



## PARASHAT TETZAVEH & PURIM

### תפקיד המורה

כתוב בפסוק (כז:כ) "ואתה תצוה את בני ישראל...להעלת נר תמיד". רש"י מפרש את המלים "להעלת נר תמיד" – מדליק עד שתהא שלהבת עולה מאליה. רב שמשון רפאל הירש זצ"ל הסביר את זה בדרך דרש, שתפקיד המורה והמדליק לדאוג לכך שהשלהבת תהיה עולה מאליה, שהתלמיד לא יצטרך תמיד למורה, אלא ידע בעצמו כיצד להעלות אורו.

### Proud to be a Jew

Regarding the garments of the Kohen Gadol the Pasuk states (28:36-37): "Make a forehead plate of pure gold and engrave on it the same manner as a signet ring, [the words], holy to Hashem. Attach a twist of sky-blue wool to it, so that it can be [worn] right near the front of the turban." Our Rabbi's teach us that the turban which is on top of the Kohen Gadol's head, atoned for the sin of arrogance. However the forehead plate comes to teach us that there is a time and place for pride and that is when a person is proud to do the will of Hashem. The Ktav Sofer explains that this is alluded to in our Pasuk: When pride is "Holy to Hashem" then it can be on top of a person's head. True arrogance is a trait that is detrimental to one's spiritual development, but when you are proud of doing good deeds you will be motivated to continue to do well.

### No Music At Achashverosh's Party?

Regarding Megilat Esther we find a very interesting insight regarding the power of music. The Megilah relates that king Achashverosh made a royal feast. He treated the taste buds to foods of the highest caliber, and served the finest of wines. The same was true for the other senses as well. The smell of the king's flowers was amazing. The sense of touch was also going into overdrive. The feel of the soft silk, the carpets, and super comfortable furniture was incredible; And the sense of sight, can you imagine? The gold, the silver, the precious stones, all glittering in the perfectly lit room; It was an incredible experience. In describing the party, the Megilah mentions all the senses except for one, the sense of hearing. There is no mention of there being music. Why not? Doesn't every good party have music? Commentators offer different answers: Some say the reason is because Achashverosh wanted to fulfill the desire of each and every one of his guests. Music goes into our ears without our choice. One person may

like slow music while another fast, one will like it loud and one will like it quiet. Since there is no way to please all with music, Achashverosh left it out of his party. Others explain that Achashverosh was scared that the music would inspire and spiritually awaken the Jews who had attended the party, and they would have left, preventing Achashverosh from fulfilling his goal of making the Jews sin by eating forbidden foods and doing forbidden acts.

### **Never Give Up Hope**

The Gemarah (Megilah 16a) brings down a very interesting story: After Achashveirosh commanded Haman to dress up Mordechai and lead him on a horse through Shushan as a reward for foiling the plot of Bigtan and Teresh, Haman went to look for Mordechai to carry out the king's command. At the time, Mordechai was learning the Halachot of Korban Minchah with his students. When Haman asked Mordechai what he had been studying, Mordechai said he was learning about laws of Korban Minchah. At which point Haman exclaimed, "Your handful of flour has pushed aside my 10,000 kikarim of silver." That is, the study of the laws of Korban Minchah defeated the money that Haman had paid to Achashveirosh to kill all the Jews. What was so special about the laws of Korban Minchah that made Haman realize he was fighting a losing battle? When Haman saw that even though the Jews were facing certain destruction, nonetheless they were learning the intricate Laws of the Korban Minchah, which would only be brought when the second Beit Hamikdash would be built, Haman said to himself that such a nation which still hasn't given up hope of surviving and building the Beit Hamikdash is certain to come out on top.