TO REPROVE AND TO DEFEND

The Kohen Gadol does not enter the Holy of Holies wearing his usual garments because they contained gold, which was a reminder of the sin of the Golden Calf. This would violate the rule that “an accuser cannot become a defender” (see Rosh HaShana 26a). For the parts of the service that were done in public (for example, the offering of the Tamid in the morning and in the afternoon), he wore his regular garments which contained gold threads. Yet, if the Torah was so careful to prescribe special plain white linen garments for the Kohen Gadol on Yom Kippur, why didn’t he wear them the entire day?

In Oznaim LaTorah, Rabbi Zalman Sorotzin points out that the famous Chassidic Rebbe, Rabbi Levi Yitzchok of Berditchev, would intercede in his tefillos for even the most estranged Jew, trying to find some excuse as to why the person was unable to follow the dictates of the Torah. Yet, as the rabbi of the town, he certainly did not shirk his duty to reprove people for their laxity in keeping the Torah and would mete out punishment, if necessary, for those who would not heed his words of mussar and direction. What barometer did he use to determine when to defend and when to reprove? When it came to speaking to a person or to a group of people, Rabbi Levi Yitzchok would fulfill the mitzvah of "רוכח רוחך רוח אמןippoqachat - "you shall reprove your fellow man" - with words and actions, so that the people would do teshuvah and follow the path of the Torah. However, when it came to interceding with Hashem on behalf of the Jewish people, Rabbi Levi Yitzchok would be careful to speak only positively about them.

Similarly, when the Kohen Gadol did the public service on Yom Kippur, he wore the garments containing gold to remind people to do teshuvah for their wayward actions, as represented by the gold threads which reminded people of the sin of the Golden Calf. But when the Kohen Gadol went into the Holy of Holies to pray on behalf of Klal Yisrael, he wore only white garments, which contained no hint of the failings of Klal Yisrael.

POSITIVE ASPECTS OF THE YETZER HARA

One may interpret the two sin offerings as representing two types of sins. One type of sin stems from the yetzer hara, one’s drives for passion. Another type of sin stems from rebelliousness, the desire of independence of Divine authority. The Gemara (Brachos 55a) derives from the extra "ת" in the word קבך (Devarim 6:5), that one should devote himself to Hashem with both his drives, both the yetzer tov and the yetzer hara - the drive for good and the drive for bad.

This negative drive itself is not inherently evil, for, as the Gemara says, we need to give credit to the yetzer hara, for without the yetzer hara we would not marry, have families or build homes. The yetzer hara can be channeled to do mitzvos. The pursuit to partake from the קבך - the Tree of Knowledge, however, represents the desire for freedom from Hashem’s will - total independence from the source of all existence. This desire has no redeeming value. It is totally evil and cannot be
directed to any good. The goat that is offered to Hashem represents the first type of sin, for the drive can be redirected to Hashem’s service. The second type of sin stems from a drive that has no place in Hashem’s world, and that offering is sent to a far away desert to be destroyed.

FIRST THINGS FIRST
The manner by which the Kohen procures atonement establishes a standard for a person’s life mission. Before a person sets out to worry about the world at large, he must first aim to educate and perfect himself and the members of his family in the ways of Torah and its mitzvos. Once he has purified himself and those in his immediate environment, he can then turn his attention to improving the state of others.

In his Ta’am V’da’as, Rabbi Moshe Shturnbach points out that there are activists who neglect the needs of their own families, and they rely upon the fact that the merit of their involvement with the community will help to influence their own children. As a result, they carelessly overlook their own families and the needs of their own children. Yet, the verse teaches that the Kohen had to first achieve atonement for himself, and then for his own family. Only then did he turn his attention to the needs of the community. The proper thing to do was first to correct himself. As a result, he was then fit to assist others before Hashem.

INDIVIDUAL ATTENTION
It seems surprising that the verse refers to Hashem’s having to turn His full attention to deal with the person who has consumed blood. We understand that Hashem is omnipotent, and His dominion is over everything at every moment. What is the reason the Torah expresses this concept in terms of a particular focus that Hashem must apply to this person, one which is exclusive and directed?

Sefer Imrei Shefer explains that we find the world is judged in terms of the conduct of the majority of its inhabitants. If the majority is innocent, then even if the few are guilty, the entire group might benefit from a positive ruling. Even the individual who is deserving of harsher retribution for his own misdeeds may benefit from being part of the greater community which is meritorious. If, however, Hashem were not to judge the world in a general manner, but He instead judges each person on his own merits or lack of them, then this individual would suffer his fate despite his being part of a larger, more deserving group.

The interpretation of our verse, according to Rashi, is that this person who is deserving of excision should not rest by thinking he can escape his fate by being judged in a general manner together with the world at large. Rather, Hashem declares that He will “turn away” from this collective judgment, and He will deal with this one person alone, thus subjecting this individual to face full retribution for his errant ways.

ULTERIOR MOTIVES
Here, in reference to the prohibition against drinking the blood of a mammal or a bird, the Torah states how God directly declares הקפר ישר את אצלו - “and I will cut it - his soul - off from the midst of his people.” Contrastingly, in reference to consuming prohibited fats חלב, the Torah earlier simply states (7:25): “Anyone who eats forbidden fats...that soul shall be cut off from its nation.” Why does the Torah not emphasize there also that it is God Who will cut him off?

Meshech Chochma explains that generally, fats are edible in one form or another. One who partakes of חלב in order to satisfy his appetite will be punished for his actions, even though his misdeed may have been due to his perceived need to fulfill his physical desire to eat, rather than as an act of treachery and of outright disloyalty to Hashem. The drinking of blood, however, is something which the Gemara describes as being despicable and repulsive. One who drinks blood is not acting out
of a need to eat or to satisfy his appetite, but rather as a crime against Hashem and His laws. For such a traitor, the Torah reserves its fierce reaction in that God Himself deals with the violator, and \( קְנֶה תֵּאֵכְלָם \) - “I will excise it - his soul - from his people.”

GOOD FENCES

“And you shall safeguard My charge that you shall not do these abominable traditions that were done before you, and you shall not make yourselves impure through them; I am God your Lord.” Vayikra 18:30

God. Faithful adherence to the mitzvos is the firm foundations upon which fear of heaven is based. All mitzvah observance is based upon the words of our rabbis, for a healthy attitude of appreciation for Torah is indicated when a person respects the need to not only observe the mitzvos, but also to protect them.

The Midrash (Shir HaShirim Rabbba 1:18) expounds: “For your friendship is more dear than wine” (Shir HaShirim 1:2). Adherence to the words of the Torah scholars are more indicative of one’s attitude than one’s observance of the very words of the Torah itself.

Halachic Corner

Zmanim for Parashas Acharei Mos 5779

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\begin{array}{cccccc}
\text{Krias Shma} & \text{- Sat} & \text{Tefila} & \text{- Sat} & \text{Sunset} & \text{Sunrise} & \text{Sunset} \\
\text{According to the Gaon of Vilna} & 9:15 & 10:26 & \text{Friday} & \text{Sat.} & \text{Sat.} & 7:52 \\
\text{According to the Magen Avraham} & 8:39 & 10:02 & 7:51 & 8:39 & 7:52 \\
\text{Rosh Chodesh Iyar will take place Sunday, and Monday. Macahr Yom Rishon v’Yom Sheni} & & & & & \\
\end{array}
\]

Just as it is forbidden to wrong a person by dishonest buying or selling, it is also forbidden to wrong a person by means of words, as it is written (Vayikra 25:17): “And you shall not wrong one another, but you shall fear your God.” This prohibition refers to the wrong done by means of words. This sin possesses an additional negative component since amends can be made for the latter but not for the former. One harm is directed against one’s possessions whereas the other is against one’s person.

The Midrash (Shir HaShirim Rabbba 1:18) expounds: “For your friendship is more dear than wine” (Shir HaShirim 1:2). Adherence to the words of the Torah scholars are more indicative of one’s attitude than one’s observance of the very words of the Torah itself.

Questions for Thought and Study

1. How does the end of the previous parasha (Metzora) allude to the sin of Nadav and Avihu at the beginning of this week’s parasha? See Rabbeinu Bachya 16:1

2. Why is the lot for the two goats of the Yom Kippur service called \( קְנֶה תֵּאֵכְלָם \) ("lots", plural)? Wasn’t it really one lot with two possible outcomes? See Malbim 16:8

3. Did the Kohen Gadol use the garments that he used for the Yom Kippur service again? See Rabbeinu Bachya 16:23

4. Why is the section concerning sacrificing an animal outside of the Mishkan taught after the Yom Kippur service? See Ba’al HaTurim 17:3

Halachic Corner is dedicated by Benyomin Freeman in memory of his father, Gedalia Freeman, \( יזקער מִדְרֵסֶל בֶּן רָבָּם \) whose dedication to quality education for his family began their eighteen-year relationship with HTC. May his memory be for a blessing.
5. What were the proclivities and sins of Egypt and Canaan that we are commanded in Pasuk 18:3 not to follow? See Ramban and Ibn Ezra 18:3

6. How does the Torah make clear that one has to even give up one’s life before performing a sin of immorality? See Ba’al HaTurim 18:5

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**This Week Likutei Peshatim is Sponsored**

- **By** Hebrew Theological College wishing mazal tov to Rabbi & Mrs. Moshe Wender on the birth of a granddaughter, Avigail Zelda, born to & Gila & Daniel Yarmush; to Mrs. Naomi Samber on the birth of a great-grandson, Moshe, born to Shalva & Aryeh Leib Lehrfield; to Penina & Yeshaya Seruya on the Bar Mitzvah of their son Moshe Benayahu; and to Blisttein Institute student Mushky Silberberg on her engagement to Dov Yehuda Steinmetz.

- **Hebrew Theological College’s** Department of Religion at Shalotts Bistro will take place this Thursday, May 9, 12:35-1:15. Rabbi Dr. Jerold Isenberg, Chancellor Emeritus, HTC & Executive Director, Mizrachi - RZC, will speak along with several other invited speakers.

- **Make your Rosh Chodesh memorable.** Blisttein Institute invites women of the community to the Edith Tessler Rosh Chodesh Project for Women. Rabbi Yaakov Sussman will give the lecture, “Counting till Kabbolas HaTorah”, Rosh Chodesh Iyar, this Monday, May 6th, 2019, at 1:30 PM at Shalotts Bistro. Come early and receive 10% off your lunch order.

- **Yeshivas Hakayitz 2019 enrollment is open for campers who will be entering 6th through 11th grades. Dates: July 2nd - July 29th. For application and all related camp information, please visit www.yshakayitz.org or call 847-982-5200 ext. 1125, or yhk@htc.edu.


- **Are you downtown?** Got 5, 15, 30 or 45 minutes? Learn & daven at M. Geller, Ltd, 29 E. Madison, Sat. 1805, 1:05 PM; 11 minute shiur; 1:35 Mincha. Rabbi Dr. Binny Freedman will give the lecture, “Ask the Posek” following Main Minyan; 6:15 before Mincha: “Eretz Yisrael & Medinat Yisrael”.

- **Park Plaza Senior Living Community enriches the quality of life for our residents through daily shiurim, live music, exercise classes, lectures, outings and much more. Park Plaza also has beautifully furnished apartments for rent: daily, weekly and long term or for your simcha. For more information, visit our website at www.park-plaza.org or contact Adina at 773-465-6700 or at adina@park-plaza.org.

- **TAG Chicago is here to help!** Offering filtering solutions for your phone, tablets and computers. We offer free, in-person computer assistance to keep your devices safe. Visit tagchicago.org, call 847-920-8245 or email Help@TAGChicago.org to book your appointment. 8150 Central Park, Skokie. Remember - “Call before you buy!” We will help guide you.

- **Don’t miss out!** Apply today and be among applicants from over 18 different cities for an unforgettable summer at Maayan Midwest! Just over two hours away from Chicago. Our brand new air conditioned housing units, completely renovated campus, beautiful lake, customizable programming and experienced staff are just part of what makes Maayan Midwest the premiere sleep away camp for girls in the Midwest. For more info or to apply, check out maayanmidwest.com or call 847-920-8245.

- **Avivah Zornberg is back!** Speaking on “To Be or Not To Be? A Tale of Five Sisters”. The 5 Daughters of Zelofchad figure in a unique, brief narrative which throws them into a tense relationship with Moses. In what sense can this be considered a feminist narrative? This Wednesday, May 8, 7:00 PM, at the Doubletree North Shore Hotel, 9599 Skokie Boulevard in Skokie. Register at torahlearningcenter.com or call us at 847-272-7255. Brought to you by the Sidney and Frances Avner Torah Learning Center of Northbrook.

- **Congregation KINS invites you to our Annual Banquet, Sunday, May 19th, honoring Mrs. Rachel Besser as Scholar in Residence as part of OU Chicago. We will be celebrating our 40th anniversary. Tickets are $45 per person. For more information, please visit our website at www.congkins.org or contact the shul office 773-761-4000.


- **This Sunday** – The Jewish women’s event of the year! Sunday, May 5th, join hundreds of Jewish women of all backgrounds for CTN’s Ilene C. Leon Spa Day for Your Soul. Keynote addresses by Stacey Anbar (Toronto) and Esther Wein (New York). Workshops on a wide array of topics by Shira Francis. Beth Perkel and Nurit Siegal. www.Torahnetwork.org 773-761-0400 x207.

- **The Skokie community will have the honor of hosting once again Rabbi Mordechai Twerski of Milwaukee/London, Shabbas Parshas Emor, May 17/18. Early Friday night davening will be followed by a sponsored family seudah with the Rav at The Skokie Community Kollel (RSVP required). Shabbos morning davening (8:45 AM) followed by gala kiddush at Lubavitich Chabad of Skokie’s Cteen Mooz Lounge, 4049 Dempster.

- **Shabbos with Rabbi Twerski continues with a Shabbos afternoon class (7:00 PM), followed by Mincha (7:45) and Shalosh Seudos at the Mooz Lounge. There will also be an adjacent Shalosh Seudos for women with Rebbe Zeit Twerski. Accommodations for Shabbos and meals available upon request. For more info and to RSVP email twerskishabbossinskokie@gmail.com.**
- Fake Truth and Virtual Living - A Torah View of Today's Moral and Social Dilemmas". Join Rabbi Akiva Tatz, David Gottlieb, and Yitzchok Breitbart at the 18th annual Ohr Somayach Yom Iyun Evening of Learning, on Monday, May 20th, 7:30 PM, at Adas Yeshurun, 3050 Touhy. Suggested donation, students free. Doors open at 6:45 PM, Mincha at 7:10, refreshments during intermission. For more information, call 718-677-6200 or ohr.edu.

- Congregation Shearith Israel is happy to announce the resumption of the Shabbat afternoon Mincha at 6:00 PM, followed by Rabbi Shkop’s shiur in Massechet Brachot. Come and join our group for an hour of in-depth exciting learning at our new location at 2828 W. Pratt.

- Chicago Mikvah Association Tickets for Tuition. You could win a $50,000 Educational Scholarship. Good for any tuition or camp bills. Drawing held July 1. Only 2,999 tickets. Learn more and buy tickets at Ticketsfortuition.com.

- Mizrachi - Religious Zionists of Chicago, in partnership with YU Torah MiTzion Koolp, proudly presents the next shiur in our 5779 lecture series, “Exploring the Foundations of Religious Zionism”, sponsored by the Bellows family, Wednesday, May 22, 7:30 PM, in the RZC Center, 3740 Dempster, Skokie. Join us as Rabbi David Israel, Executive VP, RZA Mizrachi, speaks on “Hope vs. Faith: Two Paradigms for Israel’s National Anthem”. For more info: office@rzc.us or 847-674-9733 x2.

- The Simon Wiesenthal Center and Congregation Or Torah invite the community to “Confronting the Old/New Anti-Semitism” - A panel conversation with Rabbi Abraham Cooper, Decalogue Society Vice-President, Patrick D. John, and Professor Gunther Jackel, May 10th, 2019, at 7:00 PM. Location: Congregation Or Torah, 3800 Dempster Street, Skokie. Event is free. Registration required: swc-register.eventbrite.com.

- Dreaming of summer? Preschool Summer Camp at Bernard Horwich JCC will engage your child’s imagination through water-play, music, art and lots of playtime outside. For children 2-3 years old. 4- and 8-week sessions available. Learn more at jccchicagoearlychildhood.org.

- The 24th Annual Event of Project Shalom Bayis is scheduled for May 13, 7:30 PM, at Shaarei Tzedeck Mishkan Yair, 2832 Touhy Avenue, Chicago. This event will feature speaker Rabbi Ephraim Goldman, LSW, Director of Community Education – TAG Chicago and Sgan Mashgiach, Fasman Yeshiva High School. His topic: “Standing in Today’s Fast-Paced World”. The event coordinators are Moshe & Chevie Davis, Yehoshua & Elana Davis, Yonatan & Elke Glenner and Ari & Shoshana Shabat.

- The 10th annual Amy Kahan Memorial Lecture will take place on Sunday, May 19th, at Congregation Or Torah. Ms. Zissy Turner will discuss “What Do We Do When Metaphors in Our Liturgy Seem No Longer Relevant?”. Ms. Turner serves as the Community Educator at Lincoln Square Synagogue. She is a graduate of Yeshiva University’s Graduate Program in Advanced Talmud Study. Chavruta learning at 10:00, followed by lecture at 11:00. Light refreshments.

- Lincolnwood Jewish Congregation A.G. Beth Israel, 7117 Crawford, Lincolnwood, invites the community to their Yom Hashoah Commemoration, The Tenth Annual “Man’s Search for Meaning: Looking Back; Looking Forward”, Tuesday, May 7, 7:00 PM. Speakers: Mr. Israel Starck, author of “A Boy Named 68818”; and Howard Reich, son of survivors, journalist and author. In partnership with U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. No charge. Please RSVP to the synagogue 847-676-0491/office@ljcagbi.org.

- Anshe Sholom B’nai Israel Congregation invites you to our Sixth Annual Summer Soirée and Benefit on Thursday, May 30, at 7:00 PM, honoring Josh Ehrlich & Sarah Unterman, Karli Salinger, and Seth Greenberg. Visit asbi.org/soiree to learn more and to register.

- New to Chicago! Join the Semicha Chaver Program & learn halacha like you never have before! Text-based, interactive, shiurim, with multi-media and Kahoot quizzes. The first semester begins May 15th & ends before Rosh Hashana. Receive a certificate signed by contemporary gedolim awarded for passing the exam. Given by Rabbi Aaron Kraft. Rosh Chabura of YU Torah Mitzlon Koolp, 8:30 PM, Wed. nights at Bais Chaim Dovid in Lincolnwood. Email akrash@torachicago.org for more info & to register (men only).

- Join us for a community-wide Yom HaZikaron Commemoration, Azkara and Multi-Media Presentation. Tuesday evening, May 7th, Mincha 7:20 PM; Presentation 7:30, at ICJA, 8233 Central Park Avenue Skokie. Presented by the YU Torah Mitzlon Koolp in partnership with the cRc and Mizrachi Chicago.

- They are back! All women of the community are invited to NILI’s Shabbat afternoon shiurim. In WRP at the home of Rachel Silverman, 2934 Jarlath Street, at 6:00 PM, with Rabbi Menachem Rosenbaum. In Skokie at the home of Tami Miller, 9129 Keeler Avenue, at 5:30 PM, with Rabbi Reuven Brand. In Lincolnwood at the home of Gina Gottesman, 6615 Monticello Avenue, at 5:30, with Rabbi Aaron Kraft.

- Celebrate 71 years of the State of Israel with Bnei Akiva of Chicago. Join us May 8th at ICJA, 8233 Central Park. 6:40 PM - Mincha, 6:55 PM - Yom Hazikaron Tekes, 7:40 PM Tefilla Chagigit, followed by light dinner and shiurim (RSVP required). RSVP and support Bnei Akiva at bneiakivachicago.org/celebrate71. For more information, email office@bneiakivachicago.org or call 847-674-9733 ext 5.

- NILI-Chicago Institute of Women’s Learning invites all women for a special Mother’s Day Shiur with Mrs. Miriam White. “Sister Sister: Exploring Sisterhood in Tanach”., Sunday morning, May 12th, 9:00 AM light breakfast, 9:15 shiur, at Or Torah, 3800 Dempster, Skokie. Mrs. Miriam White is the Director of Religious Guidance and Teacher at Yeshiva University High School for Girls.

- Join us at The Chicago Center’s Banquet, Sunday, June 2, at Midwest Conference Center! Honoring Mr. & Mrs. Tzvi & Tybi Ray with Amudei Torah V’Chesed Award, Mr. & Mrs. Ephraim & Aviva Vilenski with Kesser Shem Tov Award, and Dr. Edward Kaplan with Refuah 311 Award. Special Memorial Tribute to Mr. Neal Stein, z”l. For ads and reservations: TheChicagoCenter.org/banquet or email: banquet@thechicagocenter.org.

- Super Science Sunday is a great educational & fun opportunity for kids grades N-8! Join us at the Walder Science Center each week in our lab to learn important science concepts through the exploration of hands-on experiments & activities. Girls grades 1-6 meet weekly at 10:15, boys grades 4-8 at 1:45, & boys grades 1-3 at 3:30. New Nursery/Kindergarten section at 3:30, in addition to the 1:45 & 10:15 classes (concurrent with other sessions). More info/to sign up: www.walderlab.org/sunday, programs@walderlab.org, 773-649-5360.

- Join us for after school workshops in Science (Mondays/Wednesdays) and Robotics and Coding (Tuesdays/Thursdays) for kids in Grades 4-8! Cutting-edge science experiments happening on Mondays/Wednesdays and exciting experiments in Robotics and Coding on Tuesdays/Thursdays. Separate boys at 3050 Touhy Avenue in the science lab. For more info/to sign up by calling 773-649-5360 or emailing programs@walderlab.org.
Answers:
1. The last word in Parshas Metzora is יַעֲשֹׁהַם ("pure"), indicating that one possible reason that Nadav and Avihu were killed is that they entered the Mishkan in a state of impurity.
2. There was only one "lottery", but each of the two possibilities had to be exactly equal so that it was clear that whichever animal was chosen was clearly ordained by Hashem.
3. The Yerushalmi (Yoma 7:3) says that the word (in 16:4) יַעֲשֹׁהַם ("and they will be outworn there") indicates that they would be left to disintegrate after use and would never be worn again.
4. Since the goat of the Yom Kippur service was sent to die in the wilderness of Azazel one might think that the entire service could be done outside the Mishkan. The section tells us that this is prohibited.
5. Ibn Ezra says that Egypt was known for the demonic magic and service that they performed (see Ramban 17:7). Canaan was known for the immorality and inappropriate relationships that people had. Ramban says that the Egyptians were also known for their immorality and that they committed both sins on a regular basis.
6. The commandment of inappropriate relationships is written (18:6) directly after the commandment of יַעֲשֹׁהַם ("and you should live through them") (18:5). indicating that sexual immorality is an exception to יַעֲשֹׁהַם.