



## *Parshas Metzora 2022, the good word*

*This week's Parsha Perspective is in honor of the Refuah Shlema of HaRav Amitai Ben Shoshanna, Leah Mintche Bas Gittel and Shaul Ben Berta. And in loving memory of Edward Ben Efraim, Shlomo Ben Edward, and Yirachmiel Daniel Ben Gedalia. May their souls be uplifted and their memories a blessing.*

*This week's Parsha Perspective is in honor of the birth of Aban Davis Korein to Avi and Shazna Korein. May they merit to raise him in the ways of Torah and Mitzvot with much health and nachas!*

Our Parsha begins with the very rigorous purification process a person must undergo after their Tzara'as - leprosy is pronounced healed by a Cohen. The Torah then explains that Tzara'as can be found in homes too.

The Pasuk says (14:34) that when the Jewish people arrive in the land of Canaan, they might find some houses plagued with Tzara'as, which is when a stone becomes discolored with a red or green complexion.

A Cohen is summoned if a person sees the symptoms and thinks the house has Tzara'as. He must examine the house, and if Cohen suspects that the discoloration may be Tzara'as, the house must be quarantined for up to three weeks. At that point, the house is either declared pure or specific stones must be removed. In the most extreme of cases, the house must be demolished.

However, a question comes to mind: with all emphasis being placed against bad speech in both Parshas Tazria and Metzora, a person could think, why to talk at all?

Inevitably or by mistake, we will say something that warrants the punishment of Tzara'as. So how do we prepare for Pesach, a holiday requiring us to speak for hours for the first two nights?

Rabbi Sacks of blessed memory writes in his book *Covenant & Conversation* that we can not just focus on the iniquities of bad speech. We must also highlight and underscore the value of praising and commending our fellow Jews. When we sincerely compliment people, we give them the energy and spirit to undertake even greater aspirations.

The Mishnah in Pirkei Avos (2:8) details the incredible compliments the holy Rabban Yochanan Ben Zakkai, the leader of the Jewish people during the destruction of the second Beis Hamikdash, gave five of his students. **Rav Eliezer Ben Hyrcanus, Rav Yeshua Ben Chananiah, Rav Yossi Hakohen, Rav Shimon Ben Nesaneel and Rav Eliezer Ben Arach.**

- Rav Eliezer Ben Hyrcanus **is like a closed well that loses not a drop.**
- Rav Yeshua Ben Chananiah's **mother should be happy that she is the woman that gave birth to him.**
- Rav Yossi Hakohen **is a chossid, an extremely pious person.**
- Rav Shimon Ben Nesaneel **is one that fears sin immensely.**
- Rav Eliezer Ben Arach **is like a spring continuously giving force and energy.**

Rabbi Sacks explains that the knowledge and spirit of these five Rabbis are one of the reasons the Jewish people were able to keep the tradition alive. Although they just witnessed the killing of thousands of Jews and the destruction of G-d's home, these five great sages kept our Torah alive for future generations.

The lesson we learn here is that **as much effort as we put into correcting bad behavior, we must match and multiply that effort when commending and applauding proper conduct and behavior.**

This message is ever more prevalent as we rapidly approach the holiday of Pesach. It is almost impossible to quantify the stress and pressure people are under as Jews worldwide are scrubbing every inch of their homes to get them ready for Pesach.

Yet, it is imperative that we don't forget to prepare for Pesach's main purpose: to **teach and embed our children** with a love and passion for G-d. To explain to them the unbelievable and amazing history of our people. To show them the resilience of our belief in G-d despite the tragedies we continuously endure. To bestow upon them the greatest of responsibilities, **being the guarantors and trustees of our future.**

*"The secret for a great life is to guard your tongue from evil and your lips from bad speech. To shun evil and do good, seek peace and pursue it seriously."*

*-Dovid Hamelch in Tehillim, 34:13-15*

*Have a meaningful Shabbos and stress-free preparation for Pesach!*

*Rabbi Sholom Yemini*