. The **choshen mishpat**, the **breastplate**, was attached to the **ephod** and inlaid with 4 rows of 3 stones. Each unique stone was engraved with the name of one of the 12 tribes. Inside of the **ephod** was the **Urim b'Tumim**, a special piece of parchment with Hashem's name written on it that would guide the decisions of the Jewish people. The hem of the colorful **meil**, tunic, was lined with woven pomegranates and golden **bells** that would jingle when the **Cohen Gadol** walked. The **Cohen Gadol** also wore the **tzitz**, a plate on his forehead engraved with the phrase: "**Holy to the Lord**". All of the **Cohanim** wore a pure linen robe called the **ketonet**, a turban-like **headdress**, a **sash**, and undergarments so their bodies wouldn't be exposed. Hashem then instructs Moshe to prepare the **Cohanim** for seven days of various sacrifices and rituals, where the **Cohanim** will learn how to dress, work and act properly in the **Mishkan**. Hashem also commands Moshe about the two regular daily offerings, the **Korban Tamid**, in the morning and at twilight. The offerings should be given at the opening to the **Tent of Meeting** in the Mishkan, where Hashem will speak to Moshe and sanctify the Jewish People through His Presence. Finally, Moshe is commanded to make the **incense altar**, which was made of acacia wood and overlaid with pure gold, and placed in front of the curtain that covered the **Aron**, the altar. The incense altar was also used for special offerings on **Yom Kippur** by the **High Priest**.

THINK ABOUT IT: Imagine being a young **Cohen** preparing for your first day on the job. After learning all of the rules, and knowing that a Cohen who makes a mistake would die, how would you feel? Would you be **nervous** or **excited**, or both? Why?



POWERFUL CLOTHES

You might be wondering: why does the Torah spend so much time describing the clothes of the **Cohanim** with so much detail? The **Gemara (Archin 16a)** points out that since the clothes are juxtaposed with the animal sacrifices, which allowed the Jews to repent for their sins, the clothes also had this redemptive ability. For example, the colorful robe, which reminds us of **Yosef's** colorful coat, atones for the sin of murder, which the brothers tried to commit against Yosef.

DISCUSS:

Can you think of what the other clothes could repent for?
See "**Symbolic Clothes**" on Aish.com's *Between the Lines* series for the list as presented in the Gemara!

THINK ABOUT IT...

The Cohanim were central to the religious life of the Jews.
Would you like to work as a Cohen? Why? Why not?



THINK

PRIESTLY GARMENTS



HAPPY PURIMI!

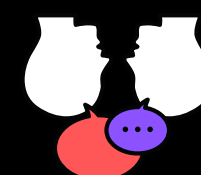


FLIPPIN' OUT

This week, we celebrate the holiday of **Purim**! Purim commemorates the victory of **Mordechai** and **Queen Esther** over the evil **Haman** in the kingdom of **Achashverosh**. Although the story makes no overt mention of **Hashem's name**, His hand is apparent throughout the story through the actions of **Mordechai** and **Esther** and the many unusual events. The holiday celebrates the concept of **V'nahafoch Hu** - "it was flipped", because, at the moment when all seems lost, the story flips on its head, **Haman** is defeated and the Jews are saved.

DISCUSS:

Have you ever experienced a moment when all seemed lost, and the situation suddenly transformed? How did that feel?



A SHORT IDEA



On Purim, we spin a noisemaker to drown out the sound of Haman's name. On Chanukah, we spin a dreidel. These two spins are connected! Our hands spin the dreidel from above because Hashem's hand is clearly present in the story. We spin the noisemaker from below to show that, although the story is based on natural events, it's still the same hand of Hashem at work.