

Parshas Tetzaveh

This week's Parsha is Tetzaveh, which is the commandment to build the specialized clothing of the Cohen Gadol, and some of the services of the Mishkan, which would eventually be the services conducted in the Beis Hamikdash. There is a point in Posuk 28:25 that states a punishment if the Cohen is not wearing all the clothes. There is an idea about dressing like a Yid. This is because the idea of a Yid is not just an inner work; although that is one level, it is also about what you wear on the outside. This is critical to why there is a "Levush" for Yidden, including wearing Tzitzis and a Yarmulka as a differentiating feature of a Yid when they go out into the street. Not every moment that one is walking around is when one is spreading light, but when one dresses as a Yid, they illicit a positive influence on the environment around us, in order to positively influence the world and spread the light. So even if you are not actively involved in a mitzvah, just by walking dressed like a Yid you do the same. This is why it is so important to act nicely in public to make a Kiddush Hashem, because if you look like a Yid, and you're acting awfully, even if completely justified, the world around us will judge and often will judge poorly.

While clothes are material items, one ought not remain focused solely on their physical side; they nevertheless carry important value. In Chassidus, the

concept of "Levushim" is the changing factor when representing Middos, which are hard-coded. The point of Levushim is to adapt to their environment. This is important because it reflects how Hashem accepts and appreciates our service. That means, while we have Middos that are hard-coded, we can, within our Avoda, change the levushim to ensure we are still outputting the correct service. In some ways, the idea that "clothes make the man," that is, if you dress the part, it will attract a level of attention you intend. That being said, if you make sure your levushim, both metaphysical and physical, are like a Yid, you will also be doing your part to spread the light of Hashem even in a dark world.

Good Shabbos.