



## Preparing the Kohen Gadol for Yom Kippur

Much of *masechet Yoma* discusses the *avodah* of the *kohen gadol* in the *Beit HaMikdash* on *Yom Kippur*. The first *Mishnah* opens by explaining that the *Kohen Gadol* was separated from his home and taken to the *Beit HaMikdash* for the seven day prior to *Yom Kippur*. What is the source of this law?

The *Gemara* (2a) provides two opinions. *R' Yochanan* explains that source is from the consecration of the *kohanim (miluim)* – *Aharon* and his sons – who were inaugurated over the period of a week. The *pasuk* there writes: “As he did on this day, so *Hashem* has commanded to be done to provide atonement for you” (*Vayikra* 8:34).

*Reish Lakish* however understands that the requirement for separation is learnt from *Har Sinai*. The *pasuk* reads: “The glory of *Hashem* rested on *Har Sinai*, and the cloud covered it for a six-day period. He called to *Moshe* on the seventh day from the midst of the cloud.” (*Shemot* 24: 16) We learn from this *pasuk* that anytime one is to enter *machane Shechina*, there must be a separation for seven days.

*Rav Soleveichik (Kuntrus Be'inyan Avodat Yom HaKippurim)* explains that the debate is not only about the source of this law, but also the nature of its obligation. If the source of the law is from *Har Sinai*, it is entering the *mikdash* that obligates this separation. However, if the source of the law is from *miluim*, then separation is part of the *kohen gadol's* preparation for the *avodah* he will be performing on *Yom Kippur* (much like the preparation of the days of the *miluim*). According to this understanding, the *Rav* suggests that perhaps the preparation of the second

“backup” *kohen*, is indeed part of the fulfilment of this law as it too is a part of the preparation for the day.

According to *R' Yochanan* who learns the law from *miluim*, the *Rav* continues, the *kohen gadol (lechatchila<sup>1</sup>)* only attains the status of *kohen gadol* for *Yom Kippur* if undergoes these days of preparation. We find a similar idea in the *Rambam*. When discussing the inauguration of a new *kohen gadol* by means dressing him in the clothes of a *kohen gadol* for a seven day period (*meruba begadim*), the *Rambam* rules that ideally the *kohen gadol* should not perform *avoda* in the *Beit HaMikdash* during this period. The *Raavad* disagrees arguing that he could work during this period. The *Rav* explains that while indeed he is a *kohen gadol* immediately, the *Rambam* understand that he has not achieved that status of a *hechsher kehuna gedola* until the period of seven days is complete.

Another difference can be seen in the preparation of the *kohen gadol* during this period. The *Gemara* (4a) find a source of the *kohen gadol* being taught by two *talmidei chachamim* from the days of the *miluim* where *Aharon* was taught by *Moshe*. The *Rav* explains that according to *R' Yochanan*, the training and teaching of the *kohen gadol* is part of the obligation of separating the *kohen gadol* prior to *Yom Kippur*. If however the source of the separation is from *Har Sinai*, the *kohen gadol's* training would be rabbinic in nature and for the practical reason of ensuring that no mistakes are made.

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<sup>1</sup> *Bedieved*, *R' Yochanan* would agree that the seven day separation is not essential as the second *kohen* that was

separated if necessary did not undergo the same seven day separation.

### Revision Questions

שקלים ז': ח' : ח'

- What were the seven decrees by *Beit Din*? (ז': ח' : ח')
- According to *R' Meir*, when is spit found in *Yerushalaim* assumed to be *tameh*? (ח': א')
- According to *R' Yosi*, during the year, what part of the road was travelled by *tameh* people? (ח': א')
- List the opinions of *R' Meir* and *R' Yosi* regarding the assumed *tum'ah* status of *keilim* found in *Yerushalaim*. (ב': ח')
- When is there a difference between the assumed *tum'ah* status of a knife and cleaver found in *Yerushalaim*? (ח': ג')
- How does one treat the *parochet* that came in contact with: (ח': ד')
  - A *vlad ha'tumah*?
  - An *av ha'tumah*?
- How thick was the *parochet*? (ח': ה')
- How many new *parochets* were made each year? (ח': ה')
- In which cases do *Beit Shammai* and *Beit Hillel* argue about where *tameh kodshim* should be burnt? (ח': ו')
- Describe the opinion of *R' Eliezer* and *R' Akiva* regarding the previous question. (ח': ז')
- Where were the following limbs placed prior to being placed on the *mizbeach*: (ח': ח')
  - *Korban tamid*?
  - *Korban mussaf*?
  - *Korban mussaf of Rosh Chodesh*?
- Which of the following applies nowadays (without a *Beit Ha'Mikdash*): (ח': ט')
  - *Ma'aser Dagan*?
  - *Bikurim*?
  - *Bechorot*?
  - *Shekalim*?

יומא א': א' : א' : ר'

- How many days before *Yom Kippur* was the *kohen gadol* separated from his home? (א': א')
- To where was the *kohen gadol* taken? (א': א')
- What *avodah* would the *kohen gadol* do during this period? (א': ב')
- Who helped the *kohen gadol* revise the order of the *Yom Kippur* services? (א': ג')
- What would they do on the morning *erev Yom Kippur*? (א': ג')
- Why would they prevent the *kohen gadol* from eating a heavy meal on *erev Yom Kippur*? (א': ד')
- About what would the *ziknei kehuna* make the *kohen gadol* swear and why? (א': ה')

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### Next Week's Mishnayot...

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	שבת קודש
4 <sup>th</sup> December ח' כסלו	5 <sup>th</sup> December ט' כסלו	6 <sup>th</sup> December י' כסלו	7 <sup>th</sup> December יא' כסלו	8 <sup>th</sup> December י"ב כסלו	9 <sup>th</sup> December י"ג כסלו	10 <sup>th</sup> December י"ד כסלו
Yoma 1:6-7	Yoma 1:8-2:1	Yoma 2:2-3	Yoma 2:4-5	Yoma 2:6-7	Yoma 3:1-2	Yoma 3:3-4

