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Parshas Tazria-Metzorah

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The Kollel Weekly

Rebuke - the Torah Way

By: Rabbi Sholom Tzvi Jacoby

In *Parshas Tazria* (13:3) the Torah writes, "The Kohen shall look at the affliction on the skin of his flesh: If hair in the affliction has changed to white, and the affliction's appearance is deeper than the skin of the flesh-it is *tzaraas* affliction; the Kohen shall look at it and declare him contaminated."

The *Toras Kohanim* takes note that the *posuk* begins by stating, "the Kohen shall look at the affliction.." and after the Kohen determines its status the Torah repeats "the Kohen shall look at it and declare him contaminated". Why must the Kohen look at the affliction a second time in order to proclaim him 'metzora'?

The Mishnah teaches us that if a Kohen checks a blemish during a time of joy – either during the seven days of celebration following a wedding or during one of the three festivals- he shall not pronounce the person to be contaminated even if all the symptoms of *tzaraas* are present. Based upon this Mishnah, the *Meshech Chochmah* suggests a reason as to why the Kohen looks at the affliction twice. The first examination is to check if the symptoms warrant contamination while the second inspection is to determine if the timing is appropriate.

Rabbi Yissacher Frand points out that although the rules of *tzaraas* are not presently applicable, there is a valuable lesson we can learn from this law regarding rebuke and punishment. Occasionally we encounter situations that require remedy. Our first and immediate reaction may be to offer rebuke, similar to the Kohen who sees the signs of *tumah* and is ready to declare the afflicted person contaminated. But before doing so, the Kohen must stop and 'reexamine' while taking the calendar into account so that he does not proclaim 'metzora' during a time of joy.

So too, when we wish to offer rebuke we must pause and assess to ensure the timing is appropriate. Who is our subject? Are his ears open? Is he willing to listen? Perhaps he is too upset or is having a tough frustrating day and will not be receptive to our rebuke. Unfortunately, some instances of rebuke conclude in a counterproductive way. The Torah is teaching us to proceed with caution and to carefully 'reexamine' a situation before offering reproof. This can be particularly relevant in our *shalom bayis*, child rearing, and general relationships. When we have a message to impart, it is of high priority to assess the situation and confirm that the recipient is open, able, and ready to hear us. May we merit to grow together as we maintain positive and peaceful relationships.

Have a Great Shabbos!

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Shabbos Schedule

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| Mincha..... | 7:00 PM |
| Candle Lighting...7:23PM | |
| Shacharis..... | 8:45 AM |
| Shabbos Ends..... | 8:33/8:55 |

Coming Events

"The Nazi Account" Thursday, April 26 7:30PM Chabad House, 26 Wickatunk Road, Manalapan. Talk and Dinner with Larry Roth, author of The Nazi Account There will be a Chinese buffet along with a book signing. Books will be given out at the event for free. However, if people would like to purchase and read the book prior to the event, they can be purchased @ Barnes and Nobel in Freehold and on Amazon. RSVP This event is sponsored by the Horowitz family in memory of Miri's 2nd yahrzeit". There is no charge for this event.

Memorial Program for Mr. Siegmund Haarburger on **April 29th at 7 PM** at the Kollel of Manalapan (704 Ginesi Drive, Marlboro NJ). Refreshments will be served.

Halacha Corner

If one forgets to count the *omer* at night, he should count during the day without a *brocha*. He may continue to count on subsequent days with a *brocha*. (OC 489:7)



Please daven for a Refuah Shelaima for:

Refoel Dovid ben Toba

Naftali ben Aida Chaya

Dovid Shalom ben Miriam