

THE TRIBE WEEKLY

PARASHAT BEHA'ALOTECHA

17-18 JUNE | 19 SIVAN

Passion and Purpose



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In this week's parasha, there is flurry of action and instruction:

The Levi'im are introduced to their service in the *Mishkan* (portable Temple in the desert); *Pesach Shenit*, the "Second Pesach", is instituted for those who were unable to offer the *Korban Pesach* during Pesach; God instructs Moshe to make two trumpets and tells him how and when to use them; the Jewish people leave Mount Sinai, proceed towards the Land of Canaan and unreasonably complain about the Manna in the desert and receive a meat supplement, albeit with tragic

results; Moshe appoints seventy elders to assist him to bear the burden of the people and lastly, Miriam speaks negatively to Aharon about Moshe and is punished with *tzara'at*.

At the beginning of the parasha, Aharon is instructed when and how to light the menorah each day in the Mishkan. The Torah then confirms that Aharon did indeed light the menorah. Why are we told that Aharon lit the menorah, did we expect him to forget? Rashi (1040-1105) explains that Aharon went immediately, without delaying the mitzvah. The Sfat Emet (Rabbi Yehuda Leib Alter, 1847-1905) goes further, explaining that although it was a job which Aharon performed every day, he lit the Menorah each day as if it was his first time doing so.

Aharon did not run out of enthusiasm or passion for the mitzvah, every day he treated the mitzvah with the respect it deserved.

There are many things we do regularly, such as going to school or work, or practicing sports or musical instruments, which might get boring after a while. The more we can hold on to the passion, the more success and enjoyment we can achieve. Similarly for mitzvot, like davening, bensching or keeping Shabbat. It might feel onerous and repetitive doing the same thing regularly, but we must remember how Aharon kept his passion for lighting the menorah each day. When there is enthusiasm, there is enjoyment, and much more is gained.

Word Scramble

Can you unscramble these parasha-related words?

HTARO



BAAAHCOLEHTE



MARBDEIB



EHSOM



RAHOMEN



PTRUTSME



Tribe Jokes

What do trumpets and pirates have in common?

Terror on the high sea!

What type of tree can you fit in one hand?

A palm tree!

Why do bees have sticky hair?

Because they use honeycombs!

