

# THE TRIBE WEEKLY

PARASHAT ACHAREI MOT

3-4 MAY | 26 NISAN

## Truly Serving God



**ELISHA  
DYTCH**

Youth Director at  
Edgware United  
Synagogue

In this week's parasha we read about the untimely death of the two sons of Aharon HaKohen after they enter the *Kodesh Hakodashim* (inner Sanctuary) in the *Mishkan*.

There are numerous reasons given as to why they died.

One of the most famous reasons is that they entered the *Mishkan* (portable Sanctuary) after drinking too much wine, which is not allowed. Another well-known explanation is that they brought a 'foreign fire', a sacrifice which they had not been commanded to bring into the *Kodesh Hakodashim*. They did not seek permission from

Moshe their teacher.

Do these reasons really warrant the death of two of the greatest leaders of the Jewish people, the sons of Aharon the *Kohen Gadol* and nephews of Moshe? They were extremely great people in their own right, so why did they warrant their deaths?

The Talmud (*Bava Kamma 50a*) says that God judges those close to Him by a hair's breadth. This means that God is particular to hold those close to Him to a higher standard than those who are not as close. This may be an explanation as to why Aharon's sons were punished so harshly for such seemingly small sins, because they should have known better.

Sometimes in life we have great intentions. We are happy with ourselves, even proud of what we have done. We even convince

ourselves that we have done a mitzvah! We think we are doing the right thing as it aligns with our morals and ethics.

However, we may sometimes forget to take a step back and think: what does God actually want from me. Am I really doing what God wants and following the Torah? Or am I just doing what I want or what I feel is the right thing to do?

This may be the lesson we can take from the sons of Aharon. They were great *tzaddikim* (righteous people) but sinned as they tried serving God in a way that they wanted, even convincing themselves that what they were doing was a mitzvah. When we serve God we should try to make sure we are doing it in the way He wants us to, according to the Torah. This is the way to truly become the best people we can be.

## Acharei Mot Wordearch

Find the word in the puzzle.

Words can go in any direction.

Words can share letters as they cross over each other.

**Nadav**

**Avihu**

**Fire**

**Kohen**

**Mishkan**

**Acharei Mot**

**Aharon**

**Moshe**

**Yom Kippur**

**Incense**

Z	R	L	C	N	M	Q	L	J	M	W	E
T	E	Q	H	F	J	X	A	P	W	R	K
O	T	E	E	S	N	E	C	N	I	Z	I
M	I	S	H	K	A	N	C	F	Y	E	Y
I	O	Q	S	U	E	B	Q	H	S	C	X
E	D	S	E	Z	F	D	N	F	G	H	Z
R	T	M	H	Z	E	X	L	Q	I	T	N
A	W	Z	U	E	E	N	O	R	A	H	A
H	D	Y	D	P	C	K	G	J	U	V	D
C	K	E	K	O	H	E	N	K	I	A	A
A	M	M	W	S	C	V	M	H	U	Y	V
Y	O	M	K	I	P	P	U	R	A	C	E