

THE TRIBE WEEKLY

SHABBAT UK

PARASHAT EMOR | 13-14 MAY | 13 IYAR

Separation and Connection



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(RAV E)**

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We often take for granted the most precious moments of life. So, naturally, we may not fully appreciate the moment's importance until it has gone and passed.

I love everything about Shabbat. But I love Shabbat even more, when it's time to say goodbye. Having attended dozens of camps and Shabbatonim since childhood, I have always found Havdalah to be the highlight of my Shabbat. The experience of a group Havdalah on camp, standing in a circle and singing

by the light of the Havdalah candle is extraordinary. We taste the remnants of Kiddush in the cup of wine, we smell the lingering scent of Shabbat in the sweet spices, and we feel the warmth of Shabbat in the Havdalah candle.

At the end of Havdalah, we pronounce and sing together the words of "Hamavdil Bein Kodesh L'Chol..." - "He who separates holiness and profane, light and darkness, Israel and the nations, Shabbat and the six days of the week." What do these distinctions mean? How are we to understand these comparisons?

The Havdalah prayer teaches us the very essence of Shabbat Kodesh. The Shabbat day does not stand alone;

it serves as the seventh day of the week. The value of Shabbat can only be appreciated as part of a full week. The value of light can only be appreciated if we endure darkness. The contribution of Am Yisrael (the Jewish people) can only be appreciated as we re-engage with the world around us. In making the separation, we form better connections.

As you make Havdalah this week, look out for the beautiful bright stars appearing in the sky. If not for the darkness in the sky, we would not enjoy the brightness of the stars. It is the stark contrast that creates the perfect scenery.

Escape room

It's time for Kiddush. Everyone is waiting for you to open the wine. The Shabbat meal cannot start without Kiddush. The following secret code appears on the bottle:

12'8108273565

For the cork to open, it needs to be twisted in certain directions to create a secret Hebrew word. Can you find out what the word is?



Find the solution at the bottom of the next page.

Charity and festival offerings - are they interchangeable?



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In this week's parasha the Torah lists the festivals. While doing so, it interrupts itself with the commandment to give charity. Why? Moreover, last week's portion already recorded the commandment to give charity. Why the repetition?

In his book *Yeraim*, the 12th-century Rabbi Eliezer of Metz helps us understand this repetition.

Everybody was obligated to bring festival offerings to Jerusalem on the three pilgrimage festivals (Succot, Pesach and Shavuot). Yet, Rabbi Eliezer of Metz

suggests a surprising exception to this rule. He states that one is permitted to substitute their offerings with a donation to charity. This comment is not in any Talmudic sources. What could be its justification?

Rabbi Mosheh Lichtenstein, my Rosh Yeshiva at Yeshivat Har Etzion (Gush), offered the following explanation. Ultimately, the goals of the festival offerings and charity are similar. Charity is primarily about providing crucial support to those in need. But charity has another function in that it can turn the giver into a more compassionate person and develop, in the giver, the feeling of dependence on and closeness to God. In that sense, it is similar to the festival offerings. According to Rabbi

Eliezer of Metz, that is why a person can choose which one of these methods he prefers.

Charity appears at the heart of the list of festivals to teach us that the commandment to give charity is part of our festival celebrations. This explains why the Torah repeats the commandment. The first reference is a general commandment to give charity. The second reference is a specific instruction to teach us that festive celebrations cannot be complete without charity, including those less fortunate and more isolated in our celebrations. The true goal of our festivals is simcha which means "joy shared" (Rabbi Sacks zt"l). Charity and giving can allow us to share our joy with others and connect to the community.

Parshat Emor Number Crunch

Can you fill in the missing numbers?

1. There is a commandment to count the ___ days between Pesach and Shavuot.
2. On Succot, the fruit of a citron tree, date palm, myrtle, and willow branches make up the ___ species.
3. ___ loaves were to be placed on the golden table in the Mishkan (Tabernacle).
4. The Torah lists ___ physical defects that disqualify a priest from performing the service in the Temple.
5. If one eats a sacred Temple donation, one must repay its value and add ___.
6. Shavuot is celebrated on the ___ day of the ___ month.
7. Yom Kippur is marked on the ___ day of the ___ month.

