

Stollen Moments – Acharei Mot – May 4, 2024

PARASHA SUMMARY FROM WWW. REFORMJUDAISM.ORG

- The duties that the head kohein must perform on Yom Kippur are delineated and the ceremony of the scapegoat is outlined. (Leviticus 16:1-28)
- Moses instructs Aaron about the Yom Kippur laws for fasting and atonement. (16:29-34)
- Warnings are issued against the offering of sacrifices outside the Sanctuary and the consumption of blood. (17:1-16)
- Moses condemns the sexual practices of some neighboring peoples. Certain forms of sexual relations are prohibited. (18:1-30)

Leviticus Chapter 18

1 The Lord spoke to Moses, saying: 2 Speak to the Israelite people and say to them: I the Lord am your God. 3 You shall not copy the practices of the land of Egypt where you dwelt, or of the land of Canaan to which I am taking you; nor shall you follow their laws. 4 My rules alone shall you observe, and faithfully follow My laws: I the Lord am your God. 5 You shall keep My laws and My rules, by the pursuit of which man shall live: I am the Lord.

6 None of you shall come near anyone of his own flesh to uncover nakedness: I am the Lord. 7 Your father's nakedness, that is, the nakedness of your mother, you shall not uncover; she is your mother — you shall not uncover her nakedness. 8 Do not uncover the nakedness of your father's wife; it is the nakedness of your father. 9 The nakedness of your sister — your father's daughter or your mother's, whether born into the household or outside — do not uncover their nakedness.

10 The nakedness of your son's daughter, or of your daughter's daughter — do not uncover their nakedness; for their nakedness is yours. 11 The nakedness of your father's wife's daughter, who has born into your father's household — she is your sister; do not uncover her nakedness. 12 Do not uncover the nakedness of your father's sister; she is your father's flesh. 13 Do not uncover the nakedness of your mother's sister; for she is your mother's flesh.

14 Do not uncover the nakedness of your father's brother: do not approach his wife; she is your aunt. 15 Do not uncover the nakedness of your daughter-in-law: she is your son's wife; you shall not uncover her nakedness. 16 Do not uncover the nakedness of your brother's wife; it is the nakedness of your brother. 17 Do not uncover the nakedness of a woman and her daughter; nor shall you marry her son's daughter or her daughter's daughter and uncover her nakedness: they are kindred; it is depravity.

RASHI - כמעשה ארץ מצרים AFTER THE DEEDS OF THE LAND OF EGYPT... [SHALL YE NOT DO] — This tells us that the deeds of the Egyptians and the Canaanites were more corrupt than those of all other nations, and that the district of Egypt in which the Israelites had resided (אשר ישבתם בה) was even more corrupt than all the rest of Egypt (Sifra, Acharei Mot, Section 8 3).

RASHI - את משפטי תעשו YE SHALL DO MY JUDGMENTS — Matters prescribed in the Torah which are in conformity with the human feeling of justice such as one feels ought to be ordained if they had not been already ordained by the Torah.

IBN EZRA - NONE OF YOU. *Ish ish* (none of you) means each and every man. Since Scripture does not mention the house of Israel, we learn that we are not permitted to allow the stranger to practice in our country any of the abominations mentioned, so that he does not defile the land.