

THE TRIBE WEEKLY

PARASHAT TETZAVEH

3-4 MARCH | 11 ADAR

Knock Knock



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Parashat Tetzaveh details the clothes that the *Kohen Gadol* (High Priest) wore during his holy service in the Temple. One such item was a long coat with small bells and pomegranates attached to the bottom of it. Unlike most of the *Kohen Gadol's* other clothing, the Torah explains the reason behind this special coat: so that the sound of the chiming bells will be heard upon entering the sanctuary before God (Shemot 28:35). Based on this

concept learnt from the *Kohen Gadol's* coat, our Sages teach a simple, moral lesson: Knock before you enter a room.

True, knocking before entering a room is a good thing to do. But God knows the every move of all people – and if that's the case, why would God need a 'knock before entering policy' at the entrance of His sanctuary? And further, why would the Torah choose this episode – that speaks of the holiest person (the *Kohen Gadol*), performing the holiest service to God, in the holiest place on earth (the Temple) – to teach us what seems to be rather a mundane message of knocking before entering a room?!

The little bells teach us a great

lesson. Upon entering the holy Temple, the *Kohen Gadol* may begin to focus his thoughts on attaining high levels of spirituality, to the extent that simple courtesy could fall by the wayside. He may forget to knock before entering. But no – the Torah reminds us that even in the most spiritual times, basic manners, and *being a mensch* MUST be part of the story.

It is wonderful to engage in spirituality, and strive to reach the lofty goals we set ourselves, and so we should. And while we do so, we must remember our behaviour and always treat others with kindness and respect.

Purim Crossword

This week, we read an extra section from the Torah called Parashat Zachor in preparation for Purim, which begins this Monday night. Get into the Purim mood with this Purim-themed crossword!

Down

- Esther
- Megillah
- Mishloach Manot Feast

Across

- Haman
- Charity
- Wine
- Fancy Dress
- Mordechai
- Hamantaschen

