



TORAH 4 TEENS

BY TEENS NCSY ISRAEL



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The Greatness in Small Moments

The Beit Hamikdash was a place filled with incredible miracles and jaw dropping beauty. Whether it be the impressive structure which was a wonder of the ancient world or the literal fireball that descended from the sky to accept the korbanot, it was a place filled with true awesomeness. Due to this reality, we would expect that the beginning of the service in the Beit Hamikdash would begin with something epic. However, every day the avoda started with the following.

1. And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying,
א. וַיְדַבֵּר ה' אֶל־מֹשֶׁה לֵאמֹר:
2. Command Aaron and his sons, saying, ...
ב. צוּ אֶת־אַהֲרֹן וְאֶת־בָּנָיו לֵאמֹר:

3. And the kohen shall don his linen tunic, and he shall don his linen trousers on his flesh. And he shall lift out the ashes into which the fire has consumed the burnt offering upon the altar and put them down next to the altar.

ג. וְלִבַּשׁ הַכֹּהֵן מִדּוֹ בֵד וּמְכַסֵּי־בֶד יִלְבַּשׁ עַל־בְּשׂוֹתָיו וְהָרִים אֶת־הַדָּשָׁן אֲשֶׁר תֹּאכַל הָאֵשׁ אֶת־הָעֵלָה עַל־הַמִּזְבֵּחַ וְשָׂמוּ אֶצְל הַמִּזְבֵּחַ:

The holy Kohanim started off the day in the amazing Mishkan by cleaning the left-over ashes from the previous day's service, known as the Trumat Hadeshen. This simple act was the very first thing done every single

morning in the Mishkan.

It begs the question why was this given as a specific commandment? Sweeping away the burnout ashes seems like a job for a janitor not for a priest. I think the Torah is teaching us a valuable life lesson. So much of life we deal with mundane and seemingly insignificant things like chores, flat tires, and grocery shopping. There are two ways we can approach these things. They can be seen as insignificant nuisances that we have to deal with to get by in life, or we can view them as special unique opportunities to grow as Jews.

The Arizal teaches us that there is no day and no moment that is like the one before it, every single experience we have in life is truly unique. A traffic jam can be an exercise in emunah, a basketball game can be a way of working on one's anger, and a visit to the doctor can be a way to appreciate the wonder of God's creation. The simple service of the Trumat Hadeshen teaches us that each seemingly small moment in life has its own unique purpose for us to learn and grow from.



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The Kohen Gadol's "Special" Sacrifice

In this week's parsha, parshat Tzav, we read about a special korban that was brought by the Kohanim when they first started their avodah in the Mishkan. This korban consisted of only

flour. What was unusual about this korban was that the Kohen Gadol brought the flour offering not only on his first day of service, but every single day that he was a Kohen gadol.

He brought half of the flour in the morning and half in the evening.

The question we can ask is why he had to bring this sacrifice every single day.

I recently heard a dvar torah from Harav Mordechai Machlis that explains an answer from the Abarbanel which says that for a Kohen Gadol to bring forgiveness on behalf of the Jewish people for their sins, he first had to work on his own character traits and midot.

The Kohen Gadol may feel some arrogance because of his high position in Israel.

So, by bringing a flour offering which was usually brought by poor people to the mishkan he can feel humility and compassion for everyone.

The poor people will also not be embarrassed to bring their sacrifices knowing that the Kohen Gadol brought the same type of offering.

I believe we can learn a great lesson from this korban of the Kohen Gadol that as high school students we should also always be working on our midot, straightening our love of Torah, doing mitzvot and acts of kindness for all of Am Yisroel. ■

I'm Elliyahu, an evacuee from Kiryat Shemona. I am looking for someone to host me for Leil HaSeder (including sleeping accommodations) in the Jerusalem area. I do not have eating issues and willing to partake in costs.

Please contact me at 050-785-7765 **TIA**



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